



# GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

Annual Report 2013 - 2014

“YI'EENODAI' YEENDO GWIZHIT GWITEE' AH”  
“LONG AGO WILL BE IN THE FUTURE”



## Annual Report 2013-2014

### Vision Statement

The Gwich'in are a culturally vibrant and independent nation that is environmentally responsible and socially, economically and politically self-reliant.

### Mission Statement

The Gwich'in Tribal Council protects and advances the interests of Gwich'in through hard work, collaborative approaches and good governance in order to improve the lives and preserve the culture of the Gwich'in.

### Board Values

**Respect:** We will treat everyone with respect

**Commitment:** We will work hard every day for the Gwich'in people

**Integrity:** We will follow high standards of behavior and always put the interests of the Gwich'in people first

**Trust:** We will be trustworthy and keep our word

**Accountability:** We shall set and publish clear goals and regularly report on progress and financial performance

**Knowledge:** We will build and preserve our traditional and modern knowledge and make decisions based on a thorough understanding of the matters before us

**Transparency:** We will conduct our business in an open manner; we will report on all aspects of our operations regularly; we will respond fully to questions from participants on a timely basis

**Solidarity:** We will work together in open constructive ways respecting each other's viewpoints but standing behind our group decisions

**Honesty:** We will mean what we say and never be untruthful or deceptive

**Gwich'in Culture and Beliefs:** Our Gwich'in culture and beliefs will guide our work and decisions

# In memory of Robert Arthur Alexie Jr.



April 26, 1956 – June 9, 2014

President Alexie selflessly served the Gwich'in nation for the past 30 years. Over this period, he was instrumental in the negotiations, ratification and implementation of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. In the past several years, among his many accomplishments as President, he courageously led the Gwich'in back to the final negotiations table to achieve a Devolution Final Agreement. Most recently, President Alexie was passionately fighting to protect the ecological integrity of the Peel Watershed, an area of tremendous traditional importance to all Gwich'in.

President Alexie was born in Teetl'it Zheh, N.W.T. Although he relocated to Inuvik over a decade ago, he always remained a proud member of the Teetl'it Gwich'in Designated Organization.

He is survived by his Dad Walter, Sisters Gladys, Vicky, Dawn & Winnie, Brothers Peter, Glen & Brian, his loving wife Renie Alexie (nee Francis), step daughter Alison Francis, his children Krista Lynn, Branden, Travis, Caroline and Tony, and his Grandchildren Clair-Dean, Carmen, Isabella, Julian, Taylor and Neveah.



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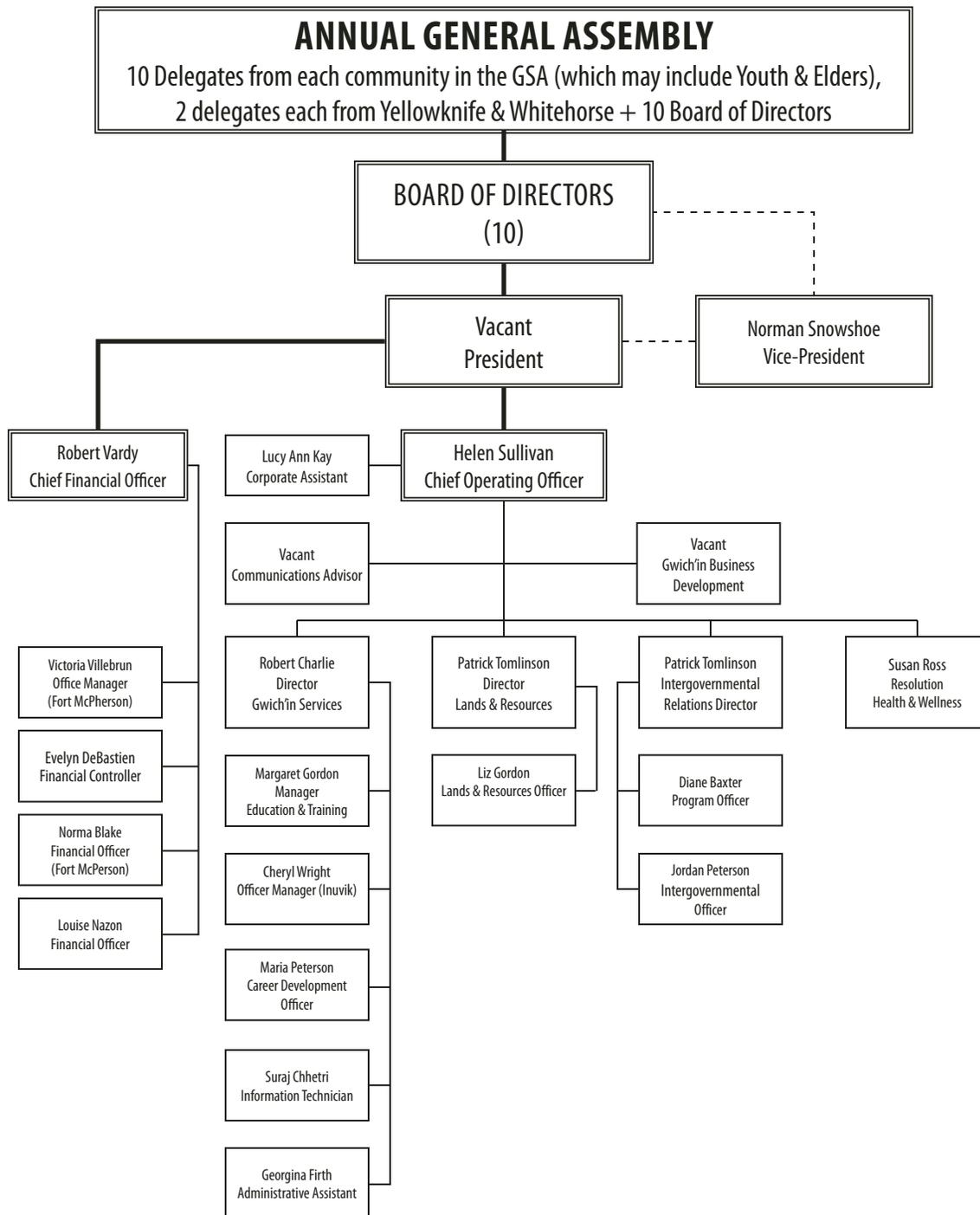
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# Board of Directors

## GTC Governance to Operations



# Board of Directors

## Acting President, Norman Snowshoe

Sha Gwich'in K'at,

It has been a busy year for the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors working to meet the goals and objectives of implementing the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA)*. It is with heavy hearts that we head into this year's Annual General Assembly without our President Robert A. Alexie Jr. Although these past few months have been extremely hard, as we cope with this loss, we move forward with a strengthened resolve to carry on the legacy of our past President. Haii Cho Robert for everything you did for our people and our land.

The theme of the 2014 Annual General Assembly is "Yi'eenoodaii yeendoo gwizhit gwitee'ah" which means, "Long ago will be the future". As Gwich'in we rely on our rich cultural traditions to act as a foundation as we implement our Land Claim Agreement.

This past year saw the Gwich'in Tribal Council take another leap forward towards Self Government with the development of the "Gwich'in Agreement in Principle (AIP) Position Paper". This position paper will be the basis for negotiations going forward. This is the first time in Canada that an aboriginal organization has taken this initiative in the negotiations process. This was a result of a lot of hard work by the Gwich'in Self Government Team. I commend the team and the GTC staff for the hard work that was put into the paper. A great milestone. Another Self Government related feat that should be highlighted. The Gwich'in hosted a hugely successful National Self Government Conference in September 2013. The Gwich'in should take great pride in being able to host a national conference that was enjoyed by all who attended.



Vice-President, Norman Snowshoe

Other key areas of focus this year is the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, *NWT Wildlife Act* and the *Peel River Watershed Land Use Plan*. The MVRMA amendments continue to concern us because of proposals to create a Regulatory Superboard out of Yellowknife. The GTC maintains that there should continue to be an office in Inuvik to have Gwich'in community participation in the regulatory process. The NWT Wildlife Act was amended and finalized this year. The provisions from our Land Claim were successfully included in the new Act. With the Peel Land Use Planning Process the GTC continues to support the Peel Commissions recommended plan. This position has been taken to court where we have standing as interveners in the court case between the First Nations of Na Cho Nyak Dun, the Trondek Hwechin and the Yukon Government over the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan. These are very important matters to us and we will continue to ensure that we maintain our late President's passion for the protection of our lands and waters.



The GTC has gone through many changes over the years and during this term we are attempting to separate Business and Politics. Also, we need to ensure that our Gwich'in Tribal Council is a fiscally sound and effective organization. To that end we have had several Strategic Planning Sessions. This will ensure that the GTC fulfills its' mandate. The GTC has established an independent Gwich'in Development Corporation. They have been mandated to enhance and create our business ventures.

Finally another focus of the Executive was build the capacity of the Youth and Elders in the region. We hosted workshops and meetings for the elders and the youth. Our Intergovernmental Department worked very hard this year to ensure that we get as much participation from the Elders and Youth as possible. We need to ensure that these efforts continue because the input from these two groups are invaluable.

In conclusion I would like to say to all Gwich'in that we must work together to move forward. I hear people say in meetings that we need to support one another and support leadership. I would like to send the message to my people that we need to work together and support one another. That is the only way we will move forward and make the claim work for us to make a better life for ourselves and our future generations. That is the only way...

Haii Cho!!

Norman Snowshoe and the  
Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors

# Board of Directors Report

## Chief Financial Officer, Evelyn DeBastien

Drin Gwiinzih,

I worked in the capacity of Chief Financial Officer (Acting) from September 2013 to June 2014. Finance department continues to be busy and continues to work diligently to provide an overall professional relationship with everyone.

### Results for the year

Financial results for the year 2013-2014 and the GTC consolidated financial statement is under a separate cover. This supplementary financial report will accompany the annual report. The Finance department continues to make process and improvement in the department with staffing, accountably, controls and portfolio

evaluation. We continue to build capacity in our department and provide management reports on a timely basis. The annual audit was completed by KPMG.

### Staffing

The staff of the Finance department are: Myself (Financial Controller), and Louise Nazon (Finance Officer), and in our Fort McPherson office is Vicky Villebrun (Senior Finance & Administration office), and Norma Blake (Senior Finance Officer). Robert Vardy joined our team as Chief Financial Officer on June 30, 2014.



Left to right: Louise Nazon, Robert Vardy and Evelyn DeBastien.



## **Accountabilities**

The annual GTC operations budget is approved by the Board to monitor the expenditures of various programs and one time funded projects. A quarterly variance report is also provided to the Board.

