

# ANNUAL REPORT TO DELEGATES OF THE 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# **EXECUTIVE**

President4	
Vice-President	
Chief Operating Officer9	
TRIBAL OPERATIONS	
Corporate Services	
Gwich'in Services	
Lands, Resources & Implementation	
Business Development	
Regional Wellness23	
Self-Government	
GWICH'IN ORGANIZATIONS	
Gwich'in Enrolment Board28	
Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute29	
Gwich'in Development Corporation36	
FINANCIAL	
Chief Financial Officer39	
Consolidated Financial Statements40	
Management Report41	
Auditors' Report to Beneficiaries42	
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position43	
Consolidated Statement of Operations44	
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets45	
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Cash Flows46	
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements47	



EXECUTIVE		
President	Richard Nervsoo	777-7900
VICE-PRESIDENT		777-7905
ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER		777-7903
ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER		777-7904
	·	777 72-4
CORPORATE SERVICES		
Office Manager (Fort McPherson)	Vicki Alexie	952-2593
Senior Finance Officer	Norma Blake	952-2526
Senior Finance Officer	Angela Horbatch	777-7904
Controller		777-7917
Finance Officer	Ruth Jerome	777-7951
Office Manager (Inuvik)/ Boards & Trust	Cheryl Wright	777-7916
Information Technology Consultant	Delmer Rinas	777-7929
Corporate Secretary		777-7900
		= = = 1
GWICH'IN SERVICES		
Director	Holly Norris	777-7926
Manager, Education & Training	Patricia McKinnon	777-7926
AHRDA Coordinator	Diane Koe	952-2501
Career Development Officer		777-7909
Administrative Assistant	Gina Firth	777-7925
		110
LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION		
Director		777-7912
Manager, Gwich'in Lands Administration		777-7913
Lands & Resources Advisor	Jozef Carnogursky	777-7914
GWICH'IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT		
Manager	Wanda McDonald	777-7932
REGIONAL WELLNESS		
Manager		952-2500
Wellness Camp Executive Director	vacant	777-7934
Wellness Camp Maintainer (term)		678-8191
Residential Schools Support Worker (effective Sept 2)	Karen Mitchell	777-7934
SELF-GOVERNMENT		
Senior Negotiator		777-7941
Regional Coordinator	Mavis Clark	777-7942
*		
COMMUNICATIONS		
Communications Coordinator	Lawrence Norbert	777-7923



# Gwìch'inat Eenjit Gàdatr'igwijìlcheii Gidilii

Gwich'in nan, nakhwek'yin ts'àt gwitr'it tthak nakhwidavee gwiheezàa eenjit



Message from the President

Sha Gwich'in Kut,

Greetings everyone! The past year has been one of transition and challenge. It cannot be said strongly enough how much the global financial downturn has affected all areas of the economy. Everywhere around us, Leaders are placed in a position to make difficult decisions due to the reduction in financial resources.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council has also been affected by the global recession; we too must examine and make adjustments accordingly to operate within our fiscal capacity, yet maintain the same level of program and service delivery. We have been monitoring the global financial crisis and monitoring the impacts to our investments, as well how this impacts large scale development projects in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. It is important to note the Gwich'in Tribal Council includes the DGO's, RRC's and any other Gwich'in funded organization. We all have to examine how we can reduce our expenditures in a responsible way, for example, maintaining our human resource capacity.

The 2008-09 operating year has seen a change in leadership, both in the style and manner but also in how we conduct our business as an organization. More responsibility and accountability has been delegated to senior staff and where appropriate and acceptable, to the Designated Gwich'in Organizations. If you, our participants want us to move forward, we must do so in a time fashion with full support from the communities. Therefore the communities must also support and encourage their Leaders to work together with the objective of moving the Gwich'in Agenda forward in a unified fashion.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council, including the DGO's, RRC's and Gwich'in organizations must collaborate and cooperate on large project initiatives and undertake activities where these projects or initiatives make sense working together for the benefit of the Gwich'in Nation and future generations. We must realize that we are no longer protected by our geographical location; current technology means that everyone in the world can view our activities.

The 2009-2010 operating year will be a year of transformation. This transformation will require hard choices and decisions by the Executive, with the advice and support of the Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. This transformation will require the Gwich'in Tribal Council to restructure and reorganize so that we improve our ability to be proactive in our role as the central governing body of the Gwich'in Nation.

We will continue to work with the Gwich'in Leaders of our communities and staff, and we seek their loyalty and support so that we can work on behalf of the participants, with the communities and deliver higher quality programs and services. The Gwich'in Nation deserves the best efforts of the Gwich'in leaders and as such they will get the best efforts from me and the staff of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The effort must be given in an environment of support and respect, not through daily battles to get our work and tasks completed.

# Progress has been made in the following areas:

The GTC continues to carefully monitor our investments to ensure that we are proactive and mitigate foreseeable investment decisions, despite the negative impacts of the financial markets over the past year.

Pursing new infrastructure projects which will support our economy; and will result in employment and business opportunities for Gwich'in participants.

Building relationships and networks is an important part of doing business for our region, working effectively with all levels of governments and other organizations to advance the Gwich'in agenda, whether it is regarding our land claims implementation or the international issues of global warming, we recognize the importance of building alliances in these areas and continue to participate in many forums that support our needs. Some of our activities for this past year are:

- Meeting with the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honorable Steven Harper, MP, PC, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Honorable Chuck Strahl, MP, PC, Minister of Environment Honorable Jim Prentice.
- Meetings with Northern Leaders including Premier Floyd Roland, NWT Cabinet members, and MLA's.
- Meeting with Northern Aboriginal Leaders including the Dene Nation, CYFN, Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation, Vuntut Gwich'in, Trondek Hwechen, Leaders of the Land Claims Agreements Coalition.
- Meeting with Gwich'in business partners in the North and in Southern Canada, pursuing new business opportunities in Yukon, BC and Alberta.
- Assigned Executive portfolios between the President and the Vice-President to ensure shared responsibility and allow for gaining of experience in all areas of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Capacity building has always been an issue for the Gwich'in Tribal Council and we continue to support the communities, DGO's and our staff to build capacity and develop a skilled workforce. We must support those staff, which choose to broaden their horizons by seeking new opportunities to further develop their careers and welcome new staff that provide fresh new ideas and direction and at the same time continue to recognize those staff that remain with us, through the ups and downs, keeping the organization moving forward despite challenging times.

We are pleased to welcome: Holly Norris, Director of Gwich'in Services, Donald Andre, Director of Lands, Resources and Implementation, Patricia McKinnon, Regional Manager of Education and Training, Delmer Rinas, Information Technology Technician, and Angela Horbatch, Senior Financial Officer, and Karen Mitchell, Residential School Support Worker.

As we move forward and due to the economic recession, we as an organization must examine ways to operate more efficiently and effectively, our future goals include:

- Putting forward ideas for new policies that will guide the decisions making in the Gwich'in Tribal Council in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.
- Develop a new strategic direction; examine our organizational structure so that it fits with our newly developed strategic plan and the resources available.
- > Reorganizing our office systems and processes so that we operate effectively.
- Continue to build on the momentum of networks and good relations with other governmental organizations (Aboriginal included).
- > Continue to promote and develop our governing systems within the Gwich'in Tribal Council and its affiliates so that we can respond to opportunities in a timely fashion; and
- Promote, support and develop the services under our Gwich'in Wellness camp so that our Gwich'in nation continues to build healthy families and attitudes.

As President, I remain committed to building a sustainable economic base for our participants and our communities. This includes maintaining support for the following:

- Completion of the Joint Review Panel report on the MacKenzie Gas Project.
- Design and construction of the MacKenzie Gas Pipeline project in an environmentally responsible way.
- Completion of the Mackenzie Highway from Inuvik to Wrigley and all weather road connection from Tuktoyuktuk.
- Reconstruction and upgrade to the Dempster Highway; and
- > Increased business support and development.

All of these initiatives are supported by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and in some cases implemented by the Gwich'in Development Corporation and will contribute to the economic prosperity for the Gwich'in Nation.

I look forward to another productive year of progress as we move toward independence, self-sufficiency and self-government.

Mashi' Choo,

Richard Nerysoo

President

# EXECUTIVE—Vice-President Mary Ann Ross

Drin Gwiinzih, my friends,

I would like to thank you for showing your confidence in me as the Vice-President. I am very happy to have this opportunity to report on the work I have done on your behalf over the past year.

#### **Portfolios**

As a member of the GTC Executive, my portfolios include: Self-Government Executive Committee (member/ Chair);

Lands and Resources; Gwich'in Education and Training; Health and Wellness Programs (day-to-day); Finance Committee member; and Executive Committee member (general governance);

Executive member responsible for Boards;
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI); and
Gwich'in Enrolment Board
Executive member responsible for Trusts;
Gwich'in Harvester' Assistance Program (GHAP);
Gwich'in Children's Trust; Gwich'in Education Trust

# Gwich'in Self-Government

Soon after re-election I worked with Richard Nerysoo, President to develop the portfolios that I would work on within the term I would be with the GTC. I asked for the Self-government portfolio because I wanted to work more closely on the file and to gain more insight and experience into what Self-government would be for our Gwich'in Nation. I wanted to have a more hands-on approach and to give this portfolio more support and priority. Self-government over the years has evolved from the Gwich'in working within the structure of the Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Office to branching out on our own. We have walked in unfamiliar areas as we have progressed forward but this is the time to make our own trails. Granted, a lot of good work was done with the BDSGO but this is our time to show our independence and to show that we are more than capable to develop our own Gwich'in Self-Government Process. There has been a lot of work done by past negotiators and we have great appreciation for that and will not forget their contribution. We are all a part of this process and I am glad to see the support that we have had in the communities and within our Nation of people for the work that has been done so far. Our Senior Negotiator, Joe Jack has been working very hard at the Negotiations process. Joe is well known in the Yukon, NWT, and in Ottawa. He has brought our issues to the attention of the Auditor-General and other federal departments to make changes in how the Gwich'in are dealt with by the Federal Negotiator. Soon after, there were changes made on the Federal Negotiating Team. Each of the four communities is represented by their leadership and an Elder on the Negotiations Team. The Team has worked very hard with workshops, negotiations meetings, and developing our

positions for the Self-Government Negotiations. Through all our hard work and efforts, we had our first round of work-shops in each community to explain Education, and Income Support. We do have to get more of the younger generation out to these workshops to get their input. I am grateful to have the Elders support in each community; they were very present at our workshops. Their consistent message is that the younger generations have to be there too. This is their future. I am very happy with the progress we have made in Self-Government and I hope you will feel the same as we move forward to building a future for generations to come.

# **Education and Training**

The Aboriginal Skills to Employment (ASEP) - NWT Oil and Gas Skills Development Strategy concluded on March 31, 2008. It took several months to wrap up the program and to publish the final report. The ASEP was very successful in achieving its targets, and meeting its objectives. This program was the definitive description of what Aboriginal governments, GNWT, Federal Government of Canada, and private Industry can do as partners. The ASEP was a huge project, which required a lot of time and effort on our part. I am glad to say that the GTC Executive and Staff made every effort to make this project a success. The second proposal submission that was tendered took a lot of time to hear a response back from HRSDC. Towards the end they changed the criteria to be developed, which caused the Partners to refocus and look at what major development projects that were happening in each region. During the development of the revised proposal we were advised that we could do one territorial proposal or form new and limited partnerships. Due to differences in regional projects, the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit decided to partner up on the Inuvik School and GNWT office complex/storage facility projects, transportation and marine trades. The goal of the new proposal is to deliver training-to-employment to prepare Gwich'in Participants of the Mackenzie-Delta for guaranteed employment opportunities created through the construction, transport, and marine trades. Through this project, Participants will receive the training and workplace experience required to secure long-term, sustainable jobs. Due to extenuating circumstances, the partnership dissolved causing the Inuvialuit to submit the proposal on their own. I have communicated with the IRC to work with them on partnering up on the project at this stage. It is still early in the project to take part in the agreement with the Inuvialuit. We have provided our support to the contractor that will build the Inuvik School, and GNWT office complex/storage facility and in return has guaranteed to hire Gwich'in Participants on the project regardless of the ASEP.



# **EXECUTIVE**—Vice-President Mary Ann Ross

The Education and Training department has gone through some staff changes since December after Debra English took educational leave for two years. Debra did an excellent job while she was Regional Manager of Education and Training. She worked hard to develop the Handbook for Students which will guide students about what the GTC Education and Training department offers in programs and services. Debra and her staff worked diligently on the ASEP work plan, budget, and helped to finalize the accountabilities and reporting of the program. Debra managed to continue to the work done by the previous Regional Education Manager and worked to revise and update policies. As technology is accessible by most people, the Student Handbook, funding application forms, and any other information developed for the use of students will be made available on the website to make their Educational endeavours a good and positive experience is our mission. Ron Eldridge was hired as the replacement Manager for the next few months, but in the end it was best that the GTC hire a more experienced Manager. In the early part of May, the GTC hired Patricia McKinnon. Pat worked for the GTC many years ago; she returns to us with more education and experience behind her. Upon Pat's arrival, she soon made herself very comfortable and immersed herself in to the AHRDA program, the Education Foundation, and Imperial fund. It is a blessing to have Pat back on staff and to take the lead in the Education and Training department. Pat has a lot of good ideas and incentives to work with the communities to continue to build capacity. I know that Pat will do a lot of excellent work in the coming years. Welcome back Pat! The Education and Training Committee is a group of dedicated individuals from each community. They help to steer the Education and Training ship by providing their guidance, knowledge, and good judgement to help fund students, support proposals, and programs to be funded by training institutions. Aurora College has developed - over the years - many good programs and provides great service, and support to all students. We are very appreciative of our partners in education; thank you Aurora College and Staff for your ongoing dedicated support to Education, and Training in the Gwich'in Settlement Region. I believe, as we continue forward, we have to believe in our Students to reach their personal excellence, provide the necessary supports to them, and encouragement them, we will see many more people achieve grade levels beyond grade 12. I wish all Students, regardless of what age you are, an excellent year of study; you can accomplish anything you put your heart and mind to.

#### Lands and Resources

The Lands, Resource, and Implementation (LRI) department has functioned with three staff in the last few years. Much good work was accomplished by Norman Snowshoe, former Director of LRI. I want to thank Norman for his years of dedication to the GTC and wish him all the best with his new position with the GNWT. I would like to welcome Donald Andre as the new Director of this department. Since Donald's arrival, he has been implementing his style of leadership in his position. I am very happy with the results I have seen thus far. I know that Donald and his team consisting of Mardy Semmler, Lands Manager, and Jozef Carnogursky, LRI Advisor, will continue to do excellent work to fulfill the mandate of the LRI department.

In 2008, there has been more focus on Water: the management, quality, and protecting water from becoming a commodity. Many years ago, no one thought they would be buying water in bottles and large containers. The more polluted the environment becomes, the more we have to be aware of water contamination, bodies of water becoming reservoirs for mine tailings, and rivers used for affluence or drained of its precious water to steam oil from the tar sands. The GTC is very much involved with the NWT Water Strategy. The GTC has a different approach to discussing the issue of water in its region. We want to hold community workshops on water issues and then have one Regional Workshop to bring all the issues together. Each Gwich'in Community is surrounded by water; we have the largest delta in the world, one of the longest recognized running rivers in the world, and many pristine rivers and lakes. The Mackenzie River flows into the Beaufort Sea; the pollution flowing from the development in the south affects our waters and will cause longterm effects. Water is certainly one of the top issues that we will be dealing with over the next year and many years to come.

Caribou concerns remain top priority for the GLRI. We have worked well to manage the fall harvest by partnering up with the TGRRC, GNWT-ENR, GRRB, and the PCMB, to form a team that will deliver education information on the herd and hunting practices, and to observe any hunting activity that would jeopardize the Caribou herd by over-harvesting or hunting the cows. The GLRI department continues to deal with the Dempster Highway Hunting Regulations and the Harvest Management Plan for the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. These three concerns go hand-in-hand in the proper management and protection of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.



# **EXECUTIVE**—Vice-President Mary Ann Ross

This year's Regional RRC meeting was held in Aklavik. In the past, GTC took a lead role in developing the meetings, the agenda, and chairing the meetings. This year Aklavik took the lead role in managing the whole meeting. GTC was invited to present and to answer any questions that were directed to them. I would like the management of this very important meeting of the Renewable Resource Councils to continue but to build on the relationship of the Designated Gwich'in Organizations to be a part of their process. I will continue to build on the capacity and working relationship of the RRC's, and work to bring the DGO's to this important table where the RRC's work to encourage and promote local involvement in conservation, harvesting studies, research and wildlife management in their local communities.

## **Gwich'in Services**

Beneficiary Services name was changed to Gwich'in Services to better reflect the notion that everyone registered under the land claim is a benefactor; that we are serving all Gwich'in. The GCLCA describes Gwich'in as Participants - somebody who takes part in something. A Beneficiary is someone that receives a benefit from something - somebody entitled to money or property by a will, trust, or insurance policy. This department will provide programs and services for the betterment of Gwich'in Participants in the GSA and those living outside of the GSR.

One particular program that has evolved over the years is the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program (GHAP). There have been a few reviews and a survey completed to help improve the program. One improvement made was to devolve more responsibility of the program to the RRC's. I am very happy to state that the overall management of the program is now under the RRC's. They open the program, receive applications, determine who receives funding, and set up a committee to hear any appeals. So far I have heard only good reports back on the program. Congratulations to each RRC for making this program work for each Participant: they will benefit from your well-run program. This year, due to the down turn in the economy, the GHAP was affected. The value of the investments was reduced due to market conditions. Due to this, the GHAT Trustees who are the Board of Directors moved a motion to not transfer the \$12,500 in Community Initiative funds, and the \$4,000 for Administration fees until market conditions improve and the value of the investments return to normal levels. The GHAP is an incentive that helps Participants to harvest even during this recession so that traditional harvesting practices continue and people can rely on traditional foods to be a part of the diet.

Gwich'in Services will strive to continue excellent service and to provide programs that are relevant to Gwich'in Participants needs now and in the future.

# **Regional Wellness**

April 16, 2008 was the day we had the official opening of the Wellness Camp. Denise Kurszewski worked very hard to manage and facilitate the operations of the wellness camp. Denise resigned to do consulting work and joined Jennifer Carey Consulting to work on the MGPSIF. Jennifer Johnson was hired before Denise departed as the Executive Director to develop proposals that would create programming in the wellness camp. Jennifer formed a good team consisting of Camp Maintainer, Camp Cook/Cook's Helper, and Cleaning Staff to maintain the camp and keep it in functioning. A number of programs were held that dealt specifically with the aftermath of the Residential School Experience. The many people who took part in wellness workshops related positive experiences with the programs and have found the facility to be warm, welcoming, and comfortable. During the break-up season, Jennifer resigned her position to start her own consulting business. Her resignation left a big gap in the operations of the camp but the camp managed on with the Camp Maintainer to keep the facility running during the break up season. The Camp Maintainer then resigned his position mid-July. I then hired a Casual Camp Maintainer to ensure the building is operating and the building was always secure from vandalism/theft and from bears. I am currently working with the Director of Gwich'in Services to develop a job description specifically for a Camp Manager to manage the camp. The previous Executive Director did two jobs managing the camp and Executive Director duties. A well-developed operating plan will be put together to operate the Wellness Camp for the Fall/Winter 2009/2010. There is much interest in Wellness Camp to hold meetings, and workshops by many organizations and governments. We will strive to make everyone's experience at the wellness camp good and memorable.

In closing, I want to thank the GTC's dedicated staff; this group of people have showed their dedication and perseverance through this year of transition, and change. We have accomplished a great deal of good work, and I hope that everyone will show their appreciation by letting them know. Your positive, constructive criticism and support is always appreciated. I am always open to hearing from you by phone, email, letters, or by dropping by for a coffee/tea and a chat.

Mashi' Choo,

Mary Ann Ross Vice-President



# **EXECUTIVE**—Chief Operating Officer

Drin Gwinzih, my friends.

