

Gwich'in Tribal Council
Gwich'in land, culture & economy for a better future

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Drin Gwiinzii Shilakut,

It has been almost one year now since I was sworn into office as the President/Grand Chief of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and it is has been an honour to work in this elected role and be part of a strong team that is working hard on the many files. Together we continue the ongoing work to implement the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) and to develop and deliver programs to the membership. In this role, there is no downtime and there is always work to do. I am pleased to submit this opening message of our first annual report since taking office in August of 2016. I would like to thank former President James Wilson and former Vice President Norman Snowshoe for the time they committed in their terms at the GTC and for the advice they provided to us during our transition period last fall. When I took office, my main priority was to start working towards unity of our people and engaging members in and outside the Settlement Area. In my election campaign, unity was what I stressed as I do not see our people moving forward without that. In the campaign and specifically in the candidates' forum, I said I did not feel that the Gwich'in were ready for Self-Government. I will feel this way until I see a real progress in unity amongst our people and that includes a clear understanding of the current draft agreement in principle by all leaders and membership. Our decisions need to be informed decisions that are supported by informed people. Our people also need to understand the relationship of historic treaty 11 and the modern treaty, the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. Even after holding a forum with a number of past and current leaders and working with Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories to deliver community workshops, there is still push back from some of our people in accepting how the Modern Land Claim impacts the historic treaty and what role Gwich'in Tribal Council has been mandated. Unity will always be a challenge and we have made some progress, but yet there is much work do in this area and it's only going to be possible with the involvement of all leaders and membership. Unity is something that will grow stronger from the grassroots level. Let us continue to work together to making healthier people and communities. In doing so, the ultimate goal is a healthy and unified Gwich'in Nation.

In my role as President/Grand Chief of GTC, I had taken on the executive responsibilities and portfolios of Department of Gwich'in Services, Department of Intergovernmental, Department of Finance and Department of Corporate Services. The past year has gone by so quick and I'd like to highlight a few of the things accomplished.

Communications

Majority of my duty travel has been to the communities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. We have made it a priority to meet in the communities as much as possible. Being in the communities is always re-energizing to be able to visit with the people, especially the elders and youth. We have many elders and youth and we look forward to visiting with those we haven't got to yet. If you would like to request a visit, please let us know and we will be happy to come see you when we are in the community. We have brought back the quarterly newsletter and the Board of Directors quarterly meetings to the communities. There is always room for improvements in communications and we look forward to new ideas and methods of communications. With improved technology we can also look into engaging members in and outside the Settlement Area through modern technology services.

First Air Discount

It was positive to have met with the President of First Air to renew and improve the GTC agreement with First Air so that Gwich'in participants can now access a discounted fare when travelling. We realize how expensive it has been for a number of years for people to travel on the Northern Airlines. We hope this new discount helps and makes it more affordable for individuals and families to do some travel. Contact the GTC office for the participant code.

Progress on Implementation of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement

It was great to have worked with the staff of GTC intergovernmental department along with the implementation committee to make progress on the implementation file. This progress includes funding increases that will continue to be implemented in 2018. This summer the local Renewable Resource Councils will have received a double increase to the annual funding they receive. Co management boards created under the Land Claim have also seen an increase to their annual funding. We will continue to work on implementation of the Land Claim and continue to ensure we are receiving adequate funding for both regional and community organizations working to implement the Land Claim.

Peel Watershed Court Case

Gwich'in Tribal Council was happy to arrange for strong representation at the Supreme Court hearing for the Peel watershed case. We had elder Robert Alexie Sr. and Youth Dakota Koe in attendance with in house legal counsel and our Vice President.

Gwich'in Development Corporation

As President/Grand Chief of the GTC, I am also the Chairperson of Gwich'in Development Corporation (GDC). In previous years the GTC executive and board of directors made the decision to seek directors for GDC based on merit and experience. The current board of directors have much knowledge and experience and it's been a pleasure working with them. The focus for the past few years was on debt management as there are serious matters of debts to be paid down and that has been working out to the best interest of the GDC and overall the GTC. Aside from debt management, GDC is looking at new opportunities of interest and secure investments that would

grow revenue. This will take some time though as we get in better position and have the necessary plans in place. In the past months, we have renewed the strategic plan of GDC and we have also sought out a full time residential Chief Executive Officer for GDC and are in the final stages of a process to recruit the candidate who will best meet the overall needs and wants of GDC. We will strive to resolve debts and to grow revenue. Many of our Gwich'in participants ask about dividend payouts and ideally these types of decisions and distributions should be made through profits of a development corporation and not the settlement corporation in which was the case in the past.

25th Anniversary of the Land Claim

During the week of April 19-22, 2017, we had travelled to the communities to partake in the Annual Treaty Payments as well as the feast and dances that were happening in recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA). It was a positive gathering of the people to recognize the challenges and the successes of various leadership who were involved in the claim and served in office over the years following the final agreement.

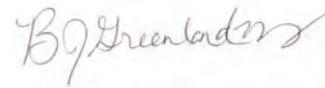
Looking into the past, we must also recognize and never forget the leaders who served before the GCLCA, those who worked hard to advocate for the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Gwich'in. Before the GCLCA, we recognize the days of Dene Nation and National Indian Brotherhood, and even before Treaty 11, when we had the traditional leaders, who led our people long before there was ever any Treaties or Land Claims. These leaders worked extremely hard and led the people through the best of times and the toughest of times, many times facing starvation and other hard ships. They worked together and that is how they survived. It is such strength and perseverance that makes us proud to come from such strong people. Over the years there has been a visible break down among our leadership and our people to some degree and for various reasons. It is my hope that we can work together like our people once did and be a unified Nation once again. A Nation that defines ourselves as one people, and to make decisions that are always in the best interest of all Gwich'in.

As President/Grand Chief I will continue to do my best and continue pushing the files forward and I look forward to reporting to the people on our ongoing progress. As always, participants are welcome and encouraged to call us, email us and come by the office and visit us. Regular dialogue is necessary for good communication. We are here to work for the people and in order to do a good job, we need to hear from the people. In addition to contacting us, please make an effort to also seek reports from the Designated Gwich'in Organization (DGO) whom you are registered with as an associated community. Keep in touch with your local leadership and keep informed on matters that are important to you.

We are always saying and hearing that our people need to work together, and we really must do that, and it's not about agreeing on everything, but it's about making tough decisions that are informed decisions and taking action on matters that need to be addressed to move forward. And to be mindful of how we treat each other and we need to all keep Gwich'in values in mind at all times. I look forward to seeing more of this happening and to see our people

advance and grow in strength and unity. As we do this, we will achieve the vision statement of the Gwich'in Tribal Council which states that, "The Gwich'in are a culturally vibrant and independent nation that is environmentally responsible and socially, economically and politically self-reliant".

In closing I would like to thank Kakwadthat, our creator for blessing us with the beautiful land we have as Gwich'in and for all it provides to us, all the renewable and non-renewable resources. Mahsi Cho to all the elders who have shared with us many visits, prayers, stories and advice. Such elders who are so genuine in their examples lived and actions shown, you really do help strengthen the people and the youth, and our future. In my role I will continue to work with others to advance the GTC and GCLCA mandate and to continue ongoing implementation of the GCLCA. If we can really work together, then over the next 3 years the people will be able to see some good things happening for the organization that represents all Gwich'in participants. It takes all of us to be involved, to make things happen. It's not just the leadership, as the people who work together, will succeed together.



Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan
President/Grand Chief





VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Drin Gwiinzii

It has now been just over one year since being elected and it brings me great pleasure to present my first annual report as your Vice President.

I was assigned specific portfolios at our first board meeting in October 2016 and since then the Executive has been pursuing a more united way forward. As we continue to discuss unity we need more than words, we need commitment and action toward unity and strength together. The Executive along with the Board of Directors, Designated Gwich'in Organizations and Gwich'in Participants have a lot of work ahead to bring unity and to ensure we are protecting and enhancing the future of our Nation.

Since being sworn into office on August 24th 2016, we have spent a significant amount of time engaging in nation-to-nation dialogue and consultation with the federal and territorial governments, including with respect to law reform, development projects, economic development and ensuring that the Gwich'in are in the conversations that are happening around economic opportunities in our region. The Executive saw the need to ensure we are building upon the relationships and strengthening our ties to affiliates that can help in implementing our Land-Claim and to bring opportunities to Gwich'in Participants. As we set this priority it allowed us to open up dialogue with Governments, other First Nations and Indigenous organizations that will bring collaboration in ensuring we are building a strong nation and the many opportunities to Gwich'in young and old.

Self-government has been a significant part of my work since coming into office. On this file, we stand on the shoulders of those who have put in much hard work and dedication so far. In 2007, a process and schedule agreement was signed by the GTC, GNWT and Government of Canada to resume Self-Government Negotiations.

Over the next few years the GTC re-designed the negotiations and established a Self-Government team to pursue an agreement for Gwich'in. At the 2012 Annual Gwich'in Assembly, Gwich'in delegates representing each community passed a motion supporting the Self-Government process and direction to obtain a draft constitution and Government structure by year end. This motion was supported unanimously. The 2013 Gwich'in Annual Assembly accepted the current draft self-government Gwich'in Constitution and Government Structure Proposal which consisted of a regional and community governments. Since 2007 the Gwich'in Annual Assembly continues to re-affirm the direction to pursue a Gwich'in Self-Government Final Agreement.

There have been questions from the communities about a regional versus community approach and full discussions that needed to happen didn't happen over the last number of years. As the new GTC Executive, our approach is that we won't let these questions go unanswered and that consultation needed to happen at all levels of the Gwich'in Nation. Since August 2016, the Executive and staff had many sessions in each of the communities about the Gwich'in draft Agreement in Principle, sent out a complete SG package to all participants over 18 and provided the opportunity for communities to review the current draft AIP. Although efforts were made from the communities to deal with issues and were never dealt with, we made the commitment that we did not want to punt these most important issues anymore and that we will deal with every issue head on and in collaboration with community leadership.

I would like to commend the SG team for their efforts in pursuing a Gwich'in Self-Government in the last year and years before. Most importantly I would like to acknowledge the staff and their tireless efforts to ensure that this file moved forward in a positive way to build a truly strong and Gwich'in SG agreement.

Self-Government has been one of many projects over the past year. There are countless others. In November 2016, the Executive and Chief Operating Officer did a strategic plan review and we discussed the past, present and future, which lead us to developing three priorities we want to focus on in our four-year term.

Self-Reliance, Cultural Vibrancy and Environmental Responsibility. The Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Department Directors and Staff then developed department work plans based on the 3 priorities. These are now being integrated into an overall strategy for the organization, which will guide our work through our term in office.

I've also worked with our legal counsel, other leadership and government to bring clarity around Gwich'in rights, interests and representation in the Yukon. This has always been an issue at the Annual Gwich'in Assembly and we've been able to ensure Gwich'in are represented to ensure those rights and interests are recognized and upheld. The executive contributed to the GTC submissions on the Peel case in the Supreme Court of Canada and I was in attendance when GTC argued vigorously for the recognition and protection of Gwich'in rights and interests in the Peel Watershed alongside the Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun and Trondek Hwech'in First Nations.

Since being sworn in on August 24, 2017 we have added many great employees to our organization, starting with our Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Lennie who is Gwich'ya Gwich'in from Tsiigehtchic. As she is the lead on the overall operations on behalf of the Executive and the Board, this position is integral to the progress of our organization. Although we have a new team surrounding us, ensuring that our staff play a collaborative role in the planning and implementation of the Executive and Board direction is very important to implementing our Land-Claim.

We have also worked with and supported our DGOs and participants by bringing more clarity around roles and responsibilities of the DGOs and Bands. Our efforts have focused on improving everyone's understanding of how the modern land claim context functions. For example, through our presence and work in communities, folks seem to better understand that DGOs are the community-level land claim organization that work with and feed into the activities of the GTC to implement the land claim and effectively represent Gwich'in rights and interests at local, regional, national and international levels. It has also been positive to see an increased understanding that Indian Act Bands have quite limited roles and responsibilities in the modern land claim context, especially given that most powers in the Indian Act related to activities on reserves, and

there are no reserves in the GSA. However, it is clear to see - and I respect very much - that Chiefs and Councils continue to have significant historical and cultural importance today and in the future. That is why I believe that when the Gwich'in get significant new powers and authority under self-government, those leaders of the new Gwich'in government ought to be called "Chief and Council" and their roles would be much closer to those that were enjoyed prior to colonization and the imposition of the rigid and debilitating Indian Act.