## **Internal Controls**

There were no internal control weaknesses identified by our auditors, KPMG, on the Management letter. The internal controls system is monitored to ensure it is working effectively and will be addressed and updates immediately if weaknesses are identified.

All travel and credit card expenses are properly reconciled and supported with receipts before payment is made and employees complete travel expense claims for all business trips within five days after completing the trip.

## **Moving Forward**

The Finance Department continues to make positive changes in the Gwich'in Tribal Council. I would like to thank all the Executive, Director, Managers, staff and participants for their ongoing support and all the Finance staff for their hard work and dedication.

Mahsi' Choo,

Evelyn DeBastien,  
Financial Controller

# Tribal Operations

## Communications/IT

### **2013-2014: A Year of Progress**

At the request of the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors, the Communications Department continued its work upgrading IT infrastructure in 2013-2014. Our network infrastructure has been completely redesigned, including significant upgrades to computers and our phone system for all users. It is very important that our work and data at the Gwich'in Tribal Council is safely backed up, especially in case of an unexpected emergency or system failure. As a result, we have switched to a cloud-based e-mail system and all data is backed up both on and off site. Suraj Chhetri, our information technology specialist, continues with this work both at the Gwich'in Tribal Council offices in Inuvik and Fort McPherson.

### **2014-2015: Planning for the Future**

With sturdy technological infrastructure as its foundation, the Communications Department is looking forward to a busy year ahead. Work is underway on a new Gwich'in Tribal Council website, which we hope to launch later this year. The site is being completely redesigned and it is our hope that it is accessible, easy to navigate and a great resource for posting and distributing information. We also plan to get our quarterly newsletters back up and running, to better inform Gwich'in participants on the work of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and have been busy bolstering our social media presence online. Add the Gwich'in Tribal Council as a friend on Facebook, follow us on Twitter (@gwichinselfgovt) or Instagram (@gwichintribalcouncil) for the latest news and events around the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

The Communications Department looks forward to another productive year in 2013-2014 and would like to thank the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors for their direction and ongoing support.



*Information Technician, Suraj Chhetri*



# Tribal Operations

## Gwich'in Services

Gwich'in Services is responsible for providing services and support to our participants, staff, partners and communities by delivering a number of programs. Our department has been consistent this past year with the same people in their positions.

Currently in the department we have the following staff:

- **Margaret Gordon** – Manager Education and Training
- **Cheryl Wright** – Office Manager
- **Mariah Peterson** – Career Development Officer
- **Gina Firth** – Administrative Assistant

Some of our responsibilities include, staff recruitment, Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program, Enrolment, Children's trust, elders payout, bereavement applications, and a major focus on Education and Training.

We are responsible for delivering the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) under a partnership arrangement with Service Canada. This program focuses on improving the "employability of Aboriginal People".

### Partnerships and Initiatives

Partnership is one of the primary considerations in all our activities. By partnering we can utilize the skill sets of our partners and also realize some cost savings. For each partner's contribution toward education and training, one person is likely to gain employment, further their education or enhance their skills.

Our department is fully involved in the Regional Training Partnership. Some of the partners we meet with on a regular basis are the Aurora College, Education, Culture and Employment, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Yukon College, Conoco Philips, and Beaufort Delta Education Council. Other ongoing initiatives regarding education are the Early Childhood Development Initiative, Aboriginal Student Achievement, Healthy Children's Initiatives, Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Development, NWT Education Renewal and Innovation, Gwich'in Education Forum, NWT Labour Force Development, Mine Training Society, and Northern Youth Aboard.

In the past year we've had other partners such as Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre, Stanton's Group, Arctic Paws, and Northwind Industries. These partners accessed our funding on their own by submitting a proposal.

### Service Delivery Improvement

The Education and Training department works with other ASETS holders on making our information more accessible for clients. Participants are finding the application a little less intimidating as we eliminated a lot of information that didn't need to be in the forms. Eight pages is still a bit much for them but we explain why this is needed and they understand. We let them know that we ask for this information because it is entered into a database that provides information for us at a later date. We can find out who was trained, what program and how many students attended. We use this information for our monthly, quarterly and annual reports to Service Canada, GTC Financial Audits and the Gwich'in Annual General Assembly.

## Career Planning

The most important component of the ASETS application is the Career Planning section. Our Staff believe CAREER PLANNING is very important. This gives us an idea on how to help the client such as what kind of training they will need to obtain that career. It gives them a chance to think about what it is going to take to become a Nurse for instance. We find that this gives them focus and they are not taking courses that will not benefit them in the end.

Often times we make decisions based on spur-of-the-moment situations instead of taking the time to think things through carefully to make a meaningful decision. This type of action can lead to, students applying to the college to become a nurse and a year later find out this is "totally not me" and soon find out it is driving a haul truck that "completes me." This is why Career Planning is important to us. We are here to help you begin your education or career path.

Our Gwich'in youth should be discussing their future plans (Career Planning) even before they enter high school. If your child begin this process in grade 7 or 8, it is most likely they will know what he/she wants to be when they enter grade 10. It is in grade 10 your child can choose the courses they need for their educational journey after they complete high school and prepare for their Post-Secondary education. A question they may ask, what courses do I need in high school if I want to become a nurse? It is obvious they will need their math and sciences. Please help your children begin this process at home by simply asking them questions about their future.

## Program Activities for 2014

The following identifies a number of programs that we have provided funding for in some of the communities:

Since the beginning of ASETS we've been asked by participants to conduct safety courses as theirs either expired or they need safety tickets to get them a job or keep a job. This year alone we've had:

**Safety Training in Fort McPherson in mid-February; This included: Standard First Aid. H2S Alive; Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS); and, Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG). 17 Participants applied and 17 completed the course. Our share of the cost was approximately \$10, 000.00.**

**This same Safety course was held in Inuvik and Aklavik with the addition of Confined Spaces. In Aklavik 15 Participants applied and 12 completed and here in Inuvik 15 applied and 10 completed. Our share of the cost for this training was approximately \$20,000.00.**

Students were provided this training to prepare them for employment opportunities in the oil and gas industry. The Mobile Trades Technical Lab (MTTL) that was purchased by Aurora College, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Gwich'in Tribal Council is used for training in the communities. One of the things we found out is that most participants don't want to leave their communities and family so we take this lab to the community and offer a course that is needed there. We recently had a Builder Trades Helper program in Aklavik with 7 students completing the course and building two small shacks.

We also provided Wage Subsidies to a number of organizations to provide orientation and training in their workplace. The goal of this initiative is to move clients into a full time position.

### **Northern Property**

GTC  
1 Participant  
Inuvik

### **Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre**

GTC  
2 Participants  
Inuvik

### **Stanton's Group**

GTC  
1 Participant  
Inuvik



**Arctic Paws**

GTC  
2 Youth  
Inuvik

**Northwind Industries**

GTC  
15 Participants  
Inuvik

**NorTerra Inc**

GTC  
2 Participants  
Fort McPherson

**Trade Winds to Success**

GTC  
2 Participants  
Inuvik/Fort McPherson

**Mine Training Society**

GTC  
7 Participants  
Inuvik/Tsiigehtchic

**Child Development Centre**

We provide funding to the Child Development Centers in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. Unfortunately the center in Tsiigehtchic has been closed due to building issues. We recognize the importance of early childhood learning and that we need to support our young children as they start out on their educational journey. We partner with the communities to fund these centers. In the past year we've assisted Children First Society in Inuvik with capital costs such as fencing and landscaping. In Fort McPherson we assisted in purchasing new furniture, toys, and learning aids for the Fort McPherson Child Development Center. This was much appreciated by the employees and the children.

**Community Employment Officers**

We also recognize that the smaller communities need support in their employment and training needs so we provide support to fund employment officers in the communities of Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic. These officers assist all Aboriginal clients in the communities and deliver a lot of services to clients such as resumes and cover letters, faxing job applications, job searches, job board, and researching Post-Secondary institutions and applications to these institutions.

**Funding**

Our funding sources are "supplementary" funding sources to supplement a primary source of funding that students receive for their Post-Secondary education. Primary sources of funding include GNWT Student Financial Assistance. These supplementary funding sources are the GTC Education Foundation, Imperial and Dowland. Two years ago, we recognized that students were struggling with money so we decided to do a top up to the SFA living allowance to help them out with their expenses. This will also help them concentrate on their studies rather than what they owe.

The Education Foundation provides tutoring supports to students in high school or those attending Post-Secondary institutions. We also provide grad gifts and scholarships to students. We provide a top up to students who have obtained funding from GNWT SFA. During the period from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 we allocated \$169,550.00.

**Other**

We at Gwich'in Services will attempt to travel and meet with Community Members to discuss our services and to find ways that we can improve. We also want to start working with the schools to do presentations on our Gwich'in history, treaty, land claims and residential schools. We recognize that our children need to know their history and we will help them as much as we can.

## Education Forum:

The Forum was held in Fort McPherson this year. There were representatives from the University of Alberta, Aurora College, Gwich'in Tribal Council and Yukon College. The groups set up booths with information important for the students. They also gave presentations throughout the three days in collaboration with others. The students at this forum were so engaged and asked questions. They were so thankful that we all were there for them and to provide information on attending school in the South such as Edmonton or further. We felt that this was important as some of these students haven't even gone out of their community so we wanted to show them that they have choices and people to help them make those choices.

## Success Stories:

We had a client take the Northern Flight Attendant training with Nor Terra Inc earlier in the year and he is now working full time for Canadian North. According to his posts on Facebook he is really enjoying his job and all the places that he flies to. We are assisting another client from Fort McPherson train in this field.

This fall we had a couple of youth work the vet clinic for a month. They worked closely with the Vet from Whitehorse who has a mobile clinic. The students volunteered during the vet clinics and learned a lot from her. One of the students identified a disability and really did well. According to his mother this really helped him come out of his shell and he did a lot of work by himself. Volunteering and working at this mobile clinic will help these clients decide if this is the career they want to pursue.

We've partnered with the Mine Training Society in getting participants trained to work in the mines. This year we've helped 7 participants get training. One participant is now working at Diavik Mines in Yellowknife and is on rotation. She is really enjoying her job and is thankful for taking this training.

The demolition of the elementary school (SAMS) trained 26 participants in HazMat so they can work on the school. The safety training was provided before the demolition and out of the 26 we had a steady 12 who stayed employed with the company who had the contract. The rest of the participants moved to other jobs in the community such as Northwind Industries, Gruben's Transportation and in the Sahtu.



