

# Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual Report 2002 ~ 2003

*The Rise of Self-government*



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## Letter from the President



Photo: GTC

Dear friends and fellow Beneficiaries,

With this year's Assembly upon us, this seems like a good time to take stock of what we have managed to accomplish as an organization over the last two and a half years.

The first step to positioning ourselves for future growth was putting in place a solid team of key people to look after our interests as Beneficiaries. Beginning with Chief Operating Officer Tom Williams; CFO Greg Cayen; and GDC CEO Tom Connors, we now have such a team in place.

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*Mary Ann Ross helping with this year's Gwich'in Day festivities. Mary Ann will be serving as your new Vice-President starting 2003.*

We have continued to strengthen our team, adding people like Office Manager Tammy Rogers; Education and Training Manager Barb Crawford; Executive Assistant Mary Ann Ross, and others. Mary Ann will be moving soon to her new GTC position as Vice-president, and we have created a new position: Director of Lands, Resources and Implementation. Deb Bisson fills the new role, along with Joe Benoit, Lands Manager and Norm Snowshoe, Resource Manager. In building up our capacity as an organization, we have worked hard to place Beneficiaries in managerial positions, and will continue to do so.



Photo: GTC

## *Letter from the President*

Putting our finances in order was a high priority as well. Thanks largely to Greg Cayen's hard work, not only is our financial position improved, but any Beneficiary can now come into our office and, within minutes, see comprehensive and up-to-date information on GTC revenues and expenditures.

In 2003, the GTC contribution agreements with the Federal and Territorial governments will bring in more than \$3.6 million. We use this money to: fund the GTC share of the self-government process; deal with environmental and resource management issues; build capacity; finance education and training; finance the new position of Employment Liaison Officer; and serve Beneficiaries in other ways.



Photo: GTC

*President Carmichael touring a rig.*

A long outstanding legal action against the GTC and Tl'oondih Healing Society was settled this past year. We also negotiated an arrangement with First Air, providing reduced airfare for GTC business travel as well as for all Gwich'in Beneficiaries. We are proud to recognize *First Air* as the official airline of the Gwich'in.

Earlier this year we implemented a Motion passed by the 2002 Annual General Assembly directing the transfer of Tl'oondih Healing Camp to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council. This will allow the community to provide social programming closer to the people.

As directed by the Assembly, we reorganized the GDC, making it independent of political interference in daily operations, and creating a strong management team. The results are impressive, with Mackenzie Valley Construction and Gwich'in Properties Ltd. in particular performing well. For the first quarter of this year, Mackenzie Valley Construction can point to total revenues of \$5.7 million, with a profit of approximately \$1 million. Of their 90 jobs, 66 were filled by Beneficiaries.

## *Letter from the President*

In addition, we have developed a Gwich'in Business Policy, with roles for the GDC, community corporations, and private business. After holding information sessions on the Business Policy in each of the four communities, we found that there is more work to do in this area. We need to get back to the people to make sure changes are made to ensure that the business policy works for all Beneficiaries. The Board of Directors is committed to ensuring that the Business Policy reflects what the people want and to maximize Gwich'in participation in business activity. We have also negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the GNWT, setting a target of 50% of negotiated contracts to Gwich'in business within the GSA.

To provide further help to Beneficiaries as they pursue business and employment opportunities, we have created the new position of Employment Liaison Officer (filled first by Mary Ann Ross, and then by Eleanor Firth), and Tammy Rogers is

developing a Human Resources database, which will serve as an inventory of the skills we possess, and a resource for future policy in education and training.

Following the successful settlement of the *Sahtu royalty case*, the GTC was able to invest the proceeds where they would meet the pressing needs of Beneficiaries, including:

- **\$2 million** in education and training;
- **\$2 million** in community development, with **\$500,000 per GSA community**;
- **\$1 million** for culture and language;
- **\$2 million** for the GDC;
- **\$1 million** to fund GTC operations;
- **and \$1 million** allocated to Beneficiaries in our first ever payout.

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*"For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year minor hockey teams from throughout the Beaufort-Delta competed for the Gwich'in Cup, with more than 250 young people taking part."*

— *President Carmichael*



Photo: GTC

## *Letter from the President*

It was particularly gratifying to provide something tangible to each Beneficiary, and I hope that as our financial position grows still stronger in the next few years, we will find ourselves in a position to make subsequent payouts on a regular basis.

We have taken steps toward improved communications with Beneficiaries, long an area of concern. A new web site ([www.gwichin.nt.ca](http://www.gwichin.nt.ca)) allows you to contact us from any location in the world via the internet. We have recently added toll-free telephone numbers for the GTC and the Enrolment Board as well as the Education and Training department, so that students or others with pressing concerns can contact us with their questions wherever they may be, without having to pay to get our help.



Photo: GTC

In the Implementation field, we have completed the Ten-Year Review, with progress made on many issues. Where we are not yet satisfied, we are assessing our options for continued negotiations, arbitration, or legal action. We are also at work on overlap agreements, many of them dealing with resource issues, with the Inuvialuit, Sahtu and other groups. Even on Yukon issues, where progress has been slow in the past, there are encouraging signs. In March, the Gwich'in Chiefs and I met with the Yukon's new Premier, Dennis Fentie, and members of his government. The new government is very interested in developing a more cooperative relationship with the Gwich'in to work on matters of joint concern, with funding for review of the Species at Risk legislation and a commitment to annual meetings at the political leadership level. The GTC Board of Directors revised and approved the Gwich'in Land Use Plan, which will assist in guiding us in all future land use activities in the GTC. The GTC also successfully completed the long awaited clean-up of the Caribou River Contaminated Site.

## *Letter from the President*

On the political front, we recently signed the Beaufort-Delta Agreement-in-Principle on Self-government. This will allow us to continue to move ahead to gain self-sufficiency.

Our efforts to modernize the GTC for the coming era of self-government and economic development are bearing fruit, most recently with the creation of the new Implementation, Resources and Lands department, to provide better service. We are also moving ahead with the strategic planning process, to set directions for the GTC over the coming years. I hope to discuss this in more detail with you very shortly at our next Assembly in Tsiigehtchic.

The recent completion of a funding arrangement with the Federal Government for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group is an important step forward for all the Aboriginal groups who stand to benefit from a natural gas pipeline.



Photo: GTC

The next step is for each region in the Mackenzie Valley to negotiate a comprehensive benefits and land access agreement. We are now in a position to ensure that any pipeline will be built and managed on our terms as landowners, and that Gwich'in Beneficiaries receive the maximum benefit in employment, training and business opportunities.

We have come a long way together over the past two and a half years, reflecting the dedicated efforts of many people, working together in pursuit of shared goals. I want to thank the GTC Board, the Chiefs in the GSA communities, and our hard-working staff for their unfailing support.

Mahsi cho, and see you at the Assembly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Carmichael', written over a horizontal line.

**Fred Carmichael**  
*President*

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*President Carmichael offers words of encouragement to beneficiaries in a rig training program*

## Chief Operating Officer's Report

In the early months of this year, many of our efforts at the GTC have focused on preparing for the increased economic development activity in the GSA, much of it related to the oil and gas industry.

One of our most important measures is the reorganization of our Land Administration; Resource Management; and Implementation organizations into a single department, in response to Beneficiaries' concerns about the level of service. The new department, headed by our Director of Lands, Resources and Implementation, Deb Bisson, will be fully resourced, providing a higher quality of service to both industry and GSA communities on matters relating to resources and activity on Gwich'in lands.



Photo: GTC



Photo: GTC

Over the past year we emphasized development of administrative and human resource policies in order to strengthen the GTC as an organization. Components of the work included:

- 1) *We prepared a comprehensive human resources (HR) policy, a financial administration manual and an employee handbook for GTC staff.*
- 2) *The GTC continues to grow as an organization, with the people we serve represented in our own staff. Of the 25 positions in the GTC, 23 are filled by aboriginals.*

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*Gwich'in Dancers at the historic signing of the AIP, April 16.*

## Chief Operating Officer's Report



*The many people who work for the GTC truly are the heart of the organization.*

- 3) *In order to enhance our own communications capacity we installed a new server and computer network in the GTC offices. Our new website is: **[www.gwichin.nt.ca](http://www.gwichin.nt.ca)**. We also enhanced our telecommunications by installing new telephone systems in both our Inuvik and Fort McPherson offices. Both of these new initiatives will assist us in providing better services to all Beneficiaries.*
- 4) *The GTC made a major decision to change our legal counsel in January, after putting out a Request for Proposals. We chose three separate law firms to represent our legal interests. FieldLaw is now our legal representative for GTC operations and governance. Davis & Company is providing legal advice on all real estate and Gwich'in Settlement Corporation matters, and McCuaig Desrochers is providing legal advice on all corporate and commercial matters for the GDC. This change will ensure each of these three important areas of responsibility has adequate legal representation.*

## Chief Operating Officer's Report

The GTC recently demonstrated its ability to promote the interests of the Gwich'in people in the new era of economic development when we completed a benefits agreement with Imperial Oil. This agreement covers a small geotechnical Winter work program in the GSA. Of the eight contracts connected with the program, seven went to Gwich'in businesses. In exchange for access to Gwich'in lands, Imperial agreed to donate \$20,000 for scholarship and training programs, as well as \$10,000 for community donations, and is also required to report to us on the hiring of Gwich'in beneficiaries. Imperial is required to fund environmental monitors, and furnish a guarantee upon which we can draw in the event of any damage to the land.

This agreement tied access to Gwich'in lands directly to benefits, setting an important precedent. In Imperial's activities later this year, as well as the work by other companies in the GSA, we will continue to ensure that all Gwich'in benefit from activity on our land.

Community involvement in the work on our land remains vital. In response to your concerns, as expressed at last year's Assembly, we are working with the Renewable Resource Councils throughout the GSA to give the communities a larger role in the environmental monitoring program.

Our Education and Training department provided skill development funding for community organizations in each GSA community under the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA) program, and we hope to see further skills upgrading under AHRDA.



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*The GTC boardroom is always busy with meetings ranging from self-government to oil & gas development agreements.*

## Chief Operating Officer's Report

Recent weeks have seen the observance of a familiar anniversary: on April 22, we marked the eleventh Gwich'in Day, commemorating the signature of the Claim. The GTC office in Inuvik co-hosted an open house and barbecue with the Nihtat Gwich'in Council, with door prizes including a flight for two from our partner, *First Air*.

As a result of the signing of the funding agreement for the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, we will spend much of our time in the months ahead on the negotiation of a Comprehensive Cooperation Benefits Agreement, to ensure full Gwich'in participation in this major development. We will put together a solid team of negotiators to represent the communities, along with technical support.



Mary Ann Ross preparing for the 2003 Career Day.

We will ensure that our negotiation team is well-versed in access and benefits negotiations, and able to obtain the best possible deal for Beneficiaries. We will also continue operational reviews of GTC programs so as to better serve Beneficiaries. In the upcoming year we will also become more involved in the self-government process, so that both GTC staff and Beneficiaries can become fully versed in self-government's working and requirements.

As you can tell, the early months of 2003 have been busy and productive for the GTC, and we expect to accomplish still more in the weeks leading up to this year's Assembly.

I wish to personally thank my staff for their hard work and dedication over the past year. Without their efforts many of these initiatives could not have been carried out. As we move forward in unity, I along with my staff will continue to serve the Board of Directors and the Beneficiaries to ensure that all activities and initiatives are carried out in the best interest of all Beneficiaries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tom R. Williams'.

**Tom R. Williams**  
Chief Operating Officer

## *Gwich'in Education and Training Report*

The Gwich'in Tribal Council's Education and Training Department consists of Manager Barb Crawford and Coordinator Margaret Thompson. Barb Crawford replaced the previous Manager, Pat McKinnon on September 23, 2002. Student Services Trainee Lucy Kay left upon the completion of her one-year training position. The Department takes direction from the Education and Training Committee:

- 
- *Mavis Clark - Tsiigehtchic;*
  - *Robert Charlie - Inuvik;*
  - *Leanne Nerysoo - Aklavik;*
  - *Liz Wright - Fort McPherson.*
- 

The Education and Training Department administers two funding programs for GSA residents and Gwich'in Beneficiaries.

### *Gwich'in Education and Training Trust Fund*

The Fund provides Beneficiaries with bursaries, scholarships and aid not available from other funding agencies.

### *Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA)*

The AHRDA is a five-year agreement that commenced on April 1, 1999, and expires on March 31, 2004. It provides training and educational opportunities for First Nations, Inuit and Metis residing in the GSA.



Photo: GTC

*Youth programs are an important part of the Education and Training portfolio.*

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The AHRDA allows the Education and Training Department to administer the following programs:

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- *Labour market programs for the unemployed, employed and organizations to assist with wage subsidies, job creation, skill development, and self-employment;*
- *Youth programs, including internships, community service, Summer student jobs, and labour market information;*
- *Childcare assistance for students, communities, and daycares;*
- *Programs for the disabled.*

# Gwich'in Education and Training Report



Photo: GTC

*Oil & gas production brings opportunities.*

Through these programs we have been able to assist a number of organizations within the GSA. During the past year, we have met with AHRDA holders and Human Resources Development Canada for consultations on the renewal process and a subsequent five-year agreement.

### Urban Programs

The Education and Training Department provided funding for the Inuvik Works Project. This project has four components:

- Personal Development;
- Skill-Based Short Courses;
- Career Development;
- Work Experience.

Under the Regional Training Partnership (RTP), various organizations work together to provide training opportunities within the Mackenzie Delta. We have been working towards formalizing the partnership so as to better serve the people in the region. The organizations represented in the RTP are: Gwich'in Tribal Council; Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; Education, Culture and Employment; Municipal and Community Affairs; Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development; Beaufort Delta Education Council; Aurora College; NWT Training Centre; Human Resources Development Canada.

The Education and Training Department provided full or partial funding for the following programs:

- Class "1" Driver Training;
- Class "4" Driver Training;
- Moose Hide Tanning;
- Introduction to Welding;
- Safety Training;
- Biblical Counseling;
- University and College Access Program;
- Native and Artisan Program;
- Youth Entry Level Skills.

<b>DEADLINES</b>	
<i>SEMESTER OF STUDY</i>	<i>DEADLINE</i>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>July 15</b>
<b>Winter</b>	<b>November 15</b>
<b>Spring/Summer</b>	<b>March 15</b>
<b>Short Courses</b>	<b>30 Days Notice</b>

## *Gwich'in Education and Training Report*

The increased activity in the oil and gas sector is likely to keep the Education and Training Department busy in the next few years. Barb Crawford expects to continue her visits to the GSA communities to gather and provide information.

