

Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual Report 2004 ~ 2005

Building Prosperity

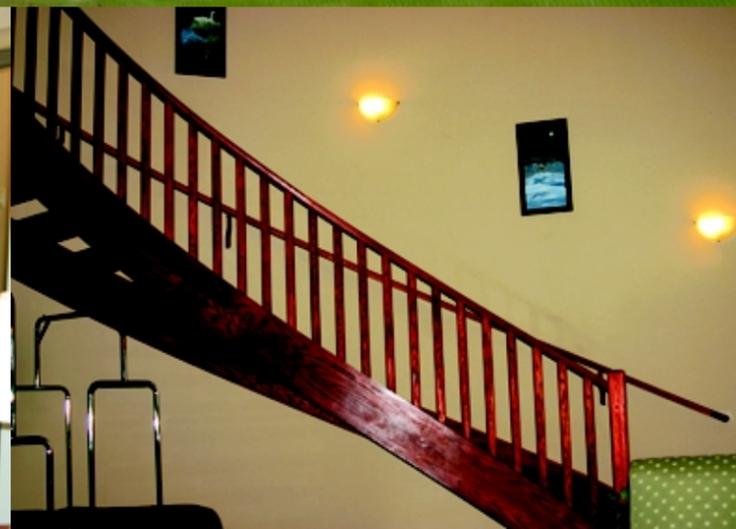


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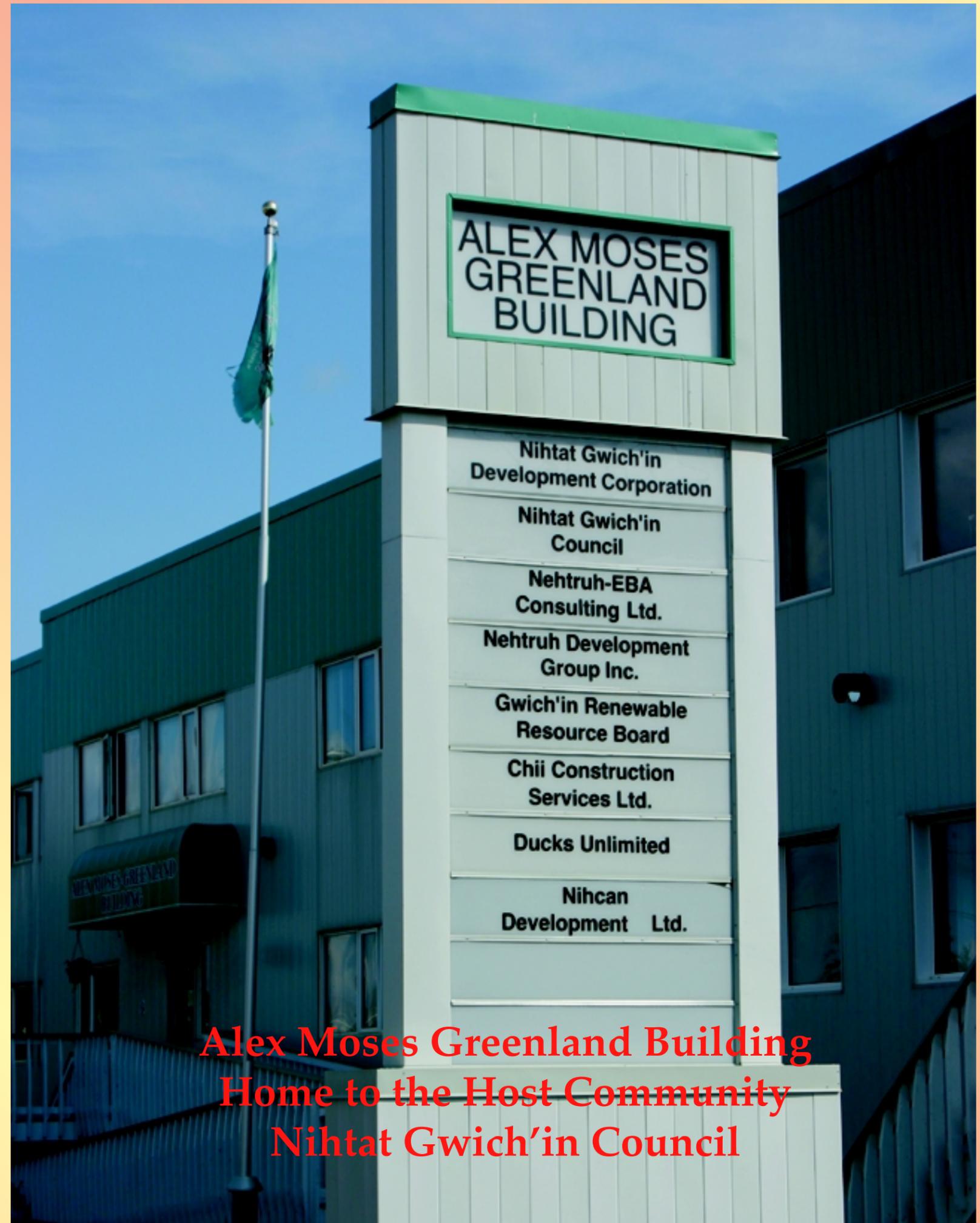
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**Alex Moses Greenland Building
Home to the Host Community
Nihtat Gwich'in Council**

President Carmichael's Report

Dear friends and fellow Beneficiaries,

Once again we have come together at our Annual General Assembly — a time when we can look back on the past year's achievements and look ahead to what we want to accomplish in the future.

Our progress toward self-government continues to be important to us. In response to widespread concerns that the self-government process needed to become closer to the people at the grassroots level, in 2004 we stepped in to make some changes. The GTC took over management and administration of Gwich'in self-government initiatives.

Karen Snowshoe, the first Gwich'in Beneficiary to earn a law degree, joined us as Gwich'in Community Development Manager, supported by Lawrence Norbert and the rest of our self-government team. Following the direction given by the GTC Board, they have moved to make the self-government process more responsive to Beneficiaries in their communities. They are working with Self-Government Committees in each community, developing Community Constitutions that will become part of an overall Gwich'in Constitution that will define and shape our governing structures at a regional level.

While working toward developing a Gwich'in government, we have chosen to step back from the efforts of the Beaufort-Delta Regional Council.



President Fred Carmichael

Once we have completed our internal process of constitutional development, we will discuss returning to active participation in the BDRC, in order to work with other groups in the Beaufort-Delta region on issues affecting us all.

It has always been my belief that we must work together with other groups in the Mackenzie Valley.

We have also worked hard in the last year to deal with the needs of Beneficiaries in areas such as education and social programming. While Barb Crawford continues to head up our Education and Training Department from Fort McPherson, we have moved most administrative and accounting functions to our office in Inuvik, where they can be carried out at less expense. I am pleased to see the increasing number of high-school graduates in the communities, and extend a special **"Congratulations"** to you all!

It has always been my belief that we must work together with other groups in the Mackenzie Valley. In February 2004 we were part of a joint proposal, along with the Inuvialuit, Sahtu, and Deh Cho, submitted to HRDC under the Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership (ASEP) program.

The proposal was accepted, and will bring some \$12 million (of which our share is roughly \$2 million) into the NWT over five years. The monies will support education, training, and capacity-building for employment on the Mackenzie Valley Natural Gas Pipeline.

In response to concerns from Beneficiaries regarding the delivery of social programs, we developed an in-house social arm. Denise Kurszewski, a Beneficiary with extensive education and experience in the school system, was seconded to us, under an arrangement with the GNWT, to act as Gwich'in Community Wellness Manager.

The GTC and GNWT continue to work together in other areas, such as the "Gwich'in MOU" on government contracting, now entering its second year of operation.

Denise has visited the GSA communities, and continues to help many individual Beneficiaries.

She has done an excellent job and we are working hard to second her for another year, since it has become apparent how critical and great the needs are. Due to the importance of the work, and its heavy demands, Debra English, another Beneficiary, recently joined Denise to assist her on a part-time basis.

In May 2005, Premier Handley met with NWT Aboriginal leaders in Calgary, where we worked out a proposal for federal funding to help us deal with the social impacts of a pipeline. Under our proposal, a substantial amount of the funding would flow to the Aboriginal governments and on to communities, who best understand their own needs.

As of this writing, negotiations among the Federal, Territorial, and Aboriginal governments are ongoing. Until we have developed all the capacities and have all of the resources to act as a complete governmental body, the GNWT will continue to deliver most social programs. As a result, it is important that we maintain a strong, mutually respectful partnership.

We have already proven that we can accomplish more, and have a stronger negotiating position, when the GNWT and Aboriginal groups like the GTC present a united front.

We are working hard with the GNWT on issues like the social-economic agenda, devolution, and resource revenue sharing.

President Carmichael's Report

To be successful, all parties must respect each other's interests. In this way, we will reach solutions that benefit all Northerners. The GTC and GNWT continue to work together in other areas, such as the "Gwich'in MOU" on government contracting, now entering its second year of operation. Twice a year, we meet with GNWT representatives to assess contracting opportunities, raise community concerns about the process, and work to improve the MOU's implementation.

In the past year, I have continued to work towards progress on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. I believe this is a very important project that will not only benefit us today, but will also benefit our children, grandchildren, and future generations. For example, jobs in construction, and later in maintenance and operations, will be available over the project's lifetime.

There will also be many "spinoff" benefits, ranging from subcontracting opportunities for Beneficiaries with their own businesses, to work on spur lines and exploration for additional natural gas sources once pipeline construction is complete. A large-scale project like the pipeline creates employment and business opportunities that will ripple throughout the regional economy.

A pipeline will continue to provide us, as co-owners, not only with jobs but with money for housing, education, health, social programs, and other needs.

For example, under the present financing arrangement, a pipeline will provide \$20 million per year to the Aboriginal groups for the first twenty years. And from year 21 on, that will increase to \$120 million per year for the life of the pipeline.

And it could get even better. The Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG) has applied to the Federal Government for a loan guarantee to replace the existing financing. If we are successful, this could approximately double the cash flow to the Aboriginal peoples.

For the GTC as an organization and the Gwich'in as a people, an ownership stake enables us to reduce our dependence on government and establish a strong foundation for future prosperity. To ensure that the Land, the Environment, and Gwich'in Interests are taken care of, we have put in place a team, with Chief Richard Nerysoo as Head Negotiator and representatives from each community, that is negotiating access to our lands and other benefits for our people.

In the past year, I have continued to work towards progress on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.

I believe this is a very important project that will not only benefit us today, but will also benefit our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

The Gwich'in Development Corporation, the GTC's business arm, with a mandate to maximize benefits for all Beneficiaries, has completed its necessary restructuring and was able to concentrate on new investments:

— Inuvik Commercial Properties gives us a strong position in the real estate market. With our partners, the Nihtat Gwich'in Development Corporation and the Northern Property Real Estate Investment Trust, we own four major commercial properties in Inuvik and one in Yellowknife. The sale of our residential properties helped us to focus on the more profitable commercial real estate market, while our partnership allows us to economize on maintenance and other costs.

— The GDC has also purchased a number of valuable commercial and industrial lots in the Inuvik area that became available over the last year. These include several blocks of prime land, which will become still more valuable when appropriate opportunities for development come along. We continue to look for other quality commercial properties as well.

— One year ago, the GDC entered into a partnership with Ninety North Construction and the Nihtat Gwich'in Development Corporation to construct a \$10 million commercial development, the Inuvik Capital Suites. That building has been completed, and now earns a solid return.

Most building staff are Beneficiaries, and the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) has furnished its interiors with Gwich'in artifacts and photographs reflecting our history and culture. The Inuvik Capital Suites are a visible feature of Inuvik's landscape, and a source of pride in our people.

— Gwich'in Helicopters, a partnership with Great Slave Helicopters, is based at our recently refurbished hangar in Inuvik. The helicopter proudly displays the "Gwich'in flag" wherever it flies.

— We also formed Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation, in partnership with six major pipeline construction companies from across Canada. This enables us to prepare to serve as a principal constructor when construction begins, with subcontracting opportunities open to Gwich'in businesses. Our joint venture with Ensign Resources, Gwich'in Ensign Oilfield Services (GEOS), was not busy this year given the lack of oil and gas activity in the GSA, but leaves us well-positioned to take advantage of opportunities in this field when activity increases.



Inuvik Capital Suites foyer.

— Our established ventures such as Mackenzie Valley Construction continue to perform well for us.

I am pleased to announce that the GDC made a profit of \$1.2 million over the past year. Now that restructuring is complete and our finances are on a sound footing, the GDC will continue to look for good investments both in and outside the GSA, for the benefit of all Beneficiaries.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Executive, the Board of Directors, and the staff of the GTC for their continued hard work over the last year, as well as the Chiefs and other leaders in the

Gwich'in communities for their support and encouragement. I also want to thank all my fellow Beneficiaries for your advice and understanding. You can be assured that all of us at the GTC will continue working hard for you, from the Elders who carry our history and our traditions to the youth who are our future.

Mahsi Cho and God Bless,

Fred Carmichael
President



Vice-President Ross's Report

Driin Gwinzii, my friends,

It is a pleasure for me to thank you once again for your continued support since electing me as your Vice-President, and to report to you on my work over the past year.

To better serve you, the current Executive decided to allocate specific portfolios to each Executive member.

My portfolios are:

- *Education and Training;*
- *The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI);*
- *Self-government;*
- *The Gwich'in Harvesters' Assistance Program (GHAP);*
- *The Gwich'in Enrolment Board;*
- *Lands, Resources, and Implementation;*
- *The Gwich'in Children's Trust.*

This year, I chaired several meetings of the Education and Training Committee, which meets regularly to assess requests for assistance from students. One of the year's most important developments in the field of education and training has been the progress we made in implementing the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) proposal which we and the other Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal groups submitted to HRDC in 2004.

The proposal's acceptance allowed us to access millions of dollars in training, education and capacity-building funds



Vice-President Mary Ann Ross

to prepare for employment in the anticipated Mackenzie Valley pipeline. We have now formed Aboriginal Futures, the organization that administers ASEP funding for the region. I am President of its Board, on which the other Aboriginal groups, HRDC, the GNWT, and industry are all represented. We have hired Brenda McDonald as Executive Director, set up an office in Inuvik, and allocated funds to the participating groups.

I represent the GTC as Chair of the GSCI Board. This year we are moving ahead with implementation of the GSCI's five-year strategic plan.

The GHAP has long been the object of concern among harvesters and indeed all Beneficiaries, despite the fact that in recent years we have conducted several comprehensive reviews of the program, as well as a survey of applicants.

There has been considerable turnover in the key position of GHAP Coordinator, but this Summer we are drawing upon the services of Jozef Carnogursky, our Lands and Resources Officer-Trainee. We are now refocusing the GHAP program, so that the RRCs in each community play a larger role, not only reviewing applications from harvesters but shouldering most of the administrative responsibilities.

Tammy Rogers and Cheryl Wright of the GTC recently visited Tsiigehtchic, to review the GHAP policy, budget, and allocations with the RRC. Visits are planned to the other communities as well.

Another one of my portfolios is Lands, Resources and Implementation. This is one of the busiest divisions of the GTC, but every second month we meet to go over the task list, and our Lands, Resources and Implementation personnel manage to stay on top of their responsibilities.