Left to right: Suraj Chhetri, Mariah Peterson, Cheryl Wright, Margaret Gordon, Robert Charlie, Susan Ross and Georgina Firth.



Gwich'in Services will continue to work closely with the communities, schools, Gwich'in organizations and businesses. We also encourage parents, elders, leaders, teachers and Gwich'in organization staff in the communities to encourage the youth and continue to support their children in their education.

Remember that "it takes the whole community to raise a child". Please do your part.

Haii Cho

Robert Charlie  
Director Gwich'in Services.

# Tribal Operations

## Regional Wellness

### Resolution Health Support Program Year-End Report 2013-2014

The Resolution Health Support Program has been very busy for this fiscal year. Our office continues to maintain initial contact with on-going clients, referrals for counselling, support services, addressing elder's issues or concerns, and networking with other community agencies from Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Inuvik.

The Resolution Health Support office offered a variety of workshops, networking with community resources, building networking partnerships and maintaining initial contacts with community cultural support workers from Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. I contacted community resources to work together, communicating information pertaining to upcoming workshops, meetings and assistance in ensuring that client's needs are met.

**Client Information:** Any initial contacts with IRS students or their family members are strictly confidential. I continue to support clients during/after their IAP hearings, referrals for counseling, support group meetings, and after care for clients.

**Clients:** As of March 31st, 2014, I have a total of 45 on-going clients whom I stay in contact on a daily or weekly basis. I continue to provide support to all clients, referrals to counseling, or cultural support workers.

#### Statistics:

This year the Resolution Health Office was quite busy with clients, family members and inter generational members. For this fiscal



*Resolution Health Support Worker, Susan Ross*

year I have a total of 45 clients. Stats recorded on a quarterly basis indicates number of on-going clients and number of interactions with clients.

#### 1st Quarter

April - June 2013

# of Clients: 26

# Interactions: 63

#### 2nd Quarter

July - September 2013

# of Clients: 21

# Interactions: 63

#### 3rd Quarter

October - December 2013

# of Clients: 30

# Interactions: 91



#### 4th Quarter

January - March 2014

# of Clients: 56

# Interactions: 147

#### Workshops, Training, Meetings, Community Visits:

- Community Visits throughout the year to the communities of Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson to meet with clients regarding support, hearings, information sharing and follow-up.
- May 1-4, 2013 the GTC Wellness Department hosted an Orientation Training for the community Cultural Support Workers. During this training the CSW's developed their work plan for the year, identified areas they require assistance in, information sessions for clients and self-care tips.
- June 16-21, 2013 I attended and Inter generational Training in London, Ontario.
- This training focused on the Intergenerational youth, what information to focus on, running support groups for the youth, interacting with Elders, community leadership and the family unit.
- Elders & Youth Workshop held in Fort McPherson from July 26-30, 2013. This being the second workshop for the Elders, Youth and Middle-aged Adults we focused on Traditional Medicines, roles and responsibilities of an effective Elders & Youth Council and Elder Abuse. Guest speaker Donald Prince, Community Wellness Coordinator did a presentation on Mobile Treatment, how it works, community groups/members need to commit and follow-up for clients. Traditional Medicine facilitator Mary Effie Snowshoe brought in traditional plants and shared their uses.

- Grief Coaching Training held in Edmonton, Alberta from September 24-28th, 2013. This training focused on using Art Therapy with clients and dealing with Trauma.

Anti-Poverty Strategy Meeting held in Yellowknife from October 8-10, 2013. The Anti-Poverty Strategy Meeting's main focus is to establish priorities from each of the representatives from the North. There are five main areas as priorities that have been established from previous meetings which include:

1. Children and Family Support
2. Healthy Living and Reaching Our Potential
3. Safe and Affordable Housing
4. Sustainable Communities
5. Integrated Continuum of Services

#### Workshop Objectives:

1. Confirm the commitment of No Place for Poverty Coalition members and other to implementing the Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework.
2. Reach a united position on five short term and long term priorities under the five Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework pillars to recommend to the GNWT at its symposium in November 2013.
3. Decide on targets and measurements for evaluating priority actions to include in advocacy efforts.
4. Actively involve an Aboriginal organization and/or government from each region in the implementation of the Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework.

#### Expected Outcomes:

1. The No Place for Poverty Coalition is united and ready to work in partnership with other sectors to implement the Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework and take meaning action on poverty.

2. Clear targets and measures for evaluating priority and advocacy actions are in place.
3. The base is broadened for advocacy and engagement on anti-poverty issues.

- Homeless Addictions Meeting; November 2013. This meeting is to address the issue within Inuvik regarding the homelessness. The main focus is to find a location for homeless individuals that are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A few meetings were held and the outcome is the Anglican Church opened their doors to use as a Wet Shelter from 11pm-8am. Volunteers oversee this project where individuals can go to sleep and return to the Homeless Shelter the next day. Evening snacks and a light breakfast are provided. As well as counselling and referrals.
- Resolution Health Support Program Training held in Whitehorse from January 6-10, 2014. This training focused on mock scenarios for IAP hearings, cultural support, debriefing, self-care and networking with RHSW's from Nunavut, Yukon and NWT.
- NWT Senior Society Workshop in Yellowknife from January 27-30, 2014, titled YOU Power and Making a Difference. Barb Hood, Ex. Director the NWT Senior Society and members consisting of Wanda Roberts; Aurora College, Terry Rideout; member from Ft. Smith and myself did this workshop. What is it? We have a shared responsibility to promote respect for all members of our society and to work together to create safe, strong, healthy communities. Everyone has a role to play, and we need every person to make their unique contribution.
- Elder & Youth Workshop from March 9-11, 2014, held in Inuvik at the Interagency Building. Matilda and I hosted this workshop geared towards Intergenerational Youth, Elders traditional Knowledge and working with middle-aged adults as well. During

the three-day workshop we talked about Residential School, how it is affecting our youth, communication barriers, regaining traditional knowledge and respect. The outcome of the workshop resulted in the commitment from the four Gwich'in communities to work together in ensuring that our Intergenerational youth have a voice and utilize our elders as resources and working with our Leadership.

- Elders Gathering March 17-18, 2014. Co-hosted with Inuvik Native Band. A total of seven elders participated. The purpose of this meeting focused on Traditional Knowledge, identifying activities during the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Developing a draft plan and identifying elder resources. Will continue to work with the Inuvik Native Band to ensure this activity is followed through.
- Youth Leadership from March 19-21, 2014. Matilda worked with the Inuvik Native Band to offer a youth leadership workshop.

### Cultural Support Workers:

I continue to stay in contact with the Support Workers from each of the four Gwich'in communities.

- **Aklavik** – Annie Buckle, Eugene Pascal
- **Fort McPherson** – Eileen Koe, Julianne Blake
- **Tsiigehtchic** – Archie Norbert
- **Inuvik** – Sarah Jerome

Community visits to Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic throughout the year to meet with clients to offer support or referrals for counselling.



## **Support Group:**

Matilda and I continued to host Support meetings for individuals which were held twice a month at the Alex Moses Greenland building.

Throughout this fiscal year the Resolution Health office has been very busy. We continue to have an open door policy and accommodate individuals requiring information. I look forward to another successful year and continue to network with community resources and individuals.

Mushi Cho

Susan Ross  
Resolution Health Support Worker  
Gwich'in Tribal Council

# Tribal Operations

## Intergovernmental Relations

The period since the 2013 Annual General Assembly has been a very busy one, with a number of important accomplishments, and seeing the beginning of several new initiatives that will keep us busy for many years to come. Similarly to previous years, our main focus of concentration has been on the Implementation of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA), including the negotiation of self-government and work in Yukon as per the terms of Appendix C, the Transboundary Agreement. Over the past year, the department began the work of implementing the Devolution Final Agreement and the related Bilateral Agreements, and also hired a full time staff person devoted to Gwich'in youth and elder participation in the work of Land Claim Implementation.

### **Implementation of the GCLCA**

In June 2014, the GTC officially entered the litigation process evoked by several Yukon First Nations against the Yukon Government over the present version of the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan. The GTC joined the lawsuit as an intervener, meaning that GTC legal council could present its views on the process that resulted in the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan and also explain how Gwich'in rights were affected by the process and resulting land use plan that was ultimately endorsed by the Yukon Government. It is expected that a judgment will be awarded by October.

The Department continued to work with community partners and representatives from both governments on renewing a 10 Year Implementation Plan. By May, the parties had finished a first complete draft of all the activity sheets that make-up the work plan

for all signatories to the GCLCA. GTC has begun seeking comment on the contents of the work plan from community partners and will continue to do so until fall 2014. It is expected that the negotiations on the financial contributions of the plan will begin in September and the GC expects the plan completed and approved by April 1, 2015.

In February 2014, the GTC, in partnership with the Beaufort Delta Education Council, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, several Gwich'in elders, and two principals of High School located in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA), began developing various courses on Gwich'in culture and history to be taught to high school students. The group, known as the Gwich'in Curriculum Development Committee, hired an education consultant in March, and, after several design and brainstorming sessions, formally submitted a draft proposal for the first 3 courses to the GNWT department of education in July.

In November 2013, the GTC entered into a partnership with the GNWT statistics bureau to hire a full time statistician to work on behalf of GTC. The primary objective of the position would be to provide analysis and data to the self-government negotiation team, though early extensions of the work have also shown to provide useful insight into the practices of the Gwich'in enrollment board. The position will continue until March 31, 2015 and it is hoped that once completed the GTC will have a reliable and current picture of the labour market and demographic realities of the Gwich'in population both inside the GSA and beyond.



The GTC participated actively in the Government of Canada process to amend the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA). The GTC submitted a 25 page analysis paper to federal officials detailing a number of concerns, ranging from the technical to the political components of the Act. Following the submission, GTC President Robert A. Alexie appeared before parliamentary and senate committees to further express and clarify the GTC position on the proposed amendments. The Act became law on March 26, 2014 and is now the subject to a legal challenge by the Tlicho Government.

### **Self-Government Negotiations**

The GTC continues to structure its approach to the self-government negotiations according to a team approach, which assures that representatives from each GSA community have an opportunity to participate in all strategic planning exercises and at all main table negotiation sessions. Presently, the negotiation team includes Norman Snowshoe, Carolyn Lennie, Eugene Pascal, Jozef Carnogursky and David Krutko. Patrick Tomlinson is the member of the team responsible for technical support and Dave Joe is legal council.