### **Labour Market Initiatives**

In the past year, the Education and Training Department has had the opportunity to train a number of individuals within the GSA. The capacity building initiative has been very successful in helping both employed and unemployed individuals take courses that will allow them to gain employment in advance in their current work environments. The Community Employment Officers in Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, and Aklavik are funded through AHRDA. *Other trainee positions funded through this program are:*

- *Inuvik District Education Authority - Tutor;*
- *Nihtat Gwich'in Council - Finance Officer Trainee;*
- *Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board - Trainee;*
- *Fort McPherson District Education Authority - Tutor;*
- *Tetl'it Gwich'in Council - Finance Officer Trainee; Receptionist Trainee;*
- *Gwich'ya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council - Administrative Assistant Trainee.*

Our emphasis in youth programming has been on Summer student employment, with the result that numerous Summer jobs were created in the GSA. The Tetl'it Gwich'in Council hired five youth to work in the community. Three students had positions with the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board. The Aklavik Indian Band hired five students for the Summer and the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute hired a research assistant. The Education and Training Department also assisted students from Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, and Aklavik with meals and transportation so that they could attend the annual Career Fair in Inuvik.

### **Childcare Assistance**

Under this program we were able to assist the Fort McPherson Aboriginal Head Start Program hire a language teacher, Hannah Alexie. We have also provided funding for both the Inuvik and Aklavik Child Development Centres, and the Little Bear Society in Inuvik, as well as helping parents attending various training institutions meet their childcare needs. The Department also provides for the Healthy Babies Initiative at the Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre in Inuvik.

### **Programs for the Disabled**

The Education and Training Department provided a wage subsidy for a disabled youth to work at the Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas Shop.

**Barb Crawford**  
*Manager*

# Self-government Negotiations Report

## – Overview

The Agreement-in-Principle on self-government within the Beaufort-Delta region was signed at a ceremony in Inuvik on April 16, with President Fred Carmichael signing on behalf of the GTC. Also participating in the ceremony were DIAND Minister Robert Nault, Premier Stephen Kakfwi and Inuvialuit Regional Corporation Chairman Nellie Cournoyea. In the months leading up to the signing ceremony, concerns related to the AIP were discussed. The principal issue raised by the Gwich'in Chiefs, namely the dissolution of the Bands under self-government and related concerns arising from the First Nations Governance Act, required extensive formal and informal consultations among the parties for the preparation of a Federal response. Other issues, raised by the Town of Inuvik, did not significantly affect the signing of the AIP, but raised uncertainty regarding support from residents. The Communications Working Group and Beaufort-Delta Self-government Office (BDSGO) continue to address these issues and clarify points where there is misunderstanding.

Negotiations on the issues raised by the Chiefs resulted in a detailed Workplan which the parties signed. Other subjects were discussed, with substantial progress made in several areas.

The financial negotiations have not resulted in any progress to date. There are two major reasons:

- 1) *the lack of information on existing resources from the Federal and Territorial Governments;*
- 2) *the need to determine the organizational and delivery structure of community, regional, and aboriginal Governments.*

A modeling exercise which started this Fiscal Year will produce draft regional and community models, which can then be used for a costing exercise and further leadership consultations. Governments have still not provided the necessary financial information, although the BDSGO has begun analysis of information that is open to the public. Finance Canada's need to review its policies delayed discussions on taxation.



# Self-government Negotiations Report

## *Main Negotiations Table*

It is apparent that the negotiations have not resulted in substantial progress on matters of substance.

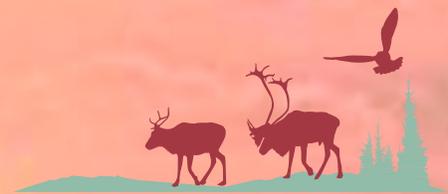
At times, a lack of clarity in the instructions given to the GNWT Chief Negotiator made it impossible to make decisions at the negotiation sessions, greatly impeding progress. While differences among the parties are normal in such negotiations, these were amplified by the lack of creative problem-solving on the part of the GNWT team, who relied primarily on the delivery of their instructions, which could not meet the interests of the other parties. Another major impediment has been the GNWT's continued insistence that the Federal Government pay all additional costs of the negotiations. This has stalled the financial negotiations.

The BDSGO has undertaken to review all its existing mandate instructions for remaining subject matters to ensure that negotiators confidently present the interests of their principals. The primary reason for this exercise is to build support for the negotiators and seek specific instructions on several matters of particular importance to the Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit.

In particular, instructions on financial matters have been developed and are being introduced at negotiations with a view to identifying the respective interests of the parties and major barriers (policy or other) to the conclusion of financial negotiations.

*Subject matters which were addressed are:*

- Social Housing - Completion of a Main Table draft with several outstanding issues, such as: application of standards; concurrent jurisdictions; obligation to negotiate administration agreements;
- Economic Development and Tourism - BDSGO tabled a draft and interests and GNWT is reviewing and obtaining mandates;
- Roads and Traffic - The Legal Working Group is completing a draft;
- Constitutional Protection - The parties have exchanged views on what substantive issues may arise, and the options of pursuing constitutional protection or contracts. The parties continue to seek internal direction;



# Self-government Negotiations Report

- Administration of Justice - BDSGO tabled a discussion paper for the other parties to review, and to guide a meeting of officials in the future;
- Band Councils and Application of the Indian Act - A workplan has been completed, and will guide the process whereby the Chiefs and Councils will be involved in determining the future application of the Indian Act and the dissolution of the Bands, the development of a Gwich'in Constitution, and relationship to Treaty 11;
- Use, Management, Control, Administration, and Protection of Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Settlement Lands - Consultations with the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation have begun, in order to identify their interests in this subject matter and its relations with their land claim agreements;
- Marriage - A Main Table draft has been completed, and the parties are reviewing several technical issues prior to referring it to the Legal Working Group.

## Working Groups

*The Chief Negotiators directed the Working Groups in the following areas:*

- Implementation Working Group - The review of the AIP to identify all potential Final Agreement implementation obligations and activities necessary for completion of the Final Agreement (Pre-Effective Date Activities) is ongoing. A draft Pre-Effective Date Plan was prepared by the Working Group and reviewed by the Chief Negotiators. It will guide all the work required by the parties in order to complete the Final Agreement. An amended version was prepared as part of the Working Group's monitoring function, however the GNWT is unprepared to negotiate the costs of the Plan as per the AIP. The Working Group is now turning its attention to the modeling and costing exercises. In addition, draft fiscal financing agreements are being reviewed;



# Self-government Negotiations Report

- Taxation Working Group - This Working Group was formed last year to develop recommendations for taxation provisions. There were several meetings and information was exchanged before the Working Group was suspended to allow the Federal representatives to complete their policy work. At time of writing, the Federal representatives to the Working Group have suspended their work, with discussions expected to resume later in 2003. The Group is being referred tasks in relation to issues brought forth by the public or the parties, such as: representation by population; the rationale for guaranteed representation; likely changes;
- Legal Working Group - The Working Group is reviewing many items that have been referred to it throughout the year, and is turning its attention to the drafting of a Final Agreement;
- Lands Working Group - Terms of Reference were approved by the Chief Negotiator, but the Group will not be formed until the Federal and Territorial Governments complete an inventory of lands within the community boundaries;
- Main Table Workplan - This was prepared and approved by the Chief Negotiators, who also prepared a longer-term workplan to complete the Final Agreement, based on the subject matters included in the AIP.

## *Gathering Strengths*

### *Workshops*

During the last year workshops on Constitutions and Priorities/ Planning and Organizational Structures were held in each community. Communities also formed Self-government Committees to follow up on workshop results and act as focus groups on the issues that would have been covered in a workshop format.

### *Community Development Instructor/ Facilitators*

All communities experienced the benefits of having CDIFs, who provided ongoing support and guidance. Where a community did not have a CDIF for most of the year, BDSGO technical staff and negotiators visited and worked with Fieldworkers to advance the discussions.



# Self-government Negotiations Report

## Capacity Building

Several initiatives started in the past year have advanced the development of a Capacity Building and Training Plan:

- Regional Self-government Training Committee - This was formed by Governmental and Aboriginal stakeholders in governance training. The Committee identified areas of coordination and developed a master time-table of all related governance courses. It also held several workshops with a view to formalizing itself as the primary coordinating body for all training initiatives in the region and developing an operational plan;
- Access Program - The Indigenous Studies Program was developed in partnership with several post-secondary institutions. Meetings with these institutions forged another partnership to provide continuous post-secondary training. A first-year access program will provide residents with the skills to advance to diploma and degree programs through these partner institutions;
- Communications Training Workshops - The parties in the Communications Working Group assisted in the development and delivery of a communications skills training session for fieldworkers. This excellent workshop also provided the Communications Working Group with insight on how to develop communications material for the recent AIP signing ceremony;
- Tetlit Gwich'in Capacity Building Initiative - After the Tetlit Gwich'in Council in Fort McPherson amalgamated its Band Council and Land Claim institutions into one governing council, it faced difficult organizational issues as a result. This Capacity Building Initiative was undertaken to review the organizational structure with a view to making recommendations for improvements and helping the community prepare for self-government;
- Administration of Justice Discussion Paper - As part of the AIP commitment to hold a meeting of Justice officials prior to the Final Agreement, the BDSGO commissioned the development of a discussion paper to focus on options for justice and policing arrangements;



# *Self-government Negotiations Report*

- Indigenous Studies Program - The BDSGO undertook extensive research to determine the major modules for a first-year access program providing residents with a broad set of governance skills as a stepping-stone to the further specialized training that future governments would need. This program is seen as the foundation for the Capacity Building and Training Program that must be developed prior to the Final Agreement. We had meetings with representatives of post-secondary institutions to obtain their support and advice as we seek accreditation of the Indigenous Studies Program;
- Land Claim and Self-government Curriculum Resource Material - Work continues on curriculum resource material for the grade schools on land claims and self-government. The project is a partnership among the GTC, IRC and Beaufort-Delta Education Council, with some delivery expected to commence in the Fall of 2003.

**Bob Simpson**  
*Chief Negotiator*

**Lawrence Norbert**  
*Gwich'in Negotiator*



## *Lands, Resources & Implementation Report*



The GTC's Implementation personnel are responsible for coordinating and facilitating the activities and programs related to implementing the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA). We have been involved in a number of projects and issues over the past year.

### *Ten-Year Review*

When the GCLCA was signed on April 22, 1992, an Implementation Plan was signed along with it, with a ten-year term that expired in December 2002. Since then, both have undergone two reviews: the five-year review, completed in December 1997, and the ten-year review, completed in December 2002. These reviews focused on the Implementation Plan, which itemizes the tasks, obligations, and projects involved in the GCLCA's implementation, including the required funding. These reviews, and all implementation matters, are overseen by an Implementation Committee of representatives of all three signatories to the GCLCA.

The Plan has now been updated to the satisfaction of all signatories, with the exceptions of the adequacy of GTC core funding and the continuation of funding for wildlife studies. For many years, core funding provided by the Federal Government has been inadequate. During most of the ten-year implementation period, the GTC has found it necessary to supplement this funding, mainly with money from settlement funds. In January 2002, at the commencement of the ten-year review, the GTC made a submission detailing these inadequacies. However, the Federal Government took the position that it had no obligation to fund implementation bodies such as the GTC, and that the money it did provide was in the nature of gratuitous assistance. The GTC disagrees, and this is one of six matters on which the Implementation Committee has recommended arbitration.

The other five outstanding issues were recommended for arbitration at a December 2002 Implementation Committee meeting. These issues would be arbitrated separately, and each will require a separate decision to seek arbitration or not.

## *Lands, Resources & Implementation Report*

Arbitration will be costly, will require legal advice, and, if unsuccessful, have potentially negative consequences. Therefore, the GTC has ranked the issues in order of appropriateness for arbitration at this time:

**1 *Dispute Resolution:***

The GTC takes the view that the GCLCA's dispute resolution provisions allow one party to bring an issue to arbitration. The Federal Government contends that, with the exception of certain specified provisions, all parties must agree to take a matter to arbitration. The GTC wants an arbitration ruling as to whether one party has the right to bring a matter to arbitration unilaterally.

**2 *Wildlife Studies Fund:***

Pursuant to the general provisions on wildlife management in Chapter 12 of the GCLCA, the Federal Government originally provided a large lump sum to fund wildlife studies, with a recent proposal for a subsequent smaller contribution for the next implementation period. The money has been sufficient to date, and will remain so over the next few years.

But the Federal Government takes the position that after the last contribution, it will have no further obligation to fund wildlife studies. The GTC asserts that the Federal Government is obligated to provide ongoing funding. Prior to the GCLCA, such studies were an obligation of the Federal Government. There is no reason that obligation would end with the GCLCA or with any payments covering a limited period. Moreover, these studies must be done annually in order to fulfill the GCLCA's resource management and harvesting allocation obligations. The GTC has confirmed its desire to take this issue to arbitration.

**3 *Economic Measures Chapter:***

The economic measures chapter of the GCLCA, Chapter 10, provides that government economic development programs maintain and strengthen the traditional Gwich'in economy and promote economic self-sufficiency. In spite of a detailed statement of these goals and objectives, the GTC and the Federal Government have disagreed on how to interpret some provisions in that chapter.

# *Lands, Resources & Implementation Report*

To be effective, the chapter must be interpreted in the light of the spirit and intent reflected in the objectives rather than dissected for actual obligations. A review of the effectiveness of Chapter 10 implementation is under way. It may be wise to see how much this review clarifies and resolves before proceeding to arbitration.

- 4 ***Yukon Devolution Transfer Agreement:*** Further to Appendix C of the GCLCA (the Yukon Transboundary Agreement), the GTC is a major land owner in the Yukon. Despite this, devolution took place in the Yukon without proper consultation with the GTC. As a result, this matter was originally recommended for arbitration. However, the new Yukon Government has met with the GTC on several occasions, and there is a new spirit of cooperation and consultation between the two. As a result, the GTC wishes to explore more cooperative approaches before taking this matter to arbitration.



Photo: GTC

*Johnny Edwards, GTC Environmental Coordinator since April, 2002.*

- 5 ***YDAP (Yukon Development Assessment Process):***

The Federal Government is implementing a new regulatory process to assess and approve development projects in the Yukon. This process has been the subject of considerable consultation, including the GTC, and will result in the implementation of legislation called the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act. While the process will have admirable features, the GTC is not granted a seat on the regulatory board. The GTC will work with the Yukon Government to see how the issue can be addressed cooperatively before proceeding to arbitration.