It is my pleasure to report to you on another busy and productive year in the operations of the GTC.

# Mackenzie Gas Project

In the past years there was a great deal of focus on matters related to the Mackenzie Gas Project and the natural gas pipeline. Certainly there needed to be a focus in this area, we needed to develop many of the agreements and strategies to mitigate the impacts of such a huge development project. The Gwich'in was the first to sign an Access & Benefits agreement that is working for us today. The Imperial fund will help to prepare our people to access education, training, and employment in the Oil and Gas industry. I am now sitting on the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), the main committee dealing with the implementation of our Access and Benefits Agreements with Imperial Oil. The President and Vice-President have attended separate meetings and normally the COO would be assigned to this committee and to follow through with its mandate, which is to handle all employment and contracting issues related to the project. Wanda McDonald. Manager of Business Development sits on the committee. She will ensure continued building of capacity among existing Gwich'in businesses and Participants are taking full advantage of the employment and contracting opportunities the GTC successfully negotiated in the agreements. This year I will be involving the Director of Gwich'in Services, the Regional Manager of Education and Training, and the Career Development Officer on the committee so that the Education, Training, Employment, and Business sectors of the Gwich'in are well represented. These new members will be non-voting observers, and through their observation, they will learn about the JAC, and the Benefits and Access Agreement. Our plan is to become familiar with the B/A, and to fully implement its plan to prepare our people for the Oil and Gas jobs at the Inuvik Area Facility and for the many other jobs that will be related to that industry. The third phase of the Mackenzie Gas Project Social Impact Fund has been completed. Many thanks and gratitude goes out to Jennifer Carey, from J.Carey Consulting, and Denise Kurszewski, private consultant. These two amazing women worked tirelessly to deliver a finished product before June 30/09. Your communities were well represented by Leeann Nerysoo, Aklavik; Eileen Koe, Fort McPherson; Chief Herbert Blake, Inuvik; and Elaine Blake, Tsiigehtchic on the GSA MGPIF Steering Committee. Community consultations were delivered; recommendations were implemented on the final report to the Executive on June 26, and to the GTC Board of Directors on August 10/09. All three phases are now complete and at the recommendation of the communities is to not wait for the MGP but to start implementing the plan to deliver the programs as soon as fiscally possible and setting up the GSA Regional Organization to help implement the

plan, and to develop a succession plan after the 10 year agreement is over.

#### Inter-Governmental Affairs

GTC Leadership continues to work hard to develop and maintain effective working relationships with other levels of government. In May 2009, the President met with other Regional Aboriginal Leaders in Yellowknife. Through such meetings, Territorial and Aboriginal Leaders bring attention to their respective needs, and discuss various regional/territorial issues. The Leaders provide input, feedback, and recommendations to the Territorial government on the various issues to move the agenda forward. The many items of discussion the leadership deal with for example are: Electricity Regulations, Rates and Subsidy Program, Northern Economic Development Agency, Mackenzie Valley Highway, and Devolution and Resource Revenue Sharing. Only through forums such as this can Territorial and Regional Aboriginal Leaders develop working relations, deal with issues; make projects work for their respective regions, and to help government deliver programs and services that are beneficial, and to provide reasonable living standards for all its citizens.

#### **Gwich'in MOU**

The Gwich'in Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been one of the most significant projects which we have worked with the GNWT on government contracting. The MOU expired, but has been extended. We will work on the MOU during this extended period to deal with all the grey areas of concern. We have contracted Jake Heron to carry out negotiations with the GNWT. Jake has been working on the file and had it extended. Government has advised us they don't have a mandate to negotiate a new agreement, the problem is recognizing and respecting the Gwich'in Settlement Area, using the Gwich'in registered companies, making sure we have measurement tools to compare progress rather than just a number. We have to measure in terms of expanding the Gwich'in businesses, what kind of employment, training, skills are required. There is much in the current MOU that is not being implemented - i.e. before the contracts go out, there is supposed to be a list, but they didn't do that. That doesn't give us a chance to talk to the business sector about the contracts we should get. A more proactive approach to the MOU will be implemented on our part to ensure that information is received in a timely manner so that we can consult our businesses and respond effectively and efficiently. We believe the MOU could work better, but recognize that it has given Gwich'in businesses a "door of opportunity



# **EXECUTIVE**—Chief Operating Officer

# **Third Party Funding**

Third party funding continues to be a major concern for the GTC. The GTC continues to deal with the Federal Government's lack of support for adequate funding. This is not only our concern but a shared concern by many other Aboriginal governments across Canada. The lack of sufficient funding for Implementation and the Self-Government process delays our growth as a Gwich'in Government. We have been encouraged by the Land Claims Agreements Coalition's work to address modern day treaties – "Model Canadian Treaty Implementation Policy", and the Senate Committee on "Aboriginal Peoples, titled "Honoring the Spirit of Modern Treaties: Closing the Loopholes".

This year our job is to secure more third party funding, to alleviate the demands on our land claim settlement fund. There are plans to increase capacity in our Directors, and Managers in proposal writing workshops, and work plan development. Through more capacity development within our staff we will ensure that our land claim organization receives sufficient funding that will reflect the many areas of responsibility we carry. I am very hopeful that this internal initiative will narrowing the gap between what we receive in funds and what we need to provide quality services and programs for all Gwich'in Participants. The GTC is determined to work hard to secure third-party funding each year and to maintain the levels of service we deliver.

# Designated Gwich'in Organizations

This is the first year the GTC, DGO's, and RRC's have functioned under the new Fiscal Policy. We will review the previous year's annual plans, reporting, and budgets to see how the first year was managed. It is unfortunate that during this first year of being totally self-sufficient, the world was impacted by the economic down turn. This has affected the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation, and there will be discussions with the DGO's on how we manage through this recession. Good accounting practices is to always review new process, to see how they have worked, revise where possible, and keep what works. As we continue to build capacity within the GTC. our plans are to continue to build capacity within the DGO's, and the RRC's. The GTC Strategic Plan has been revised, and the Human Resource Strategic Plans will be revisited. A lot of time and effort was put into these plans, our job is to work with them, and implement them where possible. Self-government will require many skilled administrators, accountants, managers, directors. and high level management to take responsibility of the jurisdictions, and to deliver the programs and services to our citizens. The constant capacity development of our people will ensure that we are prepared and ready when it does happen.

# Youth Support and Leadership

The GTC sponsors many youth activities to support healthy and productive choices. We are also working to create the next generation of brilliant leaders. The GTC worked in partnership with Outward Bound Canada, MACA, and Gwich'in Business Sponsors to deliver the Gwich'in Youth Leadership Expedition on the Peel River. We are proud to say that eight youth participated, and eight youth completed the program that began on July 2, and finished on July 21, 2009. The program was challenging, rewarding, and memorable. The GTC will continue to work with the communities to deliver such youth and leadership programs so that all youth, regardless of their position in life, are included. Congratulations to the youth that participated and we look forward to next year's program. Please encourage your youth to participate in their personal development, and to learn about this beautiful land we call our home. The GTC is a proud sponsor of the Gwich'in Cup. This is the 18th year of the Gwich'in Cup, the GC brings together minor hockey teams to participate, learn, and have a great deal of fun. It is always a pleasure to see many young people from inside and outside the GSA compete. We are looking forward to 2010 Gwich'in Cup and to one day having a young inspiring hockey player play in the minor, professional, or Olympic league.

# **GTC Staff and Operations**

The GTC is very proud and respectful of the people who work for its Land Claim organization. It is only through its staff that political leaders can carry out the enormous amounts of work they do. I want to thank departing staff that have been dedicated to the work they did, and to the GTC:

- Denise Kurszewski, now in private contracting;
- Norman Snowshoe, Aboriginal Liaison for the GNWT;
- Karen Snowshoe;
- · Charlene Ross;
- Debra English;
- Jennifer Johnson;
- Tony Klengenberg; and
- Elsie Bodnar.



# **EXECUTIVE**—Chief Operating Officer

They will be recognized for their dedication, and tireless effort to keep our organization operating so that we provide the best service possible to our Participants. I want to welcome so new people that are taking on the responsibilities of Directorship, Management, and support positions within the GTC:

- Holly Norris, Director of Gwich'in Services;
- Donald Andre, Director of Gwich'in Lands, Resources, and Implementation;
- Joe Jack, Senior Negotiator for Self-Government;
- Delmar Rinas, Information Technology Technician;
- Angela Horbatch, Senior Finance Officer;
- Patricia McKinnon, Regional Manager of Education and Training; and
- Karen Mitchell, Residential School Support Worker.

Throughout 2009, and 2010 the Executive will be working to enhance areas of administration, policies, procedures, capacity development, program delivery, review, and implementation of our Strategic Plans. I am looking forward to the work a head but also having your participation, encouragement, and patience as we move forward to developing our Self-Government.

Mashi' Choo,

Mary Ann Ross Acting-Chief Operating Officer



# TRIBAL OPERATIONS—CORPORATE SERVICES

Drin Gwiinzih.

My name is Evelyn Bullock and I have been appointed the interim Chief Financial Officer to manage the overall financial responsibilities: this has been challenging but a fast learning experience for me.

Corporate services includes: Corporate Secretary, Office Manager, Finance and IT support.

The Corporate Secretary provides day-to-day administrative support to GTC staff. This is a vital position in our office and currently staffed by Millie Jansen: she is expected to greet the public in a friendly and professional manner and provide support services to all GTC staff. Other duties include maintaining the GTC filing systems; ensuring all telephone and email inquiries are addressed; arranging meetings, travel, and accommodations; and ensuring all office equipment are maintained and in proper working order.

The Office Manager provides day to day administrative support to the Gwich'in Tribal Council Staff and is staffed by Cheryl Wright. She administers the Gwich'in Enrolment Registry by ensuring all issues are addressed and information are up to date; ensuring the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program is run effectively; and that the Gwich'in Education Foundation involves proper processing of applicants.

Information Technology (IT) Services is a new position which was created in March of this year and is currently staffed by Delmer Rinas to provide technical maintenance of all computer hardware and software. He also provides support to the DGO/Bands in each community. Some of his work activity includes working with Northern Properties to install surveillance cameras for security purposes; working with the DGO/band office servers and email systems; inventory of IT systems; and working on a disaster recovery plan.

The Finance department is responsible for the day-to-day accounting operations and financial affairs for the Gwich'in Tribal Council, GDC and related entities and the preparation of monthly financial reports. The Finance department continues to be extremely busy with the departure of Charlene Ross, the former Chief Finance Officer.

It has been a very busy year for all areas of Corporate Services as we continue to reorganize the office, such as ensuring the filing system is user-friendly, so that we are providing better service to everyone and be able to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of our Participants and Staff.

One of the key components we will focus on for next year is the Financial Administration Manual. I will review the policies and procedures and to ensure that information is accurate and up to date.

I look forward to the future of GTC with the proposed reorganization and restructuring as we move towards streamlined organizational goals and objectives.



# TRIBAL OPERATIONS - GWICH'IN SERVICES

The department of Gwich'in Services is made up of five key areas including Human Resources – GTC, Education & Training, Employment & Career Development, Education Foundation and Gwich'in Harvesters assistance Program. Each of these program areas are managed by one or more of our staff.

DIRECTOR – Holly Norris, Holly joined the team in November of 2008 and oversees the department and reports to the Executive on the activities of the department. She is also responsible for providing the Human Resources function to the staff of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Gwich'in Social Cultural Institute. She maintains employee files, all staffing of positions as well as sits on various committees in the community regarding capacity development and community events. Holly oversees the Education Foundation, and Professional Development. Holly has also set goals to complete a first year academic Human Resource Management certificate program online throughout the winter 2009.

MANAGER EDUCATION & TRAINING – Patricta Mckinnon, Pat is responsible for the day to day operations of the Education & Training staff. Pat supervises the AHRDA Coordinator, Diane Koe in Fort McPherson who reports to her and provide services to participants accessing education and training programs. Under Pat's responsibility is the AHRDA – Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement. Pat works closely with our funders as well as groups and individuals that we fund.

Last year the Education and Training Dept merged with the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Beneficiary Services Department. The GTC Education and Training Department consists of Regional Manager, Patricia McKinnon (Inuvik); AHRDA Coordinator Diane Koe and Senior Finance Officer Norma Blake are located at Fort McPherson. Debra English, the former Regional Manager, has left her position to pursue a Bachelor of Arts after Degree at the University of Alberta. The GTC staff, executive, and beneficiaries thank Debra for all her hard work, dedication and applaud her in pursuing this academic endeavor. The department currently administers the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA).

The mandate of the Training Committee is to provide support to the Education and Training Department with regard to the program delivery of the Aboriginal Human Resource and Skills Development Strategy and GTC Education Foundation programs. The Training Committee has been established to ensure effective planning and resource management of these programs, through planning, implementation and evaluation. The Education and Training Committee also enhances the image of the Education and Training Department to the Community.

The department receives input from the GTC Education and Training Committee, which includes one member from each Gwich'in Settlement Area community. The Education and Training Committee members consist of: Ann May McLeod (Tsiigehtchic); Anita Koe (Fort McPherson); Herbert Blake (Inuvik) and Leanne Nerysoo (Aklavik). Mary Ann Ross, vice-president, has the Education and Training portfolio within the GTC Executive. The Committee meets and makes decisions on funding proposals, student requests and the development of the Education & Training plan.

This past year the Education and Training Committee members, staff and executive reviewed and made changes to the GTC Education and Training Policy Manual for the incoming elected Executive Council's approval. In the near future the policy manual will be available on the GTC website. Additionally, an Education & Training handbook that outlines the criteria and programs for Gwich'in beneficiaries was developed by the department, and available upon request. The funding application form was also updated and place on the website for students to access it. In the near future we will have the GTC application form an online application submitted by email to the Coordinators. This application on line process is work in progress.

# Labour Market Programs

Gwich'in Tribal Council continues to partner with Aurora College, GNWT Education, Culture & Employment, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and industry partners on community projects and/or college programs. This year, the department provided financial support for the following programs:

Aurora College Programs

- Trades Access Program
- Caribou Outreach Center
- Natural Resource Technology Program
- Office Administration Program (2<sup>nd</sup> year)
   Oil and Gas Pre-employment Training in Norman Wells (\$20K – 11 students)

Community based initiatives

Career Pamphlet – Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute

# **Wage Subsidies**

The following organizations received financial assistance for their wage subsidy positions:

Edhiitat Gwich'in Council

- Finance Administration Trainee
- Community Coordinator Trainee Apprentices



# TRIBAL OPERATIONS - GWICH'IN SERVICES

Tetlit Gwich'in Council

- Administrative Assistant Trainee –project cancelled due to GNWT budget cuts
- Executive Assistant Trainee
- Finance Officer Trainee project cancelled due to GNWT budget cuts

Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute

Research Assistant Trainee – Ended August (GNWT budget cuts)

Gwichya Gwich'in Council

- Administrative Assistant
- Finance Clerk Trainee

## **Employment Assistance Services**

The Gwich'in Tribal Council along with ECE continues to fund the community employment officer position with the Edhitat Gwich'in Council and Tetlit Gwich'in Council. In addition, a Career Development Liaison position at the Inuvik District Education Authority was supported by the GTC.

# Skills Development & Tuition. Books. Living Allowances and Travel Costs

Students who attended educational courses or programs received one or a combination of these costs: tuition, books, travel costs or living allowances were provided. As well, childcare for five working or training parents received financial support for their day care needs.

# **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Summer student positions were funded for the following organizations:

- Hamlet of Aklavik 5 positions
- Nihtat Gwich'in Council 1 position
- Tetlit Gwich'in Council 10 positions

## PERSONS with DISABILITIES

Edhiitat Gwich'in Council

- Wood mizer Project
- Tetlit Gwich'in Council
- Wood mizer Project

#### **URBAN ACTIVITIES**

The eight students are receiving funds for tuition, books and living allowance, one attend pre employment program and another attended safety courses.

## **FIRST NATIONS CHILDCARE**

There are three Child Development Centers in the region.

P

- 73 licensed spaces in all AHRDP funded daycare centers
- children registered fulltime: 56 part-time: 22
- children on waitlists: 87;
- · working/training parents served: 90.
- All child care funding was distributed to the community-based facilities in September.

GTC Staff collaborated with Child Development Centre managers on posters, potential training and issues and concerns that arise with staff and centers. A recommendation made by the Child Development center staff was to develop and create an Early Childhood program poster about the centers in the region. This poster would increase awareness and promote early education as a healthy education choice.

I would to recognize the Education and Training Committee, and GTC staff for their commitment to providing quality and equitable programming in the Gwich'in Settlement Area communities and look forward to working towards another productive and successful year.

# Patricia McKinnon Regional Manager

CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – Margaret Gordon, is the Career Development Officer for the Gwich'in Tribal Council. This position is very key to our department as it is the first contact that our participants have with us when accessing programs that we offer. It assists participants in the following areas, resume writing, job searches, career development, applications for funding, as well as sitting as a part of a career development team that involves the Department of Education Culture and Employment and Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in delivering career fairs, and career week activities, just to name a few. Over the next year Margaret will be travelling to the communities to meet with students in the schools and deliver various workshops to community members.

OFFICE MANAGER – Cheryl Wright, is not really a member of this department yet she provides many vital services to our participants and reports on them to the Director, Gwich'in Services. Our Education Foundation programs, bursaries, scholarships, grad gifts are all processed through Cheryl. She also keeps track of all enrollment of participants entering and leaving our claim. Cheryl also provided program support to the GHAP.

# TRIBAL OPERATIONS - GWICH'IN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – Gina Firth, joined the department November 14, 2006 she has moved to Inuvik from Fort McPherson. Gina's responsibilities are to keep us organized as a department. She will be issuing enrollment cards to participants, assisting were needed and keeping our Human Resource Database up to date. Please feel free to contact Gina if you have any questions at all, she will be happy to assist you and direct you to the person you may require. Gina is the main contact for the GHAP file.

#### CONCLUSION

The past year has proven to be a very busy one for our staff; we accomplished a lot and continue to work towards implementing the goals set by our Executive and Board of Directors. For this next year we anticipate working closely with the communities. Our Human Resource Assessment and Education Strategy will be our guiding documents that we will follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff for all of their hard work and dedication to providing services to participants throughout the GSA and beyond. Well done and thank you!!!



# TRIBAL OPERATIONS - GHAP

# of Harvesters				# of Harvesters							
Aklavik	Payments	Ap- plied	Fund ed	De- nied	N/C	Fort McPherson	Payments	Ap- plied	Fund ed	De- nied	N/C
Spring 2008	\$11,257.50	8	6	0	2	Spring 2008	\$29,827.36	26	23	1_	2
Fall 2008	\$12,163.05	10	7	1	2	Fail 2008	\$25,531.89	52	28	24	
Community Based Initiatives	\$12,500.00	_	v			Community Based Initiatives	\$12,500.00				
Admin Fees	\$4,000.00	1 0				Admin Fees	\$4,000.00				
	\$39,920.55	18	13	1	4		<b>\$71,859.25</b>	78	51	25	2
Inuvik	Payments	Ap- plied	Fund ed	De- nied	N/C	Tsiigehtchic	Payments	Ap- plied	Fund ed	De- nied	N/C
Spring 2008	\$13,888.50	8	7	1	0	Spring 2008	\$12,569.13	7_	4	3	
Fall 2008	\$12,901.25	10	8	2		Fall 2008	\$15,692.60	7	3	3	1
Community Based Initiatives	\$12,500.00					Community Based Initiatives	\$12,500.00			31	
Admin Fees	\$4,000.00					Admin Fees	\$4,000.00	14			
	\$43,289.75	18	15	3	0		\$44,761.73	14	7	6	_1

0

0

\$2,996.24

# Total GHAP \$'s spent \$202,827.52

Out of G.S.A. Spring

Out of G.S.A. Fall

2008

2008

2008 Spring/Fall To- tals:	Payments	Appl.	Fund ed	De- nied	N/C
Aklavik	\$39,920.55	18	13	1	4
Fort McPherson	\$71,859.25	78	51	25	2
Inuvik	\$43,289.75	18	15	3	0
Tsiigehtchic	\$44,761.73	14	7	6	1
Out of G.S.A.	\$2,996.24	5	1	0	0
115		133	87	35	7

Total Payments Harvesters \$136,827.52

Community Based Initiatives \$50,000.00

Admin Fees to RRC's \$16,000.00

Total GHAP \$'s spent \$202,827.52



<sup>\*(</sup>One applicant not denied, but directed to apply in Spring 2009)

The Lands, Resources, and Implementation (LRI) department is responsible for coordinating and facilitating various activities and programs related to implementation of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* (GCLCA) including but not limited to:

- the management and administration of Gwich'inowned lands within the NWT and Yukon;
- issues, policies, and regulations relating to the management of harvesting, wildlife, and the environment; and
- other GCLCA-related issues.