Both our youth, and other Beneficiaries can take pride in the quality of their political leadership

During the last year Deb Bisson, Director of Lands, Resources and Implementation, has directed an increasing amount of her time to assisting the GTC in its negotiation of an access and benefits agreement with Imperial Oil. In line with the GTC's

commitment to capacity-building, Resource Manager Norman Snowshoe has gradually assumed responsibilities in the Implementation area.

I would like to thank Deb Bisson for her hard work and determination to always do the best job possible, as well as for teaching the other Lands, Resources and Implementation staff her own skills. As Deb moves on to new challenges, I will miss her expertise and thank her for a job well done.

It has been rewarding for me to take part in the deliberations of the Gwich'in Enrolment Board, which meets three times a year. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of people of Gwich'in ancestry who were "adopted out" many years ago, but have decided to rediscover their past and their identity, beginning with formal enrolment as Beneficiaries. We are happy to welcome them back home.

This year the Enrolment Board decided to encourage these returning Beneficiaries to research their own family histories, as well as to register with the Band in the community with which their ancestors were connected. This helps them to become fully participating members of the Gwich'in nation.

In the past year, I also represented the Gwich'in on the Inuvik Interagency Committee, a group that brings together

Vice-President Ross's Report

representatives of the various government departments, agencies, and community organizations dealing with the social issues confronting Inuvik. When Turning Point, an Inuvik facility that provided housing and other assistance to individuals with drug and alcohol problems, faced closure, the GTC Board chose to work with the Interagency Committee to salvage it. An existing organization was needed as a vehicle for providing the required funding, and the Nihtat Gwich'in Council stepped in.

While interim arrangements have been made to keep Turning Point open, a new Society and Board are being established as part of our efforts to provide a permanent solution and a "fresh start" for the facility. The Inuvik Interagency Committee also sponsored a well-attended strategic planning workshop on community wellness issues in April, and is working on projects including a directory of local agencies serving residents. Inuvik's Committee helps coordinate the various initiatives to help people in the community, and I believe that other communities would benefit from the creation of similar entities.

In addition, the related Homelessness Committee has met several times to explore ways of dealing with this increasingly serious problem. It expects to use a portion of the \$500 million in new federal funding to deal with socio-economic pipeline impacts.

We are discussing the creation of a new homeless shelter that would provide "phased assistance."

In the first phase, homeless people with drug or alcohol problems would, for their own safety, sleep on mats in a shared area, visible to shelter personnel. In the second, after they had made progress and were regaining their self-confidence, they would be in shared dormitory-style accommodations.

Finally, we would secure adequate housing for them outside the shelter, and provide ongoing counseling and support. This would address one of the major problems confronting those who receive drug and alcohol treatment down South, the lack of sufficient "aftercare" upon their return.

I am grateful for your advice and your support, and look forward to working with you to build a future in which all Gwich'in prosper.

While the GTC has stepped back from formal participation in the Beaufort-Delta Regional Council, I was happy to serve as Co-Chair. In cooperation with other groups, we did a lot of good work, including the development of the Beaufort-Delta Agenda "Focus on Families." I hope we will be able to return to the table with other groups upon completion of our internal process of constitutional development.

Last year the GTC agreed to take over operation of the Gwich'in Council International, an organization that was formed in 1999 to promote the interests of the roughly 9,000 Gwich'in throughout the NWT, Yukon, and Alaska, with a secretariat that rotates among participants.

As of April 1, the GCI is officially headquartered in Inuvik. I will serve as Chair for the next two years, and Terry Peterson was hired as Executive Director to administer GCI operations. This organization has done a great deal to raise the profile of issues such as climate change, and to put our people on the world stage. I was recently pleased to represent the GCI at a conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, where I found high-level representatives from many countries interested in our perspectives.

In April the Circle of Northern Leaders met in Inuvik. This was the Circle's second meeting, but the first I was able to attend, and I was pleased to find that we had many shared concerns with the representatives of the GNWT and the other Aboriginal groups in the NWT. We developed a number of suggestions for future cooperation, and I look forward to subsequent meetings.

Another portfolio assigned to me is the Gwich'in Children's Trust, where the GTC holds funds from payouts as well as accrued interest for those Beneficiaries who have not yet reached

the age of 19. Accumulated funds are turned over to Beneficiaries when they reach their 19th birthday, to help with the costs of education, starting a business, or other major undertakings key to getting a good start in adult life.

Both our youth, and other Beneficiaries can take pride in the quality of their political leadership. While they are often criticized, they work hard on behalf of our people. In areas like the negotiation of a pipeline access and benefits agreement, I have been proud of the efforts made by the political leadership and the staff who support them to represent the interests of the Gwich'in in a principled, effective way.

In conclusion, the past year has brought many challenges but also many accomplishments. I am grateful for your advice and your support, and look forward to working with you to build a future in which all Gwich'in prosper.

Mahsi Cho,



Mary Ann Ross
GTC Vice-President



Chief Operating Officer's Report

Over the past year the staff of the GTC have addressed a number of demanding issues affecting the interests and concerns of Gwich'in Beneficiaries.

Much of my time and energy were devoted to our Access and Benefits Agreement negotiations with Imperial Oil for the proposed Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline.

As the GTC's Assistant Negotiator, working with Chief Negotiator Richard Nerysoo, I took part in many meetings of the GTC's negotiating caucus (which includes representatives of all GSA communities), and in our negotiating sessions with Imperial.

Last year's Assembly approved the negotiating mandate, and in following that mandate we have made progress on a number of fronts, such as procurement, employment, and training. In other areas, such as access fees, and socioeconomic impact funding, we still have a lot of work to do.

We were pleased by the Government of Canada's recent socioeconomic funding proposal, which indicated Ottawa's willingness to play a constructive role, and are preparing a response.

On behalf of the GTC, I took the lead on arranging the first ever workshop with all the other regions who are negotiating access and benefits agreement for the Mackenzie Gas Project.



Chief Operating Officer Tom Williams

This workshop, entitled "Building a Common Approach to Access and Benefits", was held in Yellowknife on June 23-24, 2005.

Chief Richard Nerysoo and I hosted the workshop, and it was a huge success. We made significant strides to build consistency and cooperation among the four regions represented by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Kahsho Got'ine, Tulita/Deline, and the Dehghah Alliance Society.

Aboriginal negotiating teams have acknowledged the need to work together, and all feel that this will greatly assist in building a common approach. The new approach will be very helpful in concluding access and benefits agreements with the Mackenzie Gas Project.

Chief Operating Officer's Report

Three working groups were established as a result of this workshop. These include:

- *the Access and Benefits Working Group, led by myself;*
- *the Socio-economic Working Group, led by Gordon Erlandson, Federal Ministerial Representative for the Mackenzie Gas Project;*
- *and the Taxation Working Group, led by Randy Price, of R.C. Price and Associates, and Chief Richard Nerysoo.*

During this workshop, representatives from Imperial Oil Ltd. also presented their standard negotiating framework. The participating groups agreed to review the proposed framework and respond to Imperial Oil. Several significant issues remain unresolved and will require further discussion. However, all negotiation teams have agreed to continue sharing information and working together, and we hope to bring this new approach to the negotiation table once the process resumes.

We are proud that the GTC continues to play an important role in this project. This year, we presented a proposal that secured funding from DIAND, the GNWT, and industry to cover negotiating costs, and will look at securing additional funding to cover the conclusion of an access and benefits agreement.

Kim Hawkins, our Environmental Impact Assessment Coordinator, has set up working groups in each GSA community to help keep Beneficiaries informed about the regulatory process and ensure that concerns over social impacts are brought to the table. The GTC recently engaged an environmental consulting firm to answer technical questions.

In addition, the GTC and the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation have agreed to jointly negotiate with Hunt Oil the access and benefits provisions of a proposed seismic program on the Peel Plateau, scheduled for the Winter of 2006. This is a good example of what Aboriginal groups can accomplish when working together.

We continue to add information on the skills and work histories of Beneficiaries to our Human Resources database, which we will use for the pipeline and other development activity in the GSA. This year we finalized our new Human Resources manual, which sets out HR policy for the GTC and DGOs. We plan staff training on the new policy in the near future.

The GTC's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the GNWT on contracting has been in operation for the past two years and has helped a number of Gwich'in businesses negotiate contracts in the GSA and build capacity.

We have met with GNWT officials and are pressing to apply the MOU to the NWT Power Corporation and public Boards, so that even more opportunities open up to Gwich'in companies.

Internally, we continue our efforts to provide all Beneficiaries with efficient service, and value for money. This year, we conducted a major clean-up of our files, setting aside a file room and cataloging the archival files. We have entered into a travel service agreement with Travel Masters, which will reduce duplication and improve financial management controls over corporate travel. An operational review of our administration identified a number of improvements, and we are looking at a review of the Lands, Resources, and Implementation division in the months ahead.

As of this writing, we hope to conduct a strategic planning retreat prior to the Assembly, in which the Executive and leadership will review the work done on the Strategic Plan and set direction for the next few years.

We continue to access the third-party funding essential to our activities and programs, obtaining more than \$5



Evelyne Parry and Georgiann Gordon working at Inuvik Capital Suites.

million in the past year. The GTC remains active as a good "corporate citizen" in the GSA, supporting community events and programs, and making donations to a broad spectrum of groups.

In closing, I would like to thank the leadership, Executive, and the many dedicated employees of the GTC, whose efforts are central to the work we do. In the year ahead, we will continue to work together on behalf of all Beneficiaries.

Tom R. Williams
Chief Operating Officer

Education and Training Report

The Gwich'in Tribal Council's Education and Training Department consists of Manager Barb Crawford, Coordinator Margaret Thompson, and Senior Accountant Norma Blake. The Department currently administers two programs:

- the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA) and,
- Aboriginal Skills to Employment Partnership (ASEP) Program.

The Education and Training Department takes direction from the GTC's Education and Training Committee, which has members from each of the four Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) communities. The Committee now consists of:

- Larry Firth (Fort McPherson),
- Mavis Clark (Tsiigehtchic),
- Robert Charlie (Inuvik) and,
- Leanne Nerysoo (Aklavik).

The committee meets as needed to make decisions on funding proposals and student requests.

Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA):

The GTC took part in a five year AHRDA agreement from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2004. When this agreement expired we entered into a one year amended agreement prior to the 2004 federal election. We have concluded a new agreement with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) for the period from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2009. This agreement provides training and educational opportunities for First Nation, Inuit and Metis people who reside in the GSA.

The following programs are administered through the AHRDA Strategy:

- Labour Market programs for the unemployed, employed and organizations to assist with wage subsidies, job creation, skills 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;
- Urban Initiatives;
- Labour Market Initiatives.

Expanding activity in the oil and gas sector and an increased interest in furthering education have kept the Education & Training Department very busy. The Department provided partial funding for the following programs:

- ✓ Natural Resources Technology Program - Aurora College, Aurora Campus - Inuvik;
- ✓ Computers for Communities - Aurora College Learning Center - Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic;
- ✓ Class1 Driver Training- Aurora College, Aurora Campus - Inuvik;
- ✓ Safety Training - Aurora College, Aurora Campus - Aklavik;

We delivered these programs in partnership with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Aurora College, and the GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

The following organizations in the GSA received funding for wage subsidies:

Aklavik:

- Aklavik - Community Employment Officer;
- Aklavik Indian Band - 3 Projects.
4 participants worked on Knute Lang Camp, Canoe Lake Camp and a Woodmizer Project.

Fort McPherson:

- Tetl'it Gwich'in Council - Community Employment Officer;
- Fort McPherson Tourism Society - Tourism Worker;
- Hamlet of Fort McPherson - Recreation Assistant;
- Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute -Materials Developer and Linguist Trainee.

Inuvik:

- Nihtat Gwich'in Council - Finance Officer Trainee;
- Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board - Fisheries Technician Trainee;
- Ingamo Hall Friendship Center - Youth Coordinator

Capacity-Building remains a high priority for the Education & Training Department. Various organizations as well as employed and unemployed individuals participated in courses to enhance their abilities and prepare for their changing work environment.

Employees of the following organizations participated in short courses:

- Nihtat Gwich'in Council;
- Aklavik Indian Band;
- Tsiigehtchic Charter Community;
- Tl'oondih Healing Society;
- Peel River Alcohol Society;
- Tetlit Gwich'in Council;
- Tsiigehtchic Justice Committee

The Education & Training Department continues to support individuals enrolled in the School of Community Governance Community Finance Program. Two individuals successfully completed the Finance Officer Program.

The Labour Market Program also administers childcare funding for parents in training or the labour market. Five individuals received funding under this initiative.

Youth Programs:

Our emphasis on youth programming has been on Summer Student employment. The following organizations received funding under this program:

- Tsiigehtchic Charter Community - Summer Children's Program, Tsiigehtchic
- Tetlit Gwich'in Council - 6 Summer Students, Fort McPherson
- Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board - 1 Summer Student - Inuvik

The Education & Training Department also funded the Career Fair in Inuvik in March 2005, in partnership with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Beaufort-Delta Education Council, Education, Culture and Employment and industry. We also funded a Traditional Sewing Project in partnership with the Hamlet of Fort McPherson and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (GNWT).

First Nations Childcare:

First Nations Child Care funding is used to enhance existing child care programming; provide salaries and benefits for daycare staff; support staff development and training and development of standards to meet the needs of the First Nation/Inuit community. The following organizations received funding:

- Aklavik Child Development Center - Salaries and Staff Training;
- Inuvik Child Development Center - Salaries and Staff Training;
- Inuvik Aboriginal Head Start Program - Salaries;
- Tsiigehtchic Child Development Center - Salaries and Staff Training;
- Fort McPherson Child Development Center - Salaries and Staff Training;
- Ingamo Hall Healthy Babies Program - Salaries

Persons With Disabilities:

A tutor was hired to assist a student who would not otherwise be able to attend school, with funding from the Education & Training Department and the Fort McPherson District Education Authority. The Education & Training Department also assisted a young man with a disability meet tuition costs to attend a school which could accommodate his needs.

Urban Initiatives:

The Education & Training Department provided funding to three individuals attending school outside the NWT and one individual who had to return south to complete a final exam. Four organizations also received funding for employees who required further training delivered in the south.

Aboriginal Skills to Employment Partnership (ASEP) Program:

People in the GSA are readying themselves for the multitude of jobs which will be available in the near future as a result of increased oil and gas activity. The ASEP Strategy is a training initiative organized by industry, government and Aboriginal organizations to promote training and employment of Aboriginals in the NWT petroleum industry. One of the ASEP agreement's principles is the delivery of training at the community level wherever possible.

Under the terms of a contribution agreement with Aboriginal Futures, the GTC will receive almost \$2 million over the next three years to provide training opportunities. The program will also focus on employment partnerships providing career opportunities for the membership. In the next fiscal year, Aboriginal Futures will contribute \$588,400 to the ASEP Training Plan.

The training plan includes a variety of programs:

- Heavy Equipment Operations;
- Drill Rig Training;
- Pre Employment Skills;
- Trade/Technology Programs;
- Marine Training;
- Safety Training;

We look forward to working with our partners in education, industry, and the Inuvialuit, Sahtu and Deh Cho.