### ***Amendments to the GCLCA***

This year we were involved in three amendments to the GCLCA. The first amendment is a “rolling surrender clause”, and harmonizes the GCLCA with other land claim agreements in regard to exclusive harvesting rights. The amendment highlights the need for overlap and sharing agreements, so that Beneficiaries from different claimant groups can continue to hunt across the boundaries of adjacent land claim agreements. The other agreements address the distribution and investment of land claim settlement money, allowing more than one distribution as well as investment in pooled funds such as mutual funds.

## *Lands, Resources & Implementation Report*

### *Gwich'in Land Use Plan*

The signing of the GCLCA in 1992 created a legal requirement for a plan to promote conservation and sustainable development in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. A land use plan for the Beaufort-Delta region has been under development for the past fifteen years. The Gwich'in Land Use Plan was completed by the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board in 1999, and approved by the GTC later that year. Following GTC approval, the Federal Government was lobbied to approve and adopt the plan, but Federal approval was delayed for a number of political and technical reasons. The most significant of these was a set of conflicts between the Land Use Plan and the Canadian Mining Regulations. The GTC and Land Use Planning Board worked with the Federal Government to resolve these conflicts, with agreement reached in January. The Mining Regulations are being amended, and in their revised form will address the conflicts with the Land Use Plan.

### *Communications CD-ROM*

The GTC and the Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Office have started work on a CD-ROM, to explain the GCLCA in classrooms. It will focus on the GCLCA's relevance and importance, explaining what life was like before the Agreement and what changes resulted from it. The CD-ROM will raise awareness of what lies ahead in terms of self-government and other implementation challenges.

### *Wildlife and Species at Risk Legislation*

The Yukon and NWT Governments are revising their respective Wildlife Acts and preparing new legislation dealing with species at risk of extinction. The Species at Risk Legislation reflects the need to harmonize with recent Federal legislation on this topic, while the Amendments to the Wildlife Act are, in part, triggered by the need to incorporate the relevant land claim provisions. GTC implementation and resource management staff have participated in the consultation process on the legislation in both jurisdictions.

### *Yukon Issues*

The GTC has been involved in a number of matters in the Yukon other than devolution and YDAP. Land use planning in the Peel Watershed is going ahead, and the GTC is involved in the process.

We are also involved in several issues under the Yukon Oil and Gas Act. The GTC has expressed its concerns regarding abandoned exploration wells that could leak contaminants. It has requested inspections of these wells (sumps) and requested that land use planning take place in the Peel River Watershed area prior to further oil and gas development. A provision in the Oil and Gas Act requires the conclusion of benefits agreements prior to the commencement of oil and gas activity.

## *Lands, Resources & Implementation Report*

The GTC has sought amendment of this provision to ensure that it applies to the Gwich'in, even though they are not a Yukon First Nation.

Since the formation of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) in 1986, one of the most important issues with which the Board has been involved has been the management of caribou hunting in the Dempster Highway area. The GTC has worked with the PCMB to advise the Yukon Government on amendments to the Dempster Highway Hunting Regulations restricting hunting to a corridor along the Highway. Once consensus is achieved as to what, if any, regulations are appropriate, the Yukon Government will be advised.

On February 13, 2003 the GTC attended the first meeting on the new Yukon-Northwest Territories Transboundary Water Management Agreement, held in Inuvik. This Agreement requires that activities on one side of the border be brought to the attention of the jurisdiction on the other, so that both jurisdictions can work together to protect the Peel River Watershed. GTC representatives made a number of suggestions about information management and communications and will continue to track this initiative.

### *CIMP*

*(Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program and Audit) and*

### *CEAM*

*(Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management)*

CIMP and CEAM are initiatives of DIAND's regional office. CIMP is a requirement of the GCLCA and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. Following consultation in all GSA communities, draft Terms of Reference for the environmental audit have been finalized, and will soon be submitted for public consultation. CIMP is a component of CEAM, a broader initiative arising from past environmental assessments that revealed the need for more information on, and better management of, cumulative effects. This past year the CEAM Steering Committee completed several years of work leading to a Blueprint and Framework for Action. The current objective is ensuring that governmental and other agencies with mandates to implement CEAM assume their respective responsibilities and take appropriate action. This may be subject to continued funding of a secretariat to lead the process, funding that has yet to be confirmed for either CEAM or CIMP. Upon confirmation of funding, the GTC hopes to continue discussions with DIAND about a CEAM-Beaufort-Delta Regional Plan of Action to address issues specific to the GSA.

# *Lands, Resources & Implementation Report*

## *Mackenzie Gas Project*

Over the past year, Imperial Oil has gathered information necessary for the regulatory approval process for a Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline. This has involved community consultation on potential socio-economic and environmental impacts. The GTC has tracked this consultation to ensure that all concerns raised are recorded for consideration under the regulatory decision-making processes. Imperial and its contractors have found it necessary to access private Gwich'in lands in the GSA to obtain aggregate and other information. The GTC conditions land access authorizations on benefit agreements that ensure Gwich'in content in hiring and contracts, as well as grants for educational and social funds.

## *Review by the Auditor General's Office*

The Auditor General's Office has commenced a review of DIAND's conduct of its Northern Affairs Program, including implementation of land claim agreements. The Nunavut and Gwich'in land claim agreements were chosen as subjects of the audit.

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*Gwich'in Lands & Resources (GLR) truck with the Richardson Mountain Range in the background, located within Gwich'in Settlement Lands Parcel A.*

## *Resource Management*

GTC resource management staff have been involved in a number of projects over the past year.

- ***Forest Management Plan:***  
The GTC worked with the Territorial Government and the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to complete a near-final draft of the Forest Management Plan. Finalization has been delayed pending a GNWT legal review of jurisdictional issues.
- ***Overlap and Sharing Agreements:***  
The GTC is working on overlap or sharing agreements with several other settled land claim groups, in order to reestablish mutual harvesting rights extinguished in the land claim process. Where settled land claims are adjacent, the Beneficiaries of each claim traditionally harvested on both sides of the new boundary. To continue harvesting in an adjacent settlement area, Beneficiaries now need the permission of the adjacent land claim group.



Photo: GTC

## *Lands, Resources & Implementation Report*

The Gwich'in are currently working to finalize agreements with four other land claim groups:

- A draft agreement with the Sahtu has been initiated, and the parties are working on maps of the traditional harvesting areas;
  - A concise sharing agreement with the Dogrib has been completed;
  - A draft agreement with the Inuvialuit was completed, with further work recording Gwich'in traditional use areas required before the agreement can be finalized;
  - Negotiation of a sharing agreement with the Na-Cho Nyak Dun is still in the early stages.
- ***Mackenzie Valley Biophysical Study:*** The Mackenzie Valley Biophysical Study is an initiative of the GNWT, in partnership with Aboriginal organizations, to collect biophysical information necessary for informed decision-making and cumulative effects assessment prior to oil and gas activity.



Photo: GTC

The GTC had input in the early stages of the initiative, to ensure coordination, rather than overlap, with CEAM and CIMP initiatives and implementation of Part VI of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. The project is in the Gap Analysis phase, where the parties determine what studies have been completed, and what further studies are required. The GTC is taking part to ensure the study accurately reflects needs in the GSA.

- ***Northern Contaminants Program:*** The Northern Contaminants Program exists to assess and manage the impacts of Northern contaminants. In the second half of the current reporting period, program funding was nearly discontinued. Recent decisions to continue funding have yet to address specific allocations. Recent GTC activities include a study of the Inuvik landfill to determine whether there is leaching of heavy metals or hydrocarbons, and assessment of contaminant levels on boreal woodland caribou, moose, and Dall's sheep. A GTC staff member attended the Northern Contaminants Symposium in Ottawa at the end of 2002.

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*Dwayne is a Gwich'in beneficiary born and raised in Aklavik. Dwayne is employed with the GTC as Assistant Lands Manager in our Lands Resource and Implementation Department.*

# *Lands, Resources & Implementation Report*

## ***Lands Administration***

The past year has brought a significant increase in land access activity, an increase that we expect to continue as a result of activity surrounding the Mackenzie Valley pipeline project. GTC lands administration staff have been involved in a number of specific projects.

- ***Update of Authorization Template:*** Authorization templates were reviewed and updated to address errors and add more comprehensive protection, enforcement and compensation provisions.
- ***Update of the Land Registry Database:*** We are updating the GTC's original Land Registry, in a more user-friendly Microsoft Access version. The new database will enable the generation of more useful reports and searches, and make it easier for the GTC to track obligations associated with authorizations and benefits agreements.
- ***Land Management Control Rules:*** GTC staff members are finalizing the Land Management Control Rules, which are still in draft form, incorporating the results of past consultation. We are updating the Rules to reflect all relevant changes in circumstances, with Rules for the Yukon also under development.
- ***Cabin Database:*** In October 2002 the GTC sent a letter to all RRCs, requesting assistance in updating our database of cabins and camps. Maps were created, showing the locations of all cabins and camps in the GSA, whether on Crown or private land. The RRCs were asked to review the maps and note any errors, as well as to identify cabins on Gwich'in land owned by non-Beneficiaries. Once the database is complete, we will contact non-Beneficiaries whose cabins currently occupy private Gwich'in land, so that leases can be established and rents collected.

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*Gwich'in Summer camps are in full use to prepare delicious traditional country foods*



Photo: GTC

## *Lands, Resources & Implementation Report*

- ***Pit Management Plans:***  
Over the past year GTC lands staff have reviewed pit and quarry authorizations to ensure up-to-date pit management plans are in place. In addition to reviewing existing authorizations to ensure compliance with the plans, we have also made such plans a requirement of all new applications.
- ***Deep Water Lake Lease:***  
The GTC has worked with the GNWT to finalize a lease for the Fort McPherson Water Supply at Deep Water Lake. This will set a precedent, as the first lease in the GSA based on GCLCA provisions granting access to government agencies providing government services.
- ***Schedule of Fees, Rates, and Penalties:***  
The GTC Board approved an updated fee schedule this past year. GTC staff members are currently reviewing these rates in response to suggestions they be increased in line with those of other land claim groups.
- ***Land Use Workshop:***  
In October 2002 the GTC held a workshop with community RRCs on the land use management process in the GSA. One source of confusion has been the overlap of GTC processes for accessing private GSA land, and the Gwich'in Land and Water Board process for accessing all GSA land. We already have plans for at least one subsequent workshop, and expect workshops will be held regularly to help RRCs stay up-to-date on relevant criteria and procedures.
- ***Environmental Monitoring Program:***  
At their regional meeting this past Winter, the RRCs passed a motion to transfer responsibility for administering the environmental monitoring program from the GTC to each RRC. The RRCs are now responsible for maintaining up-to-date lists of trained monitors, charging for monitors' time, and managing the revenues from the program.

**Deb Bisson**  
*Director, Lands, Resources and  
Implementation*

**Norman Snowshoe**  
*Resources Manager*

**Joe Benoit**  
*Lands Manager*

## *Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute Report*

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) conducts cultural and language research, provides language and educational programming, and performs heritage management. Its mandate is to document, preserve and promote Gwich'in language, cultural, traditional knowledge and values. Between April 2002 and March 2003, the GSCI worked on the following initiatives:

### **Traditional Gwich'in Clothing:**

From December 2000 until March 2003, 41 seamstresses in the four GSA communities and Yellowknife worked on replicas of a man's traditional caribou skin outfit, from an original in the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) in Hull, Quebec. The project is a partnership among the GSCI, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) in Yellowknife, and the CMC. Following completion of the outfits, a celebration was held in the PWNHC. Upon receipt of museum-quality display cases and mannequins, one outfit will be displayed in each GSA community, with the fifth to be displayed in the PWNHC, in a gallery now being renovated.

In September 2002, two of the project coordinators, GSCI Research Director Ingrid Kritsch and Karen Wright-Fraser, owner of Whispering Willows, presented one of the outfits, with accompanying information, at the 9th International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies, in Edinburgh, Scotland.

### **Fort McPherson Archaeological Excavation and Survey:**

In August 2002, we initiated a community-based archaeology project, in partnership with the Teetl'it Gwich'in Council and PWNHC. The project was directed by archaeologist Melanie Fafard and provided seven youth from around Fort McPherson with training and employment opportunities as well as exposure to archaeology and their own history.

One component of the project was a two-week excavation of a site at Fort McPherson, where the GSCI had conducted a test excavation in 2000, and which the Teetl'it Gwich'in used as a camp site in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries when coming to trade with the Hudson's Bay Company. The students uncovered animal bones, Euro-Canadian artifacts, and Gwich'in artifacts such as bone and antler spear points, a needle or awl made from antler, cooking rocks and evidence of hearths. The presence of decayed or decaying wood in significant amounts suggests the possible existence of a structure at some point. The project's other component was a survey of sites around Fort McPherson, including Nataiinlaih and the Old Fort.

## *Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute Report*

### **Nagwichoonyik National Historic Site Project:**

In the Spring of 2002, the GTC and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada approved the boundaries of the Nagwichoonyik (Mackenzie River) National Historic Site. It is the largest National Historic Site in Canada, at 175 km. in length and with a 5 km. buffer along both sides of the Mackenzie for the site's full extent. A community steering committee met with the GSCI and Parks Canada staff in February 2003 to finalize the draft Commemorative Integrity Statement and discuss the location of the plaque commemorating the designation. The plaque is located in Tsiigehtchic, with an unveiling ceremony held July 11, 2003. A steering committee with members from the Gwichya Gwich'in Council, GSCI, Parks Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage planned the ceremony.



*Headquarters of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute in Tsiigehtchic.*

### **Teetl'it Gwich'in National Historic Site Project:**

The GSCI is cooperating with Fort McPherson and Parks Canada to designate a National Historic Site within the Teetl'it Gwich'in traditional land use area. Melanie Fafard and Ingrid Kritsch are working with a steering committee of community representatives, which includes: Robert Alexie, Sr.; Walter Alexie; Wilbert Firth; Bertha Francis; Doris Itsi; Fred Koe; William Koe; Robert James Mantla; Sharon Snowshoe; Mary Teya; William Teya. Following community consultations, the committee has decided to nominate two sections of the Peel River: the Peel Canyon area; and the stretch of the Peel between the confluence of the Peel and the Mackenzie and the Trail River. The GSCI is now drafting the documents needed to submit the nomination to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board.