#### **LANDS ADMINISTRATION**

Lands Administration processed the following authorizations or leases for access to Gwich'in owned land.

Total Authorizations issued in 2008:	9
Access	0
Research	3
Quarry	6
Camp (Non-Gwich'in)	0
Authorizations issued in first half of 2009:	2
Access and Research	0
Research	0
Quarry	2
Camp (Non-Gwich'in)	0
Leases	0

# **Significant Projects**

Harvester and Cabin Database: The GTC continue to register Participant cabins and harvesting areas within the GSA. This information is required to ensure development programs do not affect traditional and cultural use by participants. Participants who register their cabins receive a full-size Gwich'in Nation flag. GTC has finalized a residential leases authorization for all non-Gwich'in camps within the GSA. The GTC requires all non-Gwich'in cabin owners to enter into a long term residential lease.

Land Management and Control Guidelines and Fee Schedule: The GTC land access fees have been updated for the 2009-2010 season. An automatic annual multiplier was added and will continue to increase on an annual basis beginning each April 1. The Guidelines were updated to accommodate new GTC policies and new categories of land use activities. The Land Management and Control Guidelines is a working document and will be updated as required over time and approved by the GTC Board of Directors to ensure all aspects of land use and policy are covered off within the Guidelines.

GTC Harvester Impact and Mitigation Compensation Policy: The GTC Board of Directors has approved the GTC Harvester Impact and Mitigation Compensation Policy. The policy was developed to assist harvesters by providing a process for acquiring compensation from development activities and industry groups which have impacted their traditional harvesting pursuits.

NWT Water Strategy: The GNWT and INAC are working collaboratively on a Water Strategy for the NWT. The Strategy is in the initial phase and an Aboriginal Working Group has been formed. The GTC will ensure the following are included in the Water Strategy; all Agreements pertinent to water should be developed on mutually agreed to principles to ensure accountability; and water should not be a commodity to be bought and sold under any circumstances.

Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act (YESAA) Implementation: GTC staff members have been participating in the implementation of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act. The GTC will continue to coordinate activities associated with the YESAA Designated Offices in Dawson and Mayo, YT. The YESAA is undergoing a Five-Year Review and the GTC has been participating in the review process which should be completed by June 2009 with a final report being submitted with recommendations to YTG.

Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC): The GTC has been participating along with the Yukon Planning Commission, Vuntut Gwitchin, Na Cho Nyak Dun, Trondek Hwechin, and Tetlit Gwich'in in the development of the Peel watershed land use plan. The GTC continues to participate in the Peel Watershed Land Use Planning Process as a Technical Working Group member who assists the PWPC in information gathering and scenario option activities. The GTC representative on the PWPC is Mr. Peter J. Kaye from Fort McPherson who is very familiar with the planning area. A draft plan has been developed and out for review and comment. The GTC will be providing comments to the PWPC with their issues, concerns and recommendations.

Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (CIMP) and Audit and Environmental Management Framework – formerly Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management (CEAM): CIMP and CEAM are both initiatives of the regional office of DIAND. CIMP is a requirement of the GCLCA and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. CIMP requires an environmental audit every five years to identify changes in environmental quality and effectiveness of current environmental management and monitoring by the Federal Government and NWT communities. The first audit was completed in 2006 and the terms of reference have been developed for the 2nd NWT Environmental Audit which is to be completed by year end 2010.



The GTC participated in prioritizing and implementing the 1st audit recommendations and will continue to participate in the 2st NWT Environmental Audit. The GTC continues to lobby the Government of Canada Treasury Board for long-term funding for these initiatives to provide for better environmental stewardship in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the NWT as a whole.

Protected Areas Strategy: The Government of the NWT established a Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) along with a Five-Year Action Plan. The GTC is a member of the PAS working group and continue to express their views with regard to this initiative. The GTC is monitoring the Gwich'in Land Use Plan to determine if adequate protection is provided within the Gwich'in Settlement Area and will continue to use the Land Use Plan as the main instrument for Protected Areas within the GSA. Direction has been given through the PAS WG that an exit strategy has to be developed and the program passed on to the respective Claimant Groups and Government Departments that identified and sponsored the potential protected areas ie: Parks Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, GNWT, etc.

#### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Dempster Highway Hunting Regulations: (NWT and Yukon): The GTC Lands and Resources Advisor continues to work with GNWT, YTG, GRRB, RRC's, and PCMB to implement changes to the *Dempster Highway Hunting Regulations*. The GTC is monitoring a legal challenge to the DHR in the Yukon. The Dempster Highway Regulations are not being enforced by YTG because of this legal challenge.

Dall's Sheep Management Plan: The GTC continues to assist in the development of the management plan for Dall's sheep in the Northern Richardson Mountains. The management plan has been presented to communities for feedback and is now in the final draft stage. The working group is hoping to have the plan signed by all plan partners by midyear (June) of 2009.

Sumps in the Yukon: Due to concerns from community members of Fort McPherson the GTC, Tetlit Gwich'in Council and the YTG continue to assess the abandoned well sites in the Peel River Watershed. An assessment program has been carried out and YTG has developed a report which has been circulated to the communities. The GTC will continue to participate with the working group to assess all existing sites and recommend remediation if necessary.

Porcupine Caribou Management Board and Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement: The GTC supported an amendment to the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement to change "Dene Metis" to "Gwich'in" and allow for more than one Gwich'in representative.

These amendments haven't occurred yet. Meanwhile the GTC appointed Frederick "Sonny" Blake Jr. as its representative on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. The GTC continues to participate in the development of a Harvest Management Plan (HMP) for the Porcupine Caribou Herd in Canada.

Forest Management in the GSA: The GTC continues to assist in the development of a Forest Management Plan for the GSA in conjunction with the GRRB and GNWT Environment and Natural Resources. The working group presented the draft plan at the Regional RRC meeting in Aklavik this January 2009. The regional RRC recommended that the Forest Management Plan be sent to the appropriate organizations for signatures. The working group is in the process of finalizing the plan in preparation for the signatures.

MVRMA Amendments: Amendments to the MVRMA are completed to ensure the provisions of the Tlicho Agreement are included into the MVRMA. Most of the work is legal wording of the MVRMA to ensure the GCLCA provisions are not being affected. The report is complete and requires GTC Board of Directors approval.

Caribou and the Dempster Highway Elders Campaign: The GTC receives an annual fund of 10K to bring Gwich'in Elders and youth on the highway to discuss harvesting and traditional values in regard to caribou with harvesters along the Dempster Highway. It also allows the GTC to be present on the highway during peak migration seasons. This was by request from the community of Fort McPherson. This has been ongoing for three years, since 2006, and will continue into the future on an annual basis.

NWT Wildlife Act: The process to amend the NWT Wildlife Act has begun and the GTC is participating in the process. The GNWT is providing funding for the GTC to have legal counsel available throughout the process to ensure that provisions from the GCLCA are not compromised.

**Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board:** The GTC is continuing to work closely with the GRRB with regard to resource management issues and resource management planning in the GSA.

Regional RRC Meeting: The GTC Lands & Resources department presented an update of our activities at the Regional RRC meeting in Aklavik in January 2009. Each community RRC is taking on more responsibilities with regard to administration matters, as a result of this, community RRC's now organize and prepare all aspects of this regional gathering.



Peel River Water Quality Program: The GTC met with INAC to discuss the final results of the Peel River Water Quality Program. A public meeting was held in Fort McPherson on December 3, 2008 with Andrea Czarnecki (INAC), Dr. Andrew Corriveau and GTC staff in attendance to discuss and explain the results. This annual water quality program has been completed and follow up water and sediment samples will be collected every five years to track the water quality of the Peel River. The next samples will be collected in 2013 during the summer season.

Yukon Species at Risk: The YTG is drafting legislation with regard to Yukon Species at Risk. The GTC has requested that YTG provide funding for the GTC's participation and for legal counsel. So far funding has not been provided and the GTC LRI will be monitoring the development of the Yukon Species at Risk and will participate in a more meaningful manner in the event the legislation may interfere with Gwich'in harvesting rights within the Yukon. In this case, the GTC may have to seek legal advice and/or challenge the Legislation.

Yukon Wildlife Act Amendments: The GTC has requested the YTG provide funding for the GTC's participation and for legal counsel. So far funding has not been provided and the GTC LRI will be monitoring the Yukon Wildlife Act Amendments and will participate in a more meaningful manner in the event the amendments interfere with Gwich'in harvesting rights within the Yukon. In this case, the GTC may have to seek legal advice and/or challenge the legislation.

Yukon Government/Gwich'in Tribal Council Consultation Protocol: The GTC is pursuing a consultation protocol with the Yukon Government. This protocol will be based on legal requirement to consult and accommodate. The GTC hired legal counsel to draft a protocol which will be tabled when the Yukon Government decides to meet with the GTC on this issue. A formal letter was sent to Premier Fentie in which the GTC has received no response. Upon follow-up it was revealed that Mr. Fentie has delegated the matter to his Environment Minister. The Yukon Government has agreed to meet annually but were reluctant to meet this year and the GTC will continue to pursue this issue.

# **IMPLEMENTATION**

Amendments to the GCLCA: Over the past year, the GTC and DIAND have been working on an amendment to the GCLCA to allow more than the 15-year specified period of time for the distribution of funds to Participants (Beneficiaries). The amendment has been finalized and is in the Government of Canada approval process.

Economic Measures: In the past, the GTC has often expressed the opinion that the Economic Measures chapter

of the GCLCA was not being properly implemented to address the objective of economic self-sufficiency. The land claim agreement requires that government meet with the GTC at least once every three years to review the effectiveness of programs in relation to the objectives of the GCLCA. Past reviews have been inadequate because they were merely an overview of programs and did not "review the effectiveness of the programs relating to the objectives," as required by the land claim. The GTC continues to work with the Government of Canada to improve the effectiveness of federal programs for economic development in the GSA.

Communications CD-ROM: The GTC has nearly completed work on a CD-Rom that can be used to communicate the GCLCA in class rooms. It will focus on the relevance and importance of the Agreement by highlighting life before the Agreement and changes that resulted from the Agreement. It will raise awareness of what lies ahead in terms of self-government and other implementation challenges. The IC has hirec a Gwich'in participant to translate the CD ROM into Gwich'in.

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 purpose is to work together to address issues of land claims agreement implementation and to encourage DIAND to take new, more effective approaches to implementation. The GTC is participating in the coalition and is supportive of its initiatives. Over the past reporting period, the focus of the coalition was to urge the federal government to work with it to develop a more effective land claims implementation policy which addresses the objectives of land claims and improve conflict resolution.

Wildlife and Species at Risk Legislation: The NWT Species at Risk Act (SARA) has been drafted and the GTC is involved in the review process. The process to amend the NWT Wildlife Act was not started until the NWT SARA was completed. The GTC and other Land Claim Groups concern about inclusion in the drafting of the SARA has been addressed by the GNWT. The GTC was an active participant in the development of the SARA. The Draft SARA will be presented to the legislature for review. Upon completion of the legislative review, the draft will be presented to the GTC Board of Directors for review.



Mackenzie Gas Project - Regulatory Review: The GTC has been participating in the regulatory review currently underway for the Mackenzie Gas Project. The project proponents, led by Imperial, filed their regulatory applications and Environmental Impact Statement with the National Energy Board (NEB) and the Joint Review Panel (JRP), respectively, in October 2004. The NEB and JRP conducted a technical review of the application material in 2005 and commenced the public hearing process in early 2006. The NEB is considering the project's technical, safety and economic aspects while the JRP is considering evidence and impact on environmental, socioeconomic and cultural issues and will make recommen-

dations in their final report for the project proponents and the Federal and Territorial Governments. The GTC participated in the JRP hearings as an intervener. The GTC is awaiting the final report of the JRP which is to be completed by December 2009.



# TRIBAL OPERATIONS - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Well it's that time of the year again when the GTC departments submit annual reports on activities throughout the year. The Business Development Department (BDD) is an administrative body of the GTC and separate from the Gwich'in Development Corporation. To further clarify, the GTC is the sole shareholder of the Gwich'in Development Corporation mandated to pursue commercial opportunities that will earn a return on investment to its shareholder. Both business entities have separate vision statements that define where we would like to be in the future. Within the BDD there is one (1) position, Manager of Business Development which reports to the Chief Operating Officer. However, due to the broader initiatives undertaken and change in leadership, our department has worked directly under President Richard Nervsoo. Since the leadership change in June 2008, President Nerysoo has the responsibility to promote GTC's Leadership change to the public, introduce the leadership's vision and goal and objectives as it relates to doing business with the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

The Business Development Department mandate is to implement the following initiatives:

- Gwich'in Business Policy;
- Government of the Northwest Territories/GTC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU);
- Industry Access and Benefits Agreements in effect; GTC/IORVL
- Gwich'in Business Capacity Building Initiatives;
- Manage the Gwich'in Business Development; and
- Other related Projects/Activities

**Gwich'in Business Policy** was revised and passed by the GTC Board of Directors on February 2, 2009. Notable changes to the policy include the definition of Best Total Value and other regulatory/legislative changes that impact how business is conducted. The Business Policy is available from the GTC office.

**GNWT MOU –** Negotiations are on-going as of the time of this report.

Industry Access and Benefits Agreements in effect: Currently, the IORVL/GTC Access and Benefits agreement is in effect. The Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) meeting is held quarterly throughout the year. The JAC is responsible to administer the A & B commitments. Some initiatives underway are: 1) Northern Business Development Workshop 2009. This training package has been designed by IORVL to assist local Northern businesses to participate in the Mackenzie Gas Project business opportunities by increasing their understanding of the requirements, processes and procedures on Procurement. At this time, it looks like the training will be offered in September/October 2009. Grace Blake, Regional Liaison. IORVL and I will be working on providing notice prior to the workshop dates. 2) Develop an information leaflet on Set Aside Work Categories that could materialize from

the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. This is very important information for the business community to assist with future planning for their business in terms of growth, diversification and competition.

Kodiak Energy Inc. - At this time Kodiak is considering whether to renew their existing license for EL 413 which expires September 2009. The Joint Management Committee Agreement and the Amended Joint Benefits Agreement have been finalized and are ready for signing. The Amended Access Agreement has been reviewed and minor changes have been recommended to Kodiak by the GTC prior to finalizing. As of the time of this report, we are monitoring Kodiak's progress.

MGM Energy Inc. MOU - In February 2009, the GTC decided not to further renew the MOU. This will allow GTC to develop a Rights Issuance Regime for Gwich'in Lands within the GSA. This will be discussed later in the report.

Gwich'in Business Development Strategic Plan – A final draft BDD Strategic Plan was development in August 2008. Currently, the decision to accept the final plan is on hold until GTC and GDC Strategic Plans are updated. The GDC update is planned for this fiscal year. Both the GDC and BDD strategic plans are to be consistent with GTC's overall direction and mandate. Completion timelines have not been finalized as the time of submission of this report.

Gwich'in Business Capacity Initiatives: The BDD receives a fair number of calls for financial assistance for start up costs for individual businesses. However, the BDD is not mandated to disburse any type of funding to Registered Gwich'in Businesses in general. GTC's philosophy is rather than to provide assistance in start up costs to any one individual business, the preference is to help build internal capacity for existing and new businesses so they can be competitive in the products and services offered to government, oil and gas industry and the private sector. To provide you with an indication of initiatives held throughout the year:

- Product Development Workshop January 2009 sponsored by Industry, Tourism & Investment;
- Tourism Business Training Workshop January 2009 sponsored by Industry, Tourism & Investment;
- NWT Arts Branding Logo Program March 2009 sponsored by Industry, Tourism & Investment;
- Health, Safety and Environment Policy Development and On-site Training – sponsored by GTC and Indian Northern Affairs Canada;
- Drug and Alcohol Policy Development March 2009
   sponsored by GTC and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada;
- Inuvik Petroleum Show held annually in Inuvik June;



# TRIBAL OPERATIONS - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

 Economic Development Officer Training – scheduled in June 29 – July 3, 2009 in Inuvik – sponsored by Industry, Tourism and Investment and GTC; and

 Safety Requirements Session – June, 2009 – sponsored by NTPC and GTC. Dates to be confirmed.

We also assist government and funding agencies to advertise and promote workshops to Registered Gwich'in Businesses when requested.

Gwich'in Business Development Website – we are close to finalizing the website. This was a long and drawn out process. There was been upgrades to the site, changes to the content and application form. However, the end result will be improved communications with the business community on a timely basis.

GTC Rights Issuance Regime: The GTC has been working with a project management team to complete the 1st phase to develop a report on the "...Issuance of Oil & Gas Rights in the Gwich'in Settlement Area." The report has been prepared in the context of a positive environment for the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline and maximizing long term benefits from Gwich'in non-renewable resources. Currently, the GTC has no formal process for the issuance of rights to explore and develop Gwich'in lands within the GSA. GTC has taken a proactive planning approach for future purposes that will allow us to be in a better position for any oil and gas exploration on Gwich'in lands.

**GTC Business Acquisitions**: GTC reviewed two (2) potential business acquisitions outside the GSA. At the time of submission, no action has been taken.

GTC Board Appointments: GTC has a seat on the Northwest Territories Tourism Association Board. We are lobbying to have Arts & Crafts – traditional and contemporary along with cultural tourism recognized as an independent sector. This will allow for improved marketing for this sector. Adrii Board of Directors – Aadrii Ltd was established to recover and distribute residual heat from the diesel generating plant in Fort McPherson. This has been a successful initiative.

**Long Term Project**: All-weather Highway high-level preliminary work underway to access government funding to conduct preliminary feasibility work.

To conclude, I would like to say thank you our partners in Government, Industry and Gwich'in businesses who have contributed to making GTC Business Development Department initiatives a success. President Nerysoo, GDC Directors and I have been working hard to develop a positive working environment for Gwich'in business to take advantage of the many economic opportunities available to Gwich'in business. We understand the Global markets have had an impact overall on the business community, but those businesses active today are a result of the owners hard work and dedication to succeed in a tumultuous and fluctuating market.



# TRIBAL OPERATIONS - WELLNESS CAMP

From mid June of 2008 the directives of the temporary Advisory Committee that had been established for the camp were carried out. These short term (one year) directives were to locate funding and carry out specific wellness workshops at the newly opened Gwich'in Wellness Camp. The camp runs both wellness workshops as well as is available as a rental facility for various organizations. From June 2008 until year end and on, the camp hosted a number of workshops as well as was utilized by various agencies. We knew the camp was seen as a regional resource when we had people accessing our programs from both in and outside the Beaufort Delta Region.

As this was the first year of operations for the camp, along with the Advisory Directives, there were other important pieces of work that had to be carried out. Given that the wellness camp has state of the art machinery, and water treatment and sewage systems, a specific mechanical skill set was required; therefore, the Camp Maintainer Position had to be a priority. This position also had unique requirements in terms of the number of hours required to be physically isolated from town, not just during worskhops but freeze up and break up as well. It turned out the position was not for everyone, and

we spent a number of months trying to identify the right person.