It has been a very busy year in the Education & Training Department, given the rising numbers of people attending school and training programs. It is imperative that we encourage our youth to pursue their dreams and continue on to post secondary studies. They are our future leaders and education and training will give them the skills necessary to fill positions within our organizations and communities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Gwich'in Tribal Council for their support and look forward to another year with the Education & Training Department.

Barb Crawford Manager

The Gwich'in Enrolment Board has operated since March 1993, and is responsible for enrolling all suitable persons of Gwich'in ancestry in the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA).

Only those enrolled under the Claim are entitled to vote and run in GTC elections, participate in the activities of the GTC and its affiliated bodies, or receive benefits such as Christmas hampers or money from payouts. The Enrolment Card also meets the requirement for photo-identification necessary for airline travel.

The first Gwich'in Enrolment Registry was issued in April 1994 and listed 1,245 Beneficiaries. By May of 2005, we had more than 3,000, and continue to receive applications.

The Gwich'in Acceptance Process ("community acceptance") ended on February 22, 1998. Enrolment is now by application to the Enrolment Board. The Enrolment Coordinator distributes and receives applications under Section 4.2.1 of the GCLCA. The Board meets three times a year to consider completed applications. The Enrolment Coordinator processes each application accepted by the Board, and prepares a Certificate of Enrolment.

On Enrolment, each Beneficiary receives a Gwich'in Enrolment Card, bearing the logo of the Gwich'in Nation and the Beneficiary's four-digit enrolment number and associated community. Enrolment in the Claim is not identical with membership in a Gwich'in Band.



Cheryl Wright, Enrolment Coordinator.

Your ten-digit Treaty Status Card Number (the first three digits of which indicate your community Band) reflects Band membership. To change Band affiliation, you must contact both your local Band and the Enrolment Board. But you must enrol under the GCLCA itself to enjoy its benefits, and membership is not automatic, even if you already belong to a Band.

To apply, you must request and complete an application form. Enrolment is open to all who qualify, regardless of age, so eligible Gwich'in can enrol their children and themselves.

In 2002 the GTC approved the Enrolment Board's permanent relocation from Fort McPherson to Inuvik. Cheryl Wright, interim Enrolment Coordinator since October 2001, took over the position permanently. She has since visited the GSA communities as well as Yellowknife and Hay River to distribute and collect applications.

As a result of the continuous updating of the Enrolment Registry since late 2001, Christmas hampers and payout cheques were successfully delivered to Beneficiaries. Sizable numbers of Beneficiaries living outside the GSA have been enrolled.

Keeping the Registry up-to-date as people move, marry, have children, and die is a major part of the Enrolment Board's work. Beneficiaries continue to receive all the benefits to which they are entitled under the Claim only as long as we have current, accurate information.

We urge you to ensure that we have up-to-date information on you and your family, and to contact us if you know someone who may be eligible but has not yet enrolled. It is easier than ever to stay in touch, through our toll-free telephone number, email, or the GTC web site.

Enrollment Board:

Barb Crawford, Chair-Inuvik;
Anna May McLeod-Tsiigehtchic;
Lee Ann Nerysoo-Aklavik;
Robert Alexie, Sr.-Fort Mcpherson.

You can reach us at:

Box 1509, Inuvik, NT., X0E 0T0
Tel. 867-777-7916; Fax. 867-777-7919
Toll-Free: 1-866-414-4670
Email: cherylw@gwichin.nt.ca
Web site: www.gwichin.nt.ca



Even Santa wants to know if you're enrolled.

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) conducts cultural and language research, provides language and educational programs, and performs heritage management. Its mandate is to document, preserve and promote Gwich'in language, culture, traditional knowledge and values.

In 2004-2005 the GSCI was involved in a number of initiatives, based on **Iindo Khehtok Tr'eedah (Moving Forward as One): Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute Five Year Plan 2003-2008.**

While GSCI staff work together on some projects, reporting is the responsibility of program managers. Projects are classified under the Gwich'in Language Plan, Gwich'in Language Centre, Heritage Research and Administration.

Gwich'in Language Plan:

One of our priorities was publication of the Gwich'in Dictionary's fifth edition. This dictionary of the Gwichya Gwich'in and Teet'it Gwich'in dialects includes words and phrases collected over the past Fiscal Year in the four Gwich'in communities. It uses the same layout as the previous edition, which has proven useful to both speakers and non-speakers of the language.

The accompanying Gwich'in Grammar illustrates the structure of the Gwich'in language, using a universal phonetic system, and is designed to improve the understanding of both speakers and non-speakers.

As part of the Gwich'in Elders' biography project, GSCI staff interviewed Elders in all four GSA communities, conducting interviews in both English and Gwich'in and photographing many of the Elders as well. We will use the information for either a biographical booklet dedicated to Elders, or an Elders' calendar, documenting their lives and our history as a people.

Gwich'in Language Centre:

The Gwich'in Language Centre produces resource materials for teaching and training, with funding from the GTC, Dene Nation and Beaufort Delta Education Council. This year we hired a new Resource Coordinator, John Fisher, who has a background in education and the production of resource materials. Among other initiatives, he has begun establishing grade levels for existing resource materials, which will be an ongoing project.

In 2004-2005 we provided materials and assistance to Gwich'in Language Teachers and Instructors in all four GSA communities, as well as helping the Aboriginal Headstart Program's Gwich'in Language Instructor with materials for post pre-school students. We are currently working on a Second Language Curriculum, along with the Inuvialuit. Lesson Plans will be developed, approved and finalized under this project.

This year we will develop seventeen Animal Unit Compact Discs in the Gwichya Gwich'in dialect, similar to the set produced last year in the Teet'it Gwich'in dialect. As of this writing, completion is scheduled for June 2005.

Building upon the Animal Units, we have selected six legends containing life lessons and morals. These legends in the Teet'it dialect have been transcribed and translated into English. They will be compiled in a booklet, and an interactive game will be produced for each legend. We expect completion by June and distribution by August 2005.

One large-scale project has been the photographing and videotaping of fishing activity. This year we focused on seven kinds of fish that are harvested year-round. Interviews, still photography, and videotaping were done last July. Captions in English and Gwich'in will accompany still photos, and narration of the video will be prepared. Completion is expected in late May.

We continue to update materials that were produced prior to the standardization of the Gwich'in language, require reformatting for compatibility with more recent computers and software, or face physical deterioration (such as the older audio tapes damaged by the extreme heat in the Language Centre). In addition, we are redoing outdated materials, beginning with flashcards. Images of existing flashcards are being scanned into a computer and reformatted, with the insertion of standardized Gwich'in spelling. Artists have been contracted to provide new artwork, while the cards will be laminated to guard against wear and tear. Completion is expected by June.

The Language Centre continues to promote the Gwich'in language through its weekly radio programs and videotapes of community events, as well as stage an Open House and provide lunch intermittently throughout the year.

Heritage Research:

In April 2004, GSCI Research Director Ingrid Kritsch was invited to attend the Alaska Anthropological Association conference in Whitehorse and report on the GSCI's work. She also made a presentation to the Yukon First Nations Heritage Officers, who are developing heritage programs in their own communities and were interested to learn about the GSCI's work.

Last July, the GSCI worked with the Tetlit Gwich'in Council, Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation, and Yukon Heritage Branch to begin excavation of the Black City site north of Dawson City. Black City was a large village, inhabited through the Klondike Gold Rush and into the 1930s by the Teetl'it Gwich'in, Dagoo Gwich'in and Tr'ondek Hwech'in. Tetlit Gwich'in Elders Dorothy, Walter and Robert Alexie, Sr. and Tr'ondek Hwech'in Elders Alfred Semple and Percy Henry worked with oral history researchers Gladys Alexie and

Georgette McLeod, and archaeologist Chris Thomas. The Elders relayed stories about Black City and the surrounding area, and helped with the interpretation of artifacts and structures uncovered during the excavation, and the recording of graves in the area. As another part of the project, Bertha Francis and Gladys Alexie transcribed six taped interviews with Walter and Robert Alexie, Sr., Alfred Semple and Percy Henry, conducted in 2003.

In the Winter of 2004, the Tr'ondek Hwech'in approached the GSCI to work with the Inuvialuit, Vuntut Gwich'in and Nacho Nyak Dun on a brochure and fold-out map about the First Nations in the Dempster Highway area. The GSCI provided information and photos on the Gwich'in traditional area of use, encompassing the area north of Dawson to Inuvik.

The GNWT recently began a new funding program to help communities and organizations nominate sites to the NWT Historic Places Register. In September we received funding to nominate one or more sites in Teetl'it Gwich'in traditional lands. In December the Teetl'it Gwich'in Steering Committee met and agreed to support nomination of two sites: Nataiinlaih, and the Mouth of the Peel Village. Ingrid Kritsch and Melanie Fafard, a Ph.D. student in anthropology at the University of Alberta, conducted the necessary research and prepared the nominations, which were submitted at the end of March 2005.

In September 2004 the GSCI accessed funding from the NWT Cultural Places Initiative to complete the drafting and publication of a booklet about the Fort McPherson archaeological site. Ingrid Kritsch and Melanie Fafard are working on this project with Outcrop Ltd. and publication is scheduled for June.

GSCI and Parks Canada staff met with the Fort McPherson Steering Committee in December to determine how to proceed with the Fort McPherson National Historic Site project. Text for a new plaque, acknowledging the contribution of the Teetl'it Gwich'in to the fur trade and the establishment of Fort McPherson will be drafted and the plaque will be installed on site within the year. We still need to determine the site's boundaries and obtain letters of support from all landowners.

We continue to work with Parks Canada towards finalizing the Commemorative Integrity Statement for the Nagwichoonyik National Historic Site, so that we can proceed to negotiation of a cost-sharing agreement and development of a management plan for the site.

During the Summer of 2004, Erin Suliak, an M.A. student in Library and Information Studies at McGill University, completed the key word index of the oral history tapes which she began the past Summer, inventoried the GSCI research materials in all offices, prepared a manual on digitizing tapes, and finalized her Archival Strategic Plan. This plan is designed to ensure the research materials we have created are maintained and preserved for future generations.

This Winter Heritage Researcher Alestine Andre conducted a cultural assessment and gap analysis of the headwaters of the Arctic Red River for the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board. This research was identified in the Land Use Implementation Plan as necessary to help determine if the area's status should change from Special Management Zone to Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zone or legislated protected area.

The report for this project includes an annotated bibliography of existing sources on the traditional use of the area and heritage

resources already identified, as well as identifying gaps and making recommendations for the next phase of research.

The GSCI contributed to the Arctic Red River Ten-Year Review under the Canadian Heritage River Management Plan. This report was prepared by Karen LeGresley-Hamre of Avens Associates Ltd. for RWED, in fulfillment of the Canadian Heritage River Board requirement that rivers designated under the CHR System be reviewed every ten years. It made a number of recommendations relating to research, tourism, traditional use, and the river's Heritage River status.

The GTC has asked the GSCI to represent it on a First Nations and Government Steering Committee to direct and oversee the work needed to nominate the Mackenzie as a Canadian Heritage River. The Committee has met several times and drafted a work plan that includes the creation of Working Groups in all regions along the river to help draft chapters of the Background Paper for the Canadian Heritage River Board.

The Gwich'in Cultural Working Group is working with the GSCI and a writer, Randy Freeman, on the drafting of the Gwich'in Cultural Chapter. As of this writing, we are waiting to hear from the Sahtu and Inuvialuit concerning their support for the project and selection of Steering Committee members. The GSCI proposes that the various Aboriginal names for the river be officially recognized alongside its English and French names.

In September, Ingrid Kritsch helped Executive Director Dolly Carmichael provide photographs and accompanying captions from the files of our Research Office in Yellowknife, for display in the Inuvik Capital Suites.

Under the Gwich'in Clothing Project, seamstresses in the GSA communities and Yellowknife worked on five replicas of a man's traditional 19th Century Gwich'in caribou skin outfit, from an original in the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) in Hull, Quebec. The GSCI then worked with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) to prepare exhibits of the outfits in each GSA community. The exhibits in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic were formally unveiled in ceremonies from February 28 to March 2, 2005. Those in Aklavik and Fort McPherson are on display at the schools, while the Tsiigehtchic exhibit is displayed in the Band office boardroom. The unveiling ceremony for the Inuvik replica was delayed when the exhibit case was damaged in transit, but we hope to reschedule it early in the new Fiscal Year at the Inuvik Capital Suites once a new case is installed.

Ingrid Kritsch has been working with Judy Thompson of the CMC and Joanne Bird of the PWNHC on an exhibit of the project for the First Peoples' Hall at the CMC and the PWNHC. This will include the original garment from the CMC, life-size photos of the five replicas, additional photos, captions, and a video. Judy and Ingrid are also working on a book to accompany the exhibit. The exhibit will be displayed at the PWNHC in 2006 and the CMC in 2007, with smaller versions exhibited in the four Gwich'in communities.

The PWNHC's Director, Dr. Charles Arnold, has invited the GSCI to join a steering committee to guide development of a new gallery showcasing Gwich'in and Inuvialuit culture and heritage, using items from the PWNHC collections and GSCI research. We are currently developing two exhibits: a Mackenzie River fish camp exhibit based on Alestine Andre's camp in the Tree River area, and one based on the Fort McPherson archaeological site.

In the past year, the GSCI also worked on the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Traditional Knowledge Project. This was funded through a negotiated contract with Imperial Oil, from February 1, 2004 to April 30, 2005, and had two phases. In Phase 1, our GIS analyst, Scott Higgins, established the computer-based mapping system and began entering traditional land use information into a linked database.

Kristi Benson, our Traditional Knowledge Coordinator, researched and reviewed past TK studies and constructed a database with this information, identifying the gaps in our knowledge. This allowed us to begin Phase 2, based on community interviews. A GIS/IT Assistant, John Edwards, joined us for this phase, and a Working Group representing the RRCs, Band Councils, Elders' Councils, GSCI, GRRB, MGP and MPEG was established to guide the work.

Upon her return from education leave in the late Summer of 2004, Alestine Andre worked with Kristi and three community researchers on the TK interviews. At time of writing, a report is being drafted for review by the communities prior to presentation to Imperial Oil. The report will be presented as part of the Environmental Assessment for the Mackenzie Gas Project. The GTC Board approved the GSCI's new Traditional Knowledge Policy at its meeting of June 22, 2004.

In recent months we have reviewed Land Use Permits related to the Mackenzie Gas Project and exploration for diamonds in the GSA. We expect the number of permit applications to increase significantly in the next few years and must ensure we have the funding required to continue our GIS position, which is critical to our ability to respond to them.

The GSCI's new web site has been well-received, and we have received requests from organizations such as the NWT Literacy Council and the Arctic Circumpolar Route (Arctic Institute of North America) to link our respective web sites. Our site has had several thousand visitors from around the world.

Administration:

The GSCI hired a Material Developer Trainee, who began work early August of 2004 and resigned in mid-October. The Material Developer Coordinator also resigned, effective November 26, 2004. The job description for this position was revised to include skills necessary for the preparation of resource materials based on curriculum and grade levels, while the title was changed to Resource Coordinator. After advertisements and interviews, John Fisher was hired, beginning work in late March 2005.