**Gwich'in Place Names Project:** Since January 2003, GSCI Heritage Researcher Alestine Andre has been at work adding oral history information recorded under our traditional land use and Gwich'in place names projects into a computer database. She is extracting data from transcripts dating back to the early 1990s. The database will enable the GSCI to develop educational materials for schools and permit more efficient review of land use permit applications in the Gwichya Gwich'in land use area for potential effects on heritage resources.

## *Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute Report*

The GSCI is also working to ensure that all maps, photographs, video and audio tapes from the place name projects are catalogued and indexed, with the audio tapes saved in CD format. We intend to deposit the original research materials in the NWT Territorial Archives, with copies available in our Tsiigehtchic office.

### **Gwich'in Elders' Biographies:**

The 2003 Gwich'in Elders' Calendar, which contains short Gwich'in and English biographies of 13 Elders interviewed in 2002, has been published and is available in several Northern book stores. Longer biographies of 24 Elders are in draft form and, in final form, will be published in a Gwich'in Elders' book or a series of booklets. We intend to complete the final drafts in 2003-04, and raise funds for publication in 2004-05.

### **Gwich'in Traditional Knowledge**

**Policy:** In preparation for increased oil and gas exploration in the GSA, the GSCI has drafted a Traditional Knowledge (TK) policy, to ensure that the collection, management and release of Gwich'in TK is conducted ethically, acknowledging and respecting the Gwich'in as its holders.

A draft was submitted to the GTC Board in the Spring of 2003, following extensive consultation, and approved in principle. The GSCI is preparing a final draft and an implementation strategy, to be followed by legal review and final amendments. When the policy receives final approval from the GTC, it will govern all TK work in the GSA.

### **Gwich'in Dictionary:**

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Gwich'in Dictionary has been published, with copies delivered to all schools in the GSA. This edition includes almost 3,000 Gwichya Gwich'in and Teet'it Gwich'in terms, almost 30 verb paradigms, and an introduction to Gwich'in grammar prepared by Mark Riepl, a Masters' student in linguistics at the University of Victoria. Copies can be purchased for \$20.<sup>00</sup> at the GSCI office and Gwich'in Language Centre.

### **Second-Language Curriculum:**

The GSCI is currently working with the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Beaufort-Delta Education Council and Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre to develop a second-language curriculum for the Beaufort-Delta region.

## *Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute Report*

### **Gwich'in Mentoring Program:**

**1**998 statistics show 13% of Beneficiaries living in the NWT speak the Gwich'in language, and only 2% speak it regularly in the home, making it one of the most endangered of the Athapaskan languages in the Mackenzie Valley. The GSCI's Five Year Strategic Plan identified a number of initiatives to reverse its decline. One of these is a mentoring program in which eight fluent speakers are matched with eight learners, to meet for at least 4 hours a week to improve language skills. The program was initiated by William George Firth and Eleanor Mitchell Firth of the GSCI language staff, and ran in Fort McPherson from November of 2002 through January 2003.

### **Land Use Review and Scientific Research Licenses:**

The GSCI continues to review land and water applications submitted to the Gwich'in Land and Water Board and Lands Administration, as well as Scientific Research Applications from the Aurora Research Institute, advising them of potential impacts on heritage resources. The increased oil and gas activity in the GSA generates a higher number of License Applications.

### **Personnel Changes:**

**O**ur former Linguist Trainee, Lisa Andre, began studies in linguistics at the University of Alberta in September 2002. Her successor is Eleanor Mitchell Firth, who worked on the Gwich'in Dictionary and Teetl'it Gwich'in Place Names Project and is past coordinator of the Gwich'in Language Centre. Heritage Researcher Alestine Andre was on leave from June 2002 to January 2003, to pursue her Master's in Ethnobotany from the University of Victoria. Her thesis, on Gwich'in knowledge and use of plants for food, medicine and shelter, builds on her past work for the GSCI and Aurora Research Institute (with Alan Fehr), which resulted in the Gwich'in Ethnobotany book.

## *Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute Report*

### **Publications:**

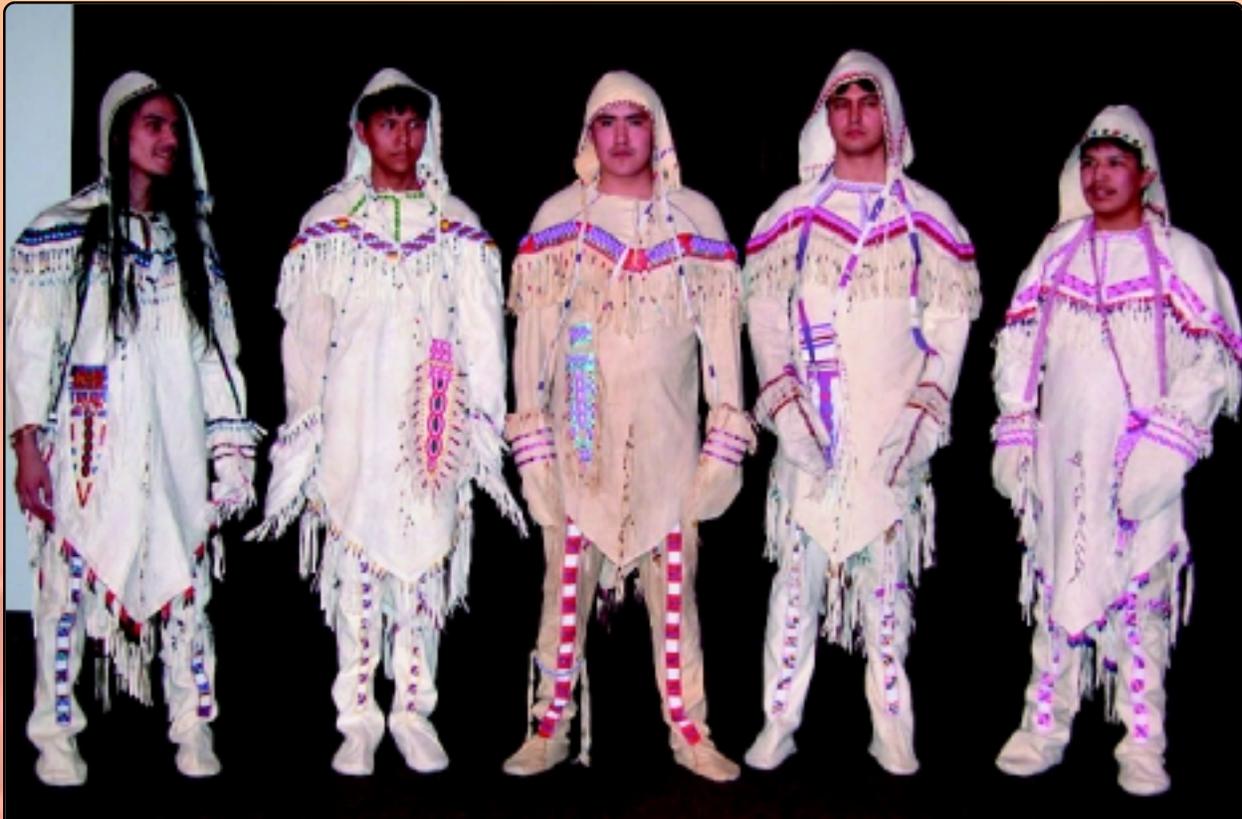
**A** revised edition of *Gwich'in Ethnobotany: Plants Used by the Gwich'in for Food, Medicine, Shelter and Tools* is now available from the GSCI office in Tsiigehtchic, Aurora Research Institute in Inuvik, and Northern bookstores, for \$15.<sup>00</sup> + GST.

The *2003 Gwich'in Elders' Calendar*, including portrait photos of 13 Elders, with short English and Gwich'in biographies, is available in the GSCI office, Gwich'in Band offices and Northern bookstores, for \$15.<sup>00</sup> + GST.

**I**n December 2002, the Western Arctic Handbook Committee released *Canada's Western Arctic*, which includes a chapter on Gwich'in culture and history by Ingrid Kritsch and Alestine Andre, and sells in Northern bookstores for approximately \$29.<sup>95</sup>.

**Leslie McCartney**  
*Executive Director*

**Ingrid Kritsch**  
*Research Director*



41 seamstresses in the GSA and Yellowknife completed five replicas of a man's caribou outfit from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Photo: GSCI

## *Gwich'in Enrolment Board Report*

The Gwich'in Enrolment Board, established under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) has been active since 1993. The Board is responsible for enrolling all suitable persons of Gwich'in ancestry under the GCLCA. You must enroll under the Claim in order to vote or run in GTC elections, participate in the activities of the GTC, its subsidiaries and affiliates, or to receive benefits such as Christmas hampers or money in future payouts.

In April 1994 we issued the first Enrolment Registry, listing 1,245 Beneficiaries. That number continues to grow, having passed 2,700 in the last year. The Gwich'in Acceptance Process (or "community acceptance") ended on February 22, 1998, so individuals now enroll by application to the Enrolment Board under Section 4.2.1 of the GCLCA.



Photo: GTC

Applications are distributed and received by the Enrolment Coordinator, who forwards them to the Enrolment Board. The Board meets three times a year to review applications. Once the Board has accepted an application, it is processed by the Coordinator and a Certificate of Enrolment is prepared. Each Beneficiary is issued a Gwich'in Enrolment Card, bearing the logo of the Gwich'in Nation and the Beneficiary's four-digit registered enrolment number and associated community.

Enrolment under the GCLCA is not the same thing as membership in a Gwich'in Band. Your ten-digit Treaty Status Card Number (the first three digits of which indicate your community Band) reflects your Band membership, and in order to change Band membership you must contact the Enrolment Board as well as your local Band office.

But you must enroll under the GCLCA to enjoy its benefits, and enrolment is not automatic. To enroll, you must request and complete an application form. Since enrolment is open to all who qualify, regardless of age, eligible Gwich'in can enroll their children as well as themselves.

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*"I'm enrolled. How about you?"*

## *Gwich'in Enrolment Board Report*

In October 2001, Cheryl Wright took over as Enrolment Coordinator on an interim basis, in addition to her duties as Administrative Assistant in the GTC's Inuvik office. In March 2002 the GTC approved the Board's permanent relocation from Fort McPherson to Inuvik. Filling the post of Enrolment Coordinator had been difficult in recent years; it was funded on a part-time basis, with occupants generally preferring to move on once full-time employment became available. The job was vacant for much of 2001. Upon the Board's relocation to Inuvik, Cheryl assumed it on a permanent basis.

As a result of the continuous updating of the Enrolment Registry since late 2001, Christmas hampers and payout cheques from the Sahtu Royalty settlement were successfully delivered to Beneficiaries. One aspect of this updating is the addition of Beneficiaries outside the Settlement Region. In addition to visiting the GSA communities, Cheryl has visited Yellowknife, to help Beneficiaries living there enroll. An additional benefit to enrollment is that the Enrolment Card meets the requirement for photo-identification now required by airlines.

If you know someone who is eligible to register but has not done so, please contact the Enrolment Board. And be sure to notify us when you move. We can only ensure that you continue to enjoy all the benefits of the Claim if you keep us informed of your whereabouts. Keeping the Enrolment Registry up-to-date remains a major part of the Board's work, as people move, marry, have children and die. It is easier than ever to stay in touch with us, now that we have added a toll-free long-distance number, and access through the GTC's new web site.

You can reach the Enrolment Board at:

*P.O. Box 1509, Inuvik, NT. XOE OTO  
Tel. 867-777-7916. Fax. 867-777-7919  
Toll-Free: 1-866-414-4670  
Attn: Cheryl Wright.  
Email: [cherylw@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:cherylw@gwichin.nt.ca)  
[www.gwichin.nt.ca](http://www.gwichin.nt.ca)*

This year's Enrolment Board consists of:

*Barb Crawford - Chairperson, Inuvik  
Anna May McLeod - Tsiigehtchic  
Lee Ann Nerysoo - Aklavik  
Robert Alexie, Sr. - Fort McPherson*

## *Tetlit Gwich'in Council Report*

The current Tetlit Gwich'in Council (TGC) consists of Chief Abe Wilson, Sub-Chief Hazel Nerysoo, Councillors Neil Colin, Peter James Vittrekwa, Annie Jane Modeste, Johnny Charlie, Elders' Rep. Frank Firth and Youth Rep. Delores Vittrekwa. Hazel Nerysoo and Wilbert Firth represent the TGC as Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Council members were elected on September 5, 2001 for a three-year term.

The Council was active in a number of projects this year.

### ***Social Programming***

In January 2003 Tl'oondih Healing Camp was transferred from the GTC to the TGC for use in designing and delivering social programs at the community level. In April the TGC took over the Tl'oondih Healing Society, which will now act as its social arm. We have started negotiations with the Department of Justice to offer a five-week program at Tl'oondih beginning this September. Funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation over the next two years will allow us to host 4-10 day programs, and we are currently working with each community to determine its needs. We hope to operate the first such program in September.



Photo: GTC

*Our business arm, the Rat River Development Corporation, has purchased several houses from Gwich'in Properties. This will keep rental revenues in the community, as well as provide local employment opportunities.*

### ***Youth Programs***

There has been a clear need for a youth centre since the previous facility was shut down several years ago. The Council has prepared a proposal, which has been submitted to various Departments for funding, and hope to see an early start to the project. The TGC has also received funding for a Youth at Risk project, and will use the funds to train local youth for suicide prevention and peer counselling. We also continue to support Chief Julius School, with funding for tutors and the Beaver program as well as sponsorship of On the Land Crime Prevention programs. We also helped obtain funding to help two students attend the National Science fair. This year we set up a Health and Social Sciences Committee, and conducted orientation for its members. This is the first such committee in the NWT, and will assist Social Workers when they deal with cases of child apprehension.

## *Tetlit Gwich'in Council Report*

### *Elders' Home*

After years of effort, we have reached agreement with the GNWT for the establishment of an Elders' home in Fort McPherson, allowing our Elders to receive the care they need without having to leave the community. We wish to thank Mackenzie Valley MLA David Krutko, the Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, the Hon. Roger Allen, Mary Teya and the many others who worked to make this happen.

### *Three Rivers Project*

The TGC is working with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) to sponsor a gathering on the banks of the Peel River, downstream from the mouth of the Snake River, following completion of the Three Rivers Journey on the Wind, Bonnetplume and Snake Rivers. The three groups will meet to celebrate the three rivers and the Peel River Watershed, with several boatloads of community members, Elders, political figures and media representatives in attendance. This will be a call for protection of the entire Peel River area.

### *Protecting ANWR*

Chief Abe Wilson traveled to Washington, D.C. in November 2002 to assist in the lobbying of American voters and officials to protect the Porcupine Caribou calving grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) from oil development. This effort was part of the Walk to Washington Project, and coordinated by Caribou Commons, of Whitehorse.