When we carry out workshops or rent the facility to other agencies we ensure the integrity of the building, machinery and equipment by including in the rental package our own staff. This staff shops for groceries, cooks, cleans and provides the security while the building is being utilized. There are many varied tasks required to carry out these workshops, depending on whether we are traveling by water or by ice road. We were very lucky to have gathered and trained a great team of individuals. The success of these workshops has been due to our dedicated and hardworking team.

Now that many of the operational kinks of the wellness camp have been worked out, the focus can now be on long term planning. The long term goals of the temporary Advisory Committee were programs focused on addictions and family treatment. This will require community consultation at both a grassroots level as well as coordinating with other key service providers to ensure regional coordination.

Jenifer Johnson Executive Director



# **Executive Summary**

The focus of activities for the reporting period 2008-09 has been developing mandates, re-establishing negotiating team, prioritizing Critical Issues, tabling substantial MOU Chapters wording, developing an Integrated Negotiations Approach model for Main Table negotiations.

Since early 2009, the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Self-Government Negotiations has kept busy advancing the Integrated Negotiations Approach (INA) model that was mandated by the Board of Directors, on February 3, 2009. The INA evolved after considerable effort was put into trying to accommodate the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provisions that were derived from the defunct Beaufort Delta Self-Government AIP, and the lack of Canada's participation at the Self-Government Negotiations Table.

In order to maintain the momentum of rising community involvement in the self-government process, the Chief Negotiator, the Finance Consultant, and the Regional Self-Government Coordinator (the "Regional Coordinator) continued to nurture close communications with community leadership. This relationship helped ensure community interests were expressed, not only in a negotiation mandate, but in any work related to the development of an Integrated Negotiations Approach.

# **Negotiation Support**

# **Main-Table Negotiations**

The creation of a Gwich'in Self-Government Main Table in April 2006 marked the renewal of a relationship between the Gwich'in, Canada and the GNWT. This relationship continues to be characterized by the following:

- Both the Gwich'in and government are obligated under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement (the "GCLCA") to negotiate a self-government agreement; and
- The Gwich'in desire to negotiate a self-government agreement based on their inherent right of selfgovernment and to negotiate governing structures that are exercised as close to the community level as possible and are appropriate to the needs of the Gwich'in.

In May 2008, the Chief Negotiators developed a Workplan that outlined the timeframes for the negotiations of various subject matters. Items for negotiation for 2008-2009 included:

- Review of 2003 Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle;
- Development of Gwich'in Governing Structures;
- Whether or not to include provisions in a final agreement on matters concerning the Indian Act and the four Gwich'in Indian Act Bands; and
- Other items important for an agreement-in-principle.

On October 1 - 3, 2008, a Gwich'in Self-government Main Table Negotiation Session was held in Inuvik, NT. The main topics of discussion were:

- Financial Principles;
- Summary of Jurisdictions;
- Marriage;
- Culture and Languages;
- Heritage Resources.

On November 26-28, 2008, a Gwich'in Self-government Main Table Negotiation Session was held in Inuvik, NT. The main topics of discussion were:

- Introduction of new GTC Senior Negotiator;
- Critical (deal breakers) issues of the parties were identified as Gwich'in Governance Structures, Gwich'in Jurisdictions, Financing and Own Source Revenues, and Implementation and Training (Capacity Building);
- Workplan adjusted to place the four critical issues identified in the forefront of Workplan negotiation schedule.

On December 15-17, 2008, a Gwich'in Self-government Negotiation Session was held in Whitehorse, YT. The main topics of discussion were:

- GTC tabled substantial proposed wording to MOU Chapter 20 (Financing ad Own Source Revenue);
- GTC tabled substantial proposed wording to MOU Chapter 25 (Implementation and Training);
- GTC overview of Gwich'in Jurisdictions and Governance Structures.

On January 27-29, 2009 a Gwich'in Self-government Negotiation Session was held in Ft McPherson, NT. The main topics of discussions were:

- MOU Chapter 20 and 25 wording response from Canada and GNWT;
- Gwich'in Jurisdictions;
- Gwich'in Governing Structures; and
- ToR for Indian Act Transition Side Table.

Canada's Chief Negotiator (CN) was not present at the negotiating session. His participation was through teleconferencing, as he earlier stated that he did not feel there would be enough to talk about. Prior to Main Table discussions, the Federal CN notified GTC that Canada had no response for GTC's proposed wording on Finance, Own Source Revenue, Implementation and Training. Canada's CN went further to state that they were undertaking a national review on their fiscal financing policy and that it would be some time before a fiscal mandate was complete.



On March 23-25, 2009 a Gwich'in Self-government Main Table Negotiation Session was held in Yellowknife, NT. Due to shortage of funds, only a handful of Negotiations Team members attended the negotiation session. The main points of discussion were:

- Integrated Negotiations Approach (see Gwich'in Self-Government INA attached);
- GTC Workplan (see GTC Self-Government Negotiations 2009/2010 Workplan attached);
- Indian Act Transition: and
- Next Steps.

The Yellowknife March Main Table session went so well, the agenda items were completed in one and one-half days, instead of the three days allotted. The GNWT Chief Negotiator gave his approval-in-principle to the GTC Workplan and Integrated Negotiation Approach. Canada did not raise any major objectives and took the INA, under advisement. Canada will get back to Table once consultation with peers takes place. The Workplan was signed off by the three Senior Negotiators.

# **Main-Table Negotiators**

The focus of the Gwich'in Senior Self-Government Negotiator continue to assemble an effective negotiating team, conduct team strategy workshops, attend and lead regular scheduled Main Table sessions and teleconference calls, work with the Negotiation Team Members, Board and Executive Leadership in developing negotiating positions and mandates, and coordinate negotiations technical support staff and community consultations requirements.

In June 2008, an Interim Chief Negotiator was appointed to carry out the duties of a CN until a full-time Senior Negotiator was in place. In October 2008, a full-time Senior Self-Government Negotiator was hired. Since then, formal negotiation sessions have been a monthly basis with significant movement of materials at the Main Table. At the same time, in October 2008, an Interim Chief Negotiator was appointed to lead the *Indian Act* Transition Side Table.

The Senior Negotiator is responsible for identifying and representing the Gwich'in interests at the Main Table. The Senior Negotiator keeps appraised of general political developments in the area of self-governing issues. The Director of Negotiations also filled the duties of an Assistant Negotiator, who assisted the Chief Negotiator when required. The Director of Negotiations position became vacant on January 30, 2009 and remained vacant for the rest of the reporting period.

#### **Negotiation Side-Table**

In 2008, there were three formal sessions of the Indian Act Transition Side Table that dealt with key issues such as:

- Terms of Reference:
- Indian Act Issues: and
- Protocol.

There were no formal talks held in 2009 on the Indian Act Transition Side Table due to a shortage of funds. In addition, a supplementary budget that was submitted to the Office of INAC Minister Chuck Strahl, on December 11, 2008 and February 5, 2009, to help cover legal and technical support costs, was not responded to.

At the March 23-25, 2009 Main Table session, Canada Chief Negotiator made the following statement regarding *Indian Act* Transition Side Table issues:

- Canada indicated that they do not support two negotiations processes (no two deals);
- Canada and GNWT indicated they wanted regular reporting to Main Table (side table part of Main Table); and
- Canada would like to see some progress.

A Minister letter re-iterating the above-mentioned concerns was promised by the federal negotiator. GTC received no letter.

## **Negotiation Mandate**

The Gwich'in Negotiator continued to work with Gwich'in Negotiations Team and Leadership to develop negotiation mandates for critical issues within the Gwich'in SGA process. Through two regional workshops, the Senior Negotiator and Finance Consultant worked closely with Community and Regional leadership to complete mandate reviews on:

- MOU Provisions;
- Integrated Negotiations Approach;
- Aboriginal Governing Structures;
- Gwich'in Constitution Framework;
- Inherent Right of Self-Government; and
- Indian Act transition issues.

The results of the review were:

- MOU be put aside and to continue on with another approach to attaining an Aboriginal Government;
- An Integrated Negotiations Approach be researched and developed as the GTC negotiations approach to use;
- GTC Leadership directed the Gwich'in Governing Structure model must obtain final Community endorsement before tabling;
- The Community Constitutions are in the final stages of development and will require Community ratification;



- The 2006 Self Government Negotiations Mandate that includes the "mission to assert Gwich'in inherent right to govern themselves, and to continue to survive as Gwich'in according to their traditions, language and culture," be maintained in negotiations; and
- Indian Act Band status continues to be researched and dealt with at the Indian Act Transition Side Table.

# **Communications and Consultation**

Since taking more control of its self-government process in 2004, the Gwich'in Tribal Council has focused on increasing its level of self-government communications and consultations with Gwich'in community members. In order to maintain a high level of community involvement in the negotiation process and in order to ensure that Gwich'in community interest are well represented at the Main Table, the Gwich'in Negotiators developed a negotiation team that allow for a clear line of communication between community leadership, residents and negotiation team members. The Gwich'in Negotiation Team include:

- One Chief/Senior Negotiator
- One Negotiations Director;
- One Regional Coordinator;
- Four Gwich'in Chiefs;
- Four Community DGO President representatives; and
- Four Community Elders Representatives.

The Negotiation Team members met with the Senior Negotiator and Assistant Negotiator for at least three days prior to each Main Table Negotiation session. The community negotiation representatives attend all Main Table negotiation sessions and report back to their community leadership and members (Self-Government Committees or Designated Gwich'in Organizations).

In order to maintain the momentum of rising community involvement in the self-government process, the Senior Negotiator, the Assistant Negotiator, and the Regional Self-Government Coordinator (the "Regional Coordinator) continued to nurture close communications with community leadership and membership. This ensured that community interests were expressed not only in negotiation mandates but in any work related to the development to of a Integrated Negotiations Approach model.

# **Negotiation Support**

In order to maintain leadership and community focus towards the development of a self-government agreement-in-principle, the Gwich'in Senior Negotiator required the full support of an Assistant Negotiator and Regional Coordinator, the part-time support of 12 Com-

munity Negotiators, and external contract expertise. The Negotiation Team Members are:

- highly motivated to each task presented;
- a large group of TK experts:
- highly knowledgeable of the Gwich'in culture and traditions; and
- very committed to the attaining a fair and equitable
- Self-Government Agreement.

In addition, the GTC Negotiations Department has used the expertise of:

- Mr. Lew Voytilla for financing and Program & Services advice;
- Mr. Alex McCrae for compiling Comparison Charts; and
- Mr. Brian Crane for legal advice.

# **Gathering Strength**

# **Building a Gwich'in Government**

Gwich'in leadership has provided the Gwich'in negotiators with specific timelines for the completion of a Gwich'in constitutional framework However, the Gwich'in 2008 Annual Assembly did not endorse Community Constitutions or Governance Structure model. More community consultation is required. Once final consultation has been conducted, the Gwich'in Leadership will ratify final documents before tabling to other Government parties. The Senior Negotiator and Assistant Negotiator will continue to oversee research, consultation, and the development of negotiation mandates relating to the following issues:

- Traditional governance: Models have been completed and taken door-to-door within the GSA. However, no community endorsement has been obtained for a position to be tabled.
- Negotiations mandate: the 2006 Self-Government Negotiations Mandate is the current document that has been approved and enacted for negotiations purposes.
- Review of Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle: in December 2008, the GTC tabled extensive proposed wording for Chapters 20 (Financing and Own Source Revenues) and 25 (Implementation and Training). Marriage, Culture and Languages, Guardianship and Trusteeship, Heritage Resources, Financial Principles are work-inprogress by Table Negotiators. In January 2009, the MOU (old AIP) was set aside due to wording conflict. An Integrated Negotiations Approach model was adopted for negotiations of an SGA...



- Jurisdiction authority; At the December negotiation session, GTC informed the other Parties that GTC jurisdictions under inherent right are those listed under Section 16 of the Northwest Territories Act and Sections 91 and 92 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
- Government self-government policy;
- Indian Act application to participants and Indian Act band members: an Indian Act Transition Side Table has been actively meeting with Canada's CN regarding the logistics of the Side Table. However, due to lack of funds, the Side Table has been inactive for the last quarter of reporting period.
- Gwich'in Charter of Rights: a comprehensive Charter have been developed and taken to communities for door-to-door consultation campaign, in 2007. However, no formal endorsement has been attained during reporting period.
- Other matters arising from the Main Table: in December 2008, meetings were held with CN of other Aboriginal Claimant Groups within the NWT. The purpose of the meeting was to information share amongst the parties with common interests.



# **GWICH'IN ENROLMENT BOARD**

MEMBERS	1121	GSA	1,687
		Tsiigehtchic	131
<ul> <li>Mary Ann Ross, Chair</li> </ul>		Fort McPherson	674
<ul> <li>Billie Lennie, Inuvik</li> </ul>		Aklavik	178
<ul> <li>Anna May McLeod, Tsiige</li> </ul>	ehtchic	Inuvik	704
• Leanne Nerysoo, Aklavik			
Robert Alexie Sr., Fort Me	Pherson	OUTSIDE GSA	1.596
Cheryl Wright, Coordinat		Edmonton	268
		Yellowknife	255
ENROLMENT		Whitehorse	150
		Hay River	65
Enrolled Participants	3,282	Fort Smith	68
Adults	2,278	Remainder	across Canada, in France,
18-years and under	1,004		Greece, Australia, and the
~			IJSA



The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) was established in 1993 as a non-profit society with charitable status and a mandate to document, preserve and promote the practice of Gwich'in culture, language, traditional knowledge and values. The GSCI is the cultural and heritage arm of the GTC that also includes the Gwich'in Language Centre that is responsible for the Gwich'in Language Plan and the development of language resource materials for Gwich'in language teachers. The GSCI 5-year plan (2006-2010) and the GSCI Board directs the heritage and language projects of the institute.

## Administration

The administration and day-to-day operation of the GSCI is the responsibility of Sharon Snowshoe, Executive Director. In this capacity she oversees items related to human resources (i.e. leave forms, staff training, hiring of staff, etc.); contribution agreements for core funding, heritage and language projects, and project reports; financial responsibilities related to contribution agreements, budgets, and quarterly financial statements; board and staff meeting logistics and minutes; and acts as the liaison between GTC and GSCI (i.e. staff meetings).

# **Heritage Projects**

Since 1993, GSCI has carried out GTC responsibilities for implementing heritage matters outlined in Chapter 25 of the Land Claim and Chapter 9 of the Trans-boundary Agreement. GSCI has also provided input into the development of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan (Chapter 24) and the Gwich'in Territorial Park management plan (Chapter 16). Because of its' heritage research, GSCI is able to provide advice on land use permit applications from the GLA and GLWB in regards to possible impact on heritage resources through access and development in the GSA (Chapters 20, 21, & 24). GSCI has also provided input into self-government negotiations concerning Gwich'in culture and language (Chapter 5 & Appendix B). In the Yukon Trans-boundary Area, GSCI has also provided input into the Land Use Planning and Protection of the Peel River Watershed (Chapter 7), and Development Assessment (Chapter 8).

The heritage activities reported below are based on a report prepared by Ingrid Kritsch, Research Director, for the GSCI Board Meeting held in Aklavik on November 21, 2008 and updated to reflect the heritage activities carried out by GSCI for the period April 1 – March 31, 2009.

# **ARI Vegetation-Caribou-Wolf Food Chain Contract**

The Aurora Research Institute (ARI) in Inuvik contracted GSCI to carry out TK interviews with Elders in Dawson City (Percy Henry and Julia Morberg) and Fort McPherson (Robert Alexie Sr. and Woody Elias) related to the vegetation-caribou-wolf food chain. Vuntut Gwich'in Elders (Freddy Frost, Joel Peter and Stan Njootli) were inter-

viewed by Mary Jane Moses from Old Crow. The overall goal of the ARI research was "to see if a certain type of contaminant, namely fluorinated chemicals, bio-accumulate in biota, increasing their concentrations as you go up the vegetation-caribou-wolf food chain." The objective of the TK part of the research was to document the feeding and preying habits of wolves, the relative importance of caribou in wolves' diet, the composition and seasonality of wolves' diets, wolves' prey preference, the composition and seasonality of caribou diet, and caribou and wolf oral history.

Interviews were carried out in Ft. McPherson, Old Crow and Dawson City between January 25 and February 13, 2009. The interviews were transcribed by Kristi Benson for the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute and reviewed by Margaret Thompson before being provided to Sharon Katz at the ARI. The final report will be presented at the Northern Contaminants Program 2009 results workshop.

## **CBC Radio Legacy Project**

The GSCI in partnership with CBC Radio recorded Gwich'in legends for the CBC Radio Legacy Project with the goal of producing radio dramas for broadcast. In early July, Alestine Andre and Leah Shaw recorded Elders Elizabeth Greenland (Inuvik), Mary Kendi (Aklavik), Annie Norbert and Gabe Andre (Tsiigehtchic), and Eunice Mitchell (Fort McPherson) telling legends about Atachuukaii, Deetrin', Diniizhok, Ahts'an Veh, Naagaii Tsal and Kwan Ehdan, and Nehtryuh. The legends were initially translated by Alestine and provided to the scriptwriter. Barbara Worthy, who then developed five radio dramas. Once completed, these plays were translated and transcribed into Gwich'in by William George Firth and Joanne Snowshoe. In the early part of February, a call was put out for auditions, and actors ranging in age from 7 to the mid-70s were hired to record the plays in both Gwich'in and English at the CBC studio in Inuvik, Karen Mitchell was hired as the Gwich'in language coach. The plays will be broadcast nationally on the CBC Radio program "Ideas" in October 2009. They will also be broadcast locally on CBC North radio. CDs of these radio plays will also be produced for GSCI to distribute. An elder's storytelling workshop is currently being planned for the winter as part of this project and a way to help us celebrate our 15th Anniversary.

# **Dempster Highway Grave Signage**

The Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture has produced the signs and we are awaiting a response from the Teetl'it Gwich'in Council as to where they would like the signs erected in the Yukon along the Dempster Highway.



# Dene Nation Mapping Project - Conservation of Maps and Tapes

GSCI secured funding from the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program to conserve the remaining paper maps (conservation of these maps began several years ago) and transcribe Dene Nation land use tapes from the Dene Mapping Project carried out in the 1970s. Additionally, GSCI trails and other heritage data from the Teetl'it Gwich'in area were digitized into the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute's GIS. Numerous GSCI interview maps were scanned for this purpose. This work was carried out during the winter of 2009 by Susan Cross (conservator) and Kristi Benson.

# Dene Nation Mapping Project - Transcription of Tapes

Nine of the Dene Mapping Project interviews digitized in 2007 by Nadira Begg were transcribed by Kristi Benson and are being translated/reviewed by Margaret Thompson. The interviews were carried out in the 1970s with such Gwich'in Elders as Jim Edwards, Julianne Andre, Amos Niditchie, Roddy Peters, Jimmy Thompson and Neil Colin. A further five Dene Mapping Project interviews from the 1970s were transcribed during the 2008-2009 project. The tapes relate to the mapping of trails and traplines conducted by Neil Colin with Elders from Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Aklavik, and Tsiigehtchic.

# Headwaters of the Arctic Red River: Community Meeting

In July 2008, Kristi Benson visited Tsiigehtchic with University of Calgary archaeologist Dr. Brian Kooyman to discuss the results of the archaeological research conducted in 2007 in the Headwaters of the Arctic Red River. A PowerPoint presentation was made to the monthly meeting of the Tsiigehtchic Renewable Resource Council. The members were interested in the results and requested further archaeology work be conducted around the area of Ddhahzhit Gwitsal, where the Cranswick River leaves the mountains. Also discussed was the possibility of researching ice patches in the area.

During this trip, and at the request of the community, Kristi and Brian mapped the old graveyard. Pending is a complete map of the area and a final report of this survey work. Each grave was recorded on a form in the same way that the new graveyard was recorded in 2005.