Bertha Francis retired as Interpreter/Translator on March 11, 2005. The GSCI held a supper for her in Fort McPherson on March 30, followed by a presentation on March 31. We thank Bertha for her many contributions to the GSCI over the years.

Our Strategic Analysis and Five Year Business Plan was not finalized. After a review of the GSCI and determination of plans and funding commitments for the next five years, we can develop a new plan.

Dolly Carmichael
Executive Director

Ingrid Kritsch
Research Director

William George Firth
Language Manager

GSCI Staff:
Dolly Carmichael
Executive Director

Mavis Clark
Administrative Assistant

Ingrid Kritsch
Research Director

Alestine Andre
Heritage Researcher

Kristi Benson
Traditional Knowledge Coordinator

Scott Higgins
GIS Analyst

John Edwards
GIS/IT Assistant

William George Firth
Language Manager

Keith Kunnizzie
Linguist Trainee

John Fisher
Resource Coordinator

Elizabeth Vittrekwa
Material Developer Trainee (resigned October 19, 2004)

Betty Vittrekwa
Material Developer (resigned November 26, 2004)

Bertha Francis
Interpreter/Translator (retired March 11, 2005)

GSCI Board:
Mary Ann Ross: Chair
Anna May McLeod: Tsiigehtchic
Walter Alexie: Fort McPherson
Annie Jane Modeste: Fort McPherson
Renie Stewart: Aklavik
Catherine Mitchell: Aklavik
Sarah McLeod-Firth: Inuvik

— Lands, Resources and Implementation Report

The GTC's Lands, Resources and Implementation personnel are responsible for coordinating and facilitating activities and programs related to implementation of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA). Lands Staff focus on the administration of Gwich'in-owned land. Resource Management Staff deal with issues, policies, and regulations relating to the management of harvesting, wildlife, and the environment. The Implementation Staff address other issues relating to the implementation of the GCLCA. This report describes Lands, Resources and Implementation activities over the past year.



Deb Bisson, Director, Lands, Resources, and Implementation

Lands staff also worked on the following projects:

Signage in the GSA:

The GTC completed the installation of signs along the Dempster highway to show the boundaries of Gwich'in-owned parcels of land. In addition, a large greeting sign at the entrance to the GSA provides general information about the Settlement Area.

Cabin Database:

In 2003 the GTC updated its cabin database, using information supplied by DIAND and RWED. We required further information from the communities to complete the database. The GTC sent maps to the communities so they could indicate all cabins not already marked on the maps.

Since the communities did not respond, the GTC put notices in all its recent newsletters informing Beneficiaries that if they came in and registered their cabins they would receive a full sized outdoor flag. Meanwhile, the GTC developed a list of all non-Gwich'in camps and is currently finalizing a residential lease for those camps. Once this has been done, the GTC will send a letter to all non-Gwich'in cabin owners requiring them to enter into a lease and pay an annual lease fee.

Environmental Monitor Program:

For each land access or research authorization issued by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the authorization holder is required to pay for a Gwich'in environmental monitor to be the eyes and ears of the communities and the GTC out in the field. This program also builds capacity within the communities. In the fall of 2004, the GTC ran a training program, producing 22 newly trained environmental monitors.

Land Management Control Guidelines and Fee Schedule:

The GTC land access fees were updated so as to conform to those of the Inuvialuit, and an automatic annual multiplier was added. The Guidelines were updated to accommodate new GTC policies and several new categories of land use activities.

James Creek Hydrocarbon Land Farm:

Following the discovery of a fuel tank leak near James Creek at a GNWT highway maintenance camp more than 4 years ago, the GNWT established a land farm to remediate the contaminated soil near the site. The proximity of this land farm to James Creek, a drinking water source, has concerned the residents of Fort McPherson for some time. The GNWT now conducts an annual sampling program, which includes soil and groundwater sampling and sampling from James Creek itself.

So far the program has shown no indication of any contamination to the James Creek water source from the land farm. In June 2005, the GNWT Department of Transportation will make a presentation to the community of Fort McPherson on the sampling program and results, as well as plans for the remainder of the remediation program.

Deep Water Lake Management Plan Implementation:

A management plan is in place for this source of drinking water for Fort McPherson. The community has been advised that, under the plan, it should not authorize construction of any additional cabins on the lake. The GTC will put up signs at access points to the lake indicating that the lake is the supply of potable water for the community and asking users to refrain from activities that might cause contamination.

Frog Creek Pit Development & Restoration Plan:

Since 2002 the GTC has worked with the GNWT Department of Transportation to finalize a pit management plan for the Frog Creek source. The GTC wanted to use the model plan developed for Willow River as its standard. After many revisions, the Frog Creek plan was finally approved by the GTC Board of Directors in February 2005. This plan is now being used as a model, or template, for all future pit management plans for other sources on Gwich'in land.

LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Lands administration staff processed the following authorizations or leases for access to Gwich'in-owned land.

Total Authorizations issued in 2004:	Total Authorizations issued in 2005:
16	9
Access	Access
1	0
Research	Research
7	5
Quarry	Quarry
8	4
Camp	Camp
0	0
Leases	Leases
0	0

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resource management staff members have been involved in a number of projects and ongoing initiatives over the past year.

Dempster Highway Regulations (NWT and Yukon):

The NWT and Yukon implemented regulations restricting caribou hunting on the Dempster Highway. The Yukon regulations provided for review in three years, in consultation with First Nations, to reassess the necessity of the regulations and determine if amendments are required. The Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) recommended the implementation of an education program on harvesting practices, which would eventually lead to the repeal of the regulations.

Grizzly Tags and Aklavik Lands:

Each year the GNWT issues 3 grizzly tags to Inuvialuit for a zone that includes the "Aklavik lands", which are owned by the Gwich'in but located in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Meanwhile two tags are issued to Gwich'in on Inuvialuit-owned lands in the GSA. The Aklavik RRC met with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers' Committee and reviewed the tag allocation system. They agreed that in light of the proportions of land involved on each side of the border and within the respective grizzly management zones, the current allocation system was fair and appropriate.

Gwich'in Forest Management Plan:

The Final Draft of the Gwich'in Forest Management Plan has now been finished. Community consultation on the Draft has begun and should be completed in the near future.

Harvester Database:

The GTC plans to develop a harvester database indicating the harvesting areas of all harvesters in the GSA. This will help lands administration staff process land access applications by showing where the activity might interfere with trapping. Where there are harvester claims for compensation the GTC will only process those of harvesters registered in the database.

The GTC has submitted a proposal to the GNWT for funding to hold workshops to document existing harvesters' areas.

Dall's Sheep:

The GNWT Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (DRWED) and the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board are in the process of producing a Dall's Sheep Management Plan. The GTC and the Vuntut Gwich'in have proposed to the Yukon and NWT governments that they develop a trans-boundary (Yukon-NWT) Dall's Sheep Management Plan to manage this resource and its harvesting. In June 2005 the parties met in Dawson City to discuss this proposal.

Overlap and Sharing Agreements:

The GTC has been working on overlap or sharing agreements with several other settled land claim groups. Our goal is to reestablish, by agreement, harvesting rights extinguished for beneficiaries of one land claim in the settlement areas of other land claims. For example, where two settled land claims are adjacent (side-by-side), the beneficiaries of each traditionally harvested on both sides of the new boundary. In order to continue hunting in an adjacent settlement area, beneficiaries now need the permission of the adjacent land claim group. Gwich'in are currently working with three other land claim groups to finalize agreements:

Sahtu:

We have initialed a draft agreement and the GTC is trying to finalize maps of the traditional harvesting areas.

Inuvialuit:

A Map to the agreement with the Inuvialuit has been finalized and that agreement is now in effect. However, the agreement must be updated to reflect changes in the harvesters list.

Na-Cho Nyak Dun:

Negotiation of a sharing agreement is still in the early stages.

Sumps in the Yukon:

Gwich'in beneficiaries continue to raise concerns that 18 or so abandoned exploration wells (sumps) in the Peel River Watershed could be leaking contaminants. Past research on the sumps was inadequate, producing inconclusive results. In the past 6 priority sumps were identified with input from the GTC and Fort McPherson. These sumps were assessed by the Yukon government in the summer of 2004. Once the results are available, the Yukon government will report on them to the GTC and the community. If the results reveal serious contamination a remediation program will have to be established. In addition to the six priority sites, another site has been identified by the community following recent river erosion that uncovered debris along the river bank. There is concern that the debris may contain contamination, and an investigation is scheduled for this summer.

Protected Areas Strategy:

The government of the NWT has established a Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) along with a Five Year Action Plan for its implementation. The GTC maintains a watching brief on this initiative. The GTC will not nominate any areas for protected status unless it is sure the Gwich'in Land Use Plan doesn't provide adequate protection.

Porcupine Caribou Management Board and Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement:

The GTC supported amendments to Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement to change "Dene Metis" to "Gwich'in" and allow for more than one Gwich'in representative. These amendments have yet to be made. In the meantime, the GTC appointed James Andre as its representative on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.

Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act (YESSA) Implementation:

GTC staff members participated in the Implementation Planning Committee for the Yukon Socio-Economic Assessment Act. The Implementation Plan and Designated Areas have been finalized. The next step is to set up the administrative structure for the Act and its processes and establish regulations. YESSA provides for the nomination of First Nations representatives to its assessment board by the Council of Yukon First Nations. The CYFN was required to consult with the GTC prior to submitting its nominations, but inadvertently failed to do so for the first slate of board nominees. Although the GTC brought this procedural flaw to DIAND's attention, nothing was done. Over the GTC's objections, the CYFN nominations were accepted by DIAND and the board was appointed. The GTC maintains that the board is invalidly constituted and any of its decisions could therefore be challenged under the principles of administrative law.

Peel River Watershed Planning Commission (PRWPC):

The GTC has worked with other groups (the Vuntut Gwich'in, Na Cho Nyak Dun, Trondek Hwech'in, and Tetlit Gwich'in) in the implementation of the Peel River land use planning process. General Terms of Reference and a Work Plan for the Peel River Watershed Commission have been completed, and Abe Wilson was named as the Gwich'in Appointee on the Commission.

We expect a community meeting to discuss the land use plan development process early in the next reporting period.

GTC Membership in Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN):

In the past year the GTC applied for membership in the CYFN. The CYFN gave its approval in principle, and this will be finalized at the CYFN Annual Assembly in the summer of 2005. We expect that membership will allow the GTC to participate more fully in the Yukon land and resource management regulatory regime.

Coal Bed Methane in the Yukon:

The GTC continues to monitor any plans to develop coal bed methane in the Peel Watershed. It is also working with other concerned Yukon First Nations, and doing research on modern coal bed methane development techniques that don't have adverse impacts of the sort experienced in the United States.

Martin House Study:

A soil and water sampling program on old oil and gas exploration sites was conducted in the Martin House area during the winter of 2004. The study was funded by the NWT Environmental Contaminants Committee (ECC) through the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP). A final results poster was presented in September 2004 at the NCP final results workshop. The GTC hired a consultant to do an independent review of the sampling program and results and make further recommendations for the Martin House Study. The study concluded the sampling program was incomplete and recommended completion of a thorough Phase I & II Environmental Assessment. The GTC's next step is to seek additional funding through the ECC for an independent Environmental Consultant in the GSA to complete the work.

Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program (GHAP):

GHAP is a GTC program to help part-time and full-time Gwich'in harvesters purchase equipment and supplies for harvesting. In the past year the GTC approved 117 applications for assistance and issued approximately \$141,000 in funding.

CIMP (Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program and Audit) and CEAM (Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management):

CIMP and CEAM are both initiatives of DIAND's regional office. CIMP is a requirement of the GCLCA and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. It requires an environmental audit every five years to identify changes in environmental quality and measure the effectiveness of current government management.

The first audit was commenced during the year. The GTC participates with other First Nations on the committee to oversee the audit. The audit is expected to be completed during the next fiscal year. We hope it will provide guidance in the monitoring of cumulative impacts and show changes in the regulatory regime that are needed to better manage the environment.

CIMP is a component of CEAM, a broader initiative arising out of past environmental assessments that revealed the need for more information on, and better management of, cumulative effects. It is guided by a Blueprint and Framework for Action, which has to be implemented by the governmental and other agencies with environmental responsibilities. It is also possible that a regional action plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area alone or with the Inuvialuit Settlement Area will be developed.

IMPLEMENTATION

GTC staff members have been involved in a number of implementation issues and initiatives over the past year.

Amendments to the GCLCA:

Over the past year the GTC and DIAND worked on an amendment to the GCLCA to allow a longer period than the specified 15 years for the distribution of funds to Participants (Beneficiaries). We hope this amendment can be finalized during the next reporting period.

Communications CD:

The GTC has nearly completed work on a CD-Rom that can be used to explain the GCLCA in class rooms. It will focus on the agreement's relevance and importance, by highlighting life before the agreement and the changes it entails. It will raise awareness of what lies ahead in terms of self-government and other implementation challenges. We expect the CD to be ready for distribution early in the new fiscal year.

Land Claims Advisory Coalition (LCAC):

As a result of the November 2003 conference to explore common issues among those with settled land claims, a coalition of settled land claim groups was formed. The LCAC enables the groups to work together on issues of land claims agreement implementation, and to encourage DIAND to take new, more effective approaches to implementation. The GTC participates in the coalition and supports its initiatives. Over the past reporting period the coalition's work focused on encouraging the federal government to work with it on the development of a more effective land claims implementation policy, that addresses the land claim objectives and improves conflict resolution.

Economic Measures:

In the past, the GTC has often expressed the opinion that the Economic Measures chapter of the land claim is not being properly implemented so as to address the objective of economic self-sufficiency. The GCLCA obligates government to meet with the GTC at least once every three years to review the effectiveness of programs in relation to the objectives.

Past reviews were inadequate, amounting to a mere overview of programs. They did not "review the effectiveness of the programs relating to the objectives," as the GCLCA requires. To ensure this did not happen again the GTC worked with the governments and a consultant to develop a process and criteria for improved review of program effectiveness. The five-year review concluded with a meeting held in November 2004. The consensus was that the review improved on its predecessors, but much progress still had to be made to determine if the government programs under review were actually contributing to the objective of economic self-sufficiency. Follow-up will take place in connection with the efforts towards "results-based reporting" described below.

Results-Based Reporting:

During the year the Auditor General's Office (AGO) did an audit and report on DIAND's handling of its land claim implementation responsibilities. The AGO found that DIAND concentrates too much on the details of obligations at the expense of ensuring that the broad objectives of land claims are being met. As a result, the GTC and the federal and territorial governments are working through the Gwich'in Land Claims Implementation Committee (the IC) to improve the monitoring and reporting of implementation. There will be more focus on the broad objectives of the land claim, particularly that of economic self-sufficiency.

The IC will have to develop methods and data sources to measure progress towards such objectives.