### *Building the Community*

In early 2002 the TGC passed a motion to take the lead in putting modern technology at the service of the community. This has borne fruit in the Municipal Area Network (MAN), which will link staff in the Band and Hamlet offices and the John Tetlich building to each other and to the outside world in an electronic network. The MAN will include a Community Access Centre, providing the public with computer and internet access. Implementation has begun, with installation of the relevant hardware under way. Our business arm, the Rat River Development Corporation, has purchased the building housing the band offices and several houses from Gwich'in Properties. This will keep rental revenues in the community, as well as provide local employment opportunities. The TGC also coordinated a computerized accounting course for the benefit of community members, which was delivered by the School of Community Governance.

### *Strengthening our Organization*

## *Tetlit Gwich'in Council Report*

**D**uring the last year the TGC participated in a review of our organization by the Aboriginal Summit in order to determine how we could serve the community more effectively and efficiently, and will implement the recommendations made in that study. We are in the process of registering our workers with Rice Financial, to provide enhanced benefits at an affordable cost. We are happy to welcome Annie Rose Snowshoe, who recently joined us as Financial Comptroller. Annie Rose is a graduate of the Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) program and has previously worked as an accountant with the Gwich'in Development Corporation. Her training and experience will make her a valuable member of the TGC team. She joins Band Manager Sharon Snowshoe, Community Coordinator William Koe, Employment Officer Mary Ruth Wilson, RRC Coordinator Mary Rose Vittrekwa, DGO Secretary Gina Neyando, and Receptionist Eileen Kaye.

**Hazel Nerysoo**  
*Sub-Chief*

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*In January 2003 TI'oondih Healing Camp was transferred from the GTC to the TGC for use in designing and delivering social programs at the community level. In April the TGC took over the TI'oondih Healing Society, which will now act as its social arm.*



*The Tetlit RRC Council meets regularly.*



*Photo: GTC*

## Gwichya Gwich'in Council Report



Photo: GTC

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*In the GSA we are always surrounded by the past.*

The past year has brought a number of challenges for the Gwichya Gwich'in Council. With increased oil and gas exploration and development taking place within the GSA, the workload in the Chief's Office has grown significantly. To increase our capacity to manage that workload we submitted proposals to various departments involved in training and capacity building, and created a new position of Executive Assistant. Indian and Inuit Services has conditionally approved \$20,000 for the position, and there may be additional contributions from ECE, Aboriginal Affairs and the DGO. A draft job description has been completed, and the job ad was posted in early June.

We have been involved in a number of recent joint ventures, most of them created to provide services to the recent Devlan program. These include Storm Communications, created to provide communication services for the program, and Great Slave Helicopters, which provided air support services. Building on its success with the Devlan program, Great Slave Helicopters will seek forestry contracts and other opportunities as they arise.

PTI catering was created to provide catering services for the Devlan program, and we are now negotiating a long-term joint venture to obtain similar contracts with the construction of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson also took part in a joint venture with a prominent environmental company, Golder Associates, to do environmental consulting on the Devlan program. Golder Associates has indicated that it is able to assist Tsiigehtchic develop an environmental monitor training program, which will certify trainees.

The community was pleased by the signing of the recent MOU with the GNWT on negotiated contracts in the GSA, and the Gwichya Gwich'in Band's business arm will pursue all contracts that arise in the future. We are currently negotiating another five-year Trii Cho Ahaa ferry contract. This is a joint venture with Chii Construction, and it is possible that RRIBL will purchase Chii Construction's share. This summer we will see the construction of one duplex in Tsiigehtchic and a house for the community. We hope to negotiate construction of more units per year, given our ongoing housing shortage. In addition, the new water filtering system will be installed by September.

## *Gwichya Gwich'in Council Report*

The outdoor rink was pulled from MACA's capital plan earlier this year, but Minister Vince Steen indicated he would find money from within his department. We await further news on this front.

Earlier this year we held a community meeting to discuss options for investing the \$466,000 the DGO received from the Sahtu Resource Royalty settlement. The majority of the residents who attended agreed on the importance of investing the money so as to provide long-term benefits to the Gwich'in. The Gwichya Gwich'in Council has yet to determine an investment strategy, but there are a number of options to consider. These include:

- *a revolving fund to support small business creation;*
- *investment in building construction in Yellowknife;*
- *purchasing heavy equipment to work in the region (which would create employment);*
- *and investment in the Golder joint venture, providing jobs as environmental monitors.*

Since the signing of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement in April 1992, the Gwichya Gwich'in Council has operated on the same amount of funding. We must now look seriously at increasing the community funding allocations from the Land Claim Settlement Fund, and implement a schedule to address the lack of financial and human resource capacities in the communities.

The relationship among the GTC, DGOs and RRCs remains an issue to address within the framework of the GTC strategic plan. Dan Andre was appointed to the planning committee, which will meet twice a month until the plan is completed.

This year the GTC negotiated an Impact Benefits Agreement for work by Imperial Oil on the projected pipeline route. This was a tremendous learning experience for all involved, and sets a precedent for protecting the rights and interests of the Gwich'in, as well as ensuring the environment is safeguarded. Future Agreements will be negotiated on a template the GTC has developed on the basis of this first Agreement, with provision for greater community input. Communities will have the opportunity to recommend compensation items we would like to see brought to the table. GTC Lands personnel will attend all future community consultation meetings.

## *Gwich'ya Gwich'in Council Report*

**E**arly in 2003, a community meeting on the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program took place.

DIAND representatives noted the concerns of the residents present. A forthcoming environmental audit will be carried out by an independent consulting firm, and the Program will then prioritize the ecologically significant areas to be monitored over the next few years.

In November, I was happy to take part in the Walk to Washington, designed to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas exploration, along with other Gwich'in leaders. We then traveled to Ottawa, to discuss the issue with Minister Nault, Ethel Blondin-Andrew, and other M.P's.



Photo: GG

*The steady ferry operation to Tsiigehtchic.*

**W**e continue to work with the other GSA communities to address issues of common concern. At the end of February I was in Whitehorse with the other Chiefs. We discussed the collective approach we will take on matters such as economic and community development, as well as meeting with Premier Fentie to discuss concerns such as the Peel River Watershed and Yukon overlap issues. We work best when we work together, and I look forward to continued cooperation with the GTC and the leadership of the other Gwich'in communities on the issues that affect us all.

Let me close by thanking our hardworking Council and staff for all their efforts over the last year.

Massi Cho,

**Peter Ross**  
*Chief*

**Council:**  
*John D. Firth*  
*John Norbert*  
*Philip Blake*  
*Douglas Kendo*  
*Anna May McLeod*  
*Carol Norwegian*  
*Linda Blake*

**RRC:**  
*John Norbert*  
*Philip Blake*  
*Russell Andre*  
*Anna May McLeod*  
*Jenny Andre*  
*Rita Carpenter*  
*Mavis Clark*

## Nihtat Gwich'in Council Report

### Nihtat Gwich'in Council/Inuvik Native Band Report

Robert Charlie and Lorraine Lokos represent the Nihtat Gwich'in Council on the GTC Board of Directors. The Inuvik Native Band and the Nihtat Gwich'in Council are concerned about many of the same issues, and have joint meetings each month.

Gwich'in Beneficiaries now staff the Band Office, headed by Band Manager / Financial Comptroller Dolly Carmichael. Dolly maintains our financial records and administers the payroll as well as seeking contracts, writing proposals and looking after programs and projects in the area. Working with Dolly are Finance Officer Marie Grant, Finance Clerk Sharon Dahl and Finance Trainee Lisa Coyen. Frank Edwards Sr. acts as Community Coordinator, and was busy this year directing a number of activities to assist our youth, Elders and other Beneficiaries.

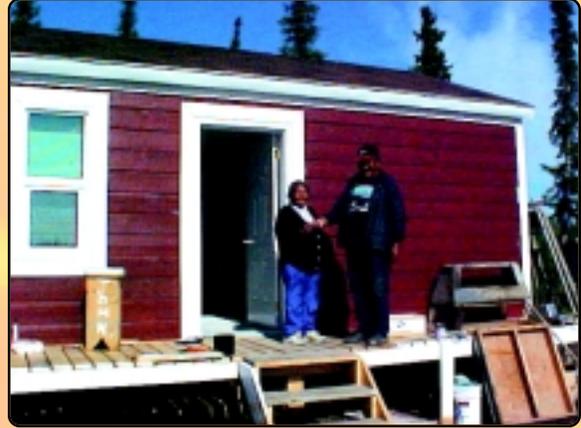


Photo: GTC

John Jerome passing the keys to Alice Francis to their new home at Kilometer 18, east branch. This project was initiated by the Nihtat Gwich'in Council and the Northwest Territories Housing Corp.

Photo: Nihtat Gwich'in Council

This year Gwich'in Self-government Fieldworker Rhonda Francis and Inuvialuit Fieldworker Shauna Kayotuk, working with Community Development Instructor / Facilitator Jamie Stewart, were busy helping Beneficiaries prepare for self-government, through workshops, discussion sessions and other community consultations.

Band projects provide jobs, training and work experience for local Beneficiaries. Our staff take part in various Council activities over the year, such as Aboriginal day events, the Christmas party for children, and the annual Elders' feast and Old Time Dance.



## *Nihtat Gwich'in Council Report*

**W**e also support the “On the Land” program for students of Sir Alexander Mackenzie School. This annual event is a highlight of spring, and for most students the only opportunity they will have to go out to a camp in the bush and experience the traditional lifestyle of their parents and grandparents. In addition, we help families who have lost loved ones, organize community hunts and provide traditional food to Elders and others in need.

Inuvik is the regional centre, and the Nihtat Gwich'in Council is happy to assume the responsibility that entails. For instance, we are ready to help Beneficiaries from other communities communicate with their respective Bands. Our receptionist, Margaret Gordon, always has a warm cup of coffee at hand to welcome anyone who wants to drop by the Alex Moses-Greenland Building. Our offices remain in the building, which we expanded in 2002.



Photo: GTC

**T**he Nihtat Renewable Resource Council meets every month to discuss renewable resource issues affecting Inuvik. At these meetings, RWED officials update Council members on their activities and projects. The increasing interest in oil and gas exploration and development in the area was the focus of RRC activities this year. Our RRC Coordinator, Neil Firth, devoted much of his time to arranging meetings at which Beneficiaries could meet with representatives of various companies to discuss the implications of oil and gas activity on our lands for the land itself, the wildlife and the social, cultural and economic well-being of the Gwich'in people. Another high priority for the RRC this year was reviewing and approving applications from the companies who want to do research on our lands. The Council also provides nets for Beneficiaries who want to go out fishing.

Our business arm, the Nihtat Gwich'in Development Corporation, was created in 1992 to create employment, training and business opportunities for Beneficiaries. The DevCorp continued to do well this year, with our established as well as our new subsidiaries preparing themselves to take advantage of the opportunities created by the return of oil and gas activity to the Beaufort-Delta region.

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*The flight into Inuvik offers great views of the Delta.*

## *Nihtat Gwich'in Council Report*

This past year, we participated in a joint venture involved in the construction of the new Inuvik Hospital, as well as the development of the Hinterland project, and our "Hard to House" project, which houses a number of families in Inuvik.

We thank all Council members and staff for their hard work over the last year, and the Elders for their unfailing guidance.

Massi cho!

**James B. Firth**  
*Chief*

### **Inuvik Native Band Board:**

*Chief James B. Firth*  
*Sub-Chief Barry Greenland*  
*Leonard DeBastien*  
*Elizabeth Hansen*  
*Karen English*  
*Harry Carmichael*  
*Greta Sittichinli*  
*Peter Greenland*

### **Nihtat Gwich'in Council:**

*James B. Firth*  
*Barry Greenland*  
*Leonard DeBastien*  
*Lorraine Lokos*  
*Robert Charlie*  
*Richard Firth*  
*Allen Firth*

### **Nihtat Renewable Resource Council:**

*Harry Carmichael*  
*Allen Firth*  
*Lorraine Lokos*  
*Richard Firth*  
*Leonard DeBastien*  
*Trevor Dobbs*



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*The Alex Moses Greenland building was expanded in 2002, giving the industrious Nihtat Gwich'in Band & Council more room to work and plan.*

# *Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council Report*

Drin Gwinzii,

**T**he Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council and Aklavik Indian Band can point to yet another successful year of operations. Now that our annual audit has been completed, I am pleased to announce that we ended the year with a substantial surplus. This enabled us to make the final payments on our debt retirement plan; the debts incurred by previous administrations have now been paid off, and we are in a stronger financial position. All of our subsidiaries ended the fiscal year in stable financial position, poised to take advantage of the opportunities the coming year will bring. We continue to succeed in our overriding goal of creating jobs for as many of our members as possible.

### ***Chief and Council Development***

This past year we had a workshop on Council Roles and Responsibilities, delivered by a DIAND representative. Councillors regarded the time spent as worthwhile, teaching them how to fulfill their mandate more effectively. The GTC now has funding for Council development, and we will request training for new Councillors as needed.



Photo: GTC

*Aklavik: host community of last year's Assembly.*

### ***Staff Development and Training***

**A**s part of our overall Capacity Development initiative, we are in the process of preparing a comprehensive staff development and training plan. All employees have already benefited from workshops and training sessions in their respective areas of responsibility. We recognize the greater productivity that comes from more extensive staff training, and will continue to support this initiative. In the coming year, we will encourage staff members to undertake more comprehensive, accredited training in their fields of expertise.

### ***Self-government***

The Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council has signed a Stakeholder's Agreement with the Beaufort-Delta Self-government Office. This agreement is managed by the Aklavik Indian Band and includes two staff members - a Community Fieldworker and a Community Development Instructor/Facilitator. We have formed a Self-government community Joint Committee, and a number of workshops have taken place in Aklavik, to inform the public about the Self-government process.

## *Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council Report*

### *Daazraii Investments Incorporated*

**D**aazraii Investments Inc. is our business arm, and continues to grow. Currently, our main contracts are with the Department of Transportation, for operating and maintaining the Fred Carmichael Airport and providing the Community Airport Radio Station. In addition, Daazraii recently entered into a joint venture with North Wright Air of Norman Wells, to provide airline service to Aklavik and charter service out of Inuvik. We continue to succeed in securing contracts with government and industry.