Also at the request of the community, Kristi and Brian gathered human remains (skeleton) that were eroding out of the banks of the Arctic Red River from the area around the new graveyard. These bones were reinterred into the graveyard following a simple re-burial service by Father Matthew. A report on these findings is forthcoming.

A river trip up the Mackenzie River was partially funded by the money left over from the archaeology project. The river trip focused on taking pictures and GPS coordinates of Gwich'in named places along the river. Elder Gabe Andre was recorded discussing the trading post at the mouth of Travaillant River.

# Genographic Project

GSCI assisted Dr. Theodore (Tad) Schurr with providing information about the proposed project to the Gwich'in communities of Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson in April 2008. A meeting scheduled for Inuvik was cancelled due to bad weather. The Genographic Project, a landmark study of the human journey launched in 2005, is seeking to chart new knowledge about the migratory history of human species by using sophisticated laboratory and computer analysis of DNA contributed by hundreds of thousands of people from around the world.

Resolutions and letters of support for the project have now been received by GSCI from the Gwichya Gwich'in Council, Teetl'it Gwich'in Council and the Gwich'in Tribal Council, so the research can proceed in future.

# **Geographic Information System Workshop**

Ingrid Kritsch and Kristi Benson met in Yellowknife at the Research Office from September 15-19 to review the GSCI Teetl'it Gwich'in place names and associated GIS data. Over 390 place name records were reviewed and map information compared with entries in the Access database and GIS to identify gaps and further work needed.

# Gwich'in Ethnobotany Module for GSCI Website

With the assistance of the GTC, GSCI secured funding from the MacArthur Foundation to develop a new module for its website based on Ethnobotany research carried out by Alestine Andre and Alan Fehr. Alestine Andre and Ingrid Kritsch worked with Outcrop to develop this module. We also took this opportunity to update the GSCI website during the fall/winter of 2008-2009. The ethnobotany module will be launched in mid-April.

# Historic Places Initiative (HPI) Projects

GSCI accessed HPI funding from the GNWT Cultural Places Program to carry out three community projects: 1) the Black Mountain and Big Eddy project in Aklavik; 2) the Khaii Luk Tshik and Teetshik Goghaa (old Arctic Red site) project in Tsiigehtchic; and 3) the Nataiinlaii boundary project in Fort McPherson. These places were previously identified by the Community Steering Committees responsible for identifying significant heritage sites in the Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson areas. The nominations for the new sites in Aklavik and Tsiigehtchic, and the boundary for Nataiinlaii were submitted to the Cultural Places Program by March 31, 2009.



These projects were worked on by Sharon Snowshoe, Kristi Benson, Ingrid Kritsch and Alestine Andre.

# **James Jerome Photo Collection Project**

GSCI partnered with the NWT Archives to identify people, places and activities recorded in photos taken by James Jerome in the 1970s, A series of workshops was held with Elders over the course of the winter to help with these identifications. The workshops were conducted by Alestine Andre and Ingrid Kritsch in December 2008 in Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson. From Tsiigehtchic, the Elders included: Noel Andre, John Norbert, Eileen Cardinal, Douglas Kendo and Bob Norman from Tsiigehtchic. From Fort McPherson, the Elders included: Robert Alexie Sr., Walter Alexie, Mary M. Firth, Mary Teya, Bertha Francis, Jane Charlie Sr., Doris Itsi, and Joseph Kay. An interview about Gwich'in fish camps was also recorded during these workshops with Gwichya Gwich in harvesters, and transcribed. Other individuals who were of great assistance with the identifications were: Freddy and Sarah Jerome and Lawrence Norbert.

# Peel River Palaeontological Research

Sharon Snowshoe and Ingrid Kritsch assisted palaeontologists Dr. Grant Zazula (Yukon Paleontologist) and Dr. David Evans (Royal Ontario Museum) with obtaining support, licences and research agreements needed to carry out their field work. The palaeontological research was carried out in the Bonnet Plume River area from August 7-11, 2008. A student from Fort McPherson was identified to participate in this project but due to unforeseen circumstances was not able to take part. The palaeontologists revisited the location where three dinosaur bones were recovered in the 1960s. Poor weather conditions and difficulty in accessing the outcrop resulted in limited research.

Although no fossil bones were recovered, samples of volcanic ash beds and abundant plant fossils that likely postdate when the dinosaurs became extinct ca. 60-65 million years ago were found. The plant remains include leaves and stems from horse tails, redwood trees, and Ginkgo trees. The plant fossils are currently being identified and analyzed at the University of Alberta as they will provide a better understanding of the environmental conditions in the Arctic after the dinosaurs became extinct. The volcanic ash beds are being analyzed to provide information on when volcanic activity took place.

# **Peel Watershed Heritage Inventory**

The GSCI and Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture conducted a preliminary helicopter survey of heritages sites within the Peel River watershed from July 21 to 24, 2008. Included in the survey were: Fort McPherson Elder Walter Alexie, Ingrid Kritsch (GSCI Research Director), Dr. Ruth Gotthardt (Yukon Archaeologist), Greg Hare

(Site Assessment Archaeologist), and Barbara Hogan (Historic Sites Registrar). The goal of the survey was to identify and record traditional Teetl'it Gwich'in sites, and historic and archaeological sites in the Peel River drainage, concentrating on the Hart, Wind and Bonnet Plume rivers. This research will assist in identifying significant heritage values as part of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission Land Use Planning process. Prior to the fieldwork, Kristi Benson provided maps of the area so Ingrid could take photos of named places they were visiting or travelling over to add to GSCI's place name photo archives.

## Steppe Bison Fossil Find

The steppe bison remains were turned over to the PWNHC by Shane Van Loon in late April 2008. The PWNHC in consultation with the community of Tsiigehtchic and GSCI, is developing a plan for study and preservation of the remains, and educating Northerners about the discovery. To date we have learned that the remains are 11,830 +/-45 years old. Hair samples sent for DNA analysis have enough DNA in them to provide further information. The GSCI will continue to act as the community liaison regarding this matter.

# Teetl'it Gwich'in Place Names Atlas Project

In January 2008, we submitted a major funding application to the International Polar Year (IPY) to produce a print-based and web-based atlas for the place names and stories of the Teetl'it Gwich'in over a 3 year period. Proposed partners in this work included the Teetl'it Gwich'in Council, Teetl'it Gwich'in Elder's Council, Teetl'it Gwich'in RRC, PWNHC and Chief Julius School. In early June we received a letter saying that the proposal was not selected for funding. The letter explained that "This was a highly competitive process and a large number of excellent proposals were submitted. The selection process took into account several factors, including the geographical location of the projects, the variety of different types of projects and a balance of small and large initiatives. It was a very difficult task to choose from the many submissions received." We will look for other sources of funding to carry out this initiative.

# Teetl'it Gwich'in Place Names (TGPN) 2008 project

The eleven taped interviews recorded with Teetl'it Gwich'in Elders in February/March 2008 by Alestine Andre, Bertha Francis and Ingrid Kritsch were translated and transcribed by William Firth, Kristi Benson and Annie Jane Modeste. We still need to clarify information on some of the maps. The maps from the project have been scanned and entered into the GSCI Geographic Information System (GIS).



# Implementation of Gwich'in Land Claim

# Historical Resources Act (NWT)

Early in September, Ingrid Kritsch reviewed information and researched proposed changes to the *Act* and how these might impact the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and forwarded her findings to Sharon Snowshoe to pass on to the GTC. The changes looked to be just a housekeeping issue on the part of GNWT. The *Act* is being revised to eliminate the Historical Advisory Board. This board has not been in operation for 25 years, and all of the responsibilities given to them in the *Act* are being carried out by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment through the PWNHC.

# Land Use Permit, Archaeological Permit and Scientific Research Licence Applications

GSCI continues to review land use applications forwarded from GTC and the Gwich'in Land and Water Board for their possible impacts on heritage resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. GSCI also continues to review Archaeological Permit Applications made to the PWNHC and Scientific Research Licence Applications made to the Aurora Research Institute for research within the GSA.

# **Peel Watershed Planning Commission**

From August – October, Ingrid provided comments on the Commission's Resource Assessment Report and worked with Kristi to provide place name and heritage data for maps being prepared by the Commission. The heritage data provided was used during the drafting of the plan.

#### Staff Training and Meetings

# **Access Database Training**

In late September and mid-January, Alestine Andre and Ingrid Kritsch attended two one-day training sessions at Tamarack Computers in Yellowknife for the database program called Access. This database program will replace the FileMaker Pro program GSCI has used to date for the place names and other data.

# **Dene Fonts Workshop**

In late August, Ingrid Kritsch attended a meeting in Yellowknife with William Firth about the fonts issue with the GNWT, linguist/software programmers and other Aboriginal groups to see how the GNWT should proceed with the problems everyone is facing. A follow-up meeting is expected to be held during the coming spring.

# Federal Assistant Deputy Ministers' Visit

Early in June, GSCI staff prepared and presented an overview of GSCI and challenges and issues that we encounter in our heritage research and language work to Federal Assistant Deputy Ministers' visit to Inuvik as part of their leadership training.

# Heritage Canada Foundation and Canadian Land Trust Alliance Conference

In late September, Ingrid Kritsch assisted Alestine Andre to prepare a PowerPoint presentation that Ms. Andre presented to a Quebec City conference called, "Work that Endures: Power to the People Keeping Places Alive."

#### Other Activities

# Articles/Books on Gwich'in

In April/May, Erika Kritsch and Linda Wright prepared a bibliography of articles on the Gwich'in that Ingrid Kritsch had been collecting and putting into binders since 1993. Ingrid provided this bibliography and copies of these articles in 2 volumes to Gwich'in beneficiary Geordie Hungerford. Copies of these volumes were also sent to GSCI offices in Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson. These volumes contain most of the "classic" articles on the Gwich'in by authors outside of GSCI. In the summer, Ingrid provided the GNWT with copies of several of our publications including "The History and Archaeology of Fort McPherson" and the "Gwichya Gwich'in Googwandak" as GNWT gifts for the Premier of Quebec. They were so pleased with them, that they ordered more copies of our publications for several libraries in Quebec.

Bill C-51At the GTC Annual General Assembly held in August in Fort McPherson, a concern was raised by Herbert Blake about Bill C-51 relating to the use of traditional knowledge and natural health products. Using the internet, Ingrid Kritsch researched the proposed bill and amendments and provided this information to Sharon Snowshoe to forward to the GTC.

## **GSCI** Archival Photographs

From April through November, Ingrid provided photographs to the following: State of California EEI Curriculum called, "Many Voices, Many Visions: Analyzing Contemporary Environmental Issues" (11th grade unit); The Canadian Encyclopedia article on Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes by Susan Buggey; The Canadian Encyclopedia article on Nagwichoonjik NHS; Gwich'in Steering Committee, Gwich'in Gathering in Old Crow presentation; PWNHC Historic Places Initiative report; Larry Greenland and family (photos of the Blackstone area that his mother lived in when she was young); Gwich'in Career Brochure.



#### **GSCI Career Brochure**

In November, GSCI staff reviewed and provided photographs for this brochure which was designed by Kellett Communications. The brochure is intended to give Gwich'in beneficiaries information about GSCI positions and the education and training needed to fulfill these positions.

## **GSCI 15th Anniversary Celebrations**

In the fall, GSCI staff assisted Sharon Snowshoe, Executive Director, with promotion of GSCI's anniversary by suggesting gifts to order and by advertising this occasion. The date of Wednesday, December 17, 2008 was selected for the community celebrations to take place.

# Mi'gmaq Request for Information

Early in November, Ingrid Kritsch received a request for information from the Mi'gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat in Listuguj, Quebec about how the Gwich'in have selected sites for commemoration in the GSR, as they are interested in doing the same on their traditional lands. They were also interested in guidelines/protocols for conducting archaeological research with First Nations. Ingrid provided them with information based on our experience with working on National Historic Sites and NWT Historic Sites along with our TK Policy and information on guidelines/protocols/ethics for conducting archaeological research with First Nations.

# Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site

The Canadian Encyclopedia approached Ingrid Kritsch to write a short article and provide photographs about Nagwichoonjik NHS as an example of an Aboriginal Cultural Landscape. Ingrid completed this work in May/June 2008. This article is a companion to another article in The Canadian Encyclopedia on Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes by Susan Buggey.

#### Rat River Char Traditional Knowledge Reporting

The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board has contracted the GSCI to compile traditional knowledge data from interviews they conducted during 2008 about Dolly Varden char in the Rat River watershed. The GSCI is reviewing the data and will write two reports: one summary report from the interview transcripts, and another report for the COSEWIC process.

# **Language Projects**

The activity reported prepared by William Firth, Language Manager, outlines the language activities carried out by GSCI for the period April 2008 – March 2009.

# Gwich'in Language Plan

The current language activities include (1) the Gwich'in Language Dictionary (2) the Gwich'in Elders' Bibliography Project, and (3) the Gwich'in Language Classes.

## • The Gwich'in Language Dictionary

The focus has shifted on this project so that Eleanor Mitchell-Firth will work on the Gwich'in Topical Dictionary. Eleanor worked previously as the Language Centre Coordinator for the Gwich'in Language Centre in the early 1990s. With her assistance, the Gwich'in Topical Dictionary will be published by the end of this fiscal year, March 2009. Chris Harvey, Linguist with the Indigenous Languages Institute, is presently assisting us with the dictionary format.

# • The Gwich'in Elders' Biography Project

With much documented knowledge, stories and legends filed away at the Gwich'in Language Centre from Gwich'in Elders since 1970, it is necessary to dedicate a book to the memory of our Elders and include their life history. Margaret Thompson was hired to take on this project to write their stories that can be used as an educational tool within the communities and the education system. In order to do an excellent job on each biography, we would like to extend the publication of such a booklet to a future date. This project will be on going as funding permits.

# **Development of language resource materials**

The 2nd Language Curriculum continues to be piloted in the Beaufort-Delta schools. Progress is on-going in the development and production of resource materials for the 2nd Language Curriculum which the Language Instructors have adapted easily into their language instruction. Edward Wright, Resource Coordinator, has been directly involved with the curriculum and the Language Instructors on a daily basis since he began working on this project. Over the past year, Grade 1, 4, and 7 content was reviewed in Teetl'it Zheh (Fort McPherson). The session went well again in that most grade levels were standardized. Local Elders, fluent language speakers. were involved as they assisted and guided the work. It was well received by all in attendance and it was also a pleasure to have staff of the Beaufort-Delta Education Council, in attendance observing the process and providing clarification of language structure and content as needed. Margaret Thompson has been a wonderful, knowledgeable addition to the Gwich'in Teaching and Learning Centre under the Targeted Initiative Older Worker Program which is jointly funded by the Federal and Government of the NWT. Since Margaret's arrival at the Teaching and Learning Centre, Edward has worked at scheduling classroom site visits to the communities to introduce Margaret as an additional support person for the Language Instructors and she is getting up to speed with the curriculum content delivery and with the various tools and equipment required in delivery of the curriculum delivery.

#### **GSCI Business Cards**

Ingrid worked with GSCI staff and Outcrop Ltd. to design new business cards for staff. These cards were available in December.



# **Operations**

This section will include operations, GSCI staff, and finances related to the operation and admin istration of the GSCI program.

#### Five Year Plan

The Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute (GSCI) has requested that the Gwich'in Tribal Council do an organizational review of the GSCI and amend the constitution and by-laws. The GSCI worked with RT Associates Ltd. to review and update the Strategic Analysis and Five Year Business Plan called lindo Khehlok Tr'eedah: Moving Forward as One, 2006 to 2010. A revised five year plan was developed and approval by the Gwich'in Tribal Council board of directors. A two year review took place in March 2009 by the GSCI Board of Directors in Tsiigehtchic.

#### **GSCI Staff**

#### **Executive Director**

Sharon Snowshoe currently holds this full time position. Core funding from the CECP and the Gwich'in Tribal Council assists in funding this position, plus funding from specific projects. This position is responsible for the overall management of the GSCI taking direction from the Board of Directors and implementing decisions.

#### Research Director

Ingrid Kritsch currently holds this full-time position. Core funding from the Gwich'in Tribal Council assists in funding this position, plus funding from specific projects. This position is responsible for the Heritage Research Program and supervises the Heritage Researcher, and manages the Yellowknife office.

# Language Manager

William G. Firth holds this full time position. Funding is sought on a year to year basis in order to fund this position. Core funding from the GNWT assists in funding this position, plus funding from specific Projects. This position is responsible for language and cultural projects and supervises the Linguist Trainee, the casual Research Assistant Trainee and the Resource Coordinator and manages the Gwich'in Language Centre.

#### Heritage Researcher

Alestine Andre currently holds this full-time position. Currently, funding from the Gwich'in Implementation Fund and core funding from the Gwich'in Tribal Council assists in funding this position. This position works with the Research Director on heritage-related projects.

# **Resource Coordinator**

Edward Wright currently holds this full-time position. Core funding from the Beaufort Delta Education Council and GNWT assists in funding this position. This position works under the direction of the Language Manager on research and resource development based on Inuvialuit/Gwich'in curriculum. This funding has been allocated to the implementation of the 2nd language curriculum.

# Linguist Trainee

Mary Clark held the Linguist Trainee position from June 2006 to April 3, 2009. Core funding from the GNWT and funding from the Dene Nation Aboriginal Language Initiatives (ALI) program assists in funding this position. This position works under the direction of the Language Manager on the Gwich'in Language Dictionary and Gwich'in Elders Biographies projects

#### Resource Coordinator

Edward Wright currently holds this full-time position. Core funding from the Beaufort Delta Education Council and GNWT assists in funding this position. This position works under the direction of the Language Manager on research and resource development based on Inuvialuit/Gwich'in curriculum. This funding has been allocated to the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> language curriculum.

## **Linguist Trainee**

Mary Clark held the Linguist Trainee position from June 2006 to April 3, 2009. Core funding from the GNWT and funding from the Dene Nation Aboriginal Language Initiatives (ALI) program assists in funding this position. This position works under the direction of the Language Manager on the Gwich'in Language Dictionary and Gwich'in Elders Biographies projects.

# **GSCI Board of Directors**

- Mary Ann Ross, Chair Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Anna May MacLeod Tsiigehtchic
- Gladys Alexie Fort McPherson
- Annie Jane Modeste Fort McPherson
- Renie Stewart Aklavik
- Ruth Wright Inuvik
- Sarah McLeod-Firth Inuvik; alternate member Elizabeth M. Hansen



#### Finances

# NOTES FOR PROJECTED BUDGET 2008/2009 FISCAL YEAR

#### Revenue

## Gwich'in Tribal Council - Core Funding

We receive \$300,000.00 in core funding to cover basic administration and salaries of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute. This fiscal year, the funding is allocated to the Heritage Research Division of GSCI for wages and administration expenses, and to Administration costs such as Board expenses.

# Gwich'in Tribal Council - Implementation Heritage Funding

GSCI receives \$25,000.00 per annum and this fiscal year, the funding has been allocated to the Heritage Research Division to carry out research projects.

Government of Canada – Indian and Northern Affairs GSCI receives approximately \$38,564.00 funds allocated under the CECP program and allocated to cover a portion of salaries for the Executive Director and Heritage Researcher and office supplies.

## GNWT - Education, Culture & Employment

GSCI receives \$50,000.00 in funding to cover a portion of salaries and rent for the GSCI office in Tsiigehtchic.

#### **GNWT - Language Implementation**

GSCI receives \$162,000.00 to implement the Gwich'in Language Plan. This funding covers the majority of administration and salary for the Language Manager and Linguist Trainee. It also covers all program costs for the Gwich'in Language Dictionary, and Gwich'in Elders' Biographies. Additional funding from Dene Nation in the amount of \$40,000.00 and GNWT Literacy of \$30,000.00 is received to supplement the programs under Language Implementation and Beaufort Delta Education Council.