Wildlife and Species at Risk Legislation:

Both the Yukon and the NWT are revising their Wildlife Acts and preparing new legislation to address species at risk of extinction. The Species at Risk legislation is triggered by the need to harmonize with recent federal legislation on this topic, while Amendments to the Wildlife Act reflect in part the need to incorporate land claim provisions. The GTC implementation and resources management staff have taken part in the consultations on this legislation in both jurisdictions. In the Yukon there has been no recent activity in the area. In the NWT progress on drafts was delayed by the reorganization of the new government. Aboriginal groups will meet with the new government to make the point that it is imperative that both pieces of legislation adequately implement land claim provisions.

Mackenzie Gas Project Regulatory Review:

The Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) involves gas production facilities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, a gas liquids processing plant near Inuvik, and pipelines from the plant down to the Alberta border. The proponents are led by Imperial Oil. Over the past year, Imperial continued to gather the information it will need to apply for approvals required to construct the Mackenzie Valley gas, and natural gas liquids, pipelines. Segments of these pipelines will cross Gwich'in-owned land, so the GTC issued authorizations to Imperial to conduct geotechnical and biological research.

Imperial has now submitted its application for the main project and the regulatory review process has started. As of March, 2005 Imperial faces information requests by government and interveners.

Hearing dates have not been set. The Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Nihtat Gwich'in Council both registered as interveners in order to participate fully in the regulatory and hearing process. The GTC prepared a report on social impacts of concern to the communities.

Mackenzie Gas Project Benefits and Access Negotiations:

The GTC negotiating team includes two representatives from each community so as to ensure the concerns and interests of the communities are given first priority. This team is assisted by GTC staff on technical and logistic matters, as well as by a lawyer and consultants. The consultants assist the team by providing advice on industry practices, contracting and employment opportunities, labour issues, and other matters.

By March 2005 the negotiations had progressed to the stage where detailed lists of terms were exchanged and the focus was on compensation and access fees, contracting opportunities, and employment and training. To put the pipeline and construction activities on Gwich'in-owned land the project proponents require an access agreement from the GTC. The Gwich'in negotiating team takes the position that the GTC will not provide an access agreement unless the parties agree on acceptable arrangements for community benefits.

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

**Norman Snowshoe
Resources Manager**

**Mardy Semmler
Lands Manager**

In September 2004 the GTC opened the Regional Wellness Office and hired a Regional Wellness Manager to help the GTC Executive and Staff deal with health and social concerns raised by Beneficiaries.

Most of the Regional Wellness Manager's time is devoted to working with, and acting as an advocate for, individual Beneficiaries and their families. All requests are assessed, with some requiring as little as a single telephone call, others requiring ongoing assistance such as meetings, letter writing and telephone calls. Where appropriate, the Executive is consulted.

Most of the concerns that are raised relate to medical, housing and Elders' issues. The Regional Wellness Office also provides Beneficiaries with general assistance in letter writing, proposal development and research.

The Regional Wellness Manager is also responsible for the Bereavement Assistance and Social Emergency Assistance programs. The Bereavement Assistance program helps Beneficiaries and families who have lost loved ones and face burial, travel and other expenses.

The Social Emergency Assistance program helps Beneficiaries undergoing financial hardship due to unforeseen events such as illness, accidents, household fires or crime. It does not provide loans or pay bills such as overdue rent or utility charges. Both programs follow strict guidelines, with assistance requiring formal application.

Over the year, the Regional Wellness Manager made several community visits to discuss Beneficiaries' concerns as well as attend meetings of various boards. One of the major concerns this year was the delivery of health services in Fort McPherson, particularly in regard to misdiagnoses and lack of attendance in emergencies. Another concern was the lack of services in Tsiigehtchic.



Denise Kurszewski, Regional Wellness Manager, with Bertha Allen at the Aboriginal Achievement Awards Ceremony.

The latter issue has caught the attention of the media, and we hope to discuss both soon with the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The GTC is currently involved in the development of the Aboriginal Blueprint for Health and has been represented at meetings of the Inuvik Interagency Committee, Homelessness Committee and other groups who deal with issues impacting Beneficiaries. We have also been in touch with the Assembly of First Nations; Dene Nation; Health Secretariat; Inuvialuit Regional Corporation; NWT Status of Women Council; various GNWT agencies and departments, and others on issues of shared concern.

This past year has seen much discussion of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. The GTC has consulted with the GSA communities and prepared a report on the project's potential social impacts. Our communities already face many social problems and a pipeline project would further burden them. The challenge now is to work with all parties to manage and mitigate adverse effects.

The following statistics indicate the numbers of various Beneficiary concerns brought to the attention of the Regional Wellness Manager between September 2004 and mid-June 2005:

Bereavement Assistance	9	(fulfilled policy guidelines)
Social Emergency Fund	15	(fulfilled policy guidelines)
Medical Concerns	18	
Housing Concerns	12	
Elders' Concerns	7	
Proposal Writing / Appeals	6	
Compensation (disability)	4	
Incarcerated Individuals	2	
Child Apprehension	1	
General Information	31	

2005-2006 should be a busy year, particularly with the social impact issues surrounding the MGP. We look forward to working with all agencies and communities in the GSA to provide the best possible support to Gwich'in Beneficiaries.

Mahsi Cho,

Denise Kurszewski
Regional Wellness Manager

In the 2004-2005 Fiscal Year, the GTC's self-government team focused on the development of Gwich'in First Nation Authorities, leading to a Gwich'in Constitution.

This work is pursuant to Chapter 5 (Self-Government) and Appendix B (Self-Government Framework Agreement) of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* ("GCLCA") and Chapter 4 (Self-Government) of the *Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle for the Beaufort-Delta Region* ("AIP").

As the first step towards a regional Gwich'in government, the GTC has worked closely with the four Gwich'in communities to develop Gwich'in Community Constitutions.

To develop these Constitutions, Gwich'in Community Development Manager Karen Snowshoe and Gwich'in Self-government Negotiator Lawrence Norbert have worked with the communities to:

- 1: Increase self-government field staff capacity;
- 2: Develop self-government public information materials; and
- 3: Conduct community consultations.

Increasing Field Staff Capacity:

The GTC worked with self-government field staff to increase their capacity to create and deliver self-government public information materials to community members.

In initial workshop consultations, community members recommended that GTC self-government personnel and community field staff use a wide variety of methods to communicate self-government concepts. While community field staff traditionally used local radio, workshops and home visits, community members indicated a preference for multi-media presentations like PowerPoint



Karen Snowshoe
Gwich'in Community Development Manager

(especially using archival photos) and video to explain self-government. As a result, GTC staff worked with the Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Office (BDSGO) to train field staff in multi-media equipment use. By the end of the multi-media training sessions, each staff member was proficient in the use of digital camera and video equipment, and the creation of photo-based PowerPoint presentations.

Self-Government Public Information Materials:

In response to communities' desire to slow down the process of Constitutional development and focus on self-government

public education and awareness (especially among youth and Elders), community consultations have emphasized the presentation of plain language self-government information materials.

The GTC developed a series of PowerPoint presentations for delivery in workshop format. The presentations provided plain language summaries of a number of topics relevant to the self-government process.

In addition, the GTC is currently working with each community to develop a communications strategy, in order to increase the use of radio, print and home visits (especially with Elders) to communicate self-government information.

Community Consultations:

We presented self-government materials to community members through:

- 1: *Community Based Workshops;*
- 2: *Regional Elders' and Youth Workshops;* and
- 3: *Community High School presentations.*

In the Fall of 2004 we began the community based workshop process, by developing workshop materials and planning workshops in each community, working with local field staff and leadership.

These workshops were designed to deliver self-government education materials to community members and encourage discussion of Gwich'in Constitutional development. They took place in 1-2 day sessions held in local recreation complexes and boardrooms. Participants included local leaders, representatives of community organizations, local self-government committee members, Federal and Territorial self-government negotiators and staff, as well as the general public.

Between November 2004 and May 2005, the self-government team held four community workshops in Fort McPherson, one in Aklavik, one in Inuvik and two in Tsiigehtchic.

Communities are at various stages of Constitutional development. As a result of the difficulties some communities have experienced recruiting or retaining field staff, as well as completing community activities and poor attendance at workshops, some are still in the preliminary stages.

The GTC is currently working closely with those communities to ensure that field staff are in place and that communications and consultation plans are developed and implemented. Our goal for the Summer of 2005 is to have all communities well-staffed, with self-government committees in place, and active consultation with community members under way.

In addition to community workshops, the GTC organized two Regional Gwich'in Elders and Youth Workshops in early 2005. The main purpose of these workshops was to introduce participants to the concepts involved in drafting Constitutions. They were also used to increase awareness of broader self-government issues, including a historical perspective, and encourage the sharing of traditional knowledge between Elders and youth. As of this writing, a third workshop is scheduled to take place in Tsiigehtchic, on August 11-12.

In January 2005, we began working with youth in the four GSA communities to develop plain language self-government presentations for delivery in local high schools.

In February and March, we made school presentations in every community. The presentations were designed to introduce high school students to basic political concepts:

- *(the definition of government, federalism, the division of powers);*
- *local, regional and Federal government structures and law-making authorities;*
- *a history of Treaty 11,*
- *the inherent right of self-government,*
- *the GCLCA, and;*
- *the current focus of Beaufort-Delta self-government initiatives.*

Specific topics included:

- *A historical overview of the Gwich'in inherent right of self-government;*
- *Social and cultural impacts of colonization;*
- *Local and national impacts of residential schools;*
- *The creation of Gwich'in economic dependence on government;*
- *Gwich'in loss of control over many aspects of daily life;*
- *Changes in Gwich'in life caused by the application of the Indian Act, 1867;*
- *The development of Treaty 11;*
- *The emergence of dependency thinking;*
- *A historical perspective on Gwich'in involvement in the self-government process;*
- *Definition of government, and a description of the making of rules and decisions in Gwich'in communities;*
- *The history of federalism in Canada;*
- *Powers and jurisdictions of Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Gwich'in community governments;*
- *How communities define self-government;*
- *Definition and description of a Constitution; and*
- *Methods of local community decision-making.*

The presentations also encouraged discussion among students about their own participation in the Gwich'in self-government process. Presenters encouraged the students to:

- *Stay in school in order to reach their full potential;*
- *Train for futures in a Gwich'in government;*
- *Learn from Elders about traditional culture and decision-making;*
- *Get involved in self-government activities (e.g. workshops); and*
- *Talk to their local leadership.*

Overall, the presentations increased students' interest in historical and contemporary self-government issues as well as broader political concepts. They were so well-received by students and teachers in all Gwich'in communities that elementary school teachers have asked us to develop and deliver presentations at the elementary level.

Summer/Fall 2005 Activities:

For the Summer and Fall, GTC self-government staff are working closely with the four GSA communities to:

- *Ensure all self-government staff are in place;*
- *Provide ongoing training for field staff;*
- *Continue consultation with community members and leadership on the development of community Constitutions;*
- *Develop self-government communications materials suitable for each community;*
- *Increase communication about self-government issues in each community;*
- *Assist communities in developing capacity-building plans, as needed;*
- *Develop negotiation mandates to conclude a self-government agreement with Canada and the GNWT.*

Karen Snowshoe

Gwich'in Community Development Manager

Tetlit Gwich'in Council Report

I am happy to report to you on the activities of the Tetlit Gwich'in Council over the first year in the terms of the Chief and Council elected to three-year terms on September 7, 2004.

My job is challenging, but is made easier by the colleagues on whom I rely:

- *Sub-Chief Eileen Koe;*
- *Councillor Charlie Snowshoe;*
- *Councillor Leslie Blake;*
- *Councillor Richard James Blake;*
- *Councillor Johnny Charlie;*
- *Councillor Frank Firth, and*
- *Councillor Kyla Ross.*

Brian Martin was also elected to the Council, but has since stepped down to take on a new position in the Band Office, and I would like to thank him for his dedication working for the past and present Chief and Council.

My first task as Chief was to travel to Whitehorse with community leaders, Elders, youth, and staff members for a meeting of the Council of Yukon First Nations, at which the GTC was accepted as a full member. This will allow us to work with other groups on both sides of the Yukon border on issues of common interest, such as development in the Peel River Watershed, long a concern to the Gwich'in Nation and the Tetlit Gwich'in in particular.

In January, an orientation workshop brought together past and present Chiefs and Council members, facilitated by former Chief James Ross. This allowed us to assess where past leaders had left off and identify directions for the present leadership.

That month, the other Gwich'in Chiefs and I attended a meeting of the Dene Nation Leadership at the Hay River Reserve. This was a useful gathering, since we continue to deal with a number of issues at the Dene Nation level.

It was good to see past leaders there, continuing to work for their people. Their wisdom is invaluable, and they are role models for us all.

Economic development, particularly the proposed Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline, brings new challenges. The TGC is working hard with other parties such as the GTC, the Hamlet of Fort McPherson, and community organizations to ensure that we conclude an acceptable access and benefits agreement.

Our business arm, the Rat River Development Corporation, maintains a healthy portfolio of residential and commercial real estate holdings in Fort McPherson, generating rental revenues and employment in the community. The RRDC has established a sound foundation for further growth, and continues to seek out promising investment opportunities.

The Tl'ooondih Healing Society has served as our social arm since shortly after ownership of Tl'ooondih Healing Camp was transferred from the GTC to the TGC in 2003. Over the past three years the TGC and Tl'ooondih Healing Society have worked to offer healing and other programs at Tl'ooondih Healing Camp, with support from various Federal and Territorial funding agencies.

Eileen Koe, Johnny Charlie and (until recently) Brian Martin represent the TGC on the Healing Society Board, where they work with other Board members and staff to develop proposals for further use of this facility. The Board and staff of the Healing Society are among the community members who have worked hard in recent years to address residential school and other social issues.

The community has also formed a Child and Family Services Committee, the first in the NWT. This committee works with social agencies and the families of children facing apprehension to develop alternatives in each case to taking children into custody and out of the community.

The leadership of the TGC seeks effective working partnerships with others. From April 18-20, I attended the Circle of Northern Leaders meeting in Inuvik, where leaders of Aboriginal groups exchanged perspectives with Premier Joe Handley and the GNWT, and found common ground on a number of issues such as resource revenue sharing.

On April 20, the Social Committee of the Legislative Assembly visited Fort McPherson. The meeting was well-attended, and I would like to thank those community members who raised their concerns on issues of health, education, justice, and pipeline social impacts with MLAs Robert McLeod, Calvin Pokiak, Norman Yakeleya, Sandy Lee, Bill Braden, and David Krutko.

Over the course of the year, the members of the TGC and the community have provided welcome support and help. I would like to single out our Elders, who have always been a source of wisdom, and the past Council, particularly Abe Wilson, my predecessor as Chief, for building a foundation for their people and community.

Mahsi Cho,

Johnny Kay
Chief

Tetlit Gwich'in Council:
Johnny Kay, Chief
Eileen Koe, Sub-Chief
Charlie Snowshoe
Leslie Blake
Richard James Blake
Johnny Charlie
Frank Firth
Kyla Ross

Renewable Resource Council:
Billy Wilson
P.J. Kaye
Lloyd Nerysoo
Johnny Charlie
Wanda Pascal
Mary Ruth Wilson

Gwichya Gwich'in Council Report

2004 was another busy year for the Gwichya Gwich'in Band of Tsiigehtchic, in which we completed a number of projects and undertook a reorganization of many of our departments.