### *Black Mountain Development Corporation*

Black Mountain Development Corporation is our real estate arm. On July 1, 2003, we assumed ownership of all Gwich'in Properties Ltd. staff housing units in Aklavik. Our inventory now includes the Chief Andrew Stewart Office Building, a duplex, a six-plex, and two three-bedroom detached units. The staff housing units are fully occupied by teachers and other professionals. We also have the contract for operation of the Aklavik Post Office.

### *Regional Meeting*

The Aklavik Indian Band coordinated, hosted, and obtained funding for a regional meeting of Gwich'in Chiefs and Councillors, held in Inuvik from January 20 to the 23rd of this year. All participants appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues of common concern, and such meetings may become annual events.

### *Dene Nation Assembly*

From July 3 to 8, the Aklavik Indian Band hosted the Dene Nation Assembly. Upwards of 300 people visited our community and enjoyed our hospitality. This was a big undertaking, but by all reports delegates enjoyed their visit and were impressed with the organization of the Assembly and our hospitality. Mahsi Cho to all who contributed their time and effort to make this such a successful event.

## *Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council Report*

### *Serving the Community*

**W**e participate in a number of contribution agreements with various agencies to provide services to our membership. These include the Brighter Futures Initiative and the Healthy Babies Initiative. We also hired a part-time Elders' Activity Coordinator, whose assistance was appreciated by our Elders. While this is a time of renewed economic activity in our region, and we are busy preparing for the opportunities this brings, we will always remember to address what I call "the social agenda", including the needs of our Elders and youth.

**W**e are proud of our accomplishments of the past year, and will continue to build on them. We have a competent and dedicated staff in place, and they will provide a high quality of service to our membership. I wish to thank all the Councillors, employees, and especially our members, for their ongoing trust and support.

Mahsi Cho!

**Charles Furlong**  
*Chief*

# Gwich'in Development Corporation Report



The Gwich'in Development Corporation consists of the following companies:

- Mackenzie Valley Construction Ltd.;
- Gwich'in Properties Ltd.;
- Camp MGK Ltd.;
- Larga Ltd.;
- Gwich'in Ensign Oilfield Services Inc.;
- Trans North Arctic Helicopters Ltd.;
- Aadrii Limited.

GDC total revenues for 2002 were \$12,589,304.

This represents an increase of 244% from 2000's revenues of \$3,653,230, and one of 76.27% from 2001's \$7,142,070.

Our operating income in 2002 was \$106,565.

We see an increase of 117.52% from 2000's operating loss of (-\$608,419), and of 105.71% from 2001's \$34,739, our first operating profit.

Total assets in 2002 were \$23,460,174.

This is a rise of 353.13% from the figure of \$5,177,304 for 2000, and of 40.42% from 2001's \$16,707,009.

Under its restructured Board, revised Bylaws and new management team, the GDC has reduced its overhead and operating costs, as well as developing a strategic plan for the next five years. The GDC's energies will be focused on making major investments outside the GSA, in order to provide a more diversified investment portfolio and generate a high return for the GTC, our shareholder.

## **Mackenzie Valley Construction Ltd.**

This February the GDC's trucking subsidiary, GDC Civil Construction Ltd., merged with Inuvik-based Arctic Tire (1980) Ltd. to form a new venture. The GDC has 50% ownership of the new company, Mackenzie Valley Construction Ltd. , with the opportunity to purchase more shares, leading to 100% ownership at the end of a ten-year period. The merger created a company with assets of more than \$9 million, with earnings stability; lean overhead; increased, sustainable management capacity; greater potential market share; a presence in Inuvik, and substantial training and employment opportunities for Beneficiaries.

In the first quarter of 2003, Mackenzie Valley Construction Ltd. generated positive revenue and income figures and is well-positioned for future growth.

# *Gwich'in Development Corporation Report*



## **Gwich'in Properties Ltd.**

Gwich'in Properties Ltd. undertook several acquisitions over the last year, including the Mack Travel, RWED and Semmler buildings in Inuvik, and now has a balanced portfolio of residential and commercial holdings. Total assets are now approximately \$15 million. Last year's total revenues for Gwich'in Properties were \$2.2 million, with net income of \$70,000 before income taxes.

## **Camp MGK Ltd.**

The GDC owns 25% of Camp MGK, a camp on the outskirts of Inuvik that serves as a base of operations for oil and gas and construction companies working in the region. Our partners in the venture are McDonald Brothers Electric Ltd. and Ketzka Construction Corporation. The facility was completed in December of 2001, and has enjoyed healthy rates of occupancy since then.

## **Larga Ltd.**

The GDC has a 37.5% share in Larga Ltd., which owns and operates medical boarding facilities in Edmonton, and provides transportation and referral services. The other shareholders are Nunasi Corporation and Kitikmeot Corporation. The GDC purchased its interest in 1994, and has long since recouped its original investment. Larga Ltd. continues to generate profits and has consistently provided high-quality service to Gwich'in Beneficiaries and other Northerners.

## **Gwich'in Ensign Oilfield Services Inc.**

In 2001 the GDC formed a joint venture with Ensign Resource Service Group, a \$1 billion oilfield services group. The company, in which the GDC has a 51% share, provides drilling and related services in the GSA. Last year, Ensign and GEOS worked together to sponsor two classes of the Service Rig Training Program through Aurora College, providing a well servicing rig and training personnel. Some forty Beneficiaries completed the program this summer, with each graduate receiving a Petroleum Industry Training Service (PITS) Certificate in Pre-Employment Floorhand Well Servicing, opening up rewarding careers in the oil and gas industry.

## **Trans North Arctic Helicopters Ltd.**

The GDC entered this joint venture with Trans North Helicopters in 2001. The company offers training and employment opportunities for Beneficiaries interested in careers as helicopter pilots or mechanics.

## **Aadrii Limited.**

Aadrii Limited, in which the GDC and the NWT Power Corporation each have a 50% interest, was created in 1995 to distribute residual heat from the diesel generating plant in Fort McPherson to various institutional, municipal and commercial buildings, as a way of exploring the potential of this technology.

# *Gwich'in Development Corporation Report*



Under our strategic plan for the next five years, the GDC will become more of an investment, or holding company, and less of an operational one, keeping our management and overhead costs affordable. Now that all our companies are profitable, we can focus on the generation of year-over-year profits and work towards the day when we can issue dividends to the shareholder on a sustainable basis. In addition to fulfilling our mandate to generate a return for the GTC, we will also continue to provide employment and training opportunities for Beneficiaries and their communities.

## **Board of Directors:**

*Ernest Firth*      *Chairman*

*Mavis Clark*

*Fred Greenland*

*Jim McDonald*

*Jim Robertson*

*Bill English*

*Richard John Blake*

*Gordon Tallman*

*David Bethune*

**Tom Connors**

*Chief Executive Officer*

**Greg Cayen, C.A.**

*Chief Financial Officer*

# *Gwich'in Settlement Corporation Report*

## **History**

The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation ("GSC"), the investment arm of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, was established in 1992 as a "settlement corporation" pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (the "Agreement").

The GSC is responsible for receiving and investing the majority of the capital transfer payments payable to the Gwich'in, pursuant to Chapter 8 of the Agreement, so that future generations of the Gwich'in can use the funds for "permitted activities" as described in Schedule 1 to Chapter 11 of the Agreement.

At inception in 1992, the fund was conservatively invested in a portfolio of short term guaranteed investment certificates. In 1995, this strategy was modified to include investment in a Canadian bond portfolio managed by Wood Gundy.

In 1996, there were a number of significant milestones for the fund. The first was the appointment of TAL Global Asset Management as the external investment manager to the fund, replacing Wood Gundy. The appointment of TAL provided the GSC with access to a professional investment management firm with the ability to invest a portion of the fund assets in Canadian and foreign equities, in addition to Canadian bonds.

Another important development in 1996 was the adoption of By-Law #18 (now By-Law #3) by the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), which formalized the amount of the capital transfer to be allocated to the fund from 1997 to 2007. The By-Law also improved the governance of the fund through the establishment of an Investment Committee, the retention of an external investment advisor and the establishment of an investment policy that governs how the fund is to be invested and managed.

In April 2002, The Investment Committee appointed RBC Dominion Securities to manage a portion of the Canadian equity portfolio of the fund to provide additional diversification by investment style.

# *Gwich'in Settlement Corporation Report*

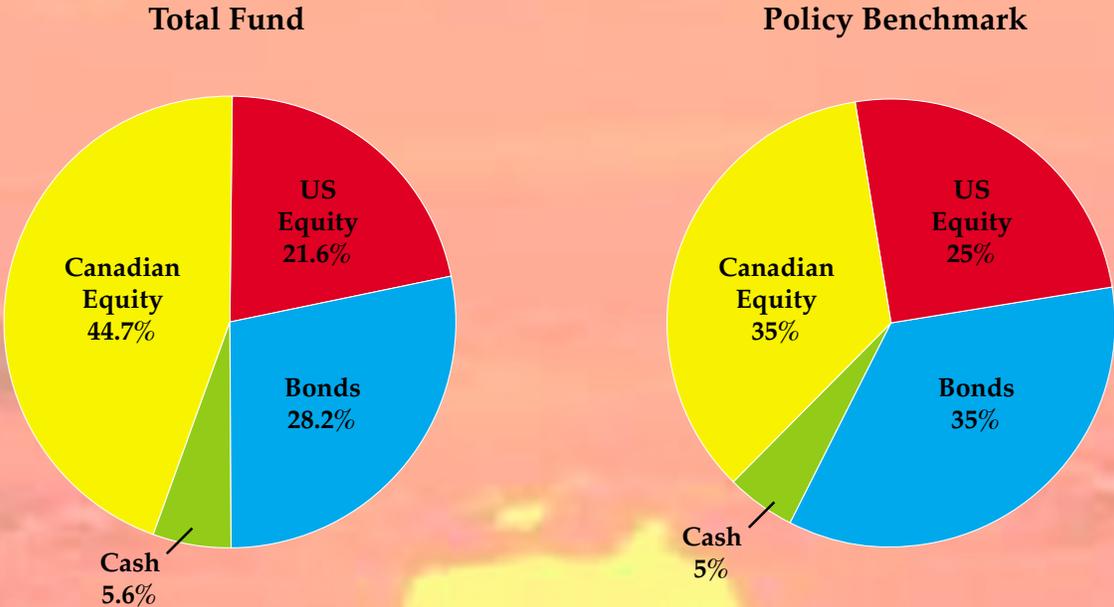
**Fund Management**

At March 31, 2003, the following professional organizations are involved with the investment management, administration and oversight of the fund:

- TAL is an investment manager, responsible for a balanced mandate which includes fixed income, Canadian and foreign securities as well as managing the asset mix of the portfolio for which they are responsible.
- RBC Dominion Securities is an investment manager, responsible for managing a Canadian equity portfolio.
- CIBC Mellon is the custodian of the fund assets, responsible for safekeeping, administration, and financial reporting of the fund assets.
- Towers Perrin is the investment advisor to the GSC, responsible for monitoring investment performance and compliance with the terms of the investment policy, and advising the GSC with respect to the investment management of the fund.

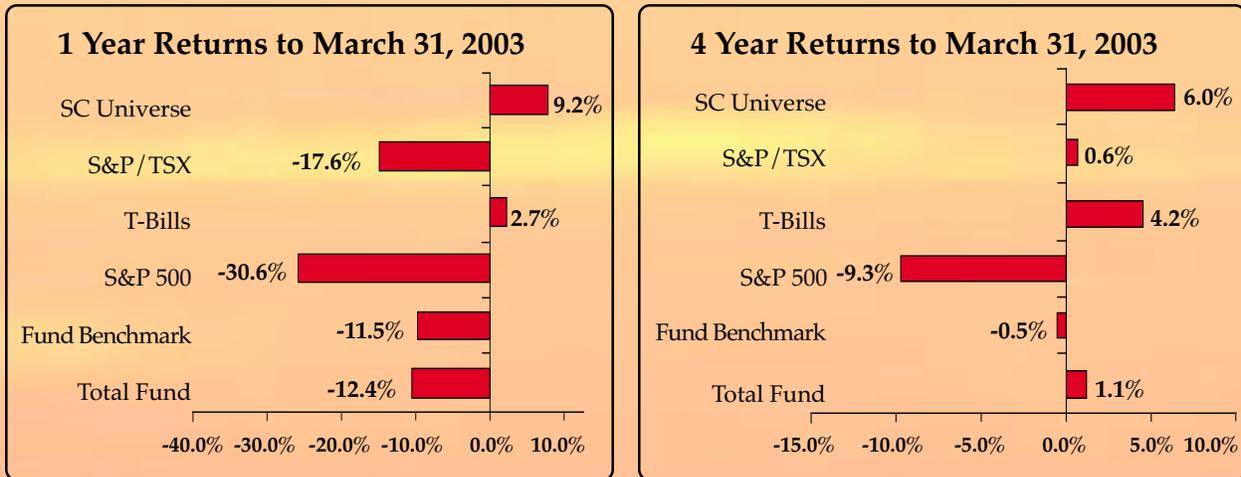
**Investments at March 31, 2003**

At March 31, 2003, the total market value of the fund was \$66,662,579 compared with \$70,284,327 at March 31, 2002 and was invested as follows:



## Gwich'in Settlement Corporation Report

The following chart shows the fund benchmark and asset class returns for the one year and four year periods ended March 31, 2003:



Over the one year period, the top performing asset class was bonds with a return of 9.2%, followed by Treasury Bills at 2.7%. Canadian equities returned -17.6% while U.S. equities returned -30.6% in Canadian dollars.

The total fund returned -12.4% for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, behind the total fund benchmark return -11.5% and ranking below average compared to other funds with similar asset allocations. Underperformance within the equity components of the fund, combined with an overweight to this asset class, were the primary determinants of underperformance during this period.

Over four years, the total fund has returned 1.1% per annum, outperforming the total fund benchmark return of -0.5% per annum, ranking in the bottom half of a universe of other balanced funds.

Since the inception of external investment management in 1996, the fund has returned approximately 5.7% per annum.

# *Gwich'in Settlement Corporation Report*

## **Future Contributions and Tax Status**

In April 2003, an additional \$7 million was transferred into the fund. The remaining transfers are scheduled to occur as follows:

April 22, 2004	\$7 million	April 22, 2006	\$3 million
April 22, 2005	\$5 million	April 22, 2007	\$1 million

Until April 22, 2007, income earned by the GSC is exempt from income tax providing it meets all the requirements relative to settlement corporations as contained in Chapter 11 of the Agreement and to public charitable foundations as contained in the Income Tax Act (Canada).