# **Beaufort-Delta Education Council**

Funds allocated for the Gwich'in Language Centre in Fort McPherson, \$90,000.00 will be received from BDEC for the period of July 1 to June 30 because these are the dates of their fiscal year. Funds cover basic administration of the Language Centre, salary for one position, and supplies. This year there was a decrease in funding from \$115,000.00 and the budget would have to reflect this decease. This funding was reinstated to \$115,000.00 from\$90,000.00 after lobbying efforts were raised by the Gwich'in Tribal Council leadership.

# **Project Revenue**

We hope that throughout the year we can put in more proposals and get approval to work on more projects that will reduce the percentage of deferred revenue we will use. This will allow us to carry on full operations in 2008/09.

other miscellaneous revenue.

wages are calculated for six staff positions and one casual staff for a total of approximately \$628,487.00. Benefits include housing allowance, VTA, employer's contributions of EI, CPP, and WCB, extended medical/insurance, RRSP and fuel subsidies.

#### **Professional Expenses**

Cost for consultants, insurance, legal and audit fees.

#### Other Revenue

This includes revenue from sale of publications, administration income (charge out fees), and other miscellaneous revenue.

# Expenditures

# Wages - Salaries and Benefits

Salaries and wages are calculated for six staff positions and one casual staff for a total of approximately \$628,487.00. Benefits include housing allowance, VTA, employer's contributions of EI, CPP, and WCB, extended medical/insurance, RRSP and fuel subsidies.

# **Professional Expenses**

Cost for consultants, insurance, legal and audit fees.

#### **Board Meeting Expenses**

The Board of Directors meets four times per fiscal year. As well, working committees may be formed to assist in specific tasks such as budgeting, and strategic planning. This category includes expenses for directors, committee members and other honoraria, their travel, accommodation and meal expenditures incurred for the purpose of these meetings, Also included are the costs incurred of the rental of meeting rooms.

# **Project Expenses**

All costs related to work on specific projects.

# Administration

This category includes all administrative expenses for the offices in Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, and Yellowknife. Expenses include training, plus office supplies, postage and courier, telephone/fax/internet, office rent, computer equipment and software, management travel, meals and accommodation, staff travel, photocopying and other related administrative expenses.



#### **GWICH'IN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

#### .Our Mandate

The mandate of Gwich'in Development Corporation ("GDC") is to pursue commercial opportunities that will earn our shareholder, 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. All businesses are operated in an environmentally friendly manner.

#### **Our Investment Portfolio**

Over the last fiscal year, there has been a decline in the value of GDC's investment holdings. The decline can be attributed to the economic downturn faced in external markets this year.

During the year, GDC acquired the remaining outstanding shares of GTM Enviro Services Ltd. In addition, on November 1, 2007, GDC entered into an agreement with the owners of Bob's Welding and Heavy Equipment Rentals Ltd. to purchase 51% of the company which was finalized and effective June 16, 2008. Management is currently considering whether or not to dispose of its interests in Gwich'in MAC Ltd. and Gwich'in Ensign Oilfield Services Inc.

#### **Overall Results**

On a consolidated basis, GDC reported the following results for the year ended December 31, 2008:

Assets increased from \$43.3 million in 2007 to \$49.8 million in 2008;

Shareholder's equity decreased from \$7.1 million in 2007 to \$2.2 million in 2008, primarily as a result of a decline in the market value of certain portfolio investments, a write-down of a note receivable from Alliance Sonic Drilling Inc. and a write-down of debentures receivable from Discovery Air Inc.;

Revenues increased from \$4.7 million in 2007 to \$6.6 million in 2008; and

Loss for the year ended December 31, 2008 was \$6,075,018 (2007 - \$493,647).

The performance of GDC was significantly impacted again this year by the continuing delays in the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project and the overall economic downturn in external markets. GDC continues to maintain its administrative and overhead costs at a sustainable level and will continue to look or opportunities to diversify its holdings by investing outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area to manage risk.

#### Performance of Investments

# 1. Portfolio Investments, Promissory Notes, Debentures and Advances

The market values of GDC's significant portfolio investments at December 31, 2008 were as follows: Discovery Air Inc. \$400,000 (2007 - \$2,800,000); Pacific & Western Credit Corporation \$472,550 (2007 - \$800,000); and NewNorth Projects Ltd. \$430,000 (2007 - \$1,505,000).

For the year ended January 31, 2009, Discovery Air Inc. earned revenues of \$151.9 million (2008 -\$123.6 million) and incurred a net loss of \$130.3 million (2008 - net income \$7.5 million). The loss in fiscal 2009 resulted primarily from a \$133.6 million write-down of goodwill and other intangible assets by the company related to the economic downturn. For the year ended October 31, 2008, Pacific & Western Credit Corporation earned revenues of \$72.2 million (2007 - \$71.0 million) and incurred a net loss of \$20.1 million (2007 - net income \$2.2 million). The loss in fiscal 2009 resulted primarily from at \$15.0 million asset write-down by the company related to the economic downturn. For the year ended December 31, 2008, NewNorth Projects Ltd. earned revenues of \$8.3 million (2007 - \$16.6 million) and net income of \$0.1 million (2007 - \$2.0 million).

In addition, GDC held significant investments in promissory notes, debentures and advances receivable at December 31, 2008 including: Pacific & Western Credit Corporation \$11,000,000 (2007 - \$nil); Discovery Air Inc. \$10,010,955 (2007 - \$10,500,000); and a number of other smaller amounts due from various external parties.

Due to the fluctuation in the capital markets, a loss of \$4.1 million (2007 - \$1.2 million) was recorded by GDC related to its portfolio investments and an additional loss of approximately \$0.7 million was recorded related to its promissory notes, debentures and advances receivable. We believe that the market value of these portfolio investments will begin to recover as financial markets stabilize over the medium term.

Our portfolio investments, promissory notes, debentures and advances receivable provide GDC with an opportunity to invest in strategic business segments of aviation, banking and real estate development.



#### **GWICH'IN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

#### 2. Construction and Transportation

#### Gwich'in MAC Limited (100%)

GDC established Gwich'in MAC Limited on January 31, 2007 to ensure Gwich'in participation in the construction of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. This company will position GDC to bid on work associated with the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project. Total costs incurred during the year totaled \$3,876 (2007 - \$4,435).

#### Gwich'in Helicopters Ltd. (51%)

Gwich'in Helicopters Ltd. was incorporated in September, 2004 to provide helicopter services in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. GHL purchased a hangar in Inuvik and in April, 2006 purchased a new Eurocopter AS 350 B2. Our partner, Great Slave Helicopters Ltd., provides technical and management expertise. The company earned a profit of \$367,954 (2007 - \$293,944) on revenues of \$1,096,074 (2007 - \$929,789).

# Bob's Welding & Heavy Equipment Repairs Ltd. (51%)

On November 1, 2007, GDC entered into an agreement with the owners of Bob's Welding & Heavy Equipment Rental Ltd to purchase 51% of the company which was finalized and effective June 16, 2008. The company's principal business is the business of welding, heavy equipment repairs, rock crushing, transport and barging. The company earned revenues of \$3.7 million and incurred a net loss of \$185,363 for the year ended October 31, 2008.

#### 3. Energy Development

#### Aadrii Limited (50%)

Aadrii Limited was established to recover and distribute residual heat from the diesel generating plant in Fort McPherson. Revenues for 2008 amounted to \$160,421 (2007 - \$155,577) and net income for the year was \$72,480 (2007 - \$28,169).

#### GTM Enviro Services Ltd. (50%)

During the year, GDC acquired the remaining outstanding shares of GTM Enviro Services Ltd. Revenues for 2008 amounted to \$112,590 (2007 - \$26,828) and loss for the year was \$162,365 (2007 - \$50,994).

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

Gwich'in Ensign Oilfield Services Inc. has been substantially inactive for the past two years as there has been no drilling activity on Gwich'in lands. Future revenues from drilling and well servicing programs will depend on oil and gas exploration in the Gwich'in Settlement area. Net income for the year amounted to \$951 (2007 - net loss of \$5,028).

# Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Corporation (33.3%)

Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Corporation has been established to act as General Partner for the Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Limited Partnership. The corporation entered into a series of agreements with the Mackenzie Gas Project to participate as a one-third owner of the proposed pipeline. The corporation will ensure that GDC secures substantial, ongoing financial benefits after the pipeline is constructed.

#### 4. Real Estate

#### MG Lodging Inuvik Ltd. (33.3%)

MG Lodging Inuvik Ltd., which provides camp accommodation and catering services, incurred a loss of \$117,144 (2007 - \$15,145) on revenues of \$34,982 (2007 - \$252,052). In the years ahead when oil and gas exploration in the region increase, MG Lodging Inuvik Ltd. is expected to improve its financial performance.

#### Larga Ltd. (37.5%)

Larga Ltd., which provides accommodation for northern residents who are receiving medical treatment in Edmonton, Alberta, earned \$65,323 (2007 - \$19,458) on sales of \$2,020,842 (2007 - \$2,135,123). A management fee of \$93,750 (2007 - \$168,750) was paid to the GDC in the current year.

# Inuvik Capital Suites Zheh Gwizu' Limited Partnership (37.5%)

Inuvik Capital Suites Zheh Gwizu' Limited Partnership, a partnership with the Nihtat Corporation, Gwichya Gwich'in Council and the Northern Property Real Estate Investment Trust, opened a hotel in Inuvik in October, 2004. The partnership earned \$371,106 (2007 - \$264,150) on revenues of \$2.4 million (2007 - \$2.2 million). Total partner distributions for 2008 amounted to \$1,240,000 (2007 - \$580,000).



#### **GWICH'IN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

# Inuvik Commercial Properties Zheh Gwizu' Limited Partnership (37.5%)

Inuvik Commercial Properties Zheh Gwizu' Limited Partnership, a partnership with the Nihtat Corporation, Gwichya Gwich'in Council and the Northern Property Real Estate Investment Trust, was created on April 1, 2005. It currently owns a number of office buildings in Inuvik and one office building in Yellow-knife. The partnership earned \$1.2 million (2007 - \$1.8 million) on revenues of \$4.4 million (2007 - \$4.2 million). Total partner distributions for 2008 amounted to \$1,920,000 (2007 - \$570,000).

#### GDC-NNP Limited Partnership (50%)

GDC-NNP Limited Partnership was created on October 14, 2005, and is a partnership between GDC and NewNorth Projects Ltd. This partnership will identify potential residential, commercial and industrial projects for development in the NWT. Loss for the year amounted to \$41,000 (2007 - \$83,000).

#### Strategic Development and Outlook

In the current year, GDC will concentrate on the following strategic initiatives:

GDC will continue to manage risk, by investing outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area;

Ongoing attention will be applied to enhance Gwich'in employment and training in all GDC businesses;

Management costs and administrative overheads will be maintained at a sustainable level; and

New investment opportunities including other Gwich'in organizations as partners.

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

Controller/Acting CFO



# **Gwich'in Settlement Corporation**

# Investment Consultant's Report to General Assembly

August 2009



#### **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 2008. 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.

By-Law #3 was revised in 2006 to provide for maximum annual disbursements for administration expenses, capital distributions to participants and transfers to Designated Gwich'in Organizations. These annual maximums as a percentage of the Fund balance are 1.0%, 1.0% and 3.5%, respectively. In addition, the Investment Committee has some discretion in determining the annual disbursements, subject to an overall maximum of 5.5% of the Fund balance. The goal over the long term is for the Fund balance to exceed the Gwich'in Legacy Capital adjusted for inflation. The Gwich'in Legacy Capital is the Fund balance at April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. As of April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 the fund balance was \$134.7 million.

The final capital transfer was received on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. During the 2008/2009 fiscal year disbursements were \$5.1 million for permitted activities and \$0.8 million for administrative costs.

#### **Fund Management**

At March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the following professional organizations were involved with the investment management, administration and oversight of the fund:

- CIBC Asset Management 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.

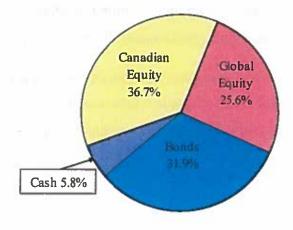


- UBS is an investment manager, responsible for managing a global equity portfolio.
- CIBC Mellon is the custodian of the fund assets, responsible for safekeeping,
   administration, and financial reporting of the fund assets.
- Towers Perrin is the investment advisor to the GSC, responsible for monitoring investment performance and compliance with the terms of the investment policy, and advising the GSC with respect to the investment management of the fund.

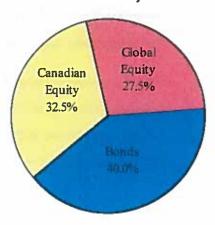
#### Investments at March 31st, 2009

- At March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the total market value of the fund was \$101,124,562<sup>1,2</sup> compared with \$128,825,467<sup>1</sup> at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 and was invested as follows:
- The amount at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 includes a Gwich'in Development Corporation receivable of \$21,900,000. The amount at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 includes a Gwich'in Development Corporation receivable of \$7,500,000. These receivables have not been reflected in the asset allocation charts below.
- Reflects expenditures of \$5.1 million on permitted activities and \$0.8 million administrative costs and disbursements.

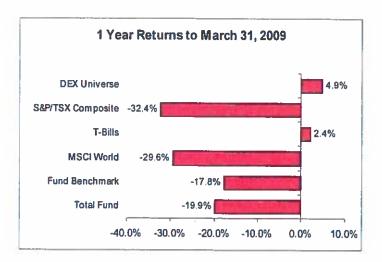
Total Fund at March 31st, 2009

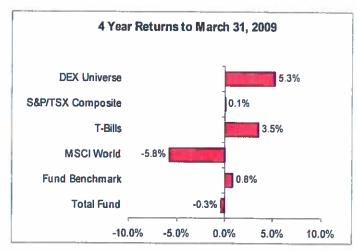


# Policy Benchmark at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009



The following chart shows the fund benchmark and asset class returns for the one year and four year periods ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009:





Over the one year period ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 the top performing asset class was bonds with a return of 4.9%, followed by cash at 2.4% and global equities (in Canadian dollar terms) at -29.6%. Canadian equities returned -32.4%.

The total fund returned -19.9% for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 which trailed the total fund benchmark return while ranking fourth quartile when compared to a universe of balanced funds with similar asset allocations. Underperformance within Canadian equities and bonds was the primary determinant of relative underperformance during this period.

Over four years, the total fund has returned -0.3% per annum, underperforming the total fund benchmark return of 0.8% per annum, ranking fourth quartile in a universe of other balanced funds. Relative underperformance during this period is primarily attributable to poor performance in all asset classes.

#### **Tax Status**

To maintain its tax exempt status after April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 transfers to Designated Gwich'in Organizations, the disbursement quota is set at a maximum 3.5% of the capital. In addition, a maximum of 1% of the capital may be disbursed annually for each of administration expenses and capital distributions to participants.

#### **Progress of the Fund**

At March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 the actual fund market value was \$101.1 million. The inflation adjusted Gwich'in Legacy Capital at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 is \$137.5 million. In light of this shortfall, the Investment Committee should disburse the minimum allowable amount in 2009/2010.

### **INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

#### **Objectives**

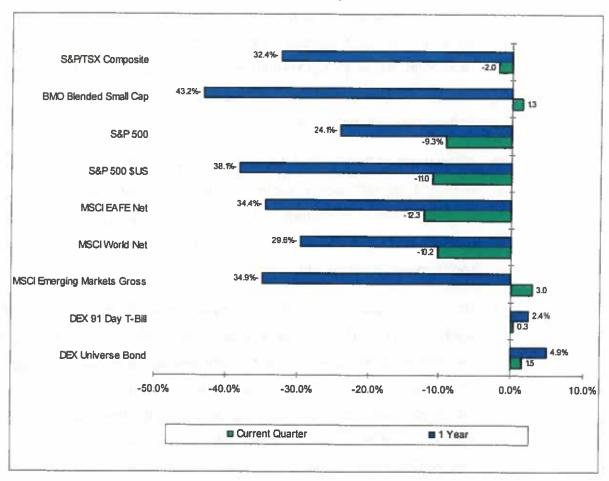
Investment performance objectives for the total fund have been established and documented in the policy statement. Performance results are independently measured by Towers Perrin. The results are calculated and monitored on a monthly basis and formally reviewed every three months.

The total fund has two primary performance benchmarks. The first is to exceed the returns generated by a benchmark portfolio based upon the individual indices and the fund's normal policy asset mix. This benchmark at March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 was 40% fixed income, 32.5% Canadian equities and 27.5% global equities. A second objective is to rank in the top 50% of balanced funds (i.e. rank above the median fund) evaluated by Towers Perrin over moving four year periods. A final objective is to earn a rate of return of at least 6.6% per annum over the long term.

The fund underperformed the benchmark return over the four years ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Relative to a universe of balanced fund managers, the four year return ranked fourth quartile. Since 1996, when active management was first utilized in the fund, the fund has returned approximately 5.1% per annum, matching the policy benchmark.



#### Capital Markets Review at March 31st, 2009



■ The Canadian dollar weakened relative to the U.S. dollar (closing at 79.48 cents U.S.) and Pound Sterling but strengthened relative to the Euro and Japanese Yen during the first three months of 2009 and performed as follows:

USD per CAD: -1.9%

EUR per CAD: 2.7%

JPY per CAD: 6.9%

UKP per CAD: -1.6%

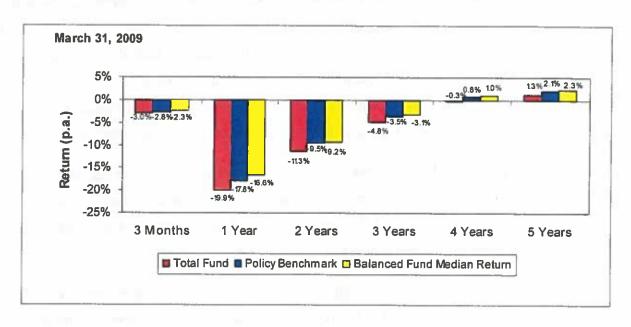
■ The Canadian stock market declined rapidly during the first two months of the year, but rallied in March, recouping most of the losses. Canadian small cap stocks recorded a positive first quarter return, outperforming Canadian large and mid cap stocks. The largest detractors from the last quarter performance for the S&P/TSX Composite based

on relative weight and return included Manulife Financial (-30.3%), Barrick Gold (-8.7%) and Rogers Communications (-19.8%). The largest positive contributors were Suncor Energy (18.9%), Petro-Canada (27.7%) and Potash (14.0%). Information Technology, Materials and Health Care were the only sectors to post a positive return over the first quarter. Utilities and Industrial suffered the greatest losses, posting double digit negative returns over the period.

- All segments of the Canadian bond market posted gains over the first quarter with corporates outperforming government bonds as the credit spreads narrowed from their record highs. In an environment of deepening recession, the Bank of Canada cut the overnight lending rate by 100 basis points to 0.5% during the first quarter, which is the lowest level in the Bank of Canada's 75-year history.
- The U.S. large cap stocks extended their losses from the previous year and posted a negative return for the sixth consecutive quarter. Reduced consumer spending, higher unemployment, deteriorating credit environment and skyrocketing budget deficit, raised signs of caution and negatively impacted investor sentiment. Mid cap stocks outperformed both small and large cap stocks over the first quarter. Growth style stocks noticeably outperformed value style stocks. The largest detractors from the S&P 500 over the first quarter based on relative weight and return included General Electric (-35.6%), Wells Fargo (-50.1%), and Exxon Mobil (-14.3%), in US dollar terms. All ten sectors, with the exception of Information Technology finished the quarter in negative territory. Financials and Industrials were the worst performing sectors over that period.
- Similar to other markets, most European equity markets recorded large losses over the first quarter. In an effort to invigorate economic activity, the European Central Bank further reduced borrowing costs by cutting its key lending rate to 1.25%, which is the lowest rate since the European Central Bank took charge of the European monetary policy in 1999. Pacific Rim equity markets followed in suit with other equity markets and finished the quarter in negative territory. Japan's economy weakened further and contracted over 12% (annualized) over the last quarter of 2008, the biggest decline since 1974.