There were also a number of community meetings on the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project, giving the residents information on current plans and insight into the possible impacts of such a massive venture.

We faced a number of financial and operational challenges throughout the year in our efforts to stabilize the community's senior management and support its personnel. We acquired a new Senior Administrative Officer/Band Manager, Scott Carle, and Finance Manager, Sam Sen, who helped us redirect our energies and focus on the goals we had outlined for the community.

Staff Training and Development

The Council encouraged and supported our staff by allowing participation in a variety of programs, courses, and workshops over the year.

These included:

- *specialized training in financial administration;*
- *municipal works operations;*
- *community wellness instruction;*
- *personal development instruction;*
- *computer software instruction;*
- *specialized water treatment plant operations.*

Working with the GTC, Aurora College, and the GNWT, our people took advantage of community-driven programming to develop the skills for improved job performance and personal development. The Chief and Council have identified continued training as a priority for our members, allowing them to meet the challenges and opportunities awaiting them today and in the near future.

Tsiigehtchic Community Action Plan (TCAP)

The Council entered into a pilot program with the Department of Health and Social Services to help the community develop planning modules to address its wellness concerns, as identified at the last annual Community Assembly. We retained a qualified instructor locally, to work with the Council and community to identify and prioritize specific needs to address in the promotion of community wellness.

Local committees were established, and the Council itself took an active role learning the planning skills needed to address the community's concerns and implement community-driven solutions. We chose to put all aspects of our operation on the table, from human resource development needs to better communication between the Council and the public; from coordination of local resources to cooperation on simple, workable solutions to community problems.

We brought the same momentum to family-oriented programming to bring parents and their children together in enjoyable activities. Over the last year, the activities included:

- *Family Fun Nights;*
- *Cooking Classics;*
- *Family Reading Nights; and*
- *Arts and Crafts Sessions.*

Over 2005, we will finalize and implement TCAP plans to address community concerns, drawing upon the same planning techniques and spirit of cooperation that were demonstrated in this valuable pilot project.

Elders' Committee

During the past year, the Elders' Committee was active, with regular meetings taking place, and Elders sitting on many of the community committees. The Elders' Committee also spearheaded a lunch program for the school children and raised money to promote healthy activities among the youth of Tsiigehtchic.

The Elders also had opportunities to travel to and take part in a number of activities throughout the region. In Tsiigehtchic, our Elders play a key role in guiding the community and ensuring that we remain firmly grounded in our culture and traditional values.

Youth Programs

2004-2005 was an active year for the youth of Tsiigehtchic, who enjoyed a number of activities with the support of the community's Recreation Committee, Elders' Committee, DEA, and local school staff. Trips outside the community, regional workshops, and community-based events built around traditional Gwich'in values and culture provided our young people with constructive recreation.

Plans for 2005-2006 include the promotion of additional on-the-land activities, and excursions to Whitehorse, Edmonton, and perhaps Vancouver. The mix of activities built around our own traditions and trips to larger centres is a way we can meet the varied needs of our young people.

The community has also renovated our Youth Centre and extended its hours. New facilities include a stereo system and video equipment, and we have repainted the interior and recovered the pool tables. New furniture has been added to provide an attractive, comfortable place for our youth to gather and which they can call their own. The youth remain a high priority for the Gwichya Gwich'in Council.

Self-Government

Tsiigehtchic, like the other GSA communities, has been actively involved in the self-government process. Our efforts over the past year included a survey of local Beneficiaries to determine their priorities and concerns regarding self-government.

We have also been at work researching and studying a Community Constitution. Our Self-Government Field Worker has attended meetings in the region to stay abreast of the process and help the community play an active role in it.

We continue to work with all the GSA communities to address shared concerns. I look forward to working with my community and Council, the other communities, and the GTC as we pursue a prosperous future.

Mahsi Cho,

Peter Ross
Chief

Council:
John Norbert, Sub-Chief
John D. Firth
Phillip Blake
Douglas Kendo
Archie Norbert
Alestine Andre

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council Report

Drin Gwinzii,

Once again the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council and Aklavik Indian Band can proudly say that we have had a good year. Preliminary audit figures indicate another healthy surplus, a tribute to our success in obtaining funds from our various partners and our prudence in running a "tight ship."

During the Winter months, we ran a number of projects that created jobs and provided services for our membership. These included a wood cutting project that employed up to six members cutting, hauling, and distributing firewood to those who use wood as their primary source of heat. This service allowed Beneficiaries in Aklavik to save money, given the high cost of heating oil. We also had materials hauled out to the survival cabins at Canoe Lake and Lang's Camp, for repairs that will go ahead after breakup.

One of our Elders, John Carmichael, aided by Sterling Firth and George Nerysoo, took two groups of young people out to a Winter camp to learn bush survival and traditional leadership skills. The participants learned a great deal, and the second group conducted a successful moose hunt, with the meat subsequently distributed to all community members.

As part of our leadership development program, we sent two Councilors and two youths to a leadership development workshop in Yellowknife, conducted by the Banff Academy of Learning. We also sent four Elders and four youths to attend a Council of Yukon First Nations Leadership Summit as observers, followed by a two-day workshop on trans-boundary issues, facilitated by Norma Kassi.

Sub-Chief Danny Greenland, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council Director James Edwards and I attended the Aboriginal Land and Resource Management Conference in Vancouver. This was a good opportunity to hear from other Bands across Canada about their experiences dealing with large development projects so as to protect their lands and resources, important information as we prepare for a potential pipeline.

I am working on a paper to identify employment, training, and business opportunities that a pipeline would bring to our community. Once my report is completed, my colleagues and I will develop plans to take advantage of these opportunities. The four Gwich'in Chiefs are currently involved in the negotiation of an Access and Benefits agreement with Imperial Oil, and one major concern is responsibility for social impacts.

We are well aware of the need to prepare our communities and take the necessary precautions to address the negative impacts. As a community, we must bring our organizations together to take advantage of the opportunities this project brings and to communicate effectively our concerns about social impacts.

In addition, I have worked with Councilor Ruth Stewart to develop a trades program for Aklavik and promote interest among our youth for introductory training in various trades. I have contacted several government departments and will pursue this matter further over the Summer. The GTC has some resources available to promote training and we must look at opportunities for Aklavik.

The Band Council is concerned about planned or anticipated government cutbacks that will affect the ability of Moose Kerr School and other local institutions to fulfill their mandates. We have also received direction to support community initiatives where granting agencies will no longer fund traditional projects.

As Chief, I will continue to lobby government and industry to reconsider cutbacks or provide alternatives that will assist our agencies to function adequately.

Our investment arm, Daazraii Investments Incorporated, continues to perform well. One of our most promising initiatives is Daazraii North Wright Air Ways, a joint venture with North Wright Air. This company has given us a good position in the expanding air transport market, and provides scheduled service to Aklavik, charter flights from Inuvik, and connections with flights into Yellowknife and the Sahtu.

Our real estate arm, Black Mountain Development Corporation, continues to maintain a strong portfolio of residential and commercial properties.

I would like to thank past and present Council members, and our staff, led by Operations Officer Knute Hansen, for their hard work over the year, as well as you, my fellow Beneficiaries, for your continued support.

Mahsi Cho and God bless,

Charles Furlong
Chief

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council:
Charles Furlong
Fanny Greenland
Eliza Greenland
Ian McLeod
James Edwards

Ehdiitat RRC:
Fanny Greenland
John Carmichael
Elizabeth Semple
James McDonald, Sr.
James Edwards
Danny Greenland

Nihtat Gwich'in Council Report

The Nihtat Gwich'in Council and Inuvik Native Band both held elections in September 2003. The two Councils meet separately since they have different responsibilities and often deal with different issues. The Nihtat Gwich'in Council is a Designated Gwich'in Organization (DGO), promoting the interests of Beneficiaries under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) in Inuvik.

The Inuvik Native Band consists mainly of Gwich'in, although membership is not limited to Beneficiaries. It promotes the social, political, economic, and cultural interests of Aboriginals in Inuvik, supports their education and training, works to forward Aboriginal cultural awareness, and delivers programs to meet community needs, including affordable housing. Richard Nerysoo and Tom Wright represent Inuvik on the GTC Board of Directors.

Our office in the Alex Moses-Greenland Building is increasingly busy, and our organization has grown over the past year. Band Manager John Alexander manages DGO program funding, in addition to overall staff supervision and daily administrative responsibilities.

Financial Officers Sharon Dahl and Donna Firth administer the payroll, provide monthly statements to both Councils and maintain financial records for all departments.

Administrative Assistant Tommy Blake and Executive Assistant Ashley Lennie ensure that the office functions smoothly and provides efficient service on behalf of our Beneficiaries.

Economic Development Officer Istvan Papp and Special Advisor Shona Barbour help the Executive address the long-term issues affecting our people and community.



Chief Richard Nerysoo relaxing at the Nihtat Christmas feast.

The Nihtat Renewable Resource Council meets each month to discuss renewable resource issues affecting Inuvik, including the proposed Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline. Our long-time RRC Coordinator Neil Firth organizes these meetings, administers the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program (GHAP) in the Inuvik area, and deals on a daily basis with a multitude of issues relating to land and wildlife.

Frank Edwards Sr. has served as NGC Community Coordinator for a number of years, directing activities that help our youth, Elders, and other Beneficiaries. This year, he worked closely with Leann Soll, who took on the new position of Community Wellness Coordinator. They work together on various projects, including the "On-the-Land" program sponsored by Brighter Futures and held each year at Rachel Reindeer Camp, giving children the opportunity to go out in the bush and experience traditional Gwich'in ways as taught by our Elders.

This year, Frank also acted as Supervisor of Chii Construction, which created employment for Beneficiaries doing maintenance and upkeep in the Gwich'in parks as well as highway maintenance.

Leann's position was created to help the NGC address the many social issues affecting our community. This year we took over the management and administration of Turning Point, an Inuvik facility that houses people with drug and alcohol problems and that faced imminent closure. We also took part in the distribution of information on alcoholism and drug addiction, participated in the "Get Active" program, sponsored diabetes awareness workshops, and began work on a community wellness newsletter.

In 1992 we created the Nihtat Gwich'in Development Corporation, to create employment, training and business opportunities for Beneficiaries. The NGDC continued to do well this year, with both established and new subsidiaries remaining profitable. We are streamlining the DevCorp.'s operations, including rolling Chii Construction into the NGDC in order to reduce overhead.

The NGDC's real estate partnership with the Gwich'in Development Corporation and Ninety North Corporation in the construction and operation of the Inuvik Capital Suites has borne fruit. The \$10 million residential development has opened and is proving a successful investment as well as a prominent feature of the Inuvik landscape. This partnership is expanding to include a number of valuable commercial properties in downtown Inuvik. In 2005, we also took over operation of motor vehicle licensing for Inuvik, now run from our recently renovated front office.

I want to thank our Councils and our staff (both old and new) for their hard work over the course of the year. I am also grateful to all Beneficiaries, and particularly our Elders for their support and guidance.

Mahsi Cho,

Richard Nerysoo
Chief

Inuvik Native Band Council:

Richard Nerysoo, Chief
Ruth Goose, Sub-Chief
Herbert Blake, Jr.
Elsie Bodnar
Robert Charlie
Duane DeBastien
Elizabeth Hansen
Linda McLeod-Lennie
Melba Mitchell

Nihtat Gwich'in Council:

Richard Nerysoo, President
Herbert Blake, Jr.
Duane DeBastien
Ruth Goose
Elizabeth Hansen
Denise Kurszewski
Linda McLeod-Lennie
Tom Wright

Nihtat Renewable Resource Council:

Harry Carmichael, President
Linda McLeod-Lennie, Vice-President
Alan Firth
Ricky Firth
Elizabeth Hansen
Lorraine Lokos
Tom Wright



Gwich'in Development Corporation Report

A. Our Mandate

The mandate of GDC is to pursue commercial opportunities that will earn our shareholder, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, an acceptable rate of return on its investment. In addition, the corporation promotes the training and employment of the membership in the operation of these businesses.

B. Overall Results

On a consolidated basis, GDC reports the following results for the year ended December 31, 2004:

- Assets have increased from \$9.3 million in 2003 to \$15.5 million in 2004;
- Shareholder equity has increased from \$5.0 million in 2003 to \$7.0 in 2004;
- Revenue has increased from \$10.3 million in 2003 to \$11.1 million in 2004;
- Net earnings have increased from a net loss of (\$490,125) in 2003 to net earnings of \$1.2 million in 2004;
- Return on investment in 2004 amounts to 17.0%.

Our financial results have improved as a consequence of significant reductions in administrative costs and enhanced performance by our subsidiaries and joint ventures.

C. Our Investment Portfolio

Over the last fiscal year, GDC has continued to re-structure its holdings. The net investment portfolio, valued at \$9.1 million as of December 31, 2004, has doubled in size over the previous year. In addition, GDC has established new businesses and has taken an innovative approach to develop new opportunities.

The investment portfolio is diversified by industry, including holdings in construction (48.3%), energy development (4.6%), real estate (43.7%) and transportation (3.4%).



Gwich'in Helicopters Ltd. was incorporated in September, 2004 to provide helicopter services to the region. This will be the first year of operation for this new enterprise.



D. Performance of Investments

1. Construction

Mackenzie Valley Construction Ltd. (50%)

MVCL, our civil construction company, enjoyed strong growth in revenue and profits last year. MVCL earned \$657,965 on revenue of \$21.5 million in the year ended December 31, 2004. In the previous year, MVCL earned \$567,940 on revenue of \$16.4 million. In 2004, MVCL paid management fees of \$1.25 million to GDC. Shareholder loans of \$2.3 million also earned \$176,043 in interest payments.

Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation (51%)

GDC established the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation on June 11, 2004 to ensure Gwich'in participation in the construction of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. This joint venture, which includes six prominent contractors selected for their international experience, will position GDC to bid on work associated with the Mackenzie Gas Project.

2. Energy Development

Aadrii Ltd. (50%)

Aadrii Ltd. was established to recover and distribute residual heat from the diesel generating plant in Fort McPherson. No revenue has been earned in 2004, as a result of a fire which destroyed the distribution system. The joint venture partners have subsequently contributed \$200,000 each to repair the heat distribution system.

Gwich'in Ensign Oilfield Services Inc. (51%)

Gwich'in Ensign has been inactive in the last year since there has been no drilling on Gwich'in lands. In 2003, the company paid management fees of \$58,650 to GDC. As oil and gas exploration continues, the company expects continued revenue growth from its drilling and well servicing programs.

Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Corporation (33.3%)

MVAPC has been established to act as General Partner of the Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Limited Partnership. The company has entered into a series of agreements with the Mackenzie Gas Project to participate as a one-third owner of the proposed pipeline. MVAPC will ensure that GTC will secure substantial, ongoing financial benefits when the pipeline is built.

Gwich'in Development Corporation Report

3. Real Estate

Camp MGK Ltd. (25%)

Camp MGK, which provides camp accommodation and catering services, experienced reduced revenue in 2004, incurring a loss of \$88,016. In the year ahead, given the current level of commitment to oil and gas exploration in the region, Camp MGK is expected to improve its performance.