The past year saw a major development in the negotiations when in late April the GTC negotiation team presented to both governments a comprehensive position paper consisting of draft language of close to 40 chapters. The position paper represents a collection of positions the GTC supports in regards to the inherent right to self-government possessed by the Gwich'in. The paper was developed by the GTC negotiation team, after a lengthy period of drafting and study of other agreements, and was eventually endorsed by a unanimous vote of support by the GTC Board of Directors prior to the document being shared with the government negotiation teams.

Following a motion passed at the 2013 AGA, the negotiation team continues to work according to a 3-7-10 plan, meaning that the target date to complete an Agreement-in-Principle with the governments is scheduled

for 2016, the anticipated completion of the negotiations of the final agreement set for 2020 and the effective date of the Gwich'in self-government listed as August 2023.

Closely related to the self-government negotiations process is an effort by GTC to build human capacity among the Gwich'in population so that when employment opportunities develop Gwich'in candidates can assume the positions. It is estimated that upon effective date the Gwich'in self-government, including both the regional and community governments, will require 30 – 50 positions. Currently, the GTC is working on a 10 Year HR Strategy to address the employment demand related to implementation of the self-government agreement. The strategy should be complete and released for public consumption by winter 2015.

A key program associated with the 10 Year HR Strategy is a three government internship project that is currently being designed by officials at GTC with help from representatives of the GNWT and GTC. The purpose of the internship project is to provide meaningful job opportunities for Gwich'in participants at GTC, the GNWT and the Government of Canada. Successful applicants would benefit from positions at all three organizations for periods ranging between 10 18 months. In addition to the professional experience, candidates would also receive training and mentorship opportunities throughout the project. This project was signed off by the GNWT Premier and the GTC President in March. It is hoped that the first call for applicants will occur in summer 2015.

### **Devolution Final Agreement**

Since the 2013 AGA, the GTC has been an active participant in the implementation of the Devolution Final Agreement and the related bilateral agreements with the other aboriginal organizations and with the GNWT.

The two most important bilateral agreements associated with the Devolution Final Agreement concern the topics of resource revenues and the governance of public and aboriginal lands. On the side of resource

revenues, the GTC continued to negotiate pro-actively for a fair and reasonable formula to divide the aboriginal share of the Devolution royalties. A final formula was approved in fall 2013, and the approximate share of royalties to be collected per year by GTC on behalf of the Gwich'in will be approximately 14% of the total amount allocated to the aboriginal governments. Further work needs to be done to clarify the fine print of the formula and the GTC continues to participate pro-actively in these discussions.

The Intergovernmental Council on Land Management is a formal body that will bring aboriginal leaders and senior officials together with representatives from the GNWT to discuss ways to coordinate policies and systems of land management in the NWT. The Council will be aided by a secretariat, made up of senior technical officials from all the signatories to the Devolution Final Agreement, that will support the Council as requested. GTC has helped draft the terms of reference of the secretariat and its first meeting will be held in September.

## **Youth and Elders**

The past year saw tremendous progress in the inclusion of youth and elders in activities of the department. As regards youth, the GTC hired a youth outreach officer in December in order to begin a regular and sustained connection between the department and youth residing in the GSA. The department took a lead role in organizing an education forum in March and also funded after school tutoring programs in all four Gwich'in communities. Since February, the department has been hosting weekend meetings of a Gwich'in regional youth council, a temporary group made-up of youth from all four GSA communities that have been tasked on developing a proposal for a permanent youth council to be presented to the 2014 AGA.

The department held numerous activities targeting Gwich'in elders over the past year. In late 2013, the GTC held community meetings on the topic of the MVRMA amendments attended by numerous elders. The department has consulted with elders about how to effectively include the Gwich'in language into the work of the department and has initiated

language lessons for its staff. Most notably, elders from all four GSA communities were invited to Inuvik to participate in a 3 day forum on education reform. This important event resulted in a series of recommendations to GTC to improve the delivery of public education in the region.



# Gwich'in Organizations

## Gwich'in Enrolment Board

The Gwich'in Enrolment Board has operated since March 1993, and is responsible for enrolling all persons of Gwich'in ancestry in the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA). Only those enrolled under the Claim are entitled to vote and run in GTC elections, participate in the activities of the GTC and its affiliated bodies, or receive benefits such as Christmas hampers or money from pay outs.

The Enrolment Card also meets the requirement for photo-identification necessary for airline travel. The first Gwich'in Enrolment Registry was issued in April 1994 and listed 1,245 Participants. By May 2013, we presently have 3,378 enrolled participants and continue to receive applications.

On Enrolment, each Participant receives a Gwich'in Enrolment Card bearing the logo of the Gwich'in Nation and the Participants four digit enrollment number and associated community. Enrolment in the Claim is not identical with membership in a Gwich'in Band: your ten digit Treaty Status Card Number (the first three digits of which indicate your community band) reflects Band membership. To change Band affiliation, you must contact both your local Band and the Enrolment Board. But you must enroll under the GCLCA itself to enjoy its benefits, and membership is not automatic even if you already belong to a band. To apply, you must request and complete an application form. Enrolment is open to all who qualify, regardless of age, so eligible Gwich'in can enroll their children and themselves.

Keeping the Registry up-to-date as people move, marry, have children, and become deceased is a major part of the Enrolment

Board's work. Participants continue to receive all the benefits to which they are entitled under the Claim only as long as we have current, accurate information. We urge you to ensure that we have up-to-date information on you and your family, and to contact us if you know someone who may be eligible but has not yet enrolled. It is easier than ever to stay in touch, through our toll-free telephone number, email or the GTC web site.

### **The Enrolment Board Members are:**

**Norman Snowshoe** – Chairperson  
**Robert Alexie Sr.** – Board Member  
**Peter Ross** – Board Member – Tsiigetichic  
**Billie Lennie** – Board Member  
**Leanne Nerysoo** – Board Member –  
**Cheryl Wright** – Enrolment Coordinator

### **You can reach us at:**

Box 1509 Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0  
Tel. (867) 777-7916 Fax: (867) 777-7955  
Toll-Free: 1-866-414-4670  
**Email:** [cherylw@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:cherylw@gwichin.nt.ca)  
**Website:** [www.gwichin.nt.ca](http://www.gwichin.nt.ca)  
Cheryl Wright  
*Office Manager*

# Gwich'in Organizations

## Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute

**The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI)** was established by the GTC in 1993 as a nonprofit society with charitable status and a mandate to *document, preserve and promote Gwich'in culture, language, traditional knowledge and values*. **The GSCI Board of Directors** are Norman Snowshoe, Chair, GTC; Gladys Alexie, Vice-Chair, Fort McPherson; Renie Stewart, Aklavik; Annie Jane Modeste, Fort McPherson; Ruth Wright, Inuvik; Sarah McLeod-Firth, Inuvik; and John Norbert (alternate Anna May MacLeod), Tsiigehtchic.

**The GSCI Staff** are Sharon Snowshoe, Executive Director; Ingrid Kritsch, Research

Director; William George Firth, Language Manager; Alestine Andre, Heritage Researcher; and Margaret Thompson, Resource Coordinator.

**The GSCI 5-year plan (2006-2010 and 2012-2017 draft) and the GSCI Board** directs the heritage and language projects of the GSCI that were carried out from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 as listed below:

### Heritage Projects - New

#### Abe & Alfred Documentary

Kristen Carthew, a filmmaker, met Abe Stewart while auditioning local talent for the



GSCI Board of Directors with staff, December 2013, Inuvik. Back row: Sharon Snowshoe, Ruth Wright, Norman Snowshoe, John Norbert, Annie Jane Modeste, Renie Stewart, Sarah McLeod-Firth, Alestine Andre. Front row: Blue Alexie, Gladys Alexie, Ingrid Kritsch, William George Firth. Photo by: Billie Lennie



fictional role of a hunter named “Alfred” for her movie script “The Sun at Midnight.” Abe’s immediate connection to the material inspired the filmmaker to use the script to explore Abe’s real life story. This documentary won the Special Jury Prize at the 2013 Yellowknife International Film Festival and sponsored Abe Stewart to attend the screening on October 3, 2013. GNWT contributed funding to create DVDs and a web site for this documentary.

### **Arctic Council/Gwich’in Council International**

In late March 2014, Ingrid was invited to represent GSCI at a 2-day Arctic Council meeting in Yellowknife with GTC and Gwich’in Council International (GCI) representatives. The meeting was for Senior Arctic Officials. The Arctic Council is made up of 8 Circumpolar Nation States plus 6 “Permanent Participants” which include Circumpolar Indigenous organizations such as GCI. These members however do not have voting privileges. GCI is made up of 8 board members representing the Alaskan Gwich’in (4 members), Vuntut Gwich’in (2 members) and GTC (2 members). This is the first time that GSCI has participated in such a meeting. Of the many working groups within the Arctic Council, the one that we have provided input to since the meeting is the Sustainable Development Working Group – for a TK Principles document, and provided information about GSCI and its work. There may be opportunities in future for GSCI to take part in research initiatives with this group. Following the Arctic Council meeting, Ingrid also attended the GCI Strategic Planning meeting with Robert Alexie Jr., Grant Sullivan (ED-GCI), Joe Linklater (Chief of Vuntut Gwitchin & Chair-GCI) and Karen MacArthur. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a work plan for the GCI. The consultant hired to facilitate the meeting was Marie Delorme who is with The Imagination Group out of Calgary.

### **Berger Inquiry**

Assisted Drew Ann Wake (journalist) and Michael Jackson (legal counsel for Justice Thomas Berger) during the Inquiry, and the University of British Columbia who are

developing an online course based on the Berger Inquiry exhibition. It will be mandatory for all UBC law students. Also being developed are curriculums for elementary and high schools. GSCI provided assistance to this initiative when required.

### **GTC activities**

GSCI staff provided input on job description reviews and GTC Human Resources Manual.

### **Gwich’in Curriculum**

Alestine participated on a committee developing a Gwich’in curriculum titled Gwich’in Cultural Studies to be piloted in February 2015 for high school students in Aklavik, Inuvik, and Fort McPherson.

### **Mackenzie Valley Fiber Optic Link Project**

GSCI provided services by reviewing a draft section on historical resources for the Project Description for Stantec Consulting Ltd.

### **2013 Minister’s Culture and Heritage Awards, Group Category**

GSCI was awarded the 2013 Minister’s Culture and Heritage Award in the Group Category from the Department of Education, Culture & Employment. “Formed in 1992 by the Gwich’in Tribal Council, the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) has become an important role model for community-based heritage organizations in the NWT.