#### **Total Fund**

The fund's return was -3.0% for the quarter, and -19.9% for the one year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. This performance trailed the policy benchmark for the year, and underperformed the median fund. Over five years, the fund has underperformed the benchmark, and ranked fourth quartile. Below median ranking over the longer term was primarily attributable to poor results in all asset classes.



#### **Canadian Equities**

The Canadian equity component of the fund is invested in publicly traded securities listed on major exchanges, with an emphasis in the portfolio on quality and diversification.

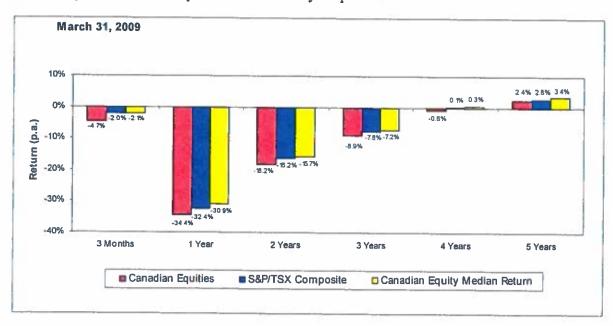
Approximately half of the Canadian equity portfolio is managed by CIBC Asset

Management with the other half managed by RBC Dominion Securities.

The total Canadian equity component returned -4.7% for the three months ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, lagging the S&P/TSX index return of -2.0%. Over one year, the fund's Canadian equity return was -34.4%, behind the index return of -32.4% for the same period. These results ranked fourth quartile for both the three month one year periods relative to a universe of Canadian equity managers. Over five years, the Canadian equity component has trailed the returns earned by the benchmark and ranked third quartile.

CIBC Asset Management's portion of the Canadian equity component of the fund returned -2.7% and -36.7% respectively for the three months and one year period ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Relative ranking was third quartile for the three month period and fourth quartile for the one year period.

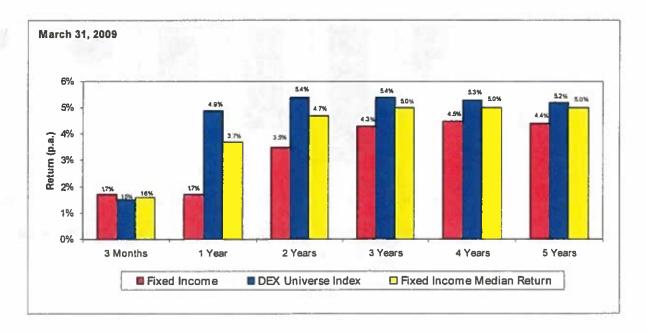
RBC's Canadian equity portfolio returned -6.2% over the three months ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and -32.8% over the one year period. Relative ranking was fourth quartile over the quarter and third quartile for the one year period.



#### **Fixed Income**

This component of the fund, managed by CIBC Asset Management, is largely invested in publicly traded fixed income securities including federal government, provincial government, municipal government and corporate bonds. Fixed income securities are purchased for both their income and capital gain potential. They are actively managed to take advantage of changes in interest rates between the various sectors of the bond market.

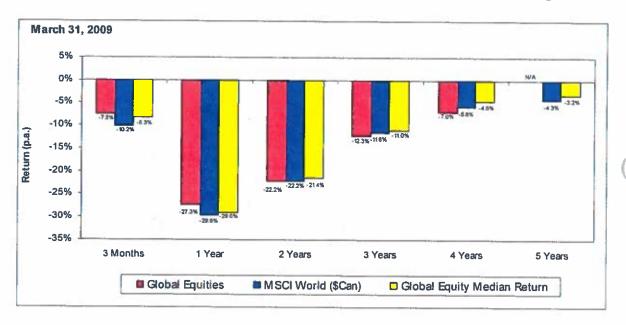
The fund's bond return for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 was 1.7%, tailing the DEX Universe Index return of 4.9%, while ranking fourth quartile relative to a universe of bond managers. Over five years, the bond component of the fund returned 4.4%, trailing the index return of 5.2%, and ranking fourth quartile.



#### **Global Equities**

The global equity component, managed by UBS, is invested in U.S. and international securities listed on stock exchanges located in developed markets in America, Europe and Asia, including Australia and New Zealand. The inclusion of global investments offers diversification benefits to the fund as well as access to sectors that are under represented in Canada (e.g., Health Care and Consumer sectors).

The fund's global equity component has been managed by UBS since May 2004, and returned -27.3% over the one year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, ahead of the benchmark return of -29.6%, and ranking second quartile compared to a universe of global equity managers.



#### 2008 Activities

- Investment Committee met in October 2008 and May 2009
- October meeting
  - Activites
    - Investment managers made presentations to Committee
    - Committee reviewed asset mix policy for GSC fund
  - Action items
    - UBS placed on watch
    - Current asset mix policy confirmed
- May meeting
  - Activities
    - Committee reviewed investment performance to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009
    - Recent performance of UBS has improved
  - Action items
    - UBS remains on watch but Committee is encouraged by recent performance and personnel changes
    - CIBC placed on watch for Canadian equities

#### 2009 Initiatives

- Investment Committee to continue meeting twice per year
  - Next meeting in November 2009
- Agenda will include
  - Review of investment performance to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009
  - Continued monitoring UBS and CIBC

## **EXECUTIVE - CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

#### 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 have been included in the Annual Report.

#### **B. Land Claim Settlement Fund**

Land Claim Settlement Fund net assets total approximately \$113 million (2008 - \$122 million) and are comprised of portfolio investments of \$93 million (2008 - \$111 million), long-term investments of \$2 million (2008 - \$2 million) and investments in subsidiaries and partnerships of \$22 million (2008 - \$17 million) less net liabilities of \$4 million (2008 - \$8 million). Portfolio and long-term investments are held primarily within Gwich'in Settlement Corporation and investments in subsidiaries and partnerships are held primarily within Gwich'in Development Corporation.

The Land Claim Settlement Fund had a consolidated annual deficit of \$6 million for the year ended March 31, 2009 (2008 - \$2 million) and a consolidated accumulated surplus at March 31, 2009 of approximately \$120 million (2008 - \$127 million).

#### C. Gwich'in Tribal Council - Operations

Total expenditures for the year ended March 31, 2009 on programs amounted to approximately \$14.2 million (2008 - \$17.5 million) as follows:

	2009	2008
General government	\$7,251,860	\$9,474,418
Self-government	885,000	982,385
Land claim implementation	590,495	648,994
Land administration	211,510	208,195
Mackenzie Valley Pipeline	690,065	516,411
Resource management	375,805	351,788
Education, social and cultural	3,199,115	3,426,375
Capital distribution	1,035,270	1,899,574

General government expenditures of (\$7.3 million) include approximately \$3.8 million for Council operating expenses and \$2.4 million for band support and Designated Gwich'in organization funding.

Funding for self-government (\$0.9 million) is for self-government main table negotiations and community Gwich'in constitution work.

Expenditures for land claim implementation and land

administration (\$0.8 million) include Claim Implementation, Gwich'in Land Administration and resource initiatives.

Mackenzie Valley Pipeline (\$0.7 million) expenditures are incurred to fund access and benefit implementation, environmental impact assessments, and other pipeline related activities.

Education, social and cultural programs (\$3.2 million) include activities of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (\$0.9 million), various Aboriginal Human Resource Development Initiatives (\$0.9 million), Gwich'in Wellness Initiatives (\$0.7 million) and other programs.

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

The Council had a consolidated annual deficit of approximately \$6.1 million (2008 - \$2.4 million) for the year ended March 31, 2009. Total consolidated accumulated surplus as at March 31, 2009 was approximately \$126 million (2008 - \$132 million).

#### 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. 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.

With respect to the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation, we annually review our asset mix and the performance of our fund managers to ensure that our investment objectives are achieved.

The financial performance of the Gwich'in Development Corporation has been significantly impacted again this year as a result of regulatory delays in the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline approval process. In the current year, GDC will manage this risk by looking for work and opportunities for our impacted subsidiary companies in other markets, by maintaining management and administrative overhead both in GDC and in subsidiaries companies at sustainable levels and finally by diversifying our investments outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Controller/Acting CFO



Consolidated Financial Statements of

# **GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL**

Year ended March 31, 2009



#### **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 members of Gwich'in Tribal Council, stating the scope of their examination and opinion on the consolidated financial statements, follows.

Chief Financial Officer

President

Inuvik, Canada May 29, 2009



KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants 10125 – 102 Street Edmonton AB T5J 3V8 Canada Telephone Fax Internet (780) 429-7300 (780) 429-7379 www.kpmg.ca

#### **AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS**

We have audited the consolidated statement of financial position of the Gwich'in Tribal Council as at March 31, 2009 and the consolidated statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows 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 Gwich'in Tribal Council as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

**Chartered Accountants** 

KPMG LLP

Edmonton, Canada May 29, 2009



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008
		(Restated – note 20)
Financial assets:		
Cash Accounts receivable Portfolio investments (note 2) Long-term investments (note 3) Investments in subsidiaries and partnerships (note 4)	5,724,147 2,358,707 93,456,800 2,000,000 22,254,565	\$ 3,823,256 2,155,255 111,420,367 2,000,000 17,114,073
	125,794,219	136,512,951
Liabilities: Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Contributions repayable (note 5) Deferred contributions (note 6) Deferred scholarship funds (note 7) Deferred guarantee fees (note 8) Due to Designated Gwich'in Organizations (note 9) Long-term debt (note 10)	1,710,192 90,278 279,816 155,568 450,000	1,477,690 342,533 101,604 - 450,000 4,000,000 4,299,556
	7,695,799	10,671,383
Net assets	118,098,420	125,841,568
Non-financial assets: Tangible capital assets (note 11) Prepaid expenses	7,770,857 83,851	6,173,625 44,497
	7,854,708	6,218,122
Accumulated surplus <u>\$</u> 125,953,128 \$ 132,059,6	90	
commitments and guarantees (note 12)		
ee accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.		
On behalf of the Council:		
Director		



**Consolidated Statement of Operations** 

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008	_
		(Restated – note 20)	
Revenues:			
Contributions: DIAND \$ Government of Canada Government of NWT Other	2,746,667 1,280,859 719,327 505,751	\$ 1,991,655 1,793,250 613,265 1,234,635	
	5,252,604	5,632,805	
Contributions to be repaid Net amounts recognized (deferred)	(61,660) (178,212)	(342,533) (73,334)	
	5,012,732	5,216,938	
Royalties User fees, expense recoveries and other amounts Administration fees Contributions of tangible capital assets (note 11) Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	2,188,092 793,191 - 1,261,337	1,444,214 444,820 27,830 317,726 34,426	
Investment income (note 13) Loss on investments in subsidiaries and partnerships (note 14)	3,959,743 (5,082,537)	9,606,821 (2,009,460)	
	8,132,558	15,083,315	_
Expenses (notes 15 and 16): General government Self-government Land claim implementation Land administration Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Resource management Education, social and cultural Capital distribution	7,251,860 885,000 590,495 211,510 690,065 375,805 3,199,115 1,035,270	9,474,418 982,385 648,994 208,195 516,411 351,788 3,426,375 1,899,574	
	14,239,120	17,500,140	
Annual deficit	(6,106,562)	(2,424,825)	
occumulated surplus, beginning of year	132,059,690	134,484,515	
Accumulated surplus, end of year \$	125,953,128	\$132,059.69	20

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

		2009	2008
			(Restated – note 20)
Annual deficit	\$	(6,106,562)	\$ (2,424,825)
Acquisition of tangible capital assets Amortization of tangible capital assets Gain on sale of tangible assets Proceeds on sale of tangible capital assets		(1,986,725) 389,493 -	(4,171,286) 158,143 (34,426) 34,426
	JI - A	(7,703,794)	(6,437,968)
ncrease in prepaid expenses		(39,354)	(10,633)
Decrease in net assets		(7,743,148)	(6,448,601)
Net assets, beginning of year		125,841,568	132,290,169
Net assets, end of year	\$	118,098,420 \$	125.841.56

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

	2009	2008
Cash provided by (used in):		(Restated – note 20
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating transactions:		
Annual deficit \$	(6,106,562)	\$ (2,424,825)
Items which do not involve cash:		
Loss on investments in subsidiaries and partnerships	5,082,537	2,009,460
Amortization of tangible capital assets	389,493	158,143
Loss on disposal of investments in subsidiaries		
and partnerships	18	-
Impairment in value of portfolio investments	-	9,851
Realized losses (gains) on disposal of portfolio investments	731,439	(3,902,676)
Gain on sale of tangible capital assets	-	(34,426)
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(203,452)	(2,613,615)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	232,502	358,976
Contributions repayable	(252,255)	340,606
Deferred contributions	178,212	17,416
Deferred scholarship funds	155,568	-
Deferred guarantee fees	-	450,000
Due to Designated Gwich'in Organizations	(4,000,000)	4,000,000
Prepaid expenses	(39,354)	(10,633)
	(3,831,854)	(1,641,723)
Capital transactions:		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(4.000.705)	44 454 555
Proceeds from sale of tangible capital assets	(1,986,725)	(4,171,286)
1 roceeds from sale of tangible capital assets	<del>"</del>	34,426
	(1,986,725)	(4,136,860)
nvesting transactions:		
Future settlement proceeds received	-	3,831,268
Decrease (increase) in portfolio investments, net	17,232,128	374,574
Increase in interest in investments in subsidiaries		
and partnerships	(10,223,049)	(3,687,020)
Proceeds from disposition of investments in subsidiaries		•
and partnerships	2	2,500,000
	7,009,081	3,018,822
Financing transactions:		
Proceeds from long-term debt	730,000	4,270,000
Repayments of long-term debt	(19,611)	(53,666)
Claims loan agreement repayments	-	(427,500)
	710,389	3,788,834
ncrease in cash	1,900,891	1,029,073
	1,50,000	1,029,073
Cash, beginning of year	3,823,256	2,794,183



See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (the "Council") is an aboriginal organization that represents Gwich'in beneficiaries 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.



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### Significant accounting policies:

The consolidated financial statements 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 (see note 20).

Significant aspects of the accounting policies adopted by the Council are as follows:

#### (a) Reporting entity and basis of accounting:

The Council is comprised of a number of funds and subsidiaries that are accountable for the financial administration of their financial resources to the Council and are owned or controlled by the Council. They include the following:

Entity	Year end
Gwich'in Tribal Council Operating Accounts	March 31, 2009
Gwich'in Tribal Land Claim Settlement Fund	March 31, 2009
Gwich'in Education Foundation	March 31, 2009
GTC-Imperial Oil Education Foundation	March 31, 2009
GTC-Imperial Oil Business Capacity Fund	March 31, 2009
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute	March 31, 2009
Gwich'in Enrolment Board	March 31, 2009
Council of Gwich'in Chiefs	March 31, 2009
Gwich'in Settlement Corporation	March 31, 2009

Certain subsidiary entities are accounted for on a modified equity basis, consistent with the generally accepted accounting treatment for government business enterprises. Under the modified equity basis, the business enterprises' accounting principles are not adjusted to conform to those of the Council, and inter-organizational transactions and balances are not eliminated. Subsidiary entities accounted for in this manner are:

ntity	Year end
Gwich'in Development Corporation	December 31, 2008
Zheh Gwizuh (G.P.) Limited	December 31, 2008
Aboriginal Contractors Corporation	December 31, 2008
Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Limited Partnership	March 31, 2009
Gwich'in EllisDon Healthcare Inc. (sold March 6, 2009)	December 31, 2008
Gwich'in EllisDon LPF Hamilton Ltd. (sold March 6, 2009)	December 31, 2008



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### Significant accounting policies (continued):

(a) Reporting entity and basis of accounting (continued):

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.

The Council also administers Gwich'in Children's Trust and Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust on behalf of their beneficiaries.

#### b) Portfolio investments:

Fixed income investments are recorded at amortized cost or at amortized cost less provisions to reflect a decline in value that is other than temporary. Interest income is recognized on an effective yield basis.

Investments in common stocks are recorded at cost, or at cost less amounts written off to reflect a decline in value that is other than temporary.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the prevailing rates of exchange at year-end. Non-monetary amounts and liabilities are translated at historic exchange rates. Investment income (losses) and expenditures are translated at the exchange rates on the date of the transaction. Gains and losses on foreign currency transactions are included as part of investment income (loss).

## c) Long-term investments:

The Council records long-term investments that are not subject to significant influence, control or joint control at cost, or at cost less amounts written off to reflect a decline in value that is other than temporary. Earnings from long-term investments are recognized only to the extent received or receivable.

#### a) Revenue recognition:

Revenues are accounted for in the year in which the transactions or events occur that give rise to the revenue. Restricted funding is recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Unrestricted funding is recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the collection of the amount to be received is reasonably assured. Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned.



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### 1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

Tangible capital assets:

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided using the following methods and annual rates:

Asset	Basis	Rate
Gwich'in Wellness Camp	Declining balance	4%
Condominium and improvements	Declining balance	4%
Machinery and equipment	Declining balance	20%- 30%
Furniture and fixtures	Declining balance	20%
Vehicles	Declining balance	30%
Computer hardware and software	Declining balance	30%
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	Lease term

#### Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect 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.



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### 2. Portfolio investments:

	2009	2009		2008 2008
	Cost	Fair value	Cost	Fair value
				(Restated – note 20)
Cash Settlements receivable (payable)	\$ 1,649,159 (623,080)	\$ 1,649,159 (623,080)	\$ 577,791 794,095	\$ 577,791 794,095
Accrued interest and dividends	64,604	64,604		
Fixed income: Government and government- guaranteed bonds with average effective yields of approximately				
5.35% (2008 – 5.47%) and maturity dates from November 15, 2010 to October 17, 2040 Corporate bonds with average effective yields of approximately	14,550,476	14,825,436	22,910,293	23,365,110
5.60% (2008 – 5.25%) and maturity dates from June 30, 2010 to June 14, 2035 Short-term notes and deposits with average effective yields of approximately 4.00% with maturity	10,472,560	10,146,917	20,415,654	19,375,874
dates of less than one year	3,902,581	3,902,882	4,050,322	4,050,344
	30,016,300	29,965,918	48,748,155	48,163,214
Common stocks: Canadian International	29,938,382 33,502,118	28,204,424 21,054,220	29,535,040 33,137,172	44,274,127 28,928,761
	63,44	0,500 49,25	8,644 62,67	2,212 73,202,888
	\$ 93,456,800	\$ 79,224,562	\$ 111,420,36	7 \$ 121,366,102

The market value of the Council's portfolio investments is \$14,232,238 less than cost at March 31, 2009. The carrying value of these securities has not been written down as management has concluded, based on a review of market information for the securities, that there is no obvious indication that the impairment is other than temporary.



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### 3. Long-term investments:

Long-term investments are comprised of an investment, at cost, of \$2,000,000 for 888,892 common shares of First Nations Bank of Canada acquired October 26, 2007.

#### 4. Investments in subsidiaries and partnerships:

	2009	2008
		(Restated – note 20)
Gwich'in Development Corporation, 100% subsidiary	\$22,032,588	\$ 16,784,079
Zheh Gwizuh (G.P.) Limited, 100% subsidiary	935	17.588
Aboriginal Contractors Corporation, 67.67% subsidiary	221,022	312,366
Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Limited Partnership.		- 12,000
34.48% interest	20	20
Gwich'in EllisDon Healthcare Inc., 100% subsidiary	-	10
Gwich'in EllisDon LPF Hamilton Ltd. , 100% subsidiary	•	10
\$	22,254,565	\$ 17,114,073



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### 4. Investments in subsidiaries and partnerships (continued):

#### (a) Gwich'in Development Corporation

Gwich'in Development Corporation (the "Corporation") is incorporated under the Business Corporations Act of the Northwest Territories. Substantially all of the revenues of the Corporation are from business and investment activities on behalf of the Gwich'in beneficiaries, mainly within the Gwich'in Settlement Area in the Northwest Territories.