Larga Ltd. (37.5%)

Larga, which provides accommodation for northern residents who are receiving medical treatment in Edmonton, Alberta, increased its revenue from \$1.4 million in 2003 to \$1.9 million in 2004. Net income increased by over 50% to \$344,122 in 2004, resulting in a dividend payment of \$38,367 to GDC.

Inuvik Capital Suites Zheh Gwizu' Limited Partnership (35%)

ICS, a partnership with the Nihtat Gwich'in Development Corporation and New North Projects Ltd., opened its hotel in Inuvik in October, 2004. GDC's investment in ICS amounts to \$1.8 million. Income earned from the Zheh Gwizuh Limited Partnership amounted to \$323,930.

4. Transportation

Gwich'in Helicopters Ltd. (51%)

GHL was incorporated in September, 2004 to provide helicopter services to the region. GHL has purchased a hangar in Inuvik and is currently looking for a suitable helicopter. Our partner, Great Slave Helicopters Limited, provides aircraft from its fleet, technical expertise and management experience. This will be the first year of operation for this new enterprise.

E. Strategic Development and Outlook

As directed by the membership at the last Annual General Meeting, GDC has reviewed its mandate, operations and performance with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, resulting in the following improvements:

- Management costs and administrative overheads have been substantially reduced, enhancing net income;
- New investment opportunities include other Gwich'in organizations as partners;
- Ongoing attention is applied to enhance Gwich'in employment and training in all GDC businesses;
- To manage risk, GDC will investigate opportunities to diversify its holdings by investing outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

In the year ahead, GDC will be looking for new opportunities, new partners and new employees to build a prosperous future for our membership.

Gwich'in Settlement Corporation

Annual Report

June 2005

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.

In 2004, the Investment Committee conducted a review of the asset mix and investment management of the fund. As a result of this review, modifications were made to the Statement of Investment Policy for the fund to permit investments in a global equity portfolio, which includes both US and international stocks.

In April 2004, UBS Global Asset Management (Canada) Co. was appointed to manage the global equity portfolio. As a result of this appointment, TAL's mandate, which had included management of Canadian and US equities and fixed income, was amended to exclude management of US equities.

Gwich'in Settlement Corporation Report

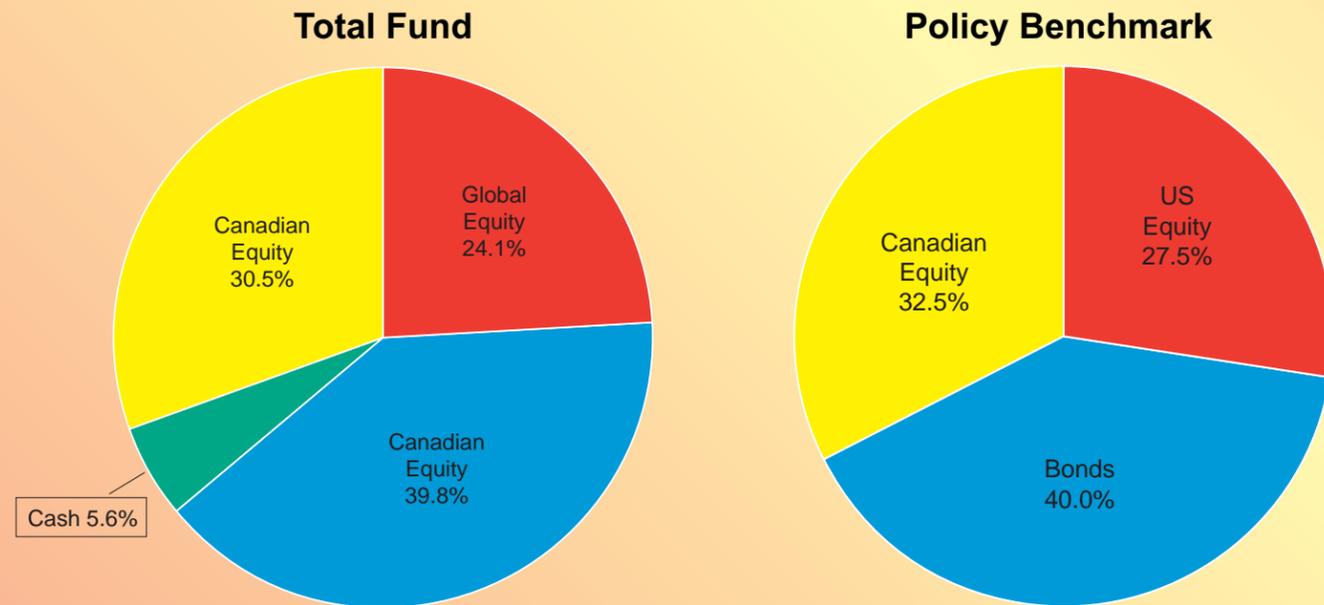
Fund Management

At March 31, 2005, the following professional organizations are involved with the investment management, administration and oversight of the fund:

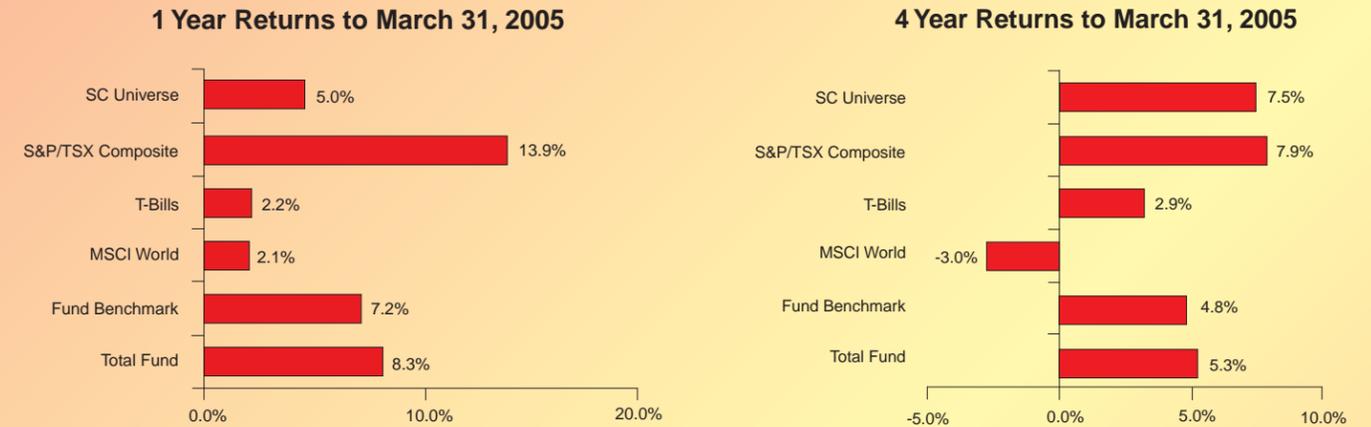
- TAL is an investment manager, responsible for a domestic balanced mandate which includes Canadian equities and fixed income, as well as managing the asset mix of the portfolio for which they are responsible.
- RBC Dominion Securities is an investment manager, responsible for managing a Canadian equity portfolio.
- UBS is an investment manager, responsible for managing a global 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, 2005

At March 31, 2005, the total market value of the fund was \$102,894,496 compared with \$87,729,042 at March 31, 2004 and was invested as follows:



The following chart shows the fund benchmark and asset class returns for the one year and four year periods ended March 31, 2005:



Over the one year period ended March 31st, the top performing asset class was Canadian equities with a return of 13.9%, followed by bonds at 5.0%. Global equities returned 2.1% (in Canadian dollar terms), while cash returned 2.0%.

The total fund returned 8.3% for the year ended March 31st, exceeding the total fund benchmark return by 1.1% while ranking just below the average fund when compared to a universe of balanced funds with similar asset allocations. Underperformance within the fixed income component of the fund, combined with an overweight to cash and underweight to Canadian equities compared to comparable funds, were the primary determinants of relative underperformance during this period.

Over four years, the total fund has returned 5.3% per annum, outperforming the total fund benchmark return of 4.8% per annum, ranking in the bottom half of a universe of other balanced funds. Relative underperformance during this period is primarily attributable to poor performance in U.S. equities, and an overweight to this asset class compared to other funds during this period.

Since the inception of external investment management in 1996, the fund has returned approximately 7.8% per annum, in excess of the target return of 6.6%.

Future Contributions and Tax Status

In April 2005, an additional \$5.0 million was transferred into the fund. The remaining transfers are scheduled to occur as follows:

April 22, 2006	\$3 million
April 22, 2007	\$1 million

Chief Financial Officer's Report

Chief Financial Officer's Report March 31, 2005



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

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 3.5% of the capital.

Progress of the Fund

- At March 31, 2005 the fund market value of \$102.8 million was behind the target market value of \$107.9 million, established based on a long-term return objective of 6.6%. The shortfall is significantly lower than was the case in 2004 due to the positive market experience that has occurred since late 2003. The shortfall is primarily due to the poor market experience in 2000 to 2002
- 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 \$137 million by April 22, 2007.
- Based on a 3.5% annual payout, a fund of \$137 million would support an initial disbursement of \$4.8 million.

The investment policy and manager structure of the fund were formally reviewed during a series of meetings in late 2003 and early 2004. Based on the results of this review, a decision was made to revise the policy to permit an allocation of the fund to international equities, and to consolidate responsibility for management of U.S. and international equities with a single global equity specialist manager. UBS Global Asset Management (Canada) was formally appointed in April 2004 to manage this mandate and 25% of the assets of the fund were transferred to UBS in April 2004. As a result of this change, TAL is no longer managing U.S. equities, and is responsible for Canadian equities and bonds.

Future Initiatives

During the latter part of 2005, the performance of the individual managers and the total fund will be monitored to ensure continued progress is made towards achieving long-term objectives.

Prepared by:



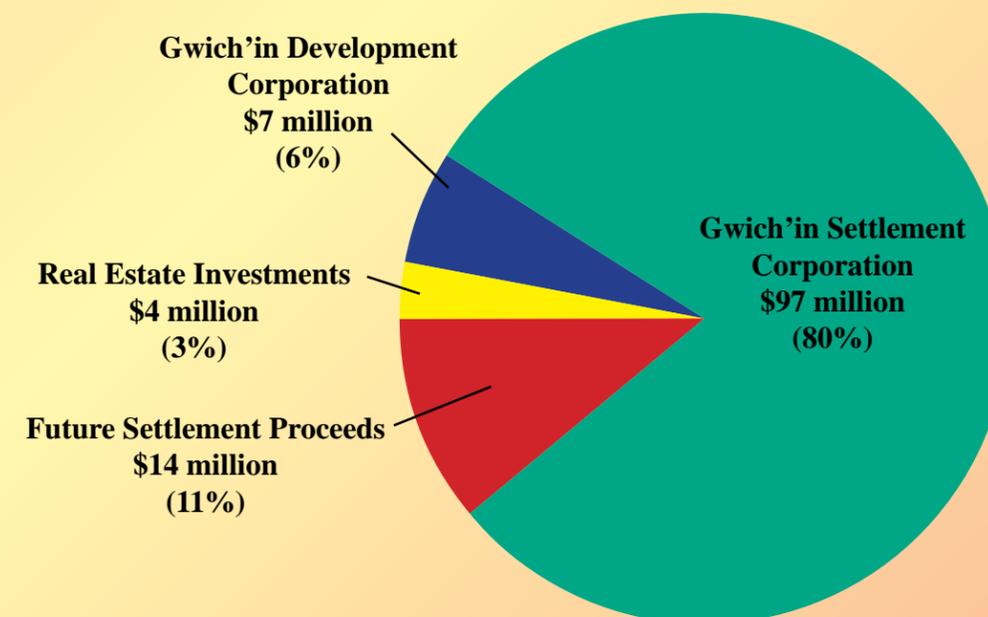
A. Our Mandate

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) 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.

B. Land Claim Settlement Fund

Land Claim Settlement investments of approximately \$122 million include investments in fixed term securities and equities held primarily within the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation (\$97 million), net future financial compensation payments receivable from the Government of Canada under the Land Claim Agreement (\$14 million), equity in real estate investments held primarily within Gwich'in Properties Ltd. and Zheh Gwizuh Limited Partnership (\$4 million) and equity in business activities held within Gwich'in Development Corporation (\$7 million).

Land Claim Settlement Fund, March 31, 2005



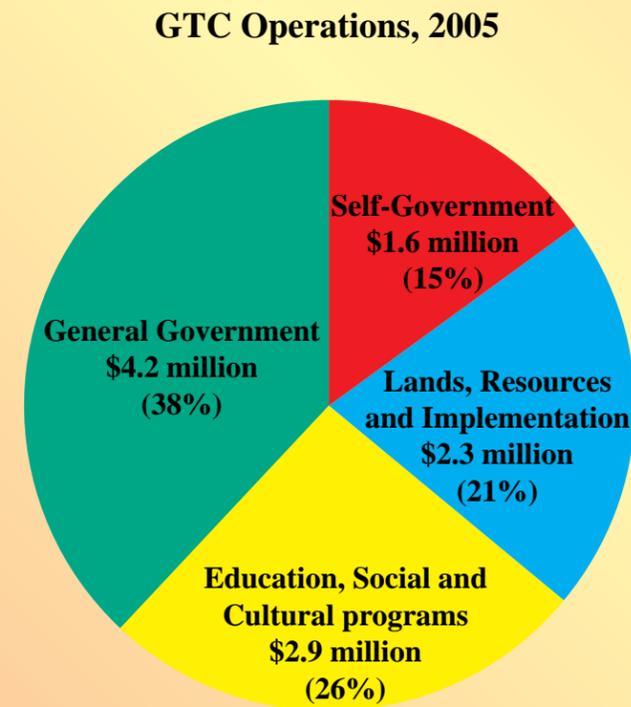
Chief Financial Officer's Report

The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation earned an annual rate of return of 8.3% for the year ended March 31, 2005, (2003 – 21.9%). Net assets in the Corporation, at March 31, 2005, totalled approximately \$97 million (2004 – \$83 million). The market value of our investments at March 31, 2005 totalled approximately \$105 million (2004 - \$88 million). Since the investment management of the Corporation was outsourced to external investment managers in 1996, the Corporation has earned a return of approximately 7.8% per annum, in excess of the target return of 6.67%. This return reflects the impact of positive equity markets over the past two years.

Overall, the income on Land Claim Settlement investments before transfers was \$5.7 million for the year (2004 - \$1.4 million). Net income reported by the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation of \$4.0 million, and net income of the Gwich'in Development Corporation of \$1.2 million produced positive financial returns for the beneficiaries. As a result of ongoing losses in Gwich'in Properties Ltd., the commercial property portfolio held by Gwich'in Properties Ltd. was transferred to Inuvik Commercial Properties Zheh Gwizu' on March 31, 2005. The GSC and GDC are well positioned to generate long term positive returns for their shareholder, GTC.

C. Operations

Total expenditures on programs amounted to approximately \$11.0 million for the year as follows:



General government expenditures (\$4.2 million) include approximately \$3.2 million for Council operating expenses and \$1.0 million for contributions for band support and Designated Gwich'in Organization funding.