Over the last while, there has been much focus on youth and capacity development. Since starting with the GTC in 2013, I have witnessed and supported these amazing programs that help develop our young Gwich'in. Youth are our biggest resource, our future and we need to ensure they are being supported in every aspect. The GTC staff worked very hard over the last year to ensure the GTC Academic Conference continued and we continue to look at options for capacity development through Self-Government and the Gwich'in Regional Youth Council.

The GTC held a hand games drum making workshop at the GTC Academic Conference where 10+ youth made their own drum. We continue to ensure that our modern tradition of jigging and square dancing is supported by holding these events as much as we can, especially during the 25th anniversary celebrations. I look forward to working with our community leaders, elders, youth and the entirety of the Gwich'in Nation to ensure that we are all working towards regaining our cultural identity. When we ensure our cultural identity is the priority in how we run our health and wellness programs I believe we will build a strong and healthy Nation.

"We cannot know where we are going unless we understand where we come from". This saying has always stayed with me because it gives me the direction to better understand the term "Proud to be Gwich'in" and we should all do as much as we can.

I would like to thank all of the staff at the GTC, without you and your support, the progress that we have made over the last year would not be possible and the Gwich'in participants as you give me the strength and power to move forward in an ethical and collective way.

Jordan Peterson

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT - TO MARCH 31, 2017

This report is submitted on behalf of the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Board of Directors (BoD) for the period of April 2016 to March 2017. The BoD held quarterly meetings at which time a number of matters were discussed and direction was given to GTC staff. Each Gwich'in Council also had an opportunity to provide their quarterly reports.

The newly elected Executive Grand Chief Bobbie Jo Greenland – Morgan and Deputy Grand Chief Jordan Peterson recommended to the BoDs to bring the quarterly BoDs meeting back to the Gwich'in communities and to open these meetings to the Gwich'in Participants. After budget considerations it was agreed to, since then we've held these meetings in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. We have been receiving positive feedback on this decision. The following lists the accomplishments and matters dealt with by GTC BoD:

April, 2016

GTC Main Boardroom, Inuvik

Executive: James Wilson, Norman Snowshoe

Tetlit Gwich'in Council: Wilbert Firth, David Krutko

Gwichya Gwich'in Council: Grace Blake, Anna May MacLeod

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council: Andrew Charlie, Eddie Greenland

Nihtat Gwich'in Council: Jozef Carnogursky, Eliza Firth

- Appointment of Chief Returning Officer (Elections)
- Review and amend the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement
- Appoint Interim Audit and Human Resource Committee
- Approve Election budget
- Appoint GDC member
- Transfer GHAP to DGOs
- Resignation of NGC member

July, 2016

GTC Main Boardroom, Inuvik

Executive: James Wilson

Tetlit Gwich'in Council: Wilbert Firth, David Krutko

Gwichya Gwich'in Council: Grace Blake, Anna May MacLeod

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council: Eddie Greenland

Nihtat Gwich'in Council: Eliza Firth

- Gwich'in Gathering in Tsiigehtchic
- Transition period – too long
- BOD attendance at meetings
- GDC Shareholder's meeting – 1st ever
- Self-Government recommendations
- Financial matters
- Signing Authorities – changes
- GSC – appoint members
- GDC Bylaw approved changes
- GNWT MOUs – contracting and intergovernmental, direction to renew
- Oil spill at James Creek
- Peel River Watershed Litigation
- Skills Partnership funding proposal support
- EGC, GGC, NGC, TGC matters
- Enrollment review

October, 2016

Fort McPherson, Chii Tsal Gwizheh (The Lodge)

Executive: Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan, Jordan Peterson

Tetlit Gwich'in Council: Wilbert Firth, David Krutko

Gwichya Gwich'in Council: Grace Blake, Anna May MacLeod

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council: Andrew Charlie

Nihtat Gwich'in Council: Eliza Firth

Gwich'in Participants: 26

- Funding DGOs and RRCs
- Devolution in Yukon
- CYFN Participation
- DGOs registered as Governments
- Lands Committee: terms of reference review
- MVRMA
- GDC loan to GSC
- GHAP & Trust
- Wind up GSCI
- YK Office
- Yukon Transboundary
- Service agreements with GSC and GDC
- Shared Community
- Reclamation funding
- Contribution Agreements
- Nation Building: Alaska, NT, Yukon
- GCI – regular reports
- Alaska Border Crossing – J treaty, treaty cards.
- Enrollment
- Board Appointments

January, 2017

Aklavik, Mary Kendi Boardroom, Andrew Stewart Building

Executive: Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan, Jordan Peterson

Tetlit Gwich'in Council: Wilbert Firth, David Krutko

Gwichya Gwich'in Council: Grace Blake, Anna May MacLeod

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council: Andrew Charlie

Nihtat Gwich'in Council: Eliza Firth, Lawrence Neyando

Gwich'in Participants: 6

- Communication protocol
- DGO and GTC workshop – seeking funding

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT - TO MARCH 31, 2017

(January 2017 Continued)

- Newsletter submissions – DGOs
- CanNor Proposal – seek funding
- Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief
- Legal Counsel protocol
- Wills and Estates
- Surplus Assets
- Asset Disposal policy – 1st right of refusal to DGOs
- Trail Creek burial sites
- IBAs
- Annual meeting for Development Corporations
- Climate change and ANWR position paper
- State of Emergency draft policy – withdrawn
- GHAP Policy
- Vuntut Gwichin Land Exchange
- Co-management board appointments
- Implementing Chapter 10 Economic Measures
- Establish new GHAT
- Gwich'in Archival Collection
- GSCI and GEB Wind up
- MVC Appraisals
- Enrollment
- Board appointments

The March 2017 Special meeting to approve the budget, organizational structure and policies (Human Resources, Executive and GHAP) was postponed to April 2017 due to unforeseen circumstances.

GTC Board of Directors for this time period:

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council

Andrew Charlie

Eddie Greenland – resigned in January 2017

Gladys Edwards – appointed in January 2017

Tetlit Gwich'in Council

Wilbert Firth

David Krutko

Nihtat Gwich'in Council

Eliza Firth

Jozef Carnogursky – resigned in April 2016

Lawrence Neyando – appointed in January 2017

Gwichya Gwich'in Council

Grace Blake, Gwichya Gwich'in Council

Anna May MacLeod, Gwichya Gwich'in Council





CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT

Vanh Gwinzii/Drin Gwinzii,

Carolyn Lennie vilzhii, Tsiigehtchic gwats'at ihłii. Inuvik danh gwihch'in. I have been employed with the Gwich'in Tribal Council first as acting Chief Operating Officer from the end of June 2016 and officially appointed to the full time position by the Board of Directors in October 2016.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) is involved in many initiatives in all effort to implement the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) and I am pleased to work on behalf of all Gwich'in with the Executive, Board of Directors, and a great team of employees at the forefront of the work.

My annual report submission will cover the period of June 2016 to March 31, 2017 highlighting the operational perspective.

Throughout the past year, our team, GTC wide, have conducted a lot of research, review, strategizing, sound decision making, balancing revenues and expenses, improving processes, and designing new approaches to meet the needs of GTC, Gwich'in Participants, and DGOs. The following highlights our accomplishments:

Gwich'in (Wellness) Camp

Reclassify as a multi-use facility to maximize use, funding, and program delivery. Successful proposal to assess energy efficient alternatives to reduce operating costs, 2 year project. It is after this review that we can better understand and take the necessary steps to make better use of the facility in a cost effective manner.

Human Resources (HR)

In the past, the HR functions was a add on to various Director's positions, we recognized that the HR functions are one of the most important aspects of the organization ensuring that GTCs best interests are the primary goal. In March 2017 and with the approval of the Board of Directors, we hired our very own Director of Human Resources (HR) to oversee all HR matters of the GTC operations, develop HR systems, deal with labor relations, HR manual and Executive Policy reviews and administration, providing specialized advice, and ensuring the GTCs interests are being met.

Language Revitalization

The new Executive made Gwich'in Language a priority, we made all effort to ensure the Gwich'in Language is the primary goals going forward. We conducted a review of Gwich'in Language Center in Fort McPherson, the existing operations and funding and decided on new approaches. We developed a Language Revitalization Specialist position in the Executive Department located in Inuvik t to oversee all matters of the Gwich'in Language including maintaining the Gwich'in Language Center in Fort McPherson and establishing a Gwich'in Language Center in Tsiigehtchic (old GSCI office) recognizing both the Tetlit and Gwichya Gwich'in dialect, curriculum and resource development. The Language Center will be staffed with Language Programmers who will develop and deliver Gwich'in Language to Gwich'in Participants, schools, DGOs in all efforts to enhance the Gwich'in Language.

Organizational Structure

Since 2015, the GTC has been conducting a review of the organizational structure in accordance with the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA). In April, a presentation will be made to the GTC Board of Directors seeking approval of the organizational structure which includes changes in position titles to reflect the work assignments, reporting of positions to supervisors, and creating new positions listed below:



Senior Implementation Advisor

One of the most important files is the Implementation of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA). The GTC re-profiled the Associate Director position into the Senior Implementation Advisor position to oversee all matters relating to land claim implementation including research, funding, committee meetings, analysis, review of the plan, Yukon Transboundary implementation, reassignment under Chapter 7, Land Claim Agreement Coalition, and many other areas involved in GCLCA implementation. It is imperative we have the dedicated personnel to take the lead on GCLCA implementation and maximize Gwich'in benefits and representation of Gwich'in Rights and Interest.

Self-Government (SG)

Recognizing the importance of the Self Government file, we developed the Senior Self Government Advisor position to oversee all matters relating to SG, this will ensure that a dedicated person is on the file, completing research, providing technical support to the SG Negotiating team, communications, strategizing, drafting material, working with the DGOs and Indian Act Bands, and many other tasks to advance the Gwich'in SG process. SG is funded by the Federal Government, GTC needs to ensure that adequate costs are allocated to the funds and ensuring that Gwich'in funding is not used for the SG process unless approved by the Board of Directors or AGA.

Economic Development

Development of an Economic Development Specialist position in the Gwich'in Services Department to oversee all economic development matters outlined in Chapter 10, GNWT/GTC Contracting Memorandum of Understanding, economic development strategies, Gwich'in Business Registry, and services to DGO Development Corporations and Gwich'in Businesses to ensure we foster successful business support and establish the processes to maximize business opportunities for Gwich'in.

Policy Reviews

Using our internal expertise, we have conducted several policy reviews whether it be DGOs and RRCs or Employees to revise policy to meet the needs of Gwich'in Participant and GTC operations. These policies include Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program, Human Resources Manual, Executive Compensation, and Operational policies. We have been listening and implementing the feedback received within the boundaries of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA), legislation, and GTC operational funding. GTC Operational and Gwich'in Participant policies will be finalized and presented to the Board of Directors for approval and further development of Governance policies, in line with the Bylaws, will be developed for the Board of Directors.

Yellowknife Office

One of the internal reviews conducted was understanding the operations of the Yellowknife office. This review started with the AGA resolution #23/2004 establishing the office, funding provided to the YK Gwich'in Society, GTC leasing the office space, and employment status. It was determined based on the AGA resolution that the GTC would implement the resolution as stated, GTC office with GTC staff. Further direction by the AGA will need to be considered on the sustainability of having the office in Yellowknife.

Intergovernmental Service Agreements

GTC provides accounting and administrative assistance to the Gwich'in Settlement and Gwich'in Development Corporations. We have worked over the past year to ensure that these services are adequately recorded and agreed upon fees established through an Intergovernmental Service Agreement. Such agreements can assist in the budget process to understand when looking at GTC revenues and offset expenses.

AGA Resolutions

Over the past year, our team has made every effort in implementing the 2015 and 2016 AGA resolutions to ensure that the direction given is being actioned with results. Most AGA resolutions require extensive

research, working with other parties be it Territorial or Federal Government or other First Nations, understanding obligations under the GCLCA, legislation and legal, and working out a process to complete the resolution. We have come to learn that AGA resolutions may need to be implemented over multi-years and if this is determined we need to seek further direction from the AGA as the governing body of the Gwich'in.