*Moss House Reconstruction Project. East 3 High School students with Willie Simon at the Gwich’in Territorial Park, November 2013. Photo by: Alestine Andre*

GSCI is a non-profit society with registered charitable organization governed by a seven member Board of Directors composed of representatives from the four Gwich'in communities and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The objective of the Institute is to conduct research in the areas of culture, language and traditional knowledge so that this body of knowledge will be recorded and available for future generations and the development of programs appropriate for Gwich'in needs. Over the 20 years of their existence, GSCI has developed a reputation for hard work and research excellence, recognized throughout the NWT, nationally, and internationally for the important work they have undertaken in documenting Gwich'in oral culture. Research on place names, trails, traditional land use, plant use, dictionaries, community histories and elder biographies, the GSCI team has made significant gains in documenting ancient knowledge for future generations to benefit from. With only a small team—Executive Director Sharon Snowshoe, Research Director Ingrid Kritsch, and Heritage Researcher Alestine Andre, along with staff of the Fort McPherson Language Centre, including Language Manager William George Firth and Resource Coordinator Margaret Thompson—they have undertaken more than 100 research projects, often in collaboration with university- or government-based researchers. Beginning in 1992, Kritsch and Andre began to undertake place name research with the four Gwich'in communities collecting over 900 names along with the oral history associated with each. In 2013, the Government of the Northwest Territories approved 414 of these names as official NWT geographical names, giving appropriate recognition to the excellent work GSCI has conducted over the years.” (From nomination)

### **Mooseskin Boat Project**

In the summer of 2013, Ingrid Kritsch and her husband Tom Andrews (PWNHC) were invited by the Shuhtagot'ine (Mountain Dene) of Tulita to document the making of a large mooseskin boat up the Keele River. The boat was constructed over a 3 week period and arrived in Tulita on August 27, 2013, to great emotion from the community and the

sound of gun shots from both the boat and community to say “all was well.” Drummers along with much of the community greeted the safe arrival of the boat. The timing of its arrival was scheduled to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. It was an amazing experience to be on this project which involved almost all of the major Shuhtagot'ine families - the Andrew, Horassi, Mendo, Peter, Bavard, Bernard, Widow and Etchinelle families. There were up to 47 people in camp ranging in age from 7 months to mid-80s. Eight moose hides were used in the construction of the boat, with 7 being used for the shell and the eighth for babiche. Sinew to sew the hides was handmade from caribou and moose and trees such as white and black spruce and deadwood were used for the frame and oars. GTC agreed to include this in GSCI's work plan as it would follow up on several Gwich'in Elders' wishes to recreate these boats which were also used by the Gwich'in up the Arctic Red and Peel rivers in earlier times. Participating in this project would give GSCI a better understanding about these boats with the hope that a similar project could be carried out in the GSA in future.

### **Peel Watershed**

From 2004 to 2008, GSCI provided comment, input and a variety of information – both textual and spatial GIS data – about Teetl'it Gwich'in history and use of the watershed to the Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC) for preparation of the Peel Land Use Plan. This information was based on research GSCI carried out between 1995 and 2005 with the Teetl'it Gwich'in in the Peel Watershed. There were many challenges along the way, but in the end we were pleased with the resulting draft land use plan presented in 2009. In January 2014, GTC requested all of the spatial and database we had provided to the PWPC for their discussions with lawyers in possibly filing legal action against the Yukon Government for changing the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan so that instead of 80% of land being protected, only 29% was protected.



## **Heritage Projects (Continuing)**

### **Ethno-Astronomy Project with Wayne Horowitz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

Ingrid and Alestine continued to provide Dr. Wayne Horowitz with information from our files on Gwich'in legends and ethno-historic information related to Gwich'in knowledge about the sky. In February 2014, Dr. Horowitz visited with researchers and staff at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks who are carrying out a similar study of traditional astronomy with Aboriginal communities in Alaska. We are considering carrying out a joint program in future, with a one week trip with Dr. Horowitz and the Alaskans to apply for funding from the Templeton Foundation.

### **Dogs, Fish and Caribou Project with Peter Loovers, University of Aberdeen**

Assisted Dr. Peter Loovers in conducting research on the relationship between dogs, fish and caribou in Fort McPherson. This is part of a larger 5-year circumpolar study in Scandinavia, Russia, Alaska, Yukon (Old Crow and Dawson) and NWT headed by Dr. David Anderson. The overall project is called Arctic Domestication: Embracing Human-Animal Relationships in the Circumpolar North. Funded by the European Research Council.

### **History of Education Project by Crystal Fraser (Ph.D. student, University of Alberta)**

Worked with Crystal Fraser, who conducted community research for her Ph.D. during the summer, interviewing and researching the history of education in the Mackenzie Valley Region from 1940-1996, with a particular interest in residential schools. GSCI staff assisted when required.

### **Moss House Reconstruction Project with Nancy Mackin, University of Victoria**

Assisted Dr. Mackin, Willie Simon, East Three High School students to reconstruct a moss house at the Gwich'in Territorial Park in November 2013. The event was video-taped by Dennis Allen.

### **Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) Initiative**

Produced a map book for the length of the

Wind River, where each page contained a section of the river. The pages highlighted 1) Gwich'in place names – including cultural information about the names, 2) Gwich'in trails and other land use information, and 3) Gwich'in ecological knowledge. The printed books will be distributed to appropriate tourist venues, and made available digitally on the GSCI website. Links will be supplied to partner's websites as well.

### **Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change in Gwich'in Communities in the Mackenzie Delta Region, NT with Trevor Lantz, University of Victoria**

Assisted Dr. Lantz. This project has the following goals:

(1) document local observations of and adaptations to climate change, (2) create a database that consolidates these observations and adaptations with information from other adaptation and monitoring projects, and (3) use this database to facilitate the innovation of new adaptations. By providing relevant and useful information on environmental changes and specific adaptations, this project identifies the risks and opportunities that climate change will bring to northern communities. This project will create local capacity in Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic to respond to instability in the environment associated with climate change, and will foster relationship-building within and between these communities.

### **GSCI Website: [www.gwichin.ca](http://www.gwichin.ca)**

Upgraded the GSCI website created 10 years ago as the software is outdated and the site had experienced technical issues, for example some photos and other media were not showing properly.

### **Gwich'in Goonanh'kak Googwandak**

The Places and Stories of the Gwich'in (Gwich'in Online Atlas, Maps, Book Chapter, NWT and Yukon Official Place Name Submissions)

- GSCI continues to work with the Geometric and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University to complete the place names and stories atlas so it can be officially launched next year.

- Gwich'in Maps: 300,000 scale wall map and series of 1:250,000 scale maps – GSCI continues to finalize these maps and will make them available in digital form on the online Atlas plus print copies for the communities.
- Book Chapter “Chapter 16: The Gwich'in Atlas: Place Names, Maps, and Narratives” – reviewed and finalized the text with Claudio Aporta of Dalhousie University and the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre of Carleton University. The book was released on February 7, 2014. A companion web site was also released at <http://booksite.elsevier.com/9780444627131/>.
- NWT Official Place Name Submissions – assisted in preparing an exhibit at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre featuring this official place names initiative. Of the 574 traditional Gwich'in names submitted to the GNWT for official recognition, 414 names were recognized for official status in the Gwich'in Settlement Area on June 21st, 2013.
- Yukon Official Place Name Submissions – GSCI submitted 216 place names for official recognition in the Yukon in 2011-2012. To date, 12 names have been officially recognized by the Yukon Government. GSCI will continue to answer questions and if funding permits, attend Yukon Geographical Place Names Board meetings in Whitehorse with Elders from Fort McPherson to review the submissions.

#### **Mary Kendi Life History: videos**

GSCI worked with Dennis Allen to produce two YouTube videos based on interviews carried out with Mrs. Kendi in 2012-2013, 1) Memories of the Mouth of the Peel Village, and 2) Memories of Residential School in Hay River, NWT. The latter video, Memories of Residential School in Hay River was released on Mrs. Kendi's 99th birthday on March 4, 2014.

#### **Climate Change and Archaeology Project: Phase 2**

GSCI is working with Tom Andrews, PWNHC, and other partners on a project

entitled, “Terrain Mapping and Community Heritage Resource Management: Adapting to Climate Change in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.” This is a four phased project that will help develop a vulnerability index tool for climate change-induced threats to community heritage resources in the GSA. The project partners include GSCI, PWNHC (Tom Andrews, Julie Buysse, and Glen MacKay), University of Victoria (Trevor Lantz), NWT Geoscience Office (Steve Kokelj), and NWT Geometric Centre (Steve Schwarz). This work will help GSCI and PWNHC protect sites threatened by climate change. In this phase, a summer student digitized all of the traditional land use data that Alestine Andre and Ingrid Kritsch recorded with the Gwichya Gwich'in Elders in 1992 about the area north of the Mackenzie River including the Travailant Lake area.

#### **Digitization and Cataloguing of GSCI Photos**

Continued to digitize and catalogue photos.

#### **Gwich'in Territorial Park Management Plan**

Alestine participated as one of the members of the management team to develop this plan.

#### **GSCI Strategic Plan 2013-2017**

Produced a draft plan. This plan has to be reviewed by GSCI board of directors/staff so it can then be reviewed and approved by GTC.

#### **GSCI 20th Anniversary Celebration (1993-2013)**

Submitted information on GSCI to the GTC newsletter celebrating 20 years of operation and the work we have carried out over the past 20 years. To date, we have not identified an idea on how to celebrate this milestone.

#### **Harneet Gill, University of Victoria (M.A. Student, University of Victoria)**

Worked with Ms. Gill, who was developing a community-based research project in Fort McPherson which uses Gwich'in observations to monitor environmental conditions and changes in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. GSCI assisted when required. GSCI co-authored a paper with Ms. Gill and Dr. Lantz that was submitted to a special Climate Change issue of the Journal of Ethnobiology.



### Species at Risk Projects 2012-2014

Assisted with logistics, interviewing, and reporting on this project which was carried out by Kristi Benson and the GRRB. The project includes Gwich'in TK studies on grizzly bears, wolverines, and woodland caribou plus education/conservation initiatives in the schools related to Dolly Varden char.

### Species at Risk Brochure Project

Produced two leaflets. One focused on Species at Risk in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, the other on waterfowl in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

### Ms. Thea Luig – Ph.D. student, University of Alberta

Assisted Ms. Luig to complete her research on community well being in Fort McPherson. Ms. Luig is currently writing her thesis. GSCI will review drafts of her Ph.D. thesis.

### Gwich'in Genealogy Project

Conducted family tree research, created family charts and continued database entry of

interview information and church records into the Family Tree Maker genealogy database.

### Teet'it Gwich'in Land Use History Project

Continued to provide information to Dr. Michael Heine for the Teet'it Gwich'in community history book. Dr. Heine was awarded tenure from Western University and he will now be able to take a year sabbatical and work on the book in Fort McPherson if funding is secured.