Funding for self-government (\$1.6 million) is for main table negotiations and community Gwich'in constitution work.

Expenditures for lands, resources and implementation (\$2.3 million) have increased by \$.9 million over the previous year. This is due to increased activity on Gwich'in private lands resulting from pipeline activities and access and benefits negotiations.

Education, social and cultural programs (\$2.9 million) include activities of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (\$1.3 million), Youth Crime Prevention (\$0.1 million), various Aboriginal Human Resource Development and Education Initiatives (\$1.0 million) and other programs (\$0.6 million).

The Council had a consolidated operating surplus for the year ended March 31, 2005 of \$238,226.

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 in a financially efficient manner.

D. Overall Results

Total consolidated beneficiaries' equity amounts to approximately \$125 million as opposed to \$69 million in 1992. This year's positive returns from the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation (8.3%) and the Gwich'in Development Corporation (17%) have brought us closer to our investment targets set to be achieved 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%. In the coming year we will continue to monitor and evaluate our overall investment strategies and asset allocations to ensure we realize our investment objectives by April 22, 2007.

With respect to the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation, we have appointed a global equity manager and 25% of the assets of the fund were transferred to UBS Global Asset Management (Canada) in April, 2004. In the coming year the performance of the individual managers will be monitored to ensure that our investment objectives are achieved.

On March 31, 2005, the commercial property portfolio that was owned by Gwich'in Properties Ltd. has been transferred to Inuvik Commercial Properties Zheh Gwizu'. The company ownership consists of the Gwich'in Development Corporation (35%), Nihtat Gwich'in Development Corporation (15%) and the Northern Property Real Estate Investment Trust (50%). We are proud of our new Corporation and new partners in the commercial real estate market and are confident that the company will produce good returns for the GTC.

Chief Financial Officer's Report

The Gwich'in Development Corporation is pleased to report a profit of \$1.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The GDC is finalizing a strategic plan which will address investment return targets, financing strategy, training and employment policies and management development and succession plans. In addition, the investment portfolio will be geographically diversified by acquiring investments outside of the Gwich'in Settlement Region.

As we are now approaching April 22, 2007 financial models are being prepared to project the value of the claim on that date and also determine the sustainable income that can be generated thereafter. We are currently reviewing existing funding levels for the GTC, Designated Gwich'in Organizations and the Renewable Resource Councils and will project what these levels could be for the 2007 fiscal year. In addition we are projecting levels for long term beneficiary distributions. After significant community consultation, a funding formula and beneficiary distribution policy will be presented to the 2006 Annual General Assembly to come into effect on April 22, 2007.



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

Consolidated Financial Statements of

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Year ended March 31, 2005

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2005

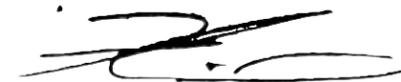
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MANAGEMENT'S REPORT

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

June 3, 2005

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE BENEFICIARIES

We have audited the consolidated statement of financial position of the Gwich'in Tribal Council as at March 31, 2005 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, 2005 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

June 3, 2005

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2005, with comparative figures for 2004

	2005	2004
Assets		
Financial assets:		
Cash	\$ 1,194,465	\$ 433,400
Accounts receivable	2,910,635	2,391,092
Prepaid expenses	21,293	10,305
Investments (note 2)	-	3,033,244
Land claim settlement investments (note 3)	122,187,698	114,876,789
	<u>126,314,091</u>	<u>120,744,830</u>
Physical assets (note 4)	410,630	409,890
	<u>\$ 126,724,721</u>	<u>\$ 121,154,720</u>

Liabilities and Beneficiaries' Equity

Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,703,428	\$ 971,863
Contributions repayable	19,156	-
Deferred revenue	277,104	9,825
	<u>1,999,688</u>	<u>981,688</u>
Beneficiaries' equity:		
Operating fund:		
Unrestricted	2,076,986	1,838,760
Internally restricted (note 5)	49,719	3,047,593
	<u>2,126,705</u>	<u>4,886,353</u>
Equity in physical assets	410,630	409,890
Land claim settlement fund	122,187,698	114,876,789
	<u>124,725,033</u>	<u>120,173,032</u>
	<u>\$ 126,724,721</u>	<u>\$ 121,154,720</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, 2005, with comparative figures for 2004

	Budget (unaudited)	2005	2004
Revenues:			
Contributions:			
DIAND	\$ 2,632,510	\$ 2,632,510	\$ 2,307,044
Government of Canada	1,858,270	1,720,079	2,401,155
Government of NWT	465,500	593,705	771,098
Other	2,231,484	1,605,757	454,575
	7,187,764	6,552,051	5,933,872
Royalties	1,500,000	2,476,343	1,132,412
User fees	300,629	435,715	94,618
Interest	18,973	171,366	207,524
Administration fees	480,000	51,649	490,500
Other	20,500	135,875	7,110
Earnings of land claim settlement investments (note 3)	1,950,000	5,760,909	1,430,385
	11,457,866	15,583,908	9,296,421
Expenditures (notes 6 and 7):			
General government	4,348,150	4,162,507	3,734,858
Self-government	2,564,378	1,581,185	1,734,730
Land claim implementation	804,563	612,750	521,264
Land administration	356,000	346,688	241,835
Resource management	1,162,836	1,423,211	686,722
Education, social and cultural	2,221,939	2,877,325	3,256,337
	11,457,866	11,003,666	10,175,746
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures before the under noted	–	4,580,242	(879,325)
Transfer of settlement proceeds	–	–	(318,600)
Transfer of net assets to Tetlit Gwich'in Council (note 8)	–	–	(51,864)
Contribution repayments	–	(28,981)	–
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ –	\$ 4,551,261	\$ (1,249,789)

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Beneficiaries' Equity

Year ended March 31, 2005, with comparative figures for 2004

	Operating fund	Equity in physical assets	Land claim settlement fund	2005	2004
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 4,886,353	\$ 409,890	\$ 114,876,789	\$ 120,173,032	\$ 121,209,609
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(1,209,648)	–	5,760,909	4,551,261	(1,249,789)
Investment in physical assets	–	112,432	–	112,432	322,660
Amortization of physical assets	–	(111,692)	–	(111,692)	(109,448)
Transfers	(1,550,000)	–	1,550,000	–	–
Balance, end of year	\$ 2,126,705	\$ 410,630	\$ 122,187,698	\$ 124,725,033	\$ 120,173,032

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Year ended March 31, 2005, with comparative figures for 2004

	2005	2004
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ 4,551,261	\$ (1,249,789)
Change in non-cash items:		
Accounts receivable	(519,543)	(293,584)
Prepaid expenses	(10,988)	(10,305)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	731,565	61,661
Contributions repayable	19,156	(7,126)
Deferred revenue	267,279	(256,371)
	5,038,730	(1,755,514)
Investments:		
Purchase of (proceeds from) investments, net	3,033,244	347,058
Decrease (increase) in land claim settlement investments	(7,310,909)	830,500
	(4,277,665)	1,177,558
Increase (decrease) in cash	761,065	(577,956)
Cash, beginning of year	433,400	1,011,356
Cash, end of year	\$ 1,194,465	\$ 433,400

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2005

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

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2005

1. Significant accounting policies:

The consolidated financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with Canadian 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, 2005
Gwich'in Culture and Language Fund	March 31, 2005
Gwich'in Enrolment Board	March 31, 2005
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	March 31, 2005
Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Office and Beaufort Delta Regional Council (jointly controlled)	March 31, 2005
Council of Gwich'in Chiefs	March 31, 2005

Effective April 1, 2005, the Education and Training Fund will operate as the Gwich'in Education Foundation.

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, 2004
Gwich'in Properties Ltd.	March 31, 2005
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	March 31, 2005
Zheh Gwizuh (GP) Limited	December 31, 2004

Gwich'in Land Corporation, an inactive subsidiary, was wound up during the year.

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2005

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%
Building improvements	Straight line	10 years

(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.

(e) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that effect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Investments:

	2005		2004	
	Amortized cost	Market	Amortized cost	Market
Fixed income:				
Government and Canadian corporate bonds, with effective interest rates (2004 - 5.03% to 5.75%)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,033,244	\$ 3,221,306

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2005

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.

	2005	2004
Settlement proceeds	\$ 69,190,104	\$ 69,190,104
Accumulated excess of revenues over expenditures	52,997,594	45,686,685
	\$ 122,187,698	\$ 114,876,789

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

	2005	2004
Assets:		
Cash and other current assets	\$ 7,032,356	\$ 8,498,648
Notes, loans and mortgages receivable	3,656,250	156,250
Future settlement proceeds receivable	16,146,741	24,375,404
Investments in fixed term securities and equities	96,609,149	82,488,398
Income producing properties	4,763,599	7,831,285
Capital assets and goodwill	4,451,218	5,045,746
	132,659,313	128,395,731
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,132,220	2,667,835
Long-term debt	6,220,420	8,046,126
Claims loan agreement	1,840,414	2,804,981
Non-controlling interest	278,561	-
	10,471,615	13,518,942
Net assets	\$ 122,187,698	\$ 114,876,789
Revenues:		
Investment income	\$ 6,976,947	\$ 4,826,007
Sales and other	12,918,062	11,413,165
	19,895,009	16,239,172
Expenditures net of recoveries	(14,134,100)	(14,808,787)
Earnings of land claim settlement investments before transfers	\$ 5,760,909	\$ 1,430,385

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2005

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.

The investments in fixed term securities and equities are as follows:

	2005		2004	
	Carrying value	Market value	Carrying value	Market value
Cash	\$ 149,407	\$ 149,405	\$ 235,435	\$ 235,435
Fixed term	48,055,095	49,080,890	37,922,151	38,831,803
Equities	48,839,191	56,236,414	43,905,732	48,742,603
Other	(434,544)	(434,544)	425,080	425,080
	\$ 96,609,149	\$ 105,032,165	\$ 82,488,398	\$ 88,234,921

4. Physical assets:

	2005		2004	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Computer hardware and software	\$ 573,713	\$ 465,571	\$ 108,142	\$ 199,744
Equipment	290,228	181,531	108,697	79,642
Furniture and fixtures	171,003	120,703	50,300	47,089
Building improvements	169,733	26,242	143,491	83,415
	\$ 1,204,677	\$ 794,047	\$ 410,630	\$ 409,890

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2005

5. Internally restricted:

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

	Balance March 31, 2004	Transfers	Investment earnings, net of disbursements	Balance March 31, 2005
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	\$ 2,038,872	\$(2,000,000)	\$ 10,847	\$ 49,719
Gwich'in Culture and Language Fund	1,008,721	(1,000,000)	(8,721)	–
	\$ 3,047,593	\$(3,000,000)	\$ 2,126	\$ 49,719

6. Expenditures by object:

	2005	2004
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$ 3,621,490	\$ 3,346,732
Honoraria	263,607	147,095
Travel	674,666	503,958
Office and administration	1,393,489	1,077,901
Rent and utilities	532,396	428,125
Professional fees	1,259,210	724,615
Community assistance and donations	185,838	158,309
Education and training	1,084,042	1,538,163
Annual general assembly	62,706	74,435
Physical asset acquisitions	112,432	341,044
	9,189,876	8,340,377
Contributions to other organizations:		
Renewable Resource Councils	292,488	292,429
Designated Gwich'in Organizations	573,200	573,200
Band Support Services	454,000	454,000
Self-government community negotiation assistance	440,867	515,740
Other	53,235	–
	1,813,790	1,835,369
Total expenditures by object	\$ 11,003,666	\$ 10,175,746

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2005

7. Expenditures by function:

	2005	2004
General government:		
Council operations	\$ 2,819,164	\$ 2,444,507
Band support services	630,382	630,381
Designated Gwich'in Organizations	573,200	573,200
Other programs	139,761	86,770
	4,162,507	3,734,858
Self-government:		
Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Office	1,577,685	1,424,676
Council of Gwich'in Chiefs	–	291,175
Core self-government	3,500	18,879
	1,581,185	1,734,730
Land claim implementation:		
Claim implementation	571,764	494,321
Enrolment	40,986	26,943
	612,750	521,264
Land administration	346,688	241,835
Resource management:		
Renewable Resource Councils	292,488	292,429
Gwich'in Pipeline Environmental Assessment Program	225,012	157,412
RWED – Business Policy	37,099	85,000
Environmental contaminants	32,436	44,391
McKenzie Valley Resource	30,513	23,740
Environmental assessment training	4,504	–
Impact Benefits Negotiations	699,390	–
Colt Project	37,629	–
Other programs	64,140	83,750
	1,423,211	686,722
Education, social and cultural:		
Aboriginal Human Resource Development	970,206	1,481,607
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute	1,336,501	853,894
Youth crime prevention	122,932	408,473
Gwich'in Education and Training Fund	27,000	233,060
Capacity Building Projects	104,500	90,000
Employment Liaison	75,058	76,071
Gwich'in Culture and Language Fund	41,800	64,782
TI'oondih Healing Society	19,001	–
Other programs	180,327	48,450
	2,877,325	3,256,337
Total expenditures by function	\$ 11,003,666	\$ 10,175,746

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2005

8. Transfer of beneficiaries' equity:

On April 1, 2003, the unrestricted equity of the Tl'oondih Healing Society of \$51,864 was transferred to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council.

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 within the trusts during the current year are summarized below. They have been excluded from the consolidated financial statements.

	Opening balance	Distributions	Net investment earnings and contributions	Closing balance
Gwich'in Trust for the year ended March 31, 2005	\$ 1	\$ (1)	\$ -	\$ -
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust for the year ended December 31, 2004	4,567,993	(198,774)	221,096	4,590,315
Gwich'in Children's Trust for the year ended December 31, 2004	499,291	(28,800)	206,762	677,253
	\$ 5,067,285	\$ (227,575)	\$ 427,858	\$ 5,267,568

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position (continued)

Year ended March 31, 2005

10. Trust assets and liabilities (continued):

	2005		2004	
	Carrying value	Market value	Carrying value	Market value
Cash and cash equivalents earning interest at 2.5%	\$ 892,691	\$ 892,691	\$ 515,748	\$ 515,748
Fixed term investments:				
Government and government-guaranteed bonds, with effective interest rates of 6.56% to 6.63%, maturing in 2005	2,870,837	2,986,994	2,874,863	3,104,608
Common stocks:				
Canadian	1,238,600	1,598,529	1,225,487	1,508,112
International	457,611	417,068	444,057	379,347
	1,696,211	2,015,597	1,669,544	1,887,459
Accrued interest receivable	25,881	25,881	33,281	33,281
Accounts payable	(218,052)	(218,052)	(26,151)	(26,151)
	\$ 5,267,568	\$ 5,703,111	\$ 5,067,285	\$ 5,514,945

The market value of international common stocks is \$40,543 less than cost at December 31, 2004. 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:

	Base salaries and honoraria	Travel	2005 Total
President	\$ 120,000	\$ 15,400	\$ 135,400
Vice President	100,000	4,046	104,046
Council members (8)	89,633	5,876	95,509
Chief Operating Officer	120,000	6,440	126,440
Chief Financial Officer	142,000	6,976	148,976
	\$ 571,633	\$ 38,738	\$ 610,371