To maintain its tax exempt status after April 22, 2007, the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation must spend annually a minimum amount, referred to as the "disbursement quota", on permitted activities as contained in Schedule 1 to Chapter 11 of the Agreement. For GSC purposes, the disbursement quota is set at 4.5% of the capital.

## **Progress of the Fund**

- At March 31, 2003 the fund market value of \$66.7 million was behind the target market value of \$80.9 million, established based on a long-term return objective of 6.6%, due to the negative returns earned by the fund over the past year.
- The expected fund returns based on the policy benchmark together with the remaining transfers to the fund using the 6.6% long-term return objective, are projected to grow the fund to \$114.0 million by April 22, 2007.
- Based on a 4.5% annual payout, a fund of \$114.0 million would support an initial disbursement of \$5.1 million.

## **Future Initiatives**

GSC initiatives for the coming year include reviewing investing a portion of the fund in international equities, and reviewing the investment management structure of the fund.

Prepared by:

***Towers Perrin***

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# Chief Financial Officer's Report

March 31, 2003

## A. Our Mandate

The Gwich'in Tribal Council is committed to the economic, social and cultural development of its membership. We manage your long-term investments in the Land Claim Settlement Fund and we deliver programs and services to you through Operations. Separate financial statements for each activity are prepared in addition to the overall consolidated financial statements which are included in the Annual Report.

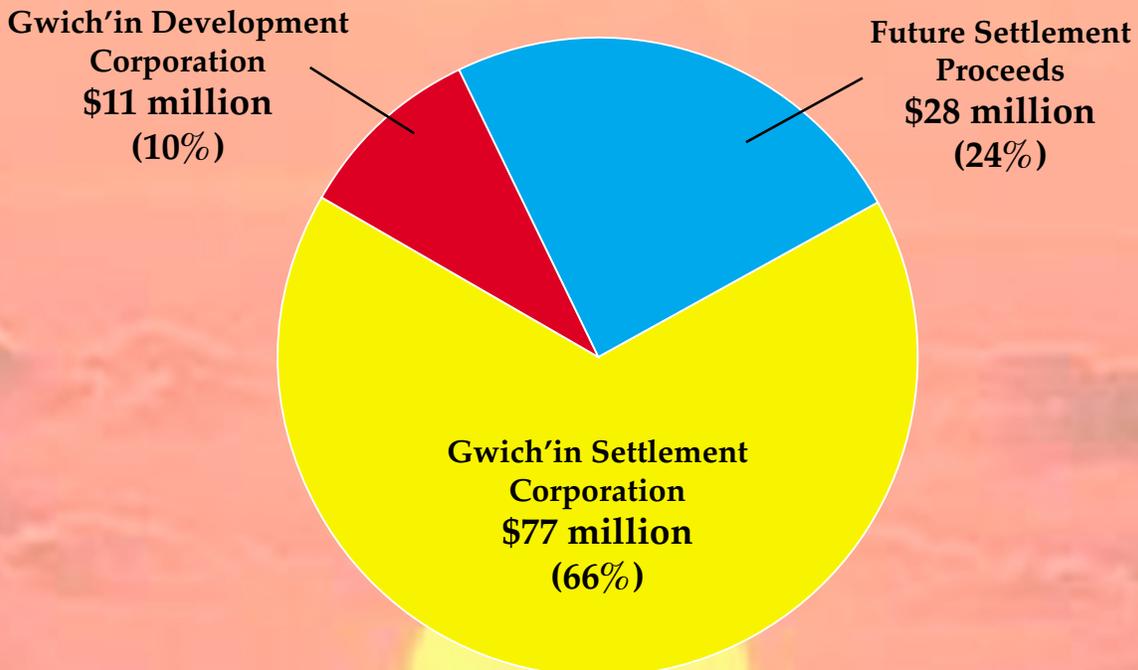


*Gregory D. Cayen, C.A.*  
Chief Financial Officer

## B. Land Claim Settlement Fund

Land claim settlement investments of approximately \$116 million include investments in fixed term securities and equities held within Gwich'in Settlement Corporation (\$77 million), future financial compensation payments receivable from the Government of Canada under the land claim agreement (\$28 million) and equity contributions for business activities and real estate investments mostly held within Gwich'in Development Corporation (\$11 million).

Land Claim Settlement Fund, March 31, 2003



## *Chief Financial Officer's Report*

March 31, 2003

The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation earned an annual rate of return of negative 12.4% for the year ended March 31, 2003, (2002 – positive 6.4%). Assets in the Corporation, at March 31, 2003, totalled approximately \$74.1 million (2002 – \$68.7 million). Since the investment management of the Corporation was outsourced to external investment managers in 1996, the Corporation has earned a return of approximately 5.7% per annum. This return reflects the impact of negative equity markets over the past three years, however it is expected that the Corporation's exposure to equity markets should provide enhanced returns over the longer term.

In the current year, the Gwich'in Development Corporation increased its revenue to approximately \$12.6 million (2002 - \$7.1 million) on assets of \$23.5 million (2002 - \$16.7 million). The Gwich'in Development Corporation earned an operating income of \$106,565 for the year. A write down of \$309,012 was required as a result of the impairment in the value of the Klondike River Lodge. Net loss for the year amounted to \$202,447 after the write down (2002 – loss of \$197,922).

Overall the loss on land claim settlement investments was \$619,864 in 2003 explained primarily by the poor performance of the financial markets and the losses in the Gwich'in Development Corporation. This is the first time that we have experienced this level of negative growth in our land claim settlement investments. Recent improvements in the capital markets since March 31, 2003 should improve overall performance of our fund next year.

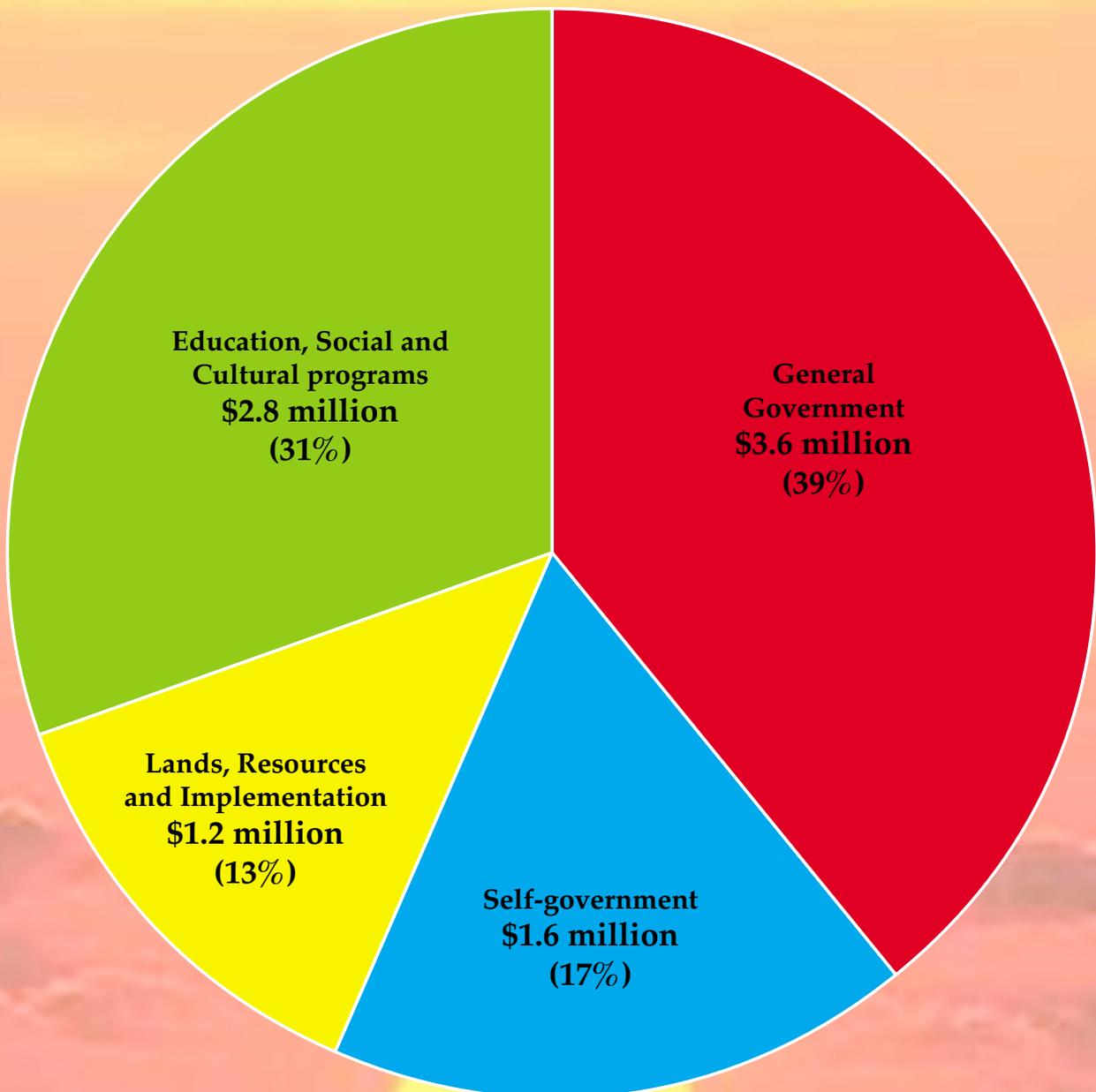
# Chief Financial Officer's Report

March 31, 2003

## C. Gwich'in Tribal Council - Operations

Total expenditures on programs amounted to approximately \$9.2 million for the year as follows:

GTC Operations, 2003



# *Chief Financial Officer's Report*

March 31, 2003

General government expenditures (\$3.6 million) include approximately \$2.6 million for Council operating expenses and \$1.0 million for contributions for band support and Designated Gwich'in Organization funding. These expenditures have been consistent over the last five years.

Funding for self-government has increased significantly in 2003 (\$1.6 million) as a result of additional work that was required to negotiate the Gwich'in Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle.

Expenditures for lands, resources and implementation (\$1.2 million) have increased by \$200,000 over the previous year. This is due to increased cost of the environmental monitoring program required as a result of increased activity on Gwich'in private lands.

Education, social and cultural programs (\$2.8 million) include activities of the Tl'oondih Healing Society (\$.5 million), the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (\$.8 million), Youth Crime Prevention (\$.3 million), various Aboriginal Human Resource Development Initiatives (\$1.0 million) and other programs (\$.2 million). Increased activity in our Education department resulted in an additional \$200,000 being expended on education and training initiatives for our beneficiaries.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council had an operating surplus of \$105,572 in its Operations Fund.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council will be continuing the practice of reviewing the performance of all our programs to ensure continuous improvements in the quality of service to our Beneficiaries.

# Chief Financial Officer's Report

March 31, 2003

## D. Overall Results

On a consolidated basis, losses for the year ended March 31, 2003 were \$514,292.

Total consolidated Beneficiaries' equity amounts to approximately \$121 million or approximately \$45,000 per capita as opposed to \$69 million or \$29,000 per capita in 1992. Although the past year has been a difficult one, the Council remains confident that the investment targets set by the membership can be obtained by April 22, 2007.

## E. Strategic Development and Outlook

The Gwich'in Tribal Council will continue to focus its efforts to maximize the returns that are earned on the Gwich'in Land Claim Settlement Fund investments. The minimum benchmark return required for all our investments is 6.67%.

With respect to the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation, we plan to review our asset mix and the performance of our fund managers to ensure that we realize our investment objectives by April 22, 2007.

The financial performance of the Gwich'in Development Corporation as well as the quality of its investments has significantly improved over the last year. Poorly performing investments have been divested. The existing investment portfolio has been focused on strong long-term investments in real estate and civil construction.

In the coming year we will continue to evaluate our overall investment strategies and asset allocations to ensure we realize our investment objectives by April 22, 2007. This evaluation will include an assessment of the Gwich'in Development Corporation and will consider the possibility of transferring certain assets directly to the Land Claim Settlement Fund. We will also consider appointing an investment specialist to report on the financial performance of our overall investments to the Annual Assembly on an annual basis.

Other policy issues which will be addressed over the next year include establishing a Beneficiary dividend policy, the role of the Gwich'in Development Corporation, the per capita funding issue for Designated Gwich'in Organizations and for the Renewable Resources Councils and establishing a comprehensive funding plan for implementation after April 22, 2007.



Gregory D. Cayen, C.A.  
Chief Financial Officer

Consolidated Financial Statements of

# **GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Year ended March 31, 2003

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2003

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## MANAGEMENT'S REPORT

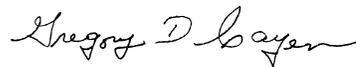
The accompanying consolidated financial statements of Gwich'in Tribal Council are the responsibility of management. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Financial statements are not precise since they include certain amounts based on estimates and judgments. When alternative accounting methods exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances, in order to ensure that the consolidated financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects.

To assist in meeting its responsibility, management maintains accounting, budget and other internal controls. These controls provide reasonable assurance that transactions are appropriately authorized and accurately recorded, that assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded, in order that the integrity of financial records is maintained.

The financial statements have been audited by the independent firm, KPMG LLP. Their report to the beneficiaries of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, stating the scope of their examination and opinion on the consolidated financial statements, follows.