Executive Department

Transition

In July 2016 we compiled various Gwich'in Tribal Council, Gwich'in Settlement, and Gwich'in Development Corporation documents for the newly elected Executive. We developed a one week transition session with the outgoing and incoming Executive with presentations from each department, financial, GSC and GDC with an opportunity for questions and answers. The one week session ended with a staff gathering for a cultural afternoon with the Executive at the Gwich'in Camp, thanking President James Wilson and Vice President Norman Snowshoe for their contributions to GTC and the Gwich'in Nation and welcoming Grand Chief Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan and Deputy Grand Chief Jordan Peterson to GTC.

Recognizing that the transition period was a lengthy one, June to August, we've heard many concerns regarding this and in the future consideration be given to ensure that elections schedules account for a shorter transition time between Election Day and AGA approval of election results.

Portfolios

After the swearing in of the newly Elected Executive, portfolios were discussed and decided upon based on expertise and interests in the areas, this was formally approved by the Board of Directors in October 2016.

Board of Directors (BOD)

Board of Directors meetings were held quarterly and brought back to the four Gwich'in Communities within reasonable costs. Board of Directors are given operation updates and recommendations are presented for a decision. BOD decisions are direction to the GTC team, many of the initiatives of the past year have been fully supported by the BODs with all efforts to implement the GCLCA and interest of Gwich'in.

Affiliations

Over the past year, research and understanding of processes and history of involvement of GTC at the Gwich'in Council International, Dene Nations, Assembly of First Nations, Council of Yukon First Nations, Land Claim Agreement Coalition and any other organization GTC has been affiliated with. The Executive have attended meetings, teleconferences, and corresponded with these affiliates to ensure Gwich'in Rights and Interests are represented by the GTC.

Legal

It has been an amazing year having in-house legal counsel, although we may only see the financial savings in a few years the workload is tremendous but significant results have been made on many files whether it be the Peel Watershed Court Case, labor relations, corporate files, transboundary issues, treaty and Indian Act Bands, Self-Government, Implementation, contracting, Memorandum of Understandings and agreements, legislation and consultation reviews or many of the other areas we've been dealing with over the year, I can honestly say that having the expertise in-house makes a difference and is serving the best interest of GTC and indirectly all Gwich'in.

Travel

The Executive and employees have been cautious of travel costs and prioritizing travel to ensure we are prioritizing meeting attendance. A lot of times funding may be available for travel but does not mean we need to attend, if operations allows for travel then we can.

Where possible, we've renewed corporate agreements with airlines and hotels to utilize discounts for GTC and ensure that such benefits are extended to Gwich'in Participants and organizations.

Budget

Ensuring that all revenue and expenses are adequately recorded to appropriate funding sources based on decisions of the AGA, Board of Directors, and agreements. Majority of GTC's programs and services are based on proposal driven funding that GTC administers on behalf of the federal or territorial governments. Many opportunities are partner oriented to achieve the program results.

Lands Department

In November 2016, we filled the position of Director of Lands and Resources. Under the GCLCA the lands department has many responsibilities and it is very important that GTC provides adequate resources to implement the obligations under the land claim in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the Primary and Secondary Use Areas. Over 25 years of the GCLCA, we still have many areas that need attention, land management systems including Municipal Lands (Nihtat), land authorizations approvals and monitoring, legislative and consultation reviews, reassignment of land management and administration to DGOs and Yukon Transboundary to Tetlit Gwich'in, AGA resolutions, and many other areas of land management.

A lot of work is completed to ensure we are understanding and working from the GCLCA to ensure Gwich'in lands and resources are protected and our rights and interests are expressed.

There definitely has been challenges over the past year in some areas, some issues are outstanding and many times I can understand why things have taken so long to implement because issues can be complex.

Our team including the Executive, Legal Counsel and the Director of Lands and Resources have conducted tremendous amount of work to research and understand our land claim obligations for Gwich'in private lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and Yukon Primary and Secondary Use Areas.

Intergovernmental Relations Department

The Intergovernmental Relations department has a huge responsibility to ensure that the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement is implemented by all parties. With the preliminary work completed this year, we now know that the implementation funding received from the Federal Government is inadequate for all the responsibilities under the land claim agreement and going forward we need to ensure we reflect the obligations and actual costs to implement and make a case for increased funding.

Not only is Implementation a large file but it also included another important and huge file, Self-Government. Much work has been done to advance the SG process, we've completed consultation on the draft Agreement-In-Principle with DGOs, Indian Act Bands, and Gwich'in Participants and GTC employees. Because the focus this year was on consultation, no main table SG negotiations were conducted. We've been open to feedback on the AIP.

In this consultation process GTC hosted a Past Leaders conference to discuss the AIP in December 2016; approximately 40 delegates were present representing the past and present leaders from GTC, DGOs and Indian Act Bands. This was a two day conference where it was apparent more in depth consultation was required on the Self Government AIP and process.

You can look at the AIP as a presentation of what the Gwich'in SG negotiation team were able to negotiate as a Gwich'in Self-Government in the Gwich'in Settlement Area with the Government of the NWT and Federal Government. It is now each Gwich'in Participant and DGOs opportunity to determine if this is an agreement you can live with, does it meet the needs of Gwich'in and if not how can we improve it. As the consultations are conducted, changes to the AIP are possible so there is always opportunity to incorporate your ideas and concerns.

We also co-hosted community workshops with INAC on clarifying roles and responsibilities of Treaty 11 Indian Act bands as per chapter three of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.



Gwich'in Services Department

Gwich'in Services is responsible for providing services to Gwich'in Participants in the areas of Education & Training, Wellness and most recently Economic Development. Although these services are funded through Federal, Territorial or other funding for programming in the four Gwich'in Communities, in the long term, GTC needs to ensure adequate funding is available to service all aspects of Kindergarten to Post-Secondary Education and Wellness for all Gwich'in. Our focus is to ensure program development that includes Gwich'in Culture and maximized services to Gwich'in.

The Gwich'in Services team includes the Director, Manager of Education and Training, Career Development Officer, Residential School Support worker, Youth workers, and Cultural Support Workers in three Gwich'in Communities. It is through the efforts of this team of experts that many of the socio-economic services are provided, many of which can be sensitive and intergenerational but nonetheless, our team has done an excellent job to be services providers.

Cultural Heritage Department

In April 2016, GTC implemented the Board of Directors decision to incorporate the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute into the overall GTC operations by creating a new department, Cultural Heritage with responsibility under the GCLCA Chapter 5. All efforts were made to ensure a smooth transition of employees, financial systems, and supports were provided by GTC. The Cultural Heritage team continues to do an outstanding job in researching, documenting and preserving Gwich'in culture and heritage. There are numerous projects in the works and others completed. We have conducted reviews of operations and structures taking into account we have two key staff retiring in 2017.

Corporate Services Department

Corporate Services is the department that oversees all aspects of GTC operations for our Inuvik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Yellowknife offices including facility leases, operations costs of each location, approximate 33 employees throughout the organization, Information technology (IT), Enrollment, database manage-

ment, policy adherence, office administration and support and communications.

Finance Department

This year, we conducted a lot of research to understand the financial situation of the GTC, where the funding comes from and where it is allocated, the operations of the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation and Gwich'in Development Corporation, subsidiary responsibilities, financial implications of decisions, reviews and strategizing for effective use of funds, and long term financial sustainability of GTC. In order to maximize efficiency of operations, we transitioned a finance position from Fort McPherson to Inuvik with assigned workload.



Closing remarks

In closing, this is a broad overview of what the GTC team has been involved in for the past year. I can honestly say that a lot of work has been done to maximize Gwich'in interests in all areas of the GTC organization. We've tried our best to incorporate the feedback and changes needed to use the funding adequately, change policy where needed, communicate Gwich'in interests, establishing fair processes while valuing our employees, Gwich'in Participants, DGOs and Gwich'in Businesses.

Mahsi Choo. K'egwaadhat nakhwah vili'.

Carolyn Lennie
Chief Operating Officer

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Annual Report

GTC Department of Cultural Heritage

As of April 1, 2016 the new and approved name for our department is now known as the Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Cultural Heritage. With leadership advice from the GTC, our department will continue to use our mandate "To document, preserve, and promote the Gwich'in culture, language, traditional knowledge, and values."

Within the last year, our staff have been working hard to achieve our goal of transferring to a department; we are currently working with the Northwest Territories Archives to preserve our documents, recordings, and other interesting facts we discovered since the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute developed in 1993 and also, working on our on-going projects that we carried over to the fiscal year of 2016-17.

Below is a list of our on-going projects we would like to highlight. There are many other projects that are not listed but currently being carried out.

Operational Activities - Culture

Canadian Archaeological Association Annual Meeting – Whitehorse - May 4-7, 2016

Ingrid Kritsch and Alestine Andre gave a PowerPoint presentation on May 6th entitled A Place for stories: Gwich'in experience in ethno-archaeology 1992 to 2016 and beyond. This was an invited presentation in the session, "Current Approaches to Archaeology & Heritage Research in the Western Arctic and Lower Mackenzie Region."

Wisdom Engaged Delta Research Project: TK for Northern Community Well-Being (University of Alberta) – Mackenzie Delta, July 2016

This project was a follow-up to the conference held in February 2015 in Edmonton at the University of Alberta, where Alestine Andre and Gwich'in Elders Mary Teya, Annie B. Gordon, Mabel English, and Fanny Andrew gave workshops about wellness and Gwich'in Bush Medicine. Not obtaining the necessary funding for a proposed regional workshop in the Mackenzie Delta necessitated carrying out interviews with Elders instead. In early July 2016 Leslie Main Johnson and assistant Riva Benditt interviewed the four Elders who attended the Edmonton conference and four other Elders about culturally based and on-the-land well being programs. Leslie interviewed traditional Gwich'in Elders who grew up on the land, and have been active in working to pass on their traditional knowledge to younger generations. The video and audio recorded interviews will be edited, and a draft report will be finalized by DCH staff and copies returned to Elders.

Providing Input to Other GTC Departments:

- a) **Self-Government** – GTC Intergovernmental Relations has indicated that the Division may be requested to provide input on heritage resource jurisdiction and authorities after the Gwich'in Self-Government AIP is signed.
- b) **Land Regulations** – GTC Lands and Resources has indicated that the Division will be requested to provide input into the Land Control rules document currently being prepared by Darren Campbell.

1. Gwich'in Curriculum Development Committee

In June 2016, members of the Gwich'in Curriculum Development Committee were acknowledged as recipients of the 2016 Premier's Award for Collaboration, for developing the Gwich'in Cultural Studies program with local high schools and GNWT ECE. The members of the committee included: Alestine Andre, Sarah Jerome, Shirley Snowshoe, Velma Illasiak, Angela Young, Denise McDonald, Greta Sittichinli, Diane Baxter, Patrick Tomlinson, and Diana Barr. Congratulations!

2. Family Tree Genealogy Project

Staff provided information and input into GTC's initiative to integrate information from GSCI's Family Tree records into the enrolment database. The information currently included in the Family Tree database is based on research carried out with the Gwich'ya Gwich'in by GSCI from 1995-2014. Discussions also included how to include Teet'it Gwich'in family tree information documented in the 1990s by the Gwich'in Enrolment Board.

GSCI – GTC Cultural Heritage Division Transitional Documents

- a) Photo Permission, Data-Sharing, GIS Agreement Forms – Staff revised the documents to reflect the transition of GSCI to GTC Department of Cultural Heritage.
- b) The GTC TK Policy 2004 – GTC revised the policy to reflect GSCI's change in status from a separate entity to a department under the GTC as the current document directs GSCI to take on responsibilities on GTC's behalf. Further revisions by the DCH staff will have to be done. The GTC Board of Directors will need to officially accept any changes to this policy.
- c) GTC Burial Site Guidelines 2005 – DCH will advise GTC how to process with improving the policy and what steps to take to do that.

Division Website – www.gwichin.ca

- a) Staff continued to work with Kristi Benson and Outcrop Ltd. to add new resources and information to the website. Summer student Arlyn Charlie edited videos on file from the Teet'it Gwich'in Googwandak project for posting on our online Gwich'in Atlas.
- b) Staff continued to work with Kristi Benson on bi-weekly posts for the Division's Facebook page.