### Fort McPherson National Historic Site Plaque

Worked with the Teet'it Gwich'in Council and Parks Canada to prepare for installation of the new revised plaque in front of the Anglican Church. An archaeological assessment will need to take place before the plaque is installed.

### Gwich'in Legends DVD

Finalized English subtitles for the sixteen Gwich'in Legends. Production of this DVD is near completion and will be publicly launched in 2014/2015.



Gwich'in Genealogy Project. Gwich'in Genealogy Family Tree Maker database.

### **Gwich'in Research Material Update Project 1992-present**

Continued to ensure all digital and paper maps, reports, transcripts, and other research materials gathered since 1992 are updated, catalogued, properly protected and stored at the GNWT Archives.

### **Land Use Permit, Archaeological Permit, GSCI Research Agreements and Scientific Research Licence Applications**

Continued to review permits and applications and negotiate research agreements with researchers carrying out research in the GSA. Due to devolution in the NWT, GSCI attended a series of meetings on changes that will happen in the future on Gwich'in Land and Water Board applications for water and land activities.

### **Paleontological Legislation**

Continued to lobby for the creation of legislation in the NWT.

### **Steppe Bison Fossil Find**

Continued to act as community liaison and work with the PWNHC on a variety of exhibits – stand alone, travelling and web based – with two major exhibits being created for the PWNHC and community of Tsiigehtchic at the Chief Paul Niditchie School.

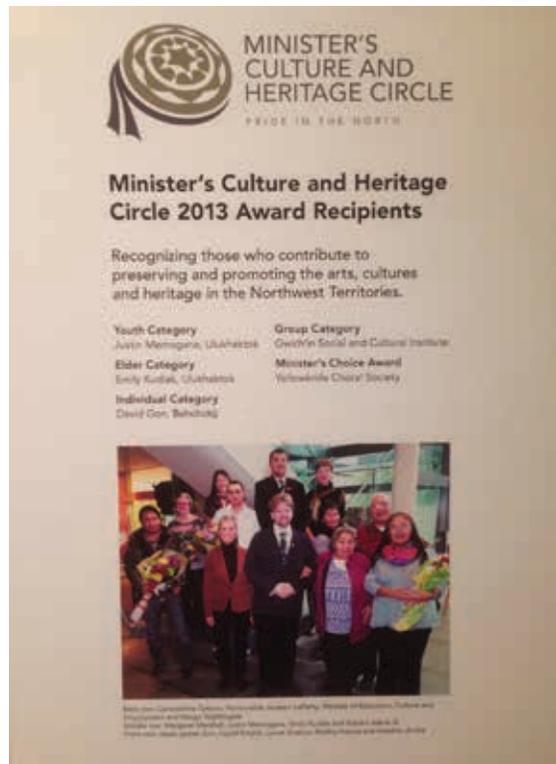
### **The Sun at Midnight Film Script**

In late February 2014, GSCI submitted a letter of support for Kirsten Carthew to access funding from the NWT Arts Council to rewrite the script for the “Sun at Midnight” feature movie based on feedback she has received from a variety of professional film producers. GSCI, community elders and others have been working in collaboration with Kirsten on the script which takes place in Fort McPherson for the past four years. Developing a film script is a long process and one that we continue to be keen to participate in and support. As a result of our collaboration with Kirsten, we have cocreated narrative films, documentaries, music videos and video-story telling workshops with community members, youth and elders. We are glad that Kirsten continues to champion the story of Sun at Midnight!

### **Language Plan Project (Continuing)**

#### **Gwich'in Talking Dictionary**

Since we began work on the dictionary, we have accumulated over 8,000 terms and phrases that are now being divided into concrete sections for use within the database and materials we are developing. We have continued to record the information we have on file and have added other similar terms and phrases from files within the Language Offices throughout NWT and Yukon that refer to the lexicon of the Teet'it and Gwichya language dialects. We began to work with the Vuntut dialect of Old Crow and would like to tap into what they have to offer in terms of material development as another means of preserving and utilizing our dialects to the best of our abilities. Eleanor Mitchell-Firth continues to record two elders in voicing over all the entries of the Dictionary and will be entering them into the audio dictionary by the end of the summer 2014.



*Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle 2013 Award Recipients.*



### **Gwich'in Elders' Profiles**

With the last year of work, we have played catch up with much of the Gwich'in Elders' profiles that have been recorded over the years and were not completed with the proper information and/or proper spelling of place names, people, and/or terms for different aspects of their livelihood. We are now caught up and have created a Gwich'in Elders' Calendar of prominent elders with the Gwich'in Settlement Region and beyond. Many people are asking about information from those that have passed on and that information then becomes immeasurable. We continue to interview elders in both Inuvik and Aklavik and will be working on Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson later on this summer.

### **Gwich'in Literacy Projects**

The Gwich'in Literacy Project supplemented the Gwich'in Classes delivered under the ALI funding project in each of the 4 Gwich'in communities. In November 2013, two people travelled to Whitehorse to attend the annual Gwich'in Literacy and Liturgical workshop conducted by the Yukon Native Language Center.

### **Aboriginal Language Initiative Funding**

The ALI project begun in September and ended in March 2014. Communities were given an opportunity to participate in weekly 1-hour language classes learning our Gwich'in language and participating in cultural projects that were facilitated by the Community Coordinators and their assistants.

### **Language Centre Projects (Continuing)**

#### **BDEC – Material Development & .05 position**

Hired a person to fill the Resource Coordinator position to assist the BDEC Language Instructors to develop material, assist with curriculum implementation and to provide in-service training.

# Gwich'in Organizations

## Gwich'in Settlement Corporation

Prepared by Towers Watson

### 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.

In 2006, TAL Global Asset Management was rebranded as CIBC Global Asset Management in recognition of the ownership of the firm by CIBC.

In February 2012, the Investment Committee appointed GE Asset Management and Scheer Rowlett & Associates to manage equal portions of the Canadian equity component of the fund. CIBC Global Asset Management's Canadian equity mandate was terminated and they were retained to manage the fixed income component of the fund. The RBC Dominion Securities mandate was terminated.

In July 2013, The Investment Committee appointed Epoch Investment Partners Inc. to manage the global equity portfolio. UBS Global Asset Management (Canada) was terminated.



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 22nd, 2007. As of April 22nd, 2007 the fund balance was \$134.7 million. The final capital transfer was received on April 22nd, 2007.

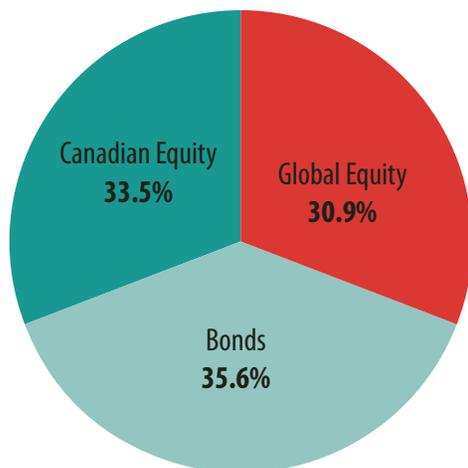
### Fund Management

At March 31st, 2014, the following professional organizations were involved with the investment management, administration and oversight of the fund:

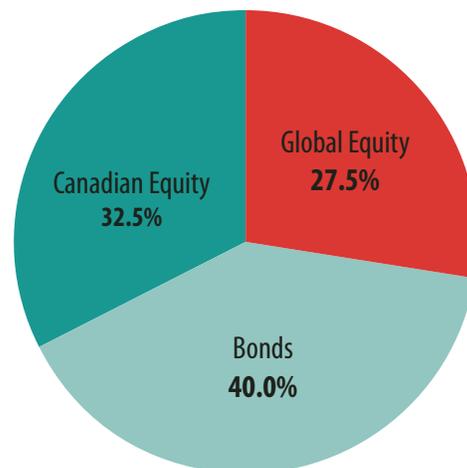
- CIBC Global Asset Management is an investment manager, responsible for a fixed income mandate.
- GE Asset Management is an investment manager, responsible for managing a Canadian equity portfolio.
- Scheer Rowlett and Associates is an investment manager, responsible for managing a Canadian equity portfolio.
- Epoch Investment Partners Inc. 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 Watson 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, 2014

- At March 31st, 2014, the total market value of the fund was \$127,101,918 compared with \$117,682,962 at March 31st, 2013 and was invested as follows:
- The amount at March 31st, 2014 includes a Gwich'in Development Corporation receivable of \$20,635,000 and an investment in First Nations Bank of \$2,000,000. The amount at March 31st, 2013 includes a Gwich'in Development Corporation receivable of \$20,573,009 and an investment in First Nations Bank of \$2,000,000. These receivables have not been reflected in the asset allocation charts below.

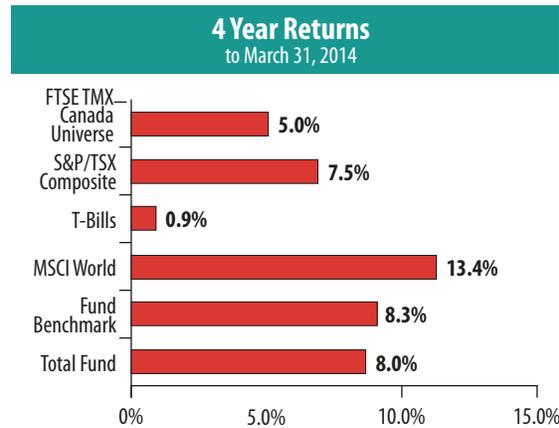
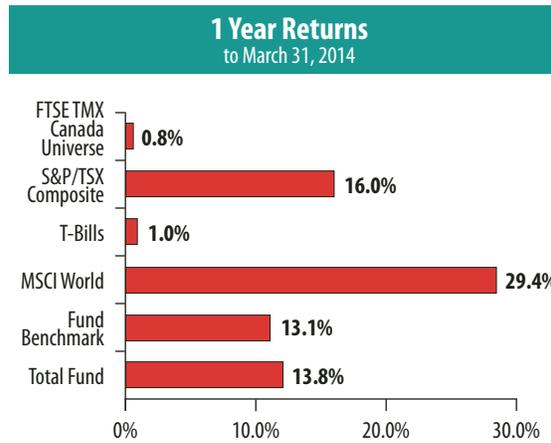


**Total Fund**  
March 31, 2014



**Policy Benchmark**  
March 31, 2014

The following charts show the fund benchmark and asset class returns for the one year and four year periods ended March 31st, 2014:



Over the one year period ended March 31st, 2014 the top performing asset class was global equities with a return of 29.4%, followed by Canadian equities at 16.0% and bonds at 0.8%. Cash returned 1.0%.