President



Chief Financial Officer

Inuvik, Canada

May 30, 2003

## **AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE BENEFICIARIES**

We have audited the consolidated statement of financial position of the Gwich'in Tribal Council as at March 31, 2003 and the consolidated statements of financial activities, changes in beneficiaries' equity and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2003 and its financial activities and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

**KPMG LLP**

Chartered Accountants

Edmonton, Canada

May 30, 2003

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2003, with comparative figures for 2002

	2003	2002
<b>Assets</b>		
Financial assets:		
Cash	\$ 1,011,356	\$ 967,177
Accounts receivable	2,097,508	10,863,387
Investments (note 2)	3,380,302	—
Land claim settlement investments (note 3)	115,707,289	116,327,153
	<u>122,196,455</u>	<u>128,157,717</u>
Physical assets (note 4)	196,678	148,909
	<u>\$ 122,393,133</u>	<u>\$ 128,306,626</u>

## Liabilities and Beneficiaries' Equity

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 910,202	\$ 1,676,106
Contributions repayable	7,126	14,257
Deferred revenue	266,196	388,167
	<u>1,183,524</u>	<u>2,078,530</u>
Beneficiaries' equity:		
Operating fund:		
Unrestricted	1,925,340	1,752,034
Internally restricted (note 5)	3,380,302	8,000,000
	<u>5,305,642</u>	<u>9,752,034</u>
Equity in physical assets	196,678	148,909
Land claim settlement fund	115,707,289	116,327,153
	<u>121,209,609</u>	<u>126,228,096</u>
	<u>\$ 122,393,133</u>	<u>\$ 128,306,626</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Council:



Director



Director

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended March 31, 2003, with comparative figures for 2002

	Budget (unaudited)	2003	2002
<b>Revenues:</b>			
<b>Contributions:</b>			
DIAND	\$ 2,808,507	\$ 2,348,947	\$ 2,115,055
Government of Canada	1,369,171	1,389,049	1,366,609
Government of NWT	271,260	840,771	426,784
Other	201,569	192,393	121,604
Aboriginal Summit	–	250,692	–
Aboriginal Healing Foundation	228,460	236,752	330,300
	4,878,967	5,258,604	4,360,352
Royalties	456,000	664,772	529,229
User fees	284,000	344,688	271,742
Interest	30,200	132,824	41,358
Administration fees	470,000	490,900	160,000
Other	–	45,441	86,310
Earnings of land claim settlement investments (note 3)	7,090,000	1,780,136	3,845,535
	13,209,167	8,717,365	9,294,526
<b>Expenditures (notes 6 and 7):</b>			
General government	3,549,200	3,593,035	3,735,935
Self-government	1,411,750	1,634,808	921,900
Land claim implementation	187,000	280,707	195,537
Land administration	186,000	403,622	181,971
Resource management	835,632	537,884	592,512
Education, social and cultural	2,440,460	2,781,601	2,553,201
	8,610,042	9,231,657	8,181,056
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures before the under-noted	4,599,125	(514,292)	1,113,470
Proceeds of royalty settlement	–	–	9,020,202
Transfer of royalty settlement proceeds to other organizations (note 5)	–	(5,000,000)	–
Proceeds of Gwich'in Children's Trust (note 5)	–	318,600	–
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 4,599,125</b>	<b>\$(5,195,692)</b>	<b>\$10,133,672</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

## Consolidated Statement of Changes in Beneficiaries' Equity

Year ended March 31, 2003, with comparative figures for 2002

	Operating fund  (note 5)	Equity in physical assets	Land claim settlement fund	2003	2002
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 9,752,034	\$ 148,909	\$ 116,327,153	\$ 126,228,096	\$ 116,108,491
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(6,975,828)	–	1,780,136	(5,195,692)	10,133,672
Transfer of equity (note 8)	129,436	36,289	–	165,725	–
Investment in physical assets	–	75,230	–	75,230	55,693
Amortization of physical assets	–	(63,750)	–	(63,750)	(49,506)
Loss on disposal of physical assets	–	–	–	–	(20,254)
Transfers	2,400,000	–	(2,400,000)	–	–
Balance, end of year	\$ 5,305,642	\$ 196,678	\$ 115,707,289	\$ 121,209,609	\$ 126,228,096

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

## Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 2003, with comparative figures for 2002

	2003	2002
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ (5,195,692)	\$ 10,133,672
Transfer of equity which does not involve cash (note 8)	129,436	—
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	8,765,879	(9,153,724)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(765,904)	477,719
Contributions repayable	(7,131)	(66,132)
Deferred revenue	(121,971)	104,550
	2,804,617	1,496,085
Investments:		
Purchase of investments	(3,380,302)	—
Decrease (increase) in land claim settlement investments	619,864	(1,145,535)
	(2,760,438)	(1,145,535)
Increase in cash	44,179	350,550
Cash, beginning of year	967,177	616,627
Cash, end of year	\$ 1,011,356	\$ 967,177

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2003

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Gwich'in Tribal Council (the "Council") is an aboriginal organization that represents approximately 2,700 Gwich'in in the Mackenzie Delta of the Northwest Territories. The Council was established in 1983 by the Band Councils and Metis Locals of the four communities of Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. The Council is incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act and is not subject to any federal, territorial or local government taxes or similar charges.

The objectives of the Council include the following:

- to protect and preserve the rights, interest and benefits of the Gwich'in in reference to their use, ownership and management of lands, waters and resources in the Gwich'in settlement area;
- to retain, preserve and enhance the traditional and cultural values, customs and language of the Gwich'in in a changing society;
- to develop and promote economic, social, educational and cultural programs that will enable the Gwich'in to become self-sufficient and full participating members in a global society;
- to uphold the rights, interest and benefits of the Gwich'in in reference to the Constitution Act, Treaty 11 and the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement; and
- to receive, preserve and enhance the capital and the lands and other benefits transferred to the Gwich'in pursuant to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement signed on April 22, 1992.

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 2003

## 1. Significant accounting policies:

The consolidated financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local government entities established by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Council are as follows:

### (a) Reporting entity:

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures and changes in beneficiaries' equity of the reporting entity, which comprises all the organizations that are accountable for the administration of their financial affairs and resources to the Council and are owned or controlled by the Council. They include the following:

Entity	Year end
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute	March 31, 2003
Tl'oondih Healing Society	March 31, 2003
Gwich'in Enrolment Board	March 31, 2003
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	March 31, 2003
Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Office (jointly controlled)	March 31, 2003

Land claim settlement investments include the land claim settlement accounts of the Council, and the net assets of the following entities:

Entity	Year end
Gwich'in Development Corporation	December 31, 2002
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	March 31, 2003
Gwich'in Land Corporation	March 31, 2003

### (b) Investments:

Fixed term investments are carried at amortized cost or at amortized cost less amounts written off to reflect a decline in value that is other than temporary. Interest is reflected on an effective yield basis.

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 2003

## 1. Significant accounting policies, continued:

### (c) Physical assets:

Physical assets are reported as expenditures in the year they are acquired. Recorded physical assets are amortized annually with a corresponding reduction in Equity in Physical Assets. Physical assets are amortized over their expected useful lives using the following methods and annual rates:

Asset	Basis	Rate
Computer hardware and software	Declining balance	30%
Equipment	Declining balance	20%
Furniture and fixtures	Declining balance	20%

### (d) Revenue recognition:

Restricted funding is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted funding is recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the collection of the amount to be received is reasonably assured.

## 2. Investments:

	2003	
	Amortized cost	Market
Fixed income:		
Government and Canadian corporate bonds, with effective interest rates of 5.03% to 5.75%, maturing in 2007 to 2012	\$ 3,061,702	\$ 3,067,055
Amount due from land claim settlement investments, non-interest bearing	318,600	318,600
	\$ 3,380,302	\$ 3,385,655

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 2003

### 3. Land claim settlement investments:

Land claim settlement investments comprise the settlement proceeds received pursuant to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement signed April 22, 1992 and accumulated excess of revenues over expenditures of the Gwich'in Tribal Council Land Claim Settlement accounts.

	2003	2002
Settlement proceeds	\$ 69,190,104	\$ 69,190,104
Accumulated excess of revenues over expenditures	46,517,185	47,137,049
	\$ 115,707,289	\$ 116,327,153

Financial information relating to land claim settlement investments is as follows:

	2003	2002
Assets:		
Cash and other current assets	\$ 6,763,131	\$ 6,076,056
Notes, loans and mortgages receivable	636,250	1,217,212
Future settlement proceeds receivable	31,916,335	38,827,012
Investments in fixed term securities and equities	74,409,159	69,074,469
Income producing properties	15,171,779	9,954,643
Capital assets and goodwill	2,953,129	3,236,964
	131,849,783	128,386,356
Liabilities:		
Bank indebtedness	1,409,407	473,797
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,065,184	2,631,827
Long-term debt	8,743,493	4,380,170
Claims loan agreement	3,924,410	4,573,409
	16,142,494	12,059,203
Net assets	\$ 115,707,289	\$ 116,327,153
Revenues:		
Investment income	\$ 2,137,495	\$ 5,348,661
Sales and other	12,589,304	9,942,577
	14,726,799	15,291,238
Expenditures	(12,946,663)	(11,445,703)
Earnings of land claim settlement investments before transfers	\$ 1,780,136	\$ 3,845,535

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 2003

### 3. Land claim settlement investments, continued:

In addition, the land claim settlement investments include various settlement lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Region. No value has been assigned to these lands for financial statement purposes.

	2003		2002	
	Carrying value	Market value	Carrying value	Market value
Cash	\$ 687,455	\$ 687,455	\$ 387,814	\$ 387,814
Fixed term	21,745,977	22,393,049	27,242,780	27,308,792
Equities	51,360,087	44,063,716	40,850,888	42,584,291
Other	615,640	615,629	592,987	592,987
	\$ 74,409,159	\$ 67,759,849	\$ 69,074,469	\$ 70,873,884

The market value of investments in equities is \$7,296,371 less than their carrying values at March 31, 2003. The carrying value of these securities has not been written down to market value because management has concluded, based on review of market information for these securities, that there is no obvious indication of impairment that is other than temporary.

### 4. Physical assets:

	2003		2002	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Computer hardware and software	\$ 501,667	\$ 382,975	\$ 118,692	\$ 94,248
Equipment	103,451	73,227	30,224	22,430
Furniture and fixtures	147,474	99,712	47,762	32,231
	\$ 752,592	\$ 555,914	\$ 196,678	\$ 148,909

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 2003

## 5. Internally restricted:

The Board of Directors of the Council has approved the following internally restricted amounts:

	Balance March 31, 2002	Contributions and transfers	Investment earnings	Balance March 31, 2003
Beneficiary payout	\$ 1,000,000	\$(1,000,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Community Development Fund	2,000,000	(2,000,000)	-	-
Gwich'in Development Corporation	2,000,000	(2,000,000)	-	-
Education and Training Fund	2,000,000	-	41,578	2,041,578
Culture and Language Fund	1,000,000	-	20,124	1,020,124
Gwich'in Children's Trust	-	318,600	-	318,600
	\$ 8,000,000	\$(4,681,400)	\$ 61,702	\$ 3,380,302

## 6. Expenditures by object:

	2003	2002
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 3,567,772	\$ 3,026,416
Honoraria	116,051	145,663
Travel	837,667	439,299
Office and administration	935,180	616,172
Rent and utilities	365,783	500,191
Professional fees	466,993	468,614
Community assistance and donations	164,765	117,171
Education and training	930,448	576,861
Physical asset acquisitions	81,492	55,693
	7,466,151	5,946,080
Contributions to other organizations:		
Renewable Resource Councils	292,429	285,632
Designated Gwich'in Organizations:		
Operations	573,200	573,200
Band Support Services	454,000	461,701
Beaufort Delta Self-Government	-	880,443
Self-government community negotiation assistance	390,877	-
Other	55,000	34,000
	1,765,506	2,234,976
	\$ 9,231,657	\$ 8,181,056

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 2003

## 7. Expenditures by function:

	2003	2002
General government:		
Council operations	\$ 2,429,909	\$ 2,576,034
Accounting Support	–	125,000
Designated Gwich'in Organizations	573,200	573,200
Band support services	454,000	461,701
Other programs	135,926	–
	3,593,035	3,735,935
Self-government:		
Core self-government	125,254	41,457
Beaufort Delta Self-Government	1,509,554	880,443
	1,634,808	921,900
Land claim implementation:		
Claim implementation	230,288	161,380
Enrolment	50,419	34,157
	280,707	195,537
Land administration	403,622	206,971
Resource management:		
Renewable resource councils	292,429	285,632
Renewable resource Coordinator	78,091	–
Environmental contaminants	52,797	42,245
McKenzie Valley Resource	27,783	–
Community Liaison Biophysical Info	17,000	–
NWT Cumulative Monitoring	14,855	–
Wildlife Act review	13,307	–
Other programs	41,622	264,635
	537,884	592,512
Education, social and cultural:		
Aboriginal Human Resource Development	1,034,020	792,923
Social and Cultural Institute	793,720	838,671
Ti'oondih Healing Society	418,736	462,815
Education and Training Fund	78,329	–
Youth crime prevention	339,864	425,573
Career programs	87,378	–
Other programs	29,554	8,219
	2,781,601	2,528,201
Total expenditures by function	\$ 9,231,657	\$ 8,181,056

# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 2003

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## 8. Transfer of equity:

On April 1, 2002, unrestricted equity of \$129,436 and physical assets of \$36,289 were transferred to the Council by Beaufort Delta Self-Government.

## 9. Public entities and boards:

The Council has the ability to appoint a portion of the members of the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board, Gwich'in Land and Water Board, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Gwich'in Wildlife Studies Fund. These entities and boards have not been included in the Council's consolidated financial statements.

## 10. Trust assets and liabilities:

The Gwich'in Tribal Council administers the following trusts on behalf of their beneficiaries. Transactions of the trusts during the current year are summarized below. They have been excluded from the consolidated financial statements.

---

	Opening balance	Contributions net of distributions	Net investment earnings	Closing balance
Gwich'in Trust for the year ended March 31, 2003	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust for the year ended December 31, 2002	4,642,308	(214,110)	157,329	4,585,527
	<hr/> \$ 4,642,309	<hr/> \$ (214,110)	<hr/> \$ 157,329	<hr/> \$ 4,585,528

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# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, continued

Year ended March 31, 2003

## 10. Trust assets and liabilities, continued:

	2003		2002	
	Carrying value	Market value	Carrying value	Market value
Cash	\$ 38,001	\$ 38,001	\$ 90,817	\$ 90,817
Fixed term investments:				
Government and government-guaranteed bonds, with effective interest rates of 6.56% to 6.63%, maturing in 2005	2,878,889	3,182,155	2,882,915	3,188,502
Common stocks:				
Canadian	1,341,777	1,388,568	1,391,308	1,703,217
International	308,706	206,749	337,352	257,415
	1,650,483	1,595,317	1,728,660	1,960,632
Accrued interest receivable	25,281	25,281	25,281	25,281
Accounts payable	(7,126)	(7,126)	(85,364)	(85,364)
	\$ 4,585,528	\$ 4,833,628	\$ 4,642,309	\$ 5,179,868

The market value of international common stocks is \$101,957 less than cost at December 31, 2002. The carrying value of these securities has not been written down to market value because management has concluded, based on review of market information for these securities, that there is no obvious indication of significant impairment that is other than temporary.

## 11. Salaries, honoraria, travel and other remuneration:

	Salaries and Honoraria	Travel	2003 Total
President	\$ 90,400	\$ 16,293	\$ 106,693
Vice President	32,962	1,809	34,771
Council members (12)	25,000	—	25,000
Chief Operating Officer	101,708	715	102,423
Chief Financial Officer	120,000	1,066	121,066
	\$ 370,070	\$ 19,883	\$ 389,953

## 12. Comparative figures:

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.