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Digitization and Cataloguing of GSCI Photos

The Division will digitize and catalogue photos in the GSCI collection. This is a major initiative but essential for the long term as many of the photos were taken during on-the-land projects at named places with Elders, many of whom are no longer with us.

Gwich'in Research Material Update Project 1992-present

Staff worked with Kristi Benson to continue to ensure all digital and paper maps, reports, transcripts, and other research materials gathered since 1992 are updated, catalogued, protected and stored. The excel table which provides a summary of each project along with materials generated and their status will be updated so it can be provided to the NWT Archives and used for the Gwich'in Digital Archives Project.

GSCI Research Materials and NWT Archives (Gwich'in Archives)

Staff prepared a briefing note for the GTC Board of Directors regarding the long term preservation and access of Gwich'in research materials as directed in the GSCI 5-Year Strategic Plan 2014-2019. A motion regarding the donation of all research materials to the NWT Archives, was passed by the GTC Board of Directors on January 25, 2017 in Aklavik. Sharon, Ingrid, Alestine and Tony Devlin met with potential partners at the University of Alberta about creating a Gwich'in Digital Archives on February 15, 2017. Interest in partnering with us on this initiative is high, and we are awaiting word about initial funding to initiate this project.

Land Use Permit, Archaeological Permit and Scientific Research License Applications & Research Agreements

Staff and Kristi Benson continued to review permits and applications and negotiate Research Agreements based on the GTC TK Policy 2004.

Students – Staff provided assistance to the following students as needed.

- a) Crystal Fraser, Ph.D. student, University of Alberta – History of Education in the NWT from 1940-1996.
- b) Chanda Brietzke, M.Sc. student, University of Victoria – Monitoring Changes in Muskrat health, habitat and abundance in the Mackenzie Delta – Traditional Knowledge and Scientific Perspectives.
- c) Tracey Proverbs, Ms.Sc. student, University of Victoria – Cumulative environmental impacts and socio ecological changes related to fishing and the cultural landscape in the GSA.



Arctic Council

Staff continued working with the Arctic Council, as needed, on matters related to TK on behalf of GTC and Gwich'in Council International if requested. Provided comment and information for their new website.

Revise GTC Dept. of Cultural Heritage Operational Activities and Heritage Projects 2016-17

Both Alestine Andre, Heritage Researcher, and Ingrid Kritsch, Research Director, will retire in the 2017-2018 fiscal year – on September 8, 2017. No new projects will be undertaken, existing projects will be wrapped up, and priority plans put in place to ensure all research materials (1993-present) are protected for the long term. The latter include revising the 2016-2017 work plan and meeting with the GTC Executive early in the New Year.

UAlberta North – Edmonton - February 14-16, 2017

Sharon Snowshoe, Ingrid Kritsch and Alestine Andre were invited by UAlberta North, a new initiative of the University of Alberta in Edmonton, to take part in their second Northern Research Workshop Series. The theme for this workshop was “Approaches to Working with Northern Indigenous Communities,” with the focus being on appropriate research practices when working with Gwich'in and other Indigenous northern communities. Ingrid and Alestine also gave a public presentation entitled, “Place Names, Stories and Maps: Telling our own stories in the Gwich'in Settlement Region.” Tony Devlin, Director of Corporate Services also joined Sharon, Ingrid, and Alestine in a series of meetings about potential partnerships with the university to create a Gwich'in Digital Archives, publish a book about Gwich'in Elders, and provide input into a proposed land-based program for the Teet'it Gwich'in. It was an intense and productive week with many positive outcomes and potential for exciting future partnerships.

Heritage Projects

Preparation of Cultural Resource Management Plans for Nagwicheotshik and Shildii – depends on funding

No funding. The plans were that staff will work with GTC Lands and Resources, the Gwichya Gwich'in DGO, Teet'it Gwich'in DGO and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board towards developing management plans for Nagwicheotshik and Shildii heritage sites, both of whom are designated heritage sites in the Gwich'in Land Use Plan. These will be pilot projects and provide guidance on how to manage all 31 designated heritage sites currently listed in the Land Use Plan. This initiative comes out of the following reports commissioned in 2015-2016 by the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board working with GSCI, Avens Associates Ltd, Consilium Consulting and Wendy Shearer - “Managing Cultural Heritage Resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Region” and “A Consultation Plan for Cultural Resource Management of Nagwicheotshik and Shildii.”

CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Community Place Name Changes

Tsiigehtchic name change to Tsiigehtshik

No action to date. The plans were that staff will work with the Tsiigehtchic Charter Community and the GNWT (Cultural Places Program, PWNHC) to change the spelling of the community's Gwich'in name to reflect the standard Gwich'in orthography.

Fort McPherson name change to Teet'it Zheh

No action to date. The plans were that staff will assist Fort McPherson in their name change if requested.

Heritage Projects – Continuing

COPE Gwich'in Stories – Finalize and Publish Stories in Digital and Print Formats

Staff worked with Kristi Benson to clarify many questions related to Gwich'in named places referred to in the COPE stories and to research the background behind how the stories came to be.

Elder's Biography Book – review of new translations/transcripts and draft book written by Leslie McCartney for GTC

Staff worked with Leslie McCartney to clarify questions and provide comment on draft stories prepared by Leslie. The goal is completing a draft of the full manuscript by June 1, 2017 and publishing the book within two or three years (2019-2020). The University of Alberta Press is interested in publishing this book.

Gwich'in Porcupine Quill Work Project - Sandra Tullio-Pow, Ryerson University – Quill Work: Transitioning Traditional Craft into Contemporary Design

All of the video footage of Agnes Mitchell working with porcupine quills has been taken by Catherine Cole under the direction of Ms. Tullio-Pow. The footage now needs to be edited into instructional videos. GSCI will review film footage being created. Once finalized, the video(s) will be posted on our YouTube Channel.

Teet'it Gwich'in Googwandak Land Use History Project

Staff will continue to work with Dr. Michael Heine and the community of Fort McPherson on the Teet'it Gwich'in land-based and community history book. We hope that this book will be available in three years (2019).

Canadian Museum of History (previously called the Canadian Museum of Civilization)

Staff provided input into a new permanent gallery space, the Canadian History Hall, scheduled to open on July 1, 2017 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation. This new exhibit will devote considerable space to presenting the history of Aboriginal peoples in Canada focusing on oral histories about the creation of the land, animals and First Peoples. The Gwich'in were invited to represent the Athapaskan linguistic family and will be one of six different groups showcased from across Canada. In late August, staff recorded

Joanne Snowshoe telling the legend of When Loche was a Man. A sound file of the recording was sent to the Canadian Museum of History along with photographs of Ms. Snowshoe taken by Arlyn Charlie, Gwich'in photographer. Staff will work with Canadian Museum of History staff to arrange Joanne Snowshoe's trip to travel along with another Gwich'in person for a private tour of the exhibit on Friday, May 26, 2017, prior to the celebratory opening on July 1st, 2017.

Berger Inquiry

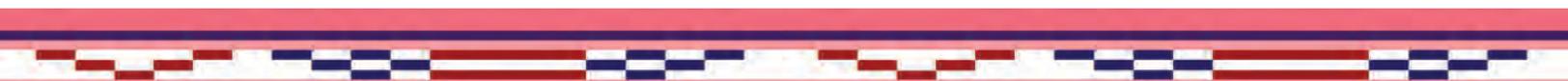
Staff continued to work with Drew Ann Wake, a reporter during the Berger Inquiry in the 1970s, who is developing an online exhibit and a travelling exhibit to make the Berger Inquiry proceedings more accessible to the public. The travelling exhibit "Thunder in Our Voices" has been shown in 40 venues to date including the Dakota Access Pipeline area in the United States. An updated version of the exhibit will be shown at Carleton University in Ottawa from March 18-25 to coincide with the Supreme Court decision on March 22 about the Peel Watershed case. The exhibit will also be shown in Vancouver from June 22-25 during the Native American and Indigenous Scholars Association conference, in Fort Simpson and Inuvik in July, in Victoria at the University of Victoria long house in late September, and in Calgary at the University of Calgary in the Nickle Gallery in October. The updated exhibit will include crafts and video about the artists creating these crafts related to stories told to Berger, as well as the old-time Abandoned Woman story. Staff continued to work with Drew Ann in order to provide crafts from the Gwich'in area appropriate for the exhibit and assist with the use of the replicas of the traditional Gwich'in clothing for exhibit in Victoria and Calgary.

Dogs, Fish and Caribou Project with Peter Looovers, University of Aberdeen – funded by European Research Council until 2018

Staff will continue to assist Dr. Peter Looovers in his 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: Emplacing Human-Animal Relationships in the Circumpolar North. Staff will review articles written by Peter Looovers. Staff and/or community members along with Kristi Benson and Peter Looovers will write one or more chapters about Gwich'in traditional use and husbandry of dogs based on ethnographic and oral history information we have on file.

Ethno-Astronomy Project with Wayne Horowitz, Hebrew University of Jerusalem – funded by the Hebrew University and Division

Staff continued to work with Dr. Horowitz to interview Gwich'in Elders, provide information on file, identify funding sources and write applications to carry out additional research on Gwich'in traditional knowledge about the sky in all four Gwich'in communities. This project follows up on a series of meetings, workshops and interviews held in the communities in 2012, 2014 and 2015. Read and review material written by Horowitz and co-author articles and future book on the project.



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Gwich'in Council International website

Staff provided comment and information for their new website.

Sun at Midnight Feature Film

The film has secured distribution with Industry Works Pictures Inc. based in Vancouver which means (a) an opportunity for limited theatrical release, hopefully screening in select movie theatres in select cities across Canada in the summer and/or in the fall, and (b) seek to make the film available for purchase either online or via a DVD sales. Dates for the releases have not yet been provided.

International screening includes the Maoriland Film Festival in New Zealand; the Native Film Festival in Palm Springs and the Native Crossroads Film Festival in Oklahoma; the Beijing International Film Festival in April; a European premiere in the Czech Republic, at a film festival in Australia, and at the Clayton State University in Atlanta Georgia courtesy of the Canadian embassy. In Canada, screening at the Kamloops Film Festival in March, the Freeze-frame International Festival for kids of all ages in Winnipeg in March, the Vancouver at the Real To Real Youth Festival in April, in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, the National Canadian Film Day in Toronto on April 19, and screened as part of a tour of NWT casting (FB)'s in March and April. Upcoming screenings in Canada include a screening in Old Crow during the Caribou Days Festival, and to youth gathering at the GTC Academic Conference in Inuvik in April.

Wind River Booklet – depends on funding

This booklet to be completed with Kristi Benson then posted on DCH website when done. Fund raising needed to publish hard copies of the booklet.

Gwich'in Knowledge of Insects, a part of the Nin Nihlinehch'i' – Łi' häh Guk'ändehtr'inahtii (Animals at Risk – animals we are watching closely) project – depends on funding

In February 2017, a workshop with knowledgeable Elders and harvesters was conducted in Inuvik in partnership with GRRB. This workshop which included an entomologist was a knowledge-sharing activity. A report will be produced to be used in Species at Risk processes, which will ensure Gwich'in knowledge is taken into account and used for assessing species at risk and for management planning. Several insects are being assessed or are considered possibly at risk, including some bumblebees. Staff reviewed draft report titled Gwich'in Knowledge of Insects.

Gwich'in Legends Project – official launch December 12, 2016

This project is based on a workshop filmed with Gwich'in Elders from the GSA telling old time stories in Aklavik in 2010 in celebration of GSCI's 17th anniversary (1993-2010). Fifteen Gwich'in legends were selected as told by the following Gwich'in Elders – Mary Kendi, Dorothy Alexie, Noel Andre, Emma Kay, Elizabeth Colin, Joanne Snowshoe, Liz Hansen, Mabel English, John Norbert, Sarah Jerome and Ruth Carroll. All videos have been uploaded to the GTC DCH YouTube channel and are available for viewing with and without English subtitles. The project was officially launched during the week of January

16, 2017. Besides accessing the legends on YouTube, 1,000 DVD's were also created and distributed by the GTC office in Inuvik to all Gwich'in elders, leadership, funders, communities, etc.

Albert Johnson film with Jason Merrett

Staff provided information and comments on storyline and draft film script being developed for Albert Johnson film production.