The following table provides condensed supplementary financial information for the Gwich'in Development Corporation:

		2009	2008
		<del></del>	(Restated -note 20)
Financial Position:			
Current assets	\$	28,652,686	\$ 8,809,326
Non-current assets	,	2,873,968	17,113,421
Property and equipment		17,779,296	17,090,258
Intangible assets		185,230	299,822
Goodwill		275,000	-
Total assets		49,766,180	43,312,827
Liabilities:			
Current liabilities		19,609,383	22,075,692
Non-current liabilities		8,124,209	4,453,056
Due to Gwich'in Tribal Council Land Claim		J 12 1,200	4,400,000
Settlement Fund		19,862,883	9,706,511
Total liabilities		47,596,475	36,235,259
Net assets	\$	2,169,705	\$
Results of Operations:	<del></del> .		
results of operations.			
On anothing are and distance	Revenues		
Operating expenditures Other amounts		(6,478,540)	(4,245,717)
		(5,023,328)	(2,286,463)
Loss for the year	\$	(4,907,863)	\$
Cash flows:			
Cash from (to) operations	œ.	0.000.000	
Cash from financing	\$	3,939,082	\$ (3,498,845)
Cash to investing		12,433,479	14,117,544
Cash to investing		(13,952,809)	(11,504,936)
ncrease (decrease) in cash	\$	2,419,752	\$ (886,237)



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### 4. Investments in subsidiaries and partnerships (continued):

#### (b) Zheh Gwizuh (G.P.) Limited

Zheh Gwizuh (G.P.) Limited (the "Company") is a private company incorporated under the Business Corporations Act of the Northwest Territories. Its principal activities are the provision of management services to the Zheh Gwizuh Limited Partnership and Gwich'in Investments Limited Partnership. The Company holds, in trust, legal title to land on behalf of the Partners of the Zheh Gwizuh Limited Partnership and also holds, in trust, legal title to the investments on behalf of the Partners of the Gwich'in Investments Limited Partnership.

The following table provides condensed supplementary financial information for Zheh Gwizuh (G.P.) Limited:

	2009	2008	
	 	(Restated –	
Financial Position:		note 20)	
Current assets Non-current assets Property and equipment	\$ 185,504 20 1,189,253	\$ 21,934 20 -	
Total assets	 1,374,777	21,954	
Liabilities:			
Current liabilities Non-current liabilities	217,125 1,156,717	<b>4,366</b>	
Total liabilities	 1,373,842	4,366	
Net assets	\$ 935 \$	17,588	
Results of Operations:			
Revenues Expenditures	\$ 54,230 \$ (70,883)	10,805 (7,853)	
Earnings (loss) for the year	\$ (16,653) \$	2,952	
Cash flows:			
Cash from (to) operations Cash from financing Cash to investing	\$ (32,252) \$ 1,366,203 (1,200,000)	3,037 - -	
Increase in cash	\$ 133,951 \$	3,037	



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### 4. Investments in subsidiaries and partnerships (continued):

#### (c) Aboriginal Contractors Corporation:

Aboriginal Contractors Corporation (the "Corporation") is a private corporation incorporated on June 11, 2004 under the Business Corporations Act of the Northwest Territories. Its principal activity is to develop a made in the North solution to meet the construction requirements of the Mackenzie Gas Project ("the Project").

The following table provides condensed supplementary financial information for the Aboriginal Contractors Corporation:

	2009		2008
	9.	A I	(Restated –
			note 20)
Financial Position:			note 20)
Current assets Non-current assets	\$ 134,202 646,000	\$	114,102 523,500
Total assets	780,202	-	637,602
Liabilities:			
Current liabilities	90,152		37,033
Non-current liabilities	300,087		271,333
Minority interest  Due to Gwich'in Tribal Council Land Claim	168,941		16,870
Settlement Fund	616,675		550,000
Total liabilities	 1,175,8	355	875,236
Net assets (deficiency)	\$ (395,653)	\$	(237,634)
Results of Operations:			
Revenues	\$ 36,779	\$	74,259
Operating expenditures	(273,798)		(295,397)
Loss for the year	\$ (237,019)	\$	(221,138)
Cash flows:			
Cash from operations	\$ (207,877)	\$	(241,425)
Cash from financing	`489,700		504,000
Cash from investing	(250,000)		(529,500)
Increase (decrease) in cash	\$ 31,823	\$	(266,925)



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### 4. Investments in subsidiaries and partnerships (continued):

#### (d) Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Limited Partnership:

Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Limited Partnership was established in accordance with the Limited Partnership Agreement dated June 16, 2003 pursuant to the Partnership Act of the Northwest Territories and subsequently an Amended and Restated Limited Partnership Agreement as at June 23, 2004 to represent the interest of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group in the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline Project.

#### (e) Gwich'in EllisDon Healthcare Inc. and Gwich'in EllisDon LPF Hamilton Ltd.:

Gwich'in EllisDon Healthcare Inc. and Gwich'in EllisDon LPF Hamilton Ltd. were established in the prior year as part of guarantee arrangements with Pacific & Western Bank of Canada. The Council's shares were pledged as security under the guarantee arrangements. On March 6, 2009, the Council sold its interests in both subsidiaries and the related guarantees were released by Pacific & Western Bank of Canada subsequent to year end (see notes 8 and 12).

#### 5. Contributions repayable:

		2009		2008
Contributions repayable by project:	<del></del>	<del></del>		Restated – note 20)
Finance meeting	\$	9.300	\$	10,433
Arctic Gas Symposium	•	1,651	•	
Consultation policy workshop		36,070		-
AHRDA – Employment Insurance		31,234		22,660
Train-the-Trainer & Grief and Loss		12,023		-
Inherent right		-		262,500
Mackenzie Valley Pipeline		-		19,111
Business Symposium		-		20,000
Intergovernmental forums #5		-		5,000
Other		-		2,829
	\$	90,278	\$	342,533



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

## 6. Deferred contributions:

	2009		2008
BILL		F	Restated – note 20)
Deferred contributions by project:			
University and College Entrance Program	\$ 26,203	\$	8,831
CD ROM grant	12,000	•	- 1176
Intergovernmental forums #5	-		20,000
Claim implementation	77,980		
Gwich'in Renewable Resource Councils	24,000		
AHRDA - Consolidated Revenue Fund	82,737		58,339
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute	56,896		14,434
	\$ 279,816	\$	101,604

### 7. Deferred scholarship funds:

During the year, the Council received contributions totaling \$155,568 from community members, community organizations and businesses to establish the "Fred Carmichael Scholarship Fund". These contributions are to be used to provide scholarships to worthy beneficiaries and have not been distributed as at March 31, 2009.

### 8. Deferred guarantee fees:

In the prior year, \$450,000 in guarantee fees were received as part of guarantee arrangements with Pacific & Western Bank of Canada related to hospital construction projects being carried out by Gwich'in EllisDon Healthcare Inc. and Gwich'in EllisDon LPF Hamilton Ltd. These fees will be recognized in revenue once the guarantees have been released (see notes 4 and 12).

## 9. Due to Designated Gwich'in Organizations:

The amounts due to Designated Gwich'in Organizations were unsecured and non-interest bearing.



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

# 10. Long-term debt:

	2009	2008
	· · · ·	Restated – note 20)
Royal bank demand loan bearing interest at the bank's prime rate, secured by a general security agreement \$ Finance contract bearing interest at 1.90%, repayable in blended monthly installments of \$1,667, due	5,000,000	\$ 4,270,000
September 26, 2009, secured by a vehicle with a carrying amount of \$18,851	9,945	29,556
\$	5,009,945	\$ 4,299,556



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

### 11. Tangible capital assets:

		200	9	2008
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
				(Restated – note 20
Municipal lands, Inuvik	\$ 1,462,000	\$ -	\$ 1,462,0	00 \$ 200,663
Gwich'in Wellness Camp	5,685,342 5,061,205	227,246	, ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	5,458,096
Condominium and improvements	336,757 310,356	38,816		297,941
Machinery and equipment	364,567 103,179	278,400		86,167
Furniture and fixtures	215,907 49,892	172,294		43,613
Vehicles	101,672 26,930	50,121		51,551
Computer hardware and software	624,203 79,891	556,116		68,087
Leasehold improvements	530,716 341,509	227,314		303,402
	\$ 9,321,164	\$ 1,550,307	\$ 7,770,857	\$ 6,173,625

In the prior year, the Council paid outstanding property tax arrears in the amount of \$200,663 related to certain municipal lands owned by Nihtat Gwich'in Council. In the current year, the Council obtained title to the municipal lands from Nihtat Gwich'in Council for consideration equivalent to the amount paid by the Council relating to the outstanding property tax arrears. These lands had an assessed value of \$1,462,000 on the date of the transfer and the difference of \$1,261,337 has been recorded as a contribution in the current year.

The Council has received title to various lands within the Gwich'in Settlement Region including 16,264 square kilometres of land excluding mines and mineral rights; 6,065 square kilometres of land including mines and mineral rights; and 93 square kilometres of land only for mines and mineral rights. No value has been assigned to these lands for financial statement purposes.

In the prior year, the Council adopted PSAB Accounting Guideline 7 which provides transitional guidance on the presentation of information related to tangible capital assets in its financial statements until January 1, 2009, when PSAB Section 3150 "Tangible Capital Assets" is effective for local governments.

During 2009, the Council continued to work toward full compliance with the new requirements for accounting for tangible capital assets. As of March 31, 2009, compilation of a listing of all tangible capital assets and their related values was underway and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2010 at which point any required transitional adjustments will be made. Management has not completed its assessment of any tangible capital asset classes.



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

## 12. Commitments and guarantees:

The Council leases its premises under operating leases which expire in 2011 and certain other equipment under operating leases expiring in years up to 2014. Under the current lease arrangements, the Council has the option to renew the leases upon expiry. Minimum annual lease payments to the end of the lease terms are as follows:

2010	\$ 320,054
2011	5,321
2012	5,427
2013	5,536
2014	462

\$ 336,800

The Council has provided the following guarantees to non-arms length parties, which are outstanding at March 31, 2009:

- (a) A joint and several guarantee of the indebtedness of Inuvik Capital Suites Zheh Gwizu' Limited Partnership, a
  partnership interest of Zheh Gwizuh Limited Partnership, limited to a maximum of \$7,500,000 (outstanding indebtedness at December 31, 2008 \$6,796,571);
- (b) An unlimited guarantee of the indebtedness of Inuvik Commercial Properties Zheh Gwizu' Limited Partnership, a partnership interest of Zheh Gwizuh Limited Partnership (outstanding loan balances at December 31, 2008 -\$9,859,465);
- (c) An unlimited guarantee on a demand loan from Pacific & Western Bank of Canada provided to Gwich'in Development Corporation (outstanding loan balance at December 31, 2008 -\$3,791,667);
- (d) An unlimited guarantee of a demand loan from Pacific & Western Bank of Canada provided to Gwich'in Development Corporation (outstanding loan balance at December 31, 2008 \$1,362,500);
- (e) A \$15,000,000 guarantee of a demand loan from Pacific & Western Bank of Canada provided to Gwich'in Development Corporation (outstanding loan balance at December 31, 2008 \$10,000,000);



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

# 12. Commitments and guarantees, continued:

- (f) An unlimited guarantee of a loan from Pacific & Western Bank of Canada provided to Gwich'in EllisDon LPF Hamilton Ltd. (outstanding loan balance at December 31, 2008 \$45,922,352); and
- (g) An unlimited guarantee of a loan from Pacific & Western Bank of Canada provided to Gwich'in EllisDon Health-care Inc. (outstanding loan balance at December 31, 2008 \$49,702,753).

Subsequent to year end, the guarantee arrangements with Pacific & Western Bank of Canada related to hospital construction projects being carried out by Gwich'in EllisDon Healthcare Inc. and Gwich'in EllisDon LPF Hamilton Ltd. were released.

### 13. Investment income:

Investment income consists of the following:

	2009	2008
	 	(Restated –
		note 20)
Interest and dividends Realized gains (losses) on disposal of portfolio investments	\$ 4,691,182 (731,439)	\$ 5,704,145 3,902,676
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$ 3,959,743	\$ 9,606,821

# 14. Loss on investments in subsidiaries and partnerships:

Loss on investments in subsidiaries and partnerships consists of the following:

		2009	2008
	-		(Restated –
			note 20)
	\$	(4,907,863) (16,653) (158,021)	\$ (1,864,979) 2,952 (147,433)
Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Limited Partnership Gwich'in EllisDon Healthcare Inc.		-	-
Gwich'in EllisDon LPF Hamilton Ltd.		-	-
	\$	(5,082,537)	\$ (2,009,460)



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

# 15. Expenditures by object:

		2009	2008
			(Restated –
			note 20)
Salaries, wages and benefits	\$	3,976,555	\$ 4,040,479
Honoraria		213,420	202,675
Travel		769,769	796,729
Office and administration		1,753,798	1,591,155
Rent and utilities		785.642	515,393
Professional fees		1,293,901	1,266,963
Community assistance and donations		183,666	364,654
Education and training		912,631	644,129
Bank charges and interest		7,750	10,959
Interest on operating loan		203,323	142,007
In-kind expenses			42,725
Annual assembly		75.086	83,726
Amortization of tangible capital assets		389,493	158,143
Loss on disposal of investments in subsidiaries and	d partnerships	18	-
		10,565,052	9,859,737
Contributions to other organizations:			
Renewable Resource Councils		581.905	202.400
Designated Gwich'in Organizations		1,402,300	292,488 4,960,703
Band Support Services		585,860	530,811
Other		41,733	(48,173)
		2,611,798	
		2,011,730	5,735,829
Distributions to beneficiaries		1,035,270	1,899,574
Transfer to low-income participants		27,000	13,000
tal expenditures by object	\$	14,239,120	\$ 17,508,140



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

# 16. Expenditures by function:

		2009	2008
			(Restated –
O-mark and a second			note 20)
General government: Council operations	\$	C E94 E22	0 0054.000
Band support services	Ψ	6,581,533 642,989	\$ 8,051,006 630,381
Designated Gwich'in Organizations		-	617,757
Other programs		27,338	175,274
		7,251,860	9,474,418
Self-government:			
Core self-government		885,000	982,385
Land claim implementation:			
Claim implementation		541,281	588,403
Enrolment		49,214	60,591
		590,495	648,994
Land administration		211,510	208,195
Mackenzie Valley Pipeline		690,065	516,411
Resource management:			
Renewable Resource Councils		288,805	292,488
Other projects		87,000	59,300
	to 1	375,805	351,788
Education, social and cultural:			
Aboriginal Human Resource Development		943,827	936,268
ASEP		-	631,642
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute		901,815	1,042,819
Education and Training		235,026	190,396
Employment Liaison Gwich'in Wellness		78,502	83,643
		685,036	195,742
Gathering Our Voices		-	101,658
MGP Impact			140,630
UCEP		298,231	
Other programs		56,678	103,577
		3,199,115	3,426,375
Distributions to beneficiaries		1,035,270	1,899,574
al expenditures by function	\$	14,239,120	\$ 17,508,140



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

#### 17. Trust assets and liabilities:

The Gwich'in Tribal Council administers the following trusts on behalf of its beneficiaries. Transactions within the trusts during the current year are summarized below.

		1,835,19	06 2	,529,660
Common stocks: Canadian International		1,423,92 411,273		050,895 78,765
Fixed term investments: Pooled money market funds Government and government-guarantee bonds, with interest rates of 1.6% to 4.5% (2008 - 4.0 % to 5.7 %), maturing from January 7, 2009 to May 19, 2010	d 6	118,492 2,274,78		14,306 106,248
Cash and cash equivalents, earnings interest at 1.25% (2008-1.5% to 2.45%)	\$	value 1,793,86	value	2,268,261
		2009 Fair	2008 Fair	
	\$ 6,862,08	30 \$ (306,914)	\$ (334,921) \$	6,220,245
for the year ended December 31, 2008 S Gwich'in Children's Trust for the year ended December 31, 2008	5,156,45 1,705,62		(686,896) \$ 351,975 1	4,295, <b>223</b> ,925,022
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust	Opening balance	Distributions	Net investment earnings and contributions	Closing palance

Investments classified as available for sale or held for trading are recorded at fair value. Investments classified as held-to-maturity are recorded at amortized cost.



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

### 18. Financial instruments:

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Council is not exposed to significant credit risks arising from its financial instruments. Given the significance of the Council's loan payable and investments, it has significant exposure to market risks arising from changes in interest rates, market prices and currency changes. The Council does not use derivative instruments to mitigate these risks.

Unless otherwise noted, all financial assets and liabilities are recorded at amounts which approximate their fair market values. Fair value of investments is market value which represents the last bid price quoted for the investments.

The carrying value of long-term debt approximates its fair value as the terms and conditions of the arrangement are comparable to current market terms and conditions.

Guarantees to related entities represent contractual commitments for which there is no market; accordingly, it is not practicable to determine their fair value.

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

	Base	salaries		ravel, enefits and	2	009
	and h	onoraria	a	llowances	T	otal
President (2)	\$	130,000	\$	71,658	\$	201,658
Vice President		115,833	51	,956	16	7,789
Council members (20)		129,270	54	,573	18	3,843
Chief Operating Officer (2)		229,167	48	3,175	27	7,342
Chief Financial Officer (2)		166,250	52	2,992		9,242
	\$	770,520	\$	279,354	\$	1,049,874



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

### 20. Comparative figures:

The Accounting Standards Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA") and the Public Sector Accounting Board are jointly considering "Financial Reporting by Not-For-Profit Organization" and have issued an Invitation to Comment with a response date of June 30, 2009. The CICA and the Public Sector Accounting Board are considering, among other matters, the most appropriate accounting basis for not-for-profit organizations including entities such as the Council. As a result, management of the Council concluded that it was necessary to assess the nature of its operations and activities to ensure it is following the most appropriate basis for preparation of its financial reporting.

Effective April 1, 2008, management has concluded that the Gwich'in Tribal Council meets the definition of an "other government organization" as described in the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook. As a result, the financial reporting of the Council has been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for local government entities as described in the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook resulting in certain changes to measurement and presentation in the consolidated financial statements of the Council. These changes have been accounted for on a retrospective basis and comparative figures have been restated to conform to the newly adopted basis of presentation.

The Council has restated prior years' annual surplus to record additional earnings from Gwich'in Development Corporation. The effect of this adjustment was to increase investments in subsidiaries and partnerships by \$187,680, to decrease loss on investments in subsidiaries and partnerships and increase annual surplus for the year ended March 31, 2008 by \$104,811, and to increase April 1, 2007 accumulated surplus by \$82,869.

Certain other 2008 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the financial presentation adopted in the current year.



Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended March 31, 2009, with comparative figures for 2008

### 20. Comparative figures:

The Accounting Standards Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA") and the Public Sector Accounting Board are jointly considering "Financial Reporting by Not-For-Profit Organization" and have issued an Invitation to Comment with a response date of June 30, 2009. The CICA and the Public Sector Accounting Board are considering, among other matters, the most appropriate accounting basis for not-for-profit organizations including entities such as the Council. As a result, management of the Council concluded that it was necessary to assess the nature of its operations and activities to ensure it is following the most appropriate basis for preparation of its financial reporting.

Effective April 1, 2008, management has concluded that the Gwich'in Tribal Council meets the definition of an "other government organization" as described in the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook. As a result, the financial reporting of the Council has been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for local government entities as described in the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook resulting in certain changes to measurement and presentation in the consolidated financial statements of the Council. These changes have been accounted for on a retrospective basis and comparative figures have been restated to conform to the newly adopted basis of presentation.

The Council has restated prior years' annual surplus to record additional earnings from Gwich'in Development Corporation. The effect of this adjustment was to increase investments in subsidiaries and partnerships by \$187,680, to decrease loss on investments in subsidiaries and partnerships and increase annual surplus for the year ended March 31, 2008 by \$104,811, and to increase April 1, 2007 accumulated surplus by \$82,869.

Certain other 2008 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the financial presentation adopted in the current year.