The total fund returned 13.8% for the year ended March 31st, 2014 which was ahead of the total fund benchmark return while ranking fourth quartile when compared to a universe of balanced funds with similar asset allocations. Out performance within Canadian equities and bonds were the primary determinants of relative performance during this period.

Over four years, the total fund has returned 8.0% per annum, trailing the total fund benchmark return and ranking fourth quartile in a universe of other balanced funds. Relative performance during this period is primarily attributable to poor performance in global equities.

## Tax Status

To maintain its tax exempt status after April 22nd, 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

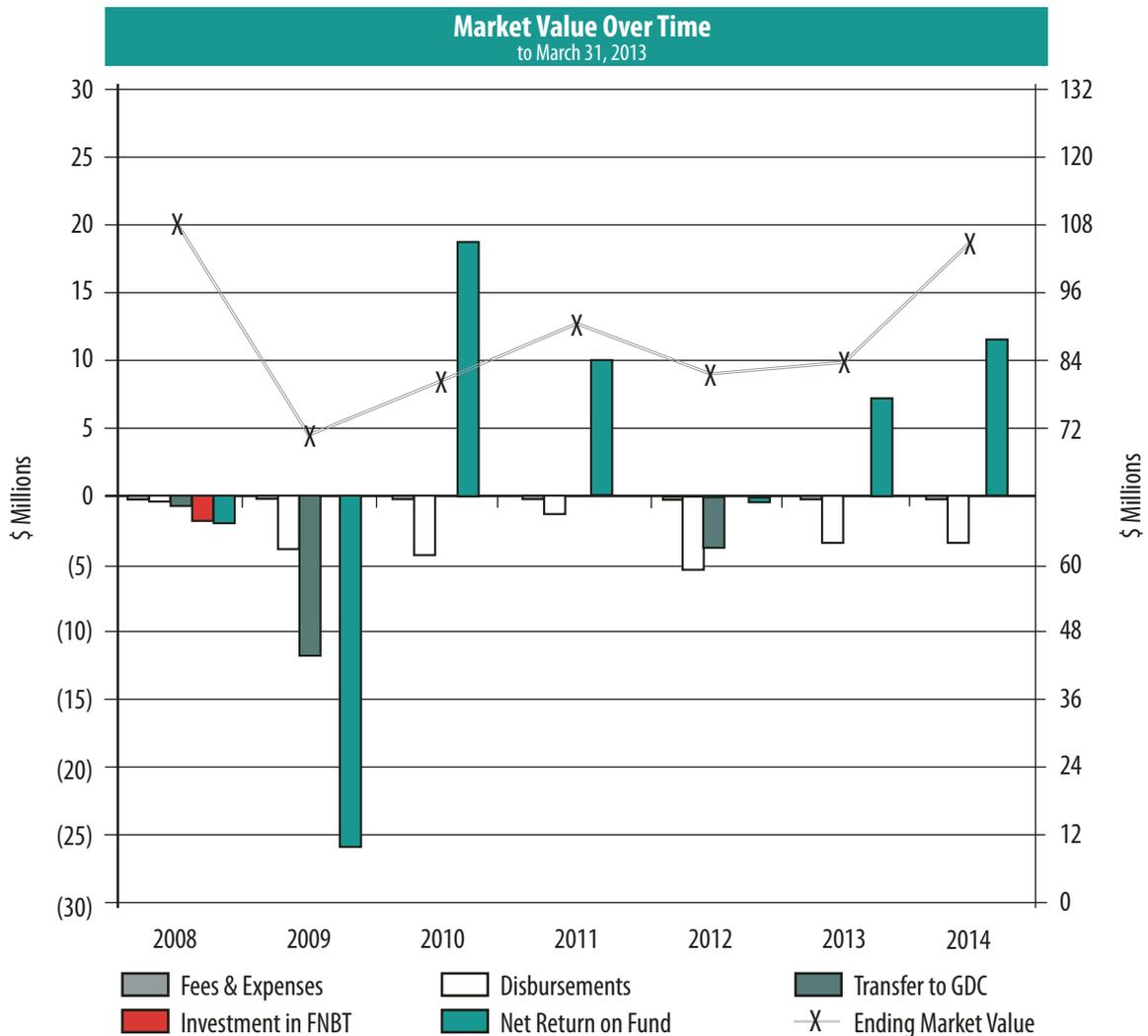
Organizations, the disbursement quota is set at a maximum 3.5% of the capital. In addition, a maximum of 1% of the capital may be disbursed annually for each of administration expenses and capital distributions to participants.

## Progress of the Fund

- At March 31st, 2014 the actual fund market value was \$127.1 million. The inflation adjusted Gwich'in Legacy Capital at March 31st, 2014 is \$150.5 million. In light of this shortfall, the Investment Committee should disburse the minimum allowable amount in 2014/2015 or 3.5% of the March 31, 2014 fund market value (3.5% x \$104.5 million = \$3.6 million).



The following chart shows development of the fund since the final transfer from the federal government in April 2007.



Note: The left hand scale applies to the bars which depict changes in the market value and the right hand scale applies to the line which shows the market value of the fund.

Fiscal Years	Beginning Market Value	Fees & Expenses	Disbursements	Transfer to GDC	Investment in FNBT	Net Investment Return	Ending Market Value
2008	\$127,433	(\$440)	(\$590)	(\$910)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,167)	\$121,326
2009	\$121,326	(\$391)	(\$4,062)	(\$11,843)	\$0	(\$25,806)	\$79,225
2010	\$79,225	(\$341)	(\$4,500)	\$0	\$0	\$18,728	\$93,112
2011	\$93,112	(\$355)	(\$1,500)	\$0	\$0	\$9,973	\$101,230
2012	\$101,230	(\$390)	(\$5,500)	(\$3,850)	\$0	(\$232)	\$91,259
2013	\$91,259	(\$252)	(\$3,000)	\$0	\$0	\$7,104	\$95,110
2014	\$95,110	(\$137)	(\$3,000)	\$0	\$0	\$12,494	\$104,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$127,433</b>	<b>(\$2,305)</b>	<b>(\$22,152)</b>	<b>(\$16,603)</b>	<b>(\$2,000)</b>	<b>\$20,094</b>	<b>\$104,467</b>

Note: Values are in thousands of dollars

## Investment Performance Assessment

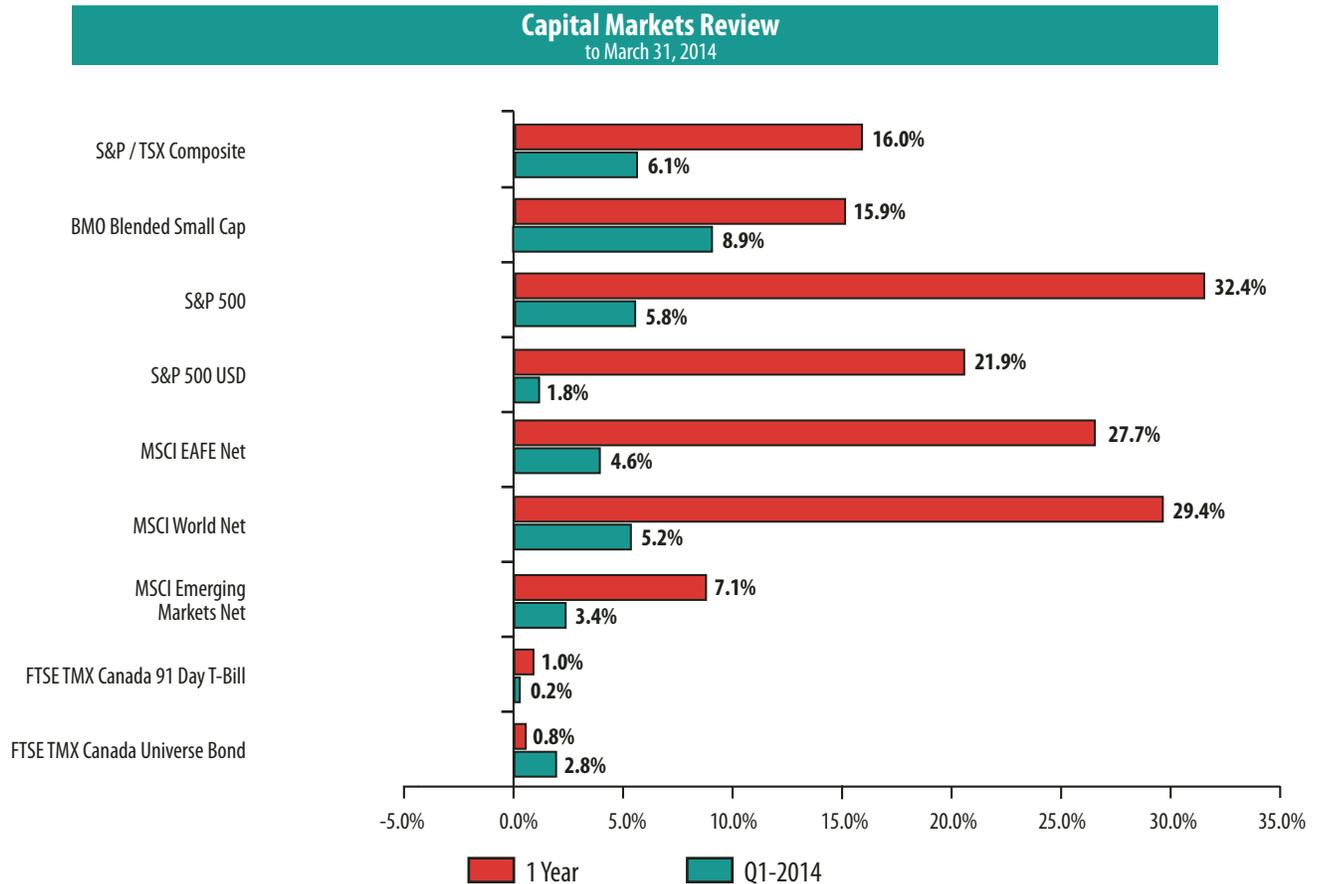
### Objectives

Investment performance objectives for the total fund have been established and documented in the policy statement. Performance results are independently measured by Towers Watson. 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 31st, 2014 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 Watson 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 trailed the benchmark return over the four years ended March 31st, 2014. 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 6.6% per annum, exceeding the policy benchmark return by 0.2%.