Arctic Red River Canadian Heritage River

Staff provided information and comments on the 2016 Annual Monitoring Report to the GNWT Dept. of ENR.

Colouring It Forward book

Staff provided edits and comments on Colouring It Forward, an Aboriginal Art Colouring Book, by Diana Frost focused on the Gwich'in and Chipewyan. Artwork by Gwich'in artist Christiana Latham and Chipewyan artist Michael Fatt.

Dempster Highway Fibre Link

Staff provided information to GTC about a proposed Teet'it Gwich'in Land Use study.

Yukon initiatives

Staff provided GTC with past funding proposals related to the General Proposal: Gwich'in Traditional Use, Archaeology and Genealogical Study of Gwich'in - Nacho Nyak Dun Relationships for the proposed Nacho Nyak Dun transboundary area negotiations, June 19, 2009.

Gwich'in Tribal Council Strategic Plan 2016-2020

Staff provided input into the GTC Strategic Plan 2016-2020 for cultural heritage.

National Gallery of Canada

Staff provided information to the National Gallery of Canada for an exhibit of one set of clothing from the GSCI Gwich'in Traditional Caribou Skin Clothing Project that will be loaned from the PWNHC collection. The clothing will be on exhibit for a new Indigenous Gallery that was created to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Confederation. The new gallery will present works of art by Indigenous artists and we consider it a great honour that the Gwich'in garment was selected to showcase the artistry of Gwich'in seamstresses to Canadian and International audiences. A wonderful example of the importance of partnerships and working together to bring museum collections and Indigenous people together. We are requesting that the PWNHC sponsor Karen Wright-Fraser's travel and GTC sponsor another Gwich'in seamstress who created the Yellowknife outfit to attend the grand opening of the Gallery on June 14th.

Keith Billington photos and slides

Staff corrected errors in scans of photos by Keith Billington.

ARI Educational Garden

Staff reviewed and provided comment on materials as they were prepared for the Education Garden site at the ARI Building in Inuvik.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Transboundary Yukon Issues (i.e. Mayo-Gwich'in transboundary project)

Staff continued to provide assistance to GTC Lands and Resources and Legal Counsel as needed.

Language Plan Projects

Human Resources

On September 30, 2016, William G. Firth resigned as Language Manager of the Gwich'in Language Centre. The GTC appointed Robert Charlie as the acting Language Manager until March 31, 2017. The GTC made a decision to staff the Gwich'in Language Centre with a term full time position of an Administrative Assistant / Receptionist (Liz Vittrekwa) from November 7, 2016 to March 31, 2017. A part-time Language Resource Coordinator (Eleanor Firth) was hired from November 7, 2016 to March 31, 2017. This was a temporary measure until a full plan was developed on how the GTC would like to restructure the Gwich'in Language section.

Gwich'in Language Dictionary Project

Eleanor Firth continued to record all terms to be entered into the audio dictionary and is entering the terms into a database. She will be working on this for the next few months and fine tuning the terms before continuing on conducting workshops with Elders.

Gwich'in Community Language Activities

Each community was given their own language funding to oversee their own language activities within their community.

Tsiigehtchic – organized on-the-land activities incorporating language component and plans to post activities on Facebook and YouTube.

Fort McPherson – organized on-the-land activity up the Peel River that incorporated the Gwich'in language.

Aklavik – organized two on-the-land activities and that incorporated language.

Inuvik – organized three sewing courses that incorporated language and also carried out a cultural activity on medicine/berry picking.

Meetings with E.C.E. in Yellowknife

There was a meeting that took place in October in Yellowknife. There is a draft curriculum that will be completed by March 31, 2017 for use in schools. This curriculum will be piloted in the fall of 2017. Each aboriginal group will work their resource materials into this curriculum for the teachers to use in the schools. Teacher Training needs to take place. Ryan Mercredi, Region Linguist will be collecting photos from each of the region for the curriculum. Consent forms will be completed and photo credits cited. The language curriculum has to be linked to the new language 5 year plans. There will be a new reporting template that has to be used by the aboriginal governments for the mid-term reporting for November 2016. Robert Charlie participated in monthly telephone calls with Ryan Mercredi, Linguist of GNWT ECE on various language topics.



Inventory of Materials within Language Centre

The staff in the Gwich'in Language Centre will continue to work on the inventory. Digitizing of tapes and videos are being completed by Studio Post in Edmonton. Cultural Heritage staff providing Studio Post with assistance and direction on this project.

BDEC – Material Development & .05 position

On November 24 and 25, 2016, a two-day in-service with the Aboriginal Language Instructors took place in Fort McPherson. The in-service consisted of the role of the Gwich'in Language Centre, what support the Language Instructors required, presentation on the Language Curriculum by ECE, Yellowknife, sharing best practices, training on Moodle, Phraselators, SMART Board activities, reviewed the Gwich'in website, visited the school's cultural camp and resource sharing at the Gwich'in Language Centre. Scanning of photos were done for the Gwich'in Language Centre. Gwich'in Language Lessons (TG dialect by Bertha Francis) were burned.

Dechini Series

John Ritter reviewed and corrected a number of books under the Dechini Series. Further work to be done on developing talking books with this series.

Gwich'in Tukudh Bible

Wayne Horowitz, Professor with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who has been working on the Ethno-Astronomy Project began working on the Tukudh project to make digital copies of Sarah Simon's recordings of the Gwich'in Tukudh Bible by Archdeacon McDonald. Digitizing of the Sarah Simon recordings have been sent to Flume Media Archiving in Toronto, ON.

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Other activities

- Recording of Christmas Carols by Eleanor Firth.
- A new telephone system was installed at the Gwich'in Language Centre.
- Eleanor provided on-call translation services with the assistance of the elder on a daily basis.
- Mary Effie Snowshoe and Elizabeth Vittrekwa attended the NWT Literacy Council Granny and Grandpa Training in Yellowknife on January 17 and 18, 2017 which is a resource developed to be used for early childhood programs in the language.
- Eleanor Firth with Mary Effie Snowshoe recorded the verb paradigms from the Dictionary of the Gwich'in 1st Edition by William George Firth and 5th edition Gwich'in Dictionary with assistance of Grace Martin.
- Eleanor Firth with Joanne Snowshoe recorded the McDonald Dictionary with assistance from Myrna Vaneltsi and Star Snowshoe.
- A two-day training program on Mentor-Apprentice will take place on February 7 and 8, 2017 with First People's Cultural Council of BC that included 23 participants which included community coordinators from the communities of Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Inuvik with exception of the community of Tsiigehtchic.
- The Gwich'in Language Centre hosted visits by the students of Chief Julius School, introducing them to the resources available at the center. Since this introduction the students and teachers have been requesting information on language and culture from the center.
- Language month is held in March each year. A plan will be developed with the help of Community Coordinators to ensure encouragement of our Gwich'in Language.
- GTC Word of the Week – Began working on word of the week. Compiled a number of short sentences, further work has to be done this project.
- Language Shift – Working Together for Language Revitalization Council of Yukon First Nations, March 6-7, 2017. Sharon Snowshoe and Eleanor Firth attended this event in Whitehorse, Yukon which was strategic plan for revitalizing the language in the Yukon.



CORPORATE SERVICES

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Communications

Communications this year focused on providing a constant flow of program data, news releases, stories, profiles, infographics, photo shoots, video and general information primarily through social media, but also through a number of printed publications.

Social Media

A department goal was to increase our effectiveness in messaging and position the GTC as a reliable resource for up-to-the-minute information. Social media – and Facebook in particular, has become a leading resource to be able to impart timely news, updates and content to a wide audience covering most age groups and locations. With 54% of Gwich'in participants living outside of the Settlement Area, it is imperative that the GTC is able to widely and effectively share political, informational, cultural and social messaging.

The GTC was forced by Facebook rules to give up its status as a 'person' on Facebook – which gave us better abilities to communicate directly, and one-on-one, with our audiences – and turn over into an organizational 'page', which provides us with some great analytics but takes away from some of the work we have done over the past few years to build our presence. This said, we are fully marketing the new look and feel of our online presence, and remain diligent on being able to update our audience in realtime.

The department also oversaw the development of a Board-approved Comprehensive Social Media policy covering content, permissible comment, worktime use, and political activity that was presented to staff in a workshop.

Website

We officially launched our new website the first week in March to a very receptive audience. Initial feedback has been very positive, with more than 2200 visitors a month over the first few months. Advertising the switchover was primarily done on Facebook, and we expect another uptick when we formally re-point the new site to our old URL. To access the site, we are able to use gwichintribal.ca, gwichintribal.com, and gwichin.nt.ca.

Due to the functionality of the new website, we are updating both Facebook and the website in realtime – as intended. The efficiencies realized will allow us to utilize the web and social media even more effectively while shaping our messaging going forward.

The second phase of the website will launch during the Assembly this year - with an interactive History Timeline highlighting history, achievements and important dates in Gwich'in Nation.

Public Relations

PR is how an organization presents itself, contributes to its

communities and works with partners in instilling and sharing corporate philosophy and values. The GTC, led by Helen Sullivan and Carolyn Lennie, came up with an updated list of Gwich'in Values in 2015 - which drew upon values outlined in the GCLCA and through the wisdom of our elders. As part of our effort to share these values with our participants, and in particular, our youth, the GTC created a poster series listing the values and distributed them widely throughout our schools, offices, DGOs, Gwich'in-owned businesses and homes. These posters are free-of-charge, and anyone interested in getting one can contact the Communications department.



The GTC Board also approved a small budget for PR products, and the GTC has rink-board advertising installed in the Inuvik Curling Club and the Midnight Sun Complex. We are looking for similar opportunities in each of our Gwich'in communities to do the same. We also procured four large GTC flag-banners that have flown at events including Gwich'in Day, Aboriginal Day, Canada Day, the Arctic Energy and Emerging Technologies (AEET) Show, and, during the summer, in front of our main building in Inuvik. We look forward to working with the DGOs to create similar products that each can use in their communities to promote Gwich'in unity and pride.

Technical Writing, Review, Editing and Proof-Reading

Communications plays a supporting role to all of the departments at the GTC. We assist with technical writing (proposals, reports, formal requests), and provides review, editing and proof-reading services. This year we worked closely with the Economic Development and the Community Development officers on projects including the GCEDO application, the Gwich'in Internship Pilot Project (GIPP), and on the University Tour, in addition to reports and proposals from other departments.

Materials Development

The creation and delivery of generated, and on-demand communications materials produced for certain audiences: our participants, the Board of Directors, DGOs, partners and funders, or

CORPORATE SERVICES

Annual Report

the general public – is an integral part of the communications department. We write speeches, press releases, briefing notes, talking points; produce various printed materials including the Annual Report; create posters, infographics, advertisements, and communities and works with partners in instilling and sharing corporate philosophy and values. The GTC, led by Helen Sullivan and Carolyn Lennie, came up with an updated list of Gwich'in Values in 2015 - which drew upon values outlined in the GCLCA and through the wisdom of our elders. As part of our effort to share these values with our participants, and in particular, our youth, the GTC created a poster series listing the values and distributed them widely throughout our schools, offices, DGOs, Gwich'in-owned businesses and homes. These posters are free-of-charge, and anyone interested in getting one can contact the Communications department.

THE NEXT 40

CULTURE LANGUAGE SPIRITUALITY

The Next 40 - Academic Conference

We hosted the third annual Academic Conference for Gwich'in youth this year. The conference, in a change from years past, was held in Inuvik and invited youth from around Canada to meet with university representatives in the GSA. With over 25 youth participants, the conference was highlighted with workshops, lectures, activities and group sessions playing in and around the themes of Culture, Language and Spirituality. We were honoured to bring in Chief Lee Crowchild of Tsuu'tina Nation in Alberta as a keynote speaker this year and also held drum-making, beading and hand games evening workshops for the youth. Both the University of Alberta and Trent University (Ontario) attended and hosted information booths.

Arctic Energy and Emerging Technologies Trade Show

For the second year, the GTC was involved in the AET trade show. We ran a trade show booth and attended as delegates. This year, we also hosted a Cultural Evening at the Gwich'in Camp downriver. Delegates were brought to the camp by boat and participated in a number of cultural activities/demonstrations - which included moosehide fleshing, bannock-making, fish-cutting and checking net. With over 50 participants, we also showed off the buildings and facilities - and gained a lot of interest and ideas for future uses of the camp.

25th Anniversary - GCLCA

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, and we celebrated individually in each of the four GSA communities over 4 days. A commemorative logo was designed and we presented each of the communities a special flag for the event. We also gave out over 1500 t-shirts and

1000 baseball caps. This year we combined the Treaty Payment payout with the community celebrations, and each DGO help community cookouts leading to Old Time dances. It was a tremendous effort put on by all - and helped usher in the first 25 years of the land claim.

Gwich'in Craft Shop/Marketing

In discussing ways of supporting local industry and promoting Gwich'in culture to the expanding tourist market in the Beaufort Delta, in June 2016 we opened up a small Gwich'in Craft Shop in the Chief Jim Koe Building in Inuvik and put the word out that we were looking to begin sourcing inventory of handmade Gwich'in and northern crafts. Stunning examples of functional art flowed in to the GTC and we have since been selling goods out of a few display cases in our lobby.

This year we look to expand the Craft Shop into a dedicated formal space in the building, and start to sell online through our new website. There is a large market for authentic, high-quality traditional beadwork and clothing and we feel that this presents a great opportunity to export and promote Gwich'in culture while supporting local home-based industry.



Final Words

It has been our pleasure to work with GTC staff, Executive, Board of Directors, participants and the public to help promote, inform, advise and highlight the happenings at, and through, the GTC; Gwich'in language and culture; and the successes and challenges of the nation and our participants. We look forward to continuing to listen on how we can best move forward, and feel that while there is still work to do, we have made some tremendous strides over the past year in achieving our objectives.

Mahsi,
Tony Devlin

EDUCATION & IMPERIAL FUND

Annual Report

The funds were used for the following:

- Encourage the higher education of Participants by providing financial assistance to those seeking vocational and technical skills training and formal post secondary education
- Enhance the ability of participants to access job opportunities associated with the facilities as defined in the Benefits Agreement and
- Funds may be available to Participants to pursue vocational and technical skills training and formal post secondary education program in career fields unrelated to the facilities.

Educational fund Fiscal Year End March 31, 2017

During the fiscal year 2015/2016. \$99,950.00 was spent from the GTC Imperial Oil Education Fund.

Training Allowances

During the fiscal year 2015/2016 none of the funds were spent on training allowances

Grad Gifts

\$4,500.00 was spent on Grad Gifts

Tutoring

\$5,657.50 was spent on tutoring

Scholarships

2 scholarships were issued for a total of \$2,000.00

1 - Degree Bachelor of Education

1 – Degree in Management Studies

Total Expenses: \$246,507.50

Bursaries/Program of Studies/Number of Participants

Students in full time post secondary education and maintaining a 60% average in the course load are eligible to apply for a regular \$200.00 per month bursary. This year GTC provided a \$150.00 a month top-up for students with no dependents and \$350.00 per month for students with dependents. Please note that the top up bursary may change year to year as it is dependent on the GTC investment fund. This year 100 participants received the regular and top up bursary for a total of \$234,350.00 Please see below for the program of studies and number of participants in each program.

1 Cosmetology	2 Psychology	1 Arts & Schience
5 Class 1	1 Outdoor Adventure	1 Physics with Astronomy
1 Pre Tech	1 Practical Nursing	1 3rd Year Parts Tech
3 Business Admin	1 Early Childhood	1 Bachelor of Arts – Justice Studies
1 Health Care Assistant	1 Strategic HR Mgmt	1 Message Therapy
1 Open Studies	1 Diagnostic Medical Sonography	1 CCP
1 Social Work Diploma	1 Level 2 Apprentice	1 Pre Employment Welding
1 Professional Cooking Training	2 Bachelor of Admin	1 Esthetics
2 Nursing Access	1 MA Interdisciplinary Studies	1 SK urban Teacher Education Program
1 Bachelor of Nursing	1 Foundations of Indig. Learning	1 Bachelor of Commerce
3 Office Administration	1 Associates of Science Degree	3 Business Admin
1 BC Adult Ed	1 dual Admissions Program	1 Registered Acupuncturist
1 Bachelor of Arts	1 Env. & Conserv & Native Studies	1 Geographic Information System
1 General Studies	1 Bachelor of Arts	1 General Science
8 Access Pathways	1 Culinary Arts	1 Electrician
1 Bachelor of Science	1 Northern First Nations Studies, Indige- nous Studies	1 First People Aviation Tech
1 Heavy Equipment Tech Pre Apprentice	2 College Prep	1 Pre Reg Trades Program
2 Targeted Intuitive for older workers	1 Future Teachers	1 Bach of Arts – Anthropology
1 Dechinta Bush University	1 Administrative Professional	1 Welding B
1 Northern Outdoor and Env.	1 Printmakers	1 Bachelor of Arts
1 Northern Justice & Criminology	1 Bachelor of Fine Arts	1 Pre Employment Plumbing
1 Medical office Admin	1 Business/Process Analyst	1 PC Specialist
1 Phd Canadian History	1 Paralegal/Legal Admin	3 Bachelor of Arts
1 Pre Welding Apprentice		1 Northern Collaborative Nursing

GWICH'IN SERVICES

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Education and Training 2016-2017

Career Development Services

We continue to co-fund employment officer positions in each of the GSA communities to assist us with program recruitment efforts and to assist participants in job search, resume development, career planning, post-secondary funding applications and access to computer, fax, printer, job postings, and other resources. Each Employment and Career Development Officers has a dedicated resource area for the general public to access services in the following locations:

- Tetlit Gwich'in Council – Fort McPherson
- Aklavik Indian Band Office – Aklavik
- Gwichya Gwich'in Council Office – Tsiigehtchic
- Gwich'in Tribal Council Office - Inuvik

The GTC continues to partner with other service providers where possible, to maximize delivery of career development workshops such as resume writing, cover letter, and student financial assistance applications. Presentations are delivered on an ongoing basis in all communities.

Partnerships

The GTC continues to be an active member of the Regional Training Partnership (RTP) Committee. The Committee meets on a monthly basis to collectively identify education, training and employment needs based on regional labour market demands and discuss potential opportunities for participants. Involvement with the RTP, allows GTC to maximize training dollars associated with participant opportunities. The Committee consists of representatives from the following organizations.

- a) Aurora College
- b) Beaufort Delta Education Council
- c) Education, Culture and Employment
- d) Gwich'in Tribal Council
- e) Industry, Tourism and Investment
- f) Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- g) Municipal and Community Affairs
- h) Service Canada
- i) Transportation
- j) Imperial Oil
- k) Western Arctic Business Development Services

ASETS Program Delivery

Aboriginal Skill and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) funding is administered by the Gwich'in Tribal Council on behalf of Employment and Skills Development Canada (ESDC).

The objective of ASETS is to improve the employment opportunities of Aboriginal people to enable them to fully participate in the Canadian Economy where:

- Funds are considered labor market training dollars; and
- Funds are used to assist clients with training that leads directly to employment

ASETS financial assistance is available to:

- All self-identified First Nation, Métis and Inuit people residing within the Gwich'in Settlement Area; and or
- All self-identified First Nation, Métis and Inuit people residing within the Gwich'in Settlement Area and who are:
- unemployed persons; and
- eligible for or in receipt of Employment Insurance, EI reach back.

For the 2016-2017 year, the GTC received an extension with ASETS funding. The funding allowed the GTC to continue offering programming and financial supports to participants residing within the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative

Under the First Nation and Inuit Childcare Program, the GTC currently provides program funding to the Children's First Society, T'loondih Healing Society and Aklavik Child Development Centre. The T'loondih Healing Society and Children's First Society were granted extraordinary funding for capital repairs and renovations for the 2016-2017 year.

ASETS Programming

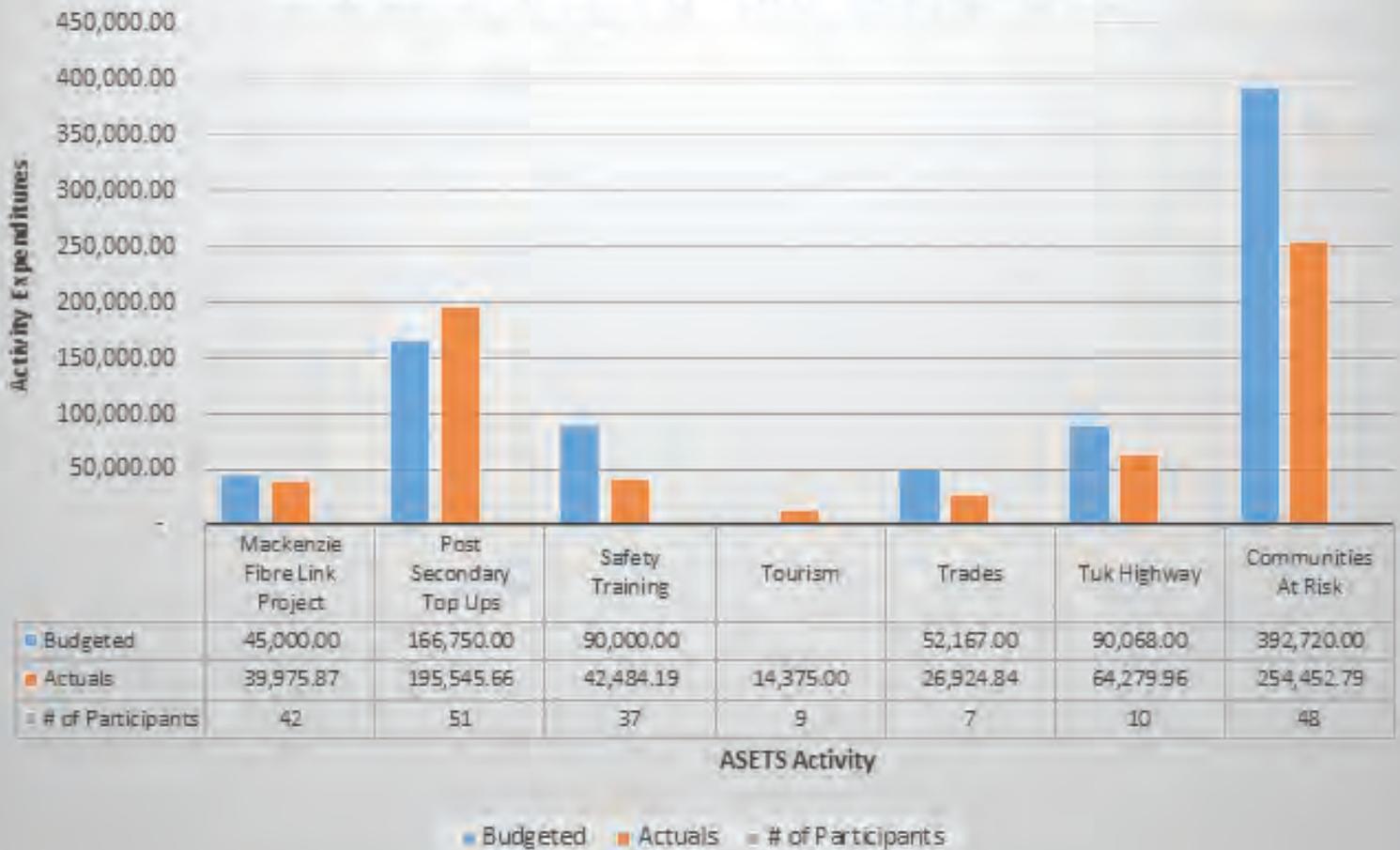
When the ASETS Agreement Holder Activity and Annual Expenditure Plan was developed, it was expected that there would be a level of activity similar to prior years. The slow economy and lack of financial resources impacted the outcomes for the Tuk Highway, Trades and Safety activity areas. As a result, the GTC partnered with other organizations to fund other projects such as the Early Childhood Program at Aurora College as well as the Tourism related Country Foods Processing programs:

- The Tuk Highway activity included all associated training costs for individuals to obtain training as Heavy Equipment Operators or Class 1 Drivers Training.
- The Mackenzie Fibre Link Project included both Environmental Monitor Training and Wilderness First Aid programs.
- Safety Training activities included Asbestos Training and standard safety training (First Aid, CPR, Industrial Confined Space and Industrial Fall Protection).
- The expenditures for Post-Secondary (top ups, living allowances, tuition, books, student travel and program course costs) surpassed the budgeted amount. It is assumed that since there is little to no work available in the region, many more students opted to return to studies.
- Funding for Communities-At-Risk was approved in January 2017 and was carried over to the new fiscal year to continue with programming.