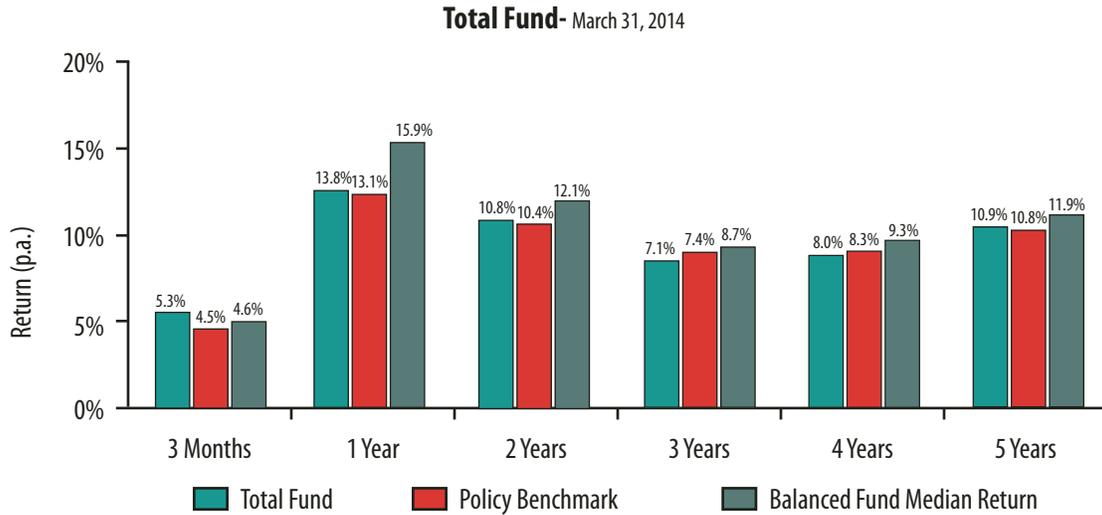


- During the 1st quarter of 2014, the Canadian dollar depreciated against the US dollar (\$0.94 in March vs. \$0.91 in Dec.), the Euro, the British pound and, for the first time since 2011, the Japanese yen.
- The Canadian equity market, as measured by the S&P/TSX Composite Index, posted a gain of 6.1% in the 1st quarter. The Index's positive performance was due to widespread gains in all sectors, but especially from energy stocks which accounted for 2.4% of the Index's total return.
- The FTSE TMX Universe Bond Index returned 2.8% during the 1st quarter of 2014, while the FTSE TMX Long Term Bond Index posted a gain of 5.1% over the same period. These results were due to the overall decrease in yields over the quarter.
- The S&P 500 Index of US equity investments recorded a 1.8% gain in US dollar terms in the 1st quarter. However, to unhedged Canadian investors, this translated to a gain of 5.8% due to the depreciation of the Canadian dollar during the quarter. The Health Care sector was the largest contributor to the overall Index performance.
- The MSCI EAFE Index of international equity investments posted a 0.3% loss this quarter in local currency terms. However, for unhedged Canadian investors, international equities returned 4.6% due to the depreciation of the Canadian dollar against all major international currencies during the period.

## Total Fund

The fund's return was 5.3% for the quarter, and 13.8% for the one year ending March 31st, 2014. The fund performance was ahead of the policy benchmark for the year, and ranked fourth quartile.

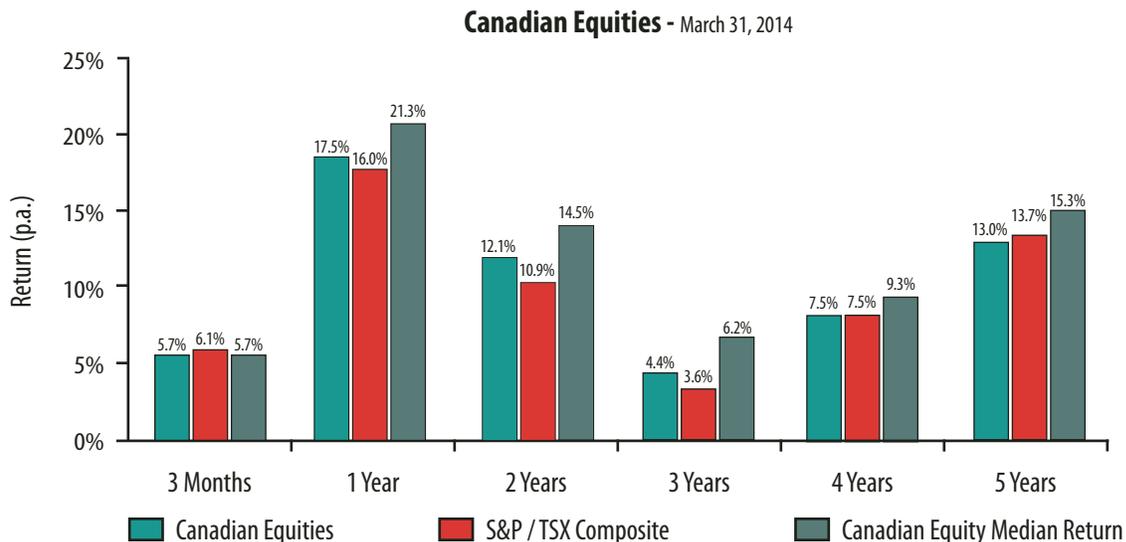
Over five years, the fund has slightly outperformed the benchmark, and ranked third quartile. Below median ranking over the longer term was primarily attributable to poor results in Canadian and global equities.



## Canadian Equities

The Canadian equity component of the fund, managed by GE Asset Management and Scheer Rowlett & Associates is invested in publicly traded securities listed on major exchanges, with an emphasis in the portfolio on quality and diversification.

Over the one year period ending March 31, 2014, the fund's Canadian equity return was 17.5%, compared to the index return of 16.0%. These results ranked fourth quartile 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 fourth quartile.

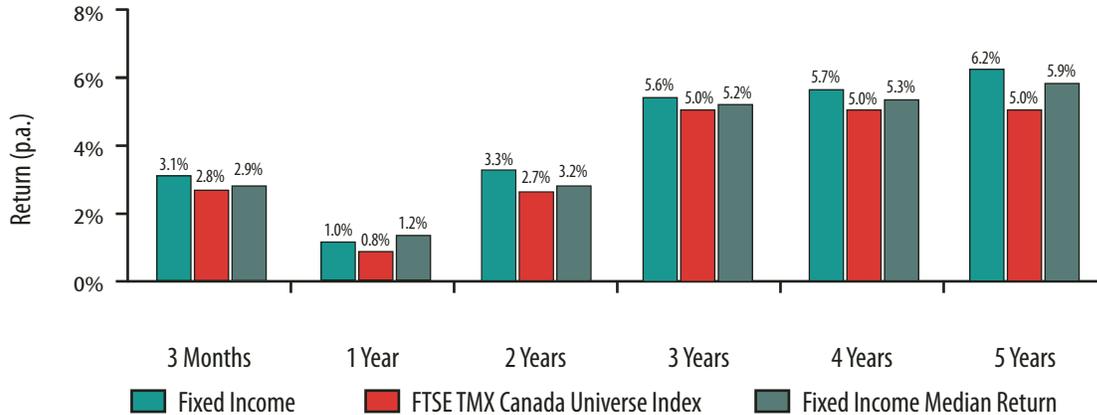


## Fixed Income

This component of the fund, managed by CIBC Global Asset Management, is largely invested in publicly traded fixed income securities including federal government, provincial government, municipal government and corporate bonds.

The fund's bond return for the year ended March 31st, 2014 was 1.0%, ahead of the FTSE TMX Canada Universe Index return by 0.2%, while ranking third quartile relative to a universe of bond managers. Over five years, the bond component of the fund returned 6.2%, ahead of the index return, and ranking second quartile.

**Fixed Income - March 31, 2014**



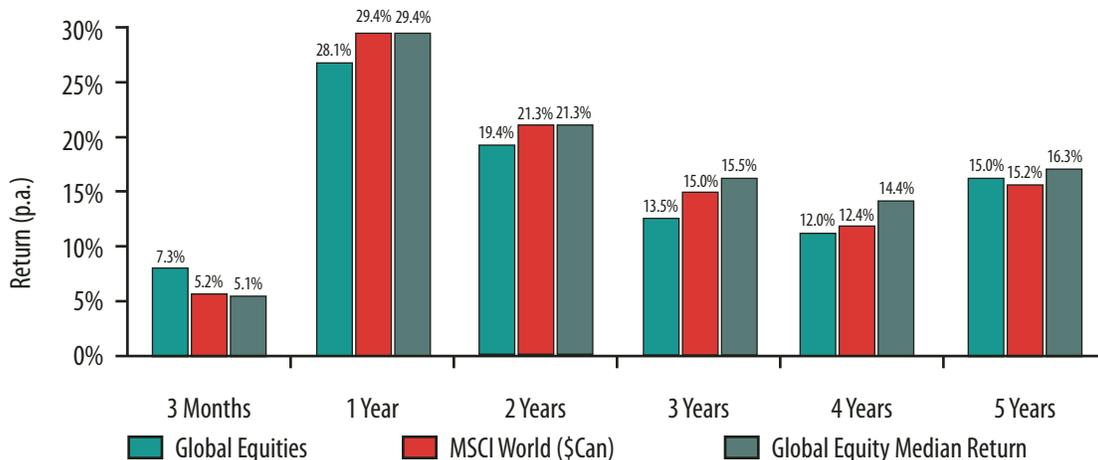
## Global Equities

The global equity component, managed by Epoch Investment Partners Inc., 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.

managed by UBS prior to that. For the one year ended March 31st, 2014, the combined UBS/Epoch portfolio returned 28.1% behind the benchmark return of 29.4%, and ranking third quartile compared to a universe of global equity managers. Over five years, the global equity component returned 15.0%, behind the benchmark return of 15.2% and ranking third quartile.

The fund's global equity component has been managed by Epoch since July 2013 and was

**Global Equities - March 31, 2014**



## 2013 Activities

- Investment Committee met in November 2013
- November meeting
  - Activities

Committee reviewed investment performance to September 30th, 2013

    - Investment managers made presentations to Committee
    - Towers Watson facilitated investment education session
    - Committee interviewed two real estate investment managers and appointed GreatWest Life
  - Action items
    - Towers Watson to assist in implementing real estate mandate

## 2015 Initiatives

- Investment Committee to continue meeting twice per year
  - Next meeting in November 2014
- Agenda will include
  - Review of investment performance to September 30th, 2014
  - Continued monitoring of investment managers