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2016-2017 ASETS Activity Expenditures



In June 2016, the GTC partnered with IRC to deliver a two day Asbestos Worker Training Course which was delivered in Inuvik to 17 participants and delivered in Aklavik to 12 participants. Pinchin West provided the Asbestos training to cover the following topics: Properties and Uses, Health Effects Review, Risk Assessment, Regulations and Guidelines, Worker Protection, Air Monitoring Requirements, Supervisor's Responsibilities, Work Area Enclosure Layout and Construction and Removal Procedures. Participants who completed the training in Inuvik were offered employment with NANZU Demolition and Environmental Ltd. Aklavik Participants were offered employment with the DGO for local building demolishment projects.

In August 2016, the GTC provided safety training in Fort McPherson to 7 participants. Omankera Arctic Services provided training that consisted of First Aid, CPR, Industrial Confined Space and Industrial Fall Protection. A total of 4 participants were offered employment with Canadian Quest Logistics.

In September 2016, the GTC partnered with IRC to deliver the Early

Childhood Certificate program in Inuvik at the Aurora Campus. A total of 9 participants, including 4 Gwich'in participants completed the program.

In October 2016, the GTC partnered with the Aurora College, DOT, ECE, IRC, and ITI to deliver Class 1 Driver Training in Inuvik. The program accepted a total of 14 participants which included 5 Gwich'in participants (3 from Fort McPherson, 1 from Tsiigehtchic, and 1 from Inuvik). Participants were divided into groups of 4 to complete 10 days of practical training and 1 day for testing licensure. A total of four Gwich'in participants completed the program.

In October 2016, the GTC partnered with the Aurora College, DOT, ECE, IRC, and ITI to deliver Class 1 Driver Training in Inuvik. The program accepted a total of 14 participants which included 5 Gwich'in participants (3 from Fort McPherson, 1 from Tsiigehtchic, and 1 from Inuvik). Participants were divided into groups of 4 to complete 10 days of practical training and 1 day for testing licensure. A total of four Gwich'in participants completed the program.

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In November 2016, the GTC partnered with the Aurora College, ECE, and IRC to deliver the Country Foods Processing Training in Inuvik for two one week intake sessions for 16 participants each. The first intake session was held November 7 to November 18, 2016 which included 6 Gwich'in participants (3 participants from Fort McPherson, 2 participants from Inuvik, and 1 participant from Tsiigehtchic). The second intake was held November 21 to December 02, 2016 with three Gwich'in participants (2 participants from Inuvik and 1 participant from Tsiigehtchic). Participants were provided with a prorated living allowance and travel expenses were provided for participants outside of Inuvik. A total of 8 Gwich'in participants completed the training.

In January 2017, The GTC partnered with Aurora College and IRC to deliver a five week Environmental Monitoring Training Program in Fort McPherson. A total of 12 of 15 participants completed the program. The GTC sponsored participants for living allowances to attend the training. The program was advertised to include participants who had previously been in receipt of Employment Insurance benefits allowing the GTC to utilize Part II funds under its ASETS Agreement.

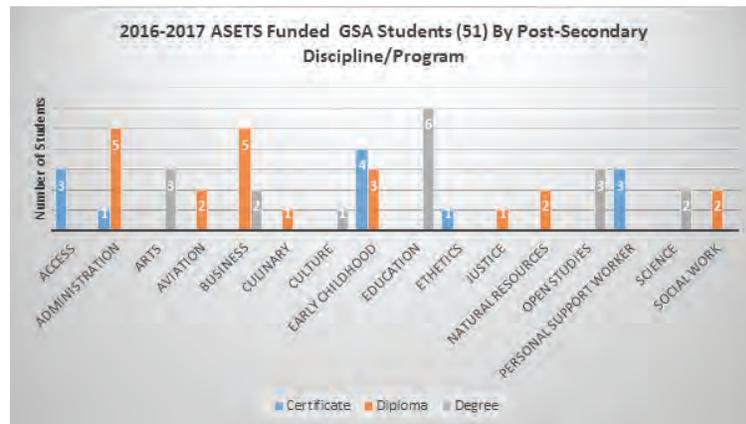
In February 2017, The GTC partnered with Aurora College and ECE to deliver Wilderness First Aid training in Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson with a total of 21 participants completing the programs. Training was provided by Blythe and Bathe, authorized delivery agents for BEAHR programs. Participants received instruction and certification in Wilderness and Remote First Aid, 3 Year Red Cross (CPR C and AED). Participants who completed the program also completed registration with ECO Canada/BEAHR.

In March 2017, the GTC partnered with the IRC, ECE and Aurora College to deliver the Building Trades Helper Program which ran from March 13-June 06, 2017. A total of 10 participants were selected (4 from GTC, 4 from IRC and 1 Sahtu). Training was delivered in two phases: 1) Ready to Work NWT for the first session and 2) Trade Foundation Skills, Intro to Tools and Materials, Intro to Carpentry, Intro to Mechanical Systems and Intro to Electrical Systems. A total of 3 Gwich'in participants completed the program. Program participants who completed the program were eligible to be given consideration for priority hiring for potential employment opportunities with Nappaq Construction's housing construction projects in 2017-2018 in both Inuvik and Tuk.



ASETS Post-Secondary Top Ups

The Education and Training Department have been able to fund a total of approximately 51 GSA post-secondary Students from April 2016 to March 31, 2017. Approximately 51 students from within the GSA received funding from the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) for top up living allowances, tuition, and books.



In January 2017, the GTC was approved an additional 500,000 by Service Canada under the ASETS Communities at Risk program with all funds to be expended by March 31st, 2017. GTC hired Donna Neyando as a Project Coordinator to assist with administration and program delivery targeted to youth at risk between the ages of 15-30. The program consisted of four modules:

- 5 weeks of Life Skills programming;
- 3 weeks of Aurora College's delivery of the Ready to Work NWT Program;
- 1 week of On-the Land Culture Camps; and
- 1 week of Career Planning.

The GTC delivered the Life Skills and Ready to Work NWT portion of the CARS programming simultaneously in Fort McPherson, Inuvik, and Aklavik from January 2017 to March 2017. GTC registered a total of 49 participants and the following saw the following numbers for completion:

Fort McPherson	Life Skills / Ready to Work NWT	5
Inuvik	Life Skills / Ready to Work NWT	6
Aklavik	Life Skills / Ready to Work NWT	11

For all three deliveries, initial results indicated that a total of 9 students expect to pursue post-secondary studies in the fall of 2017. Three participants have shown interest to pursue training in becoming Life Skills Facilitators. Two participants have since become employed. Initial results showed that there was an increase in male participation.

Programming was well received in the communities and by participants. Participants in the Inuvik delivery of the Ready to Work NWT received surplus laptops from Aurora College. Other participants in older age categories (30+) have now expressed interest and desire for

GWICH'IN SERVICES

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the GTC to offer similar programming.

During June and July 2017 programming is underway to deliver the one week on the land cultural program and one week follow up career development activities with participants for “next steps” that lead to job search, employment and planning for post-secondary studies.

Mahsi,

Robert Charlie

Verna Pope

Gina Firth



HUMAN RESOURCES

Annual Report

Drin Gwiinzii,

I started in my role of Director of Human Resources in March of 2017 and it has been a pleasure to be part of GTC. The Director of Human Resources (HR) role is responsible for leading GTC's HR programs and processes. This includes HR planning, recruitment and retention, on-boarding (orientations), HR policies and processes, training and development, performance management and performance reviews, employee relations, HR records management and reporting, workforce and succession planning, HR compliance and risk management, organizational design, and compensation and benefits. Overall, my position works to ensure GTC's compliance with internal policies, HR best practices, and labour standards.

Human Resources Team

The GTC HR team is made up of Sheena Showshoe, Human Resources Officer, and myself.

Job Opportunities

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page to find out about job opportunities with GTC!

Participants are encouraged to apply. For questions or more information on job opportunities, contact us at jobs@gwichin.nt.ca or 867-777-7913.

Next Year

The Director of HR position was put in place to have a dedicated resource to grow GTC's HR programs and processes. As a result, this is the priority for the coming year and each day continues to be busy.

I am honoured to work with the Gwich'in. It's tremendous to see the progress that is being made in so many areas and to be part of it all.

Looking forward to a positive and exciting 2017-18!

Mahsi,

Lynn MacKinnon
Director of Human Resources



INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Annual Report

Drin Gwiinzii,

It has been an exceptionally busy year in the Intergovernmental Relations department. A major commitment of staff time went to Participant consultation on the draft Agreement-in-Principal that was approved by the GTC Board of Directors. The BoD gave direction to the department to move ahead with consultations within the Gwich'in Settlement region and also outside, (more will be covered under Self-government).

As many of you know I decided to retire. I have truly enjoyed my fourteen months working for the Gwich'in Tribal Council, likely a job I should have started many years ago. The staff and leadership have been wonderful to work with. Never have I had a place of employment with so much laughter. People work hard and laugh hard! I had to take up additional exercise as there is always so much good food to eat here in the office, I blame Susan and the Wellness department for that.

I will miss the daily interaction with Diane and Eleanor, we've had an enjoyable time and they are both so easy to work with.

In closing I would like to add, I predict great things for the Gwich'in Nation should they start pulling together in the same direction. The most frustrating thing to see is people with a vision for a better way of life for their people and not everyone working to make that happen. Twenty-five years ago when the GCLCA was signed there were those who said it wasn't a good deal, perhaps that is true, it's not for me to say, but the way forward is through self-government and a SG agreement that lifts all Gwich'in people up, not just a few or one community. People need to start thinking and working for all Gwich'in people. Anyway, my closing comments and I wish health, happiness and prosperity for all!

Mahsi Cho,

David Reid

Director of Intergovernmental Relations

General Background

Our department focuses on the following areas: Self-government, implementation of the GCLCA and Youth and Elders.

The department has the following staff members:

David Reid, Director

Diane Baxter, Associate Director

Eleanor Jerome, Manager, Regional Capacity & Coordination

Meeka Blake, Administrative Assistant shared between, Intergovernmental, Lands & Legal

Self- Government Report:

The amount received for the fiscal year 2016-2017 was \$285,000 for Gathering Strength and \$400,000 for Negotiations Support.

Negotiation Support:

A. Core Requirements:

In 2016-2017 the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) team approach, consisting of GTC Executive and Designated Gwich'in Origination's (DGO) and an Indian Act Band Chief's representative, was continued and mandated by the 2017 Annual General Assembly to continue negotiations of a Self-Government (SG) Agreement-in-Principle (AIP). The Gwich'in SG Team "the Team" comprised of GTC Vice-President Norman Snowshoe who was replaced by Vice-President Jordan Peterson in August 2016, Gwichya Gwich'in Council DGO Grace Blake, Tetlit Gwich'in Council

DGO David Krutko, Ehdiiat Gwich'in Council DGO Eugene Pascal, Nihtat Gwich'in Council DGO Barry Greenland, and Chief Phillip Blake.

Technical Staff and GTC staff contributors for 2016-2017 included David Reid, Director of Intergovernmental Relations; Diane Baxter, Associated Director of Intergovernmental Relations; Carolyn Lennie, Chief Operating Officer; Tony Devlin, Director of Corporate Services and Communications; and, Eleanor Jerome, DGO Liaison. The technical staff worked tirelessly to prepare for and support main table negotiations, SG meetings in Yukon, and the many Gwich'in Tribal Council-led consultation events and efforts.

During the consultation process, fieldworkers were also hired to assist with information sharing at the community level. Fieldworkers in Fort McPherson included Ruby Koe, Robilee Koe and Jennilee Pascal. Where possible, team members and technical staff, Diane Baxter and Eleanor Jerome, assisted with the consultation process by conducting household visits in Tsiigehtchic and meetings with Indian Act Band Chief and Councils and Designated Gwich'in Organizations Presidents and Councils. This work also included going on community radio stations to present information and field questions from community members.

B. Consultant Support (supports Main Table Drafting):

In April 2016, the Parties concluded the negotiations of a

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Annual Report

draft Agreement-in-Principle and agreed to table the AIP with their respective Governments for conducting consultation on the draft AIP toward initialing and approval. In July/August 2016, the BOD further recommended and sought support from the Annual General Assembly that GTC would lead the consultation process of the draft AIP. Throughout summer 2016, the GTC conducted analysis that was used to respond to substantive issues and to prepare informational materials for consultations throughout the upcoming years.

In the fall 2016, the GTC developed a consultation strategy that included opportunities to deeply consult Gwich'in community leadership, hold open information sessions, and conduct individual face-to-face meetings with land claim participants, GTC and DGO staff, as well as youth and elders. Implementation of the consultation process then consisted of meetings with all these groups and individuals, including leadership of Designated Gwich'in Organizations and Indian Act Bands. Throughout this work, the GTC used various methods and mediums for engaging Gwich'in Participants. The GTC developed resources to ensure that the consultation process that was inclusive, broad, and focused on the needs and interests of different individuals and groups.

By way of example, the GTC, with Canada and GNWT, held sessions in all four Gwich'in communities during the week of October 24, 2016 to provide further information on the AIP as well as contextual and legal information on related background issues pertaining to Treaty 11, the Indian Act, the GCLCA and governance. These sessions were well attended, with DGO Presidents and Chiefs participating in each. These sessions were then followed up with four-day Gwich'in community consultations in each of the Gwich'in Communities, comprised of one day meeting with the Designated Gwich'in Organization, two days open for Gwich'in Participant dialogue, and one day for a community session. Technical staff also conducted radio programming outreach, presentations, questions and answers, development and maintenance of a designated SG email address for comments and submissions, and various communications. Additionally, the GTC organized a mail out of the draft AIP and informational materials to all registered Gwich'in Participants over the age of 18 years throughout Canada to ensure the broadest possible coverage by these consultation efforts. Related, the GTC also set up a dedicated web page on the GTC website to provide information and received questions.

In parallel and throughout the year, the GTC conducted additional research and commissioned legal opinions to focus on questions on expressed areas of concern such as

taxation (e.g. Indian Status tax exemption), regional and community delegation of authority and jurisdiction, Indian Act Band/Designated Gwich'in Organization merger's and roles and responsibilities, SG in Yukon, and related Gwich'in rights and interests.

C. Main Table Negotiations:

Meeting Schedule of 2016-2017:

April 8, 2016	Conference Call – Gwich'in Caucus & Main Table
April 11, 2016	Draft AIP Approved by all parties to take back to their respective governments
April 27, 2016	GTC BOD approves Draft AIP
May 3, 2016	Whitehorse, YT – Yukon SG (GTC, YTG & GOC)
June 2, 2016	Conference Call – Main table
June 29, 2016	Conference Call – Yukon SG (GTC, YTG & GOC)
July 13-15, 2016	Inuvik - Gwich'in Caucus
July 26-27, 2016	GTC BOD meeting – GTC lead Consultation
July 21, 2016	Conference Call – Gwich'in Caucus
August 8, 2016	Conference Call – Gwich'in Caucus
August 11, 2016	Inuvik, NT – Gwich'in Caucus
August 22-24, 2016	AGA – Support AIP consultation lead by GTC
September 1, 2016	Conference Call – Yukon Meeting Prep (GTC & GOC)
September 7-8, 2016	Whitehorse, YT – Yukon SG (GTC, YTG & GOC)
September 14, 2016	Inuvik, NT – Gwich'in Caucus
September 19, 2016	Inuvik, NT – Gwich'in Caucus
October 6, 2016	Conference Call – Gwich'in Caucus
October 28, 2016	Inuvik, NT – Staff Workshop (s/a)
October 28, 2016	Inuvik, NT – Gwich'in Caucus
December 16, 2016	Conference Call – Main Table
March 10, 2017	Conference Call – Yukon SG (GTC, YTG & GOC)
March 14, 2017	Whitehorse, YT – Yukon SG (GTC, YTG & GOC)

Although negotiations concluded in March of 2016, the Team continued to be utilized in their respective communities during consultation of the Draft AIP and general flow of information. They also assisted in terms of answering questions and/or comments or providing information on the Draft AIP. The Team was also involved in the preliminary discussions with the Yukon Government in regards to the potential of self-government jurisdiction in Yukon. Most of the Team also participated in the meeting of Past Leaders in December 2016. The Team continued to be involved when they were required during this past fiscal year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

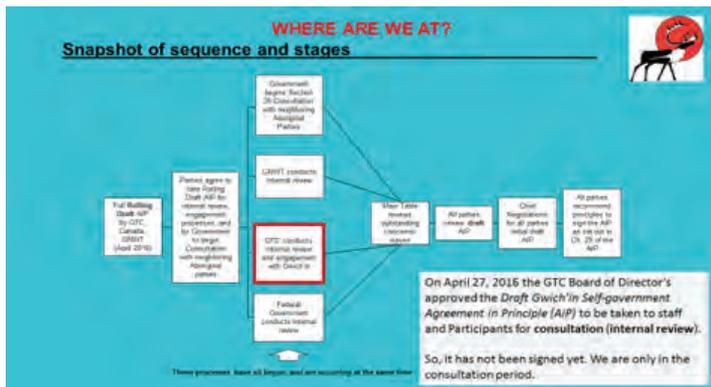
Annual Report

Into spring 2017, the GTC continues to conduct analysis and facilitate strategic sessions with technical staff and the Team prior to and after Main Table sessions or conference calls. Additionally, the GTC and its legal counsel began preparing for work of the Legal Technical Review (LTR) as consultation came to a close in late 2016-17. taxation (e.g. Indian Status tax exemption), regional and community delegation of authority and jurisdiction, Indian Act Band/Designated Gwich'in Organization merger's and roles and responsibilities, SG in Yukon, and related Gwich'in rights and interests.

Gathering Strength:

D. Consultation Activities (Community Engagement)

On April 27, 2016 the Draft AIP was approved by the GTC BOD's, further decision by the BOD and Annual General Assembly was obtained to conduct a full consultation process that included leadership, Participants and employees providing an opportunity to make comments on the draft AIP. Since April 2016, all Governments have been involved in the consultation process (see diagram below of where we are).



As briefly described above, the GTC developed a dedicated web page, including a specific email address, all of which was advertised for Participants to ask questions or provide comments on the Draft AIP. The email address is selfgovt@gwichin.nt.ca. The GTC also offered resources and support to the four Designated Gwich'in Organizations and four Indian Act Band Chiefs to conduct their own internal review of the draft AIP. The Nihtat Gwich'in Council stood out as the group that used this opportunity most fully, though several groups made use of this mechanism. In December, technical staff completed door to door visits in Tsiigehtchic and in February, fieldworkers were hired to completed door to door visits in Fort McPherson and Aklavik distributing consultation documents and receiving comments on the Draft AIP. Diane, Eleanor and Eugene also assisted with this process. Radio communication was utilized in the communities of Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic to get the information out to Participants. Interpreters were hired to provide the information in Gwich'in at meetings and on radio programming.

Toward the end of 2016, the GTC technical staff began compiling input and results from consultations and synthesizing it into a consultation report to present to the Team Members and GTC BOD's in a way that would highlighting key concerns and points learned from the consultations. Once discussed at that level, then it will be conveyed to the main table.

Overall, the "Gathering Strength" part of SG work entailed making great strides in building individual and community understanding of – and capacity to understand – deeper and long-standing issues regarding Gwich'in Governance (past, present and future) and the broader legal underpinnings of Treaty 11, the Indian Act, the Constitution Act, the GCLCA and federal-territorial jurisdictional parameters. Questions and misconceptions have persisted among Gwich'in on many issues at this fundamental level ever since the land claim was finalized. For example, many people become confused as to how the "inherent right" to self-government relates to the current process and AIP. Similarly, many people remain uncertain as to how a self-government agreement would affect remaining Treaty 11 rights (despite there being explicitly no impact). It is safe to say that the GTC has now generated more clarity on these matters than ever existed previously and this has begun to pay dividends in terms of moving forward with a common understanding. However, much work remains to continue this work, as some confusion and misconceptions persist, some of which has become habitual and political. An enhanced concerted dialogue will be required in the coming year and beyond.

In addition to this progress, this work provided a way for community members, field workers, GTC staff, and Gwich'in Team members to build their own capacity with respect to negotiations, communications and general governance and professionalism. For example, Vice President Jordan Peterson, who, at 30 years old, is the youngest elected official to the GTC, was able to further hone his leadership skills and understanding of self-government negotiations and issues. Similarly, Associate Director of Intergovernmental Relations Diane Baxter, who is being mentored by David Reid, was able to seize the opportunity to grow into a leadership role and develop hard and soft professional skills. Gwich'in Youth also benefits from close contact with GTC staff and dedicated sessions, including more than one with GTC Executive.



INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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Consultation/Community Engagement Meeting Schedule of 2016-2017:

April 12-13, 2016	Inuvik, NT – GTC BOD Draft AIP Review
May 12, 2016	Yellowknife, NT - Participant Consultation
May 14, 2016	Yellowknife, NT - Participant Consultation
September 12, 2016	Conference Call – Community Workshops Planning Meeting
October 17, 2016	Conference Call – Community Workshops Planning Meeting
October 19, 2016	Inuvik, NT - Gwich'in Consultation Planning Meeting
October 19-22, 2016	Inuvik, NT – Draft AIP Consultation October 19th – 6-9:00 pm: DGO Directors Wednesday evening (6-9 pm) soup & bannock (4 GTC staff & NGC President & Directors) October 20 & 21 - 8:30 am-5:00 pm working hours: Diane was available in the NGC office for Staff & Participants Thurs & Fri; and October 22nd – noon-5:00 pm: a public meeting for Participants started at noon with lunch (soup & bannock). Staff in attendance.
October 24-27, 2016	GSA – Community Workshop (GTC, GOC, GNWT); Consultation Note: the work done in this area involved a lot of work done by all parties which brought legal clarity on the Indian Act Bands/Treaty 11/GCLCA/ etc.
November 2-5, 2016	Fort McPherson, NT – Draft AIP Consultation See Inuvik's schedule above. Same in each community.
November 16-19, 2016	Aklavik, NT - Draft AIP Consultation See Inuvik's schedule above. Same in each community.
December 13-14, 2016	Inuvik, NT – Gwich'in Youth & Elders Council Presentation
December 13-14, 2016	Inuvik, NT – Past Leaders Workshop & Consultation
January 11-13, 2017	Tsiigehtchic, NT - Draft AIP Consultation Band & DGO visits the first day and Household visits all three days. Also went on the radio with Lawrence Norbert on the 13th.
February 10, 2017	Inuvik, NT - Draft AIP Consultation with GTC Staff
March 3-5, 2017	Eddie Greenland's Camp (Aklavik, NT) - Gwich'in Youth & Elders Council Presentation
March 29, 2017	Inuvik, NT – Presentation to University Tour Participants

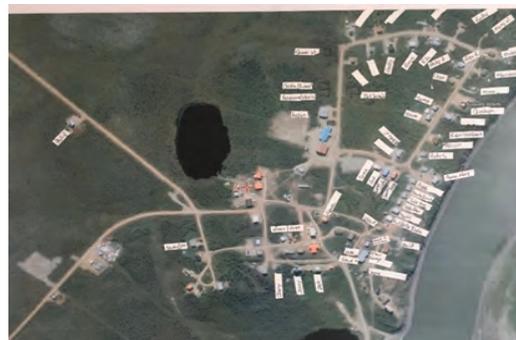
The meetings listed above do not include the numerous face-to-face meetings and email correspondence between technical staff and Indian Act Band's/DGO's/Participant's by receiving and responding to questions and comments. At all possible times, Elders and Youth were included in the community engagement sessions. Elders were particularly insightful. Gwich'in Interpreters were an important aspect of communicating the draft AIP. Strategic session played an important role in coordinating, implementing, and addressing key consultation matters.

E. Indian Act Band Council Engagement

On-going communicating with Indian Act Bands was key to ensuring an opportunity was available to express their rights and interest on the draft AIP. Indian Act Band Chiefs were invited to participate in the Past & Present Leaders Workshop, Community Workshops and during the consultation of the Draft AIP for each community. They were also invited to submit proposals for additional funding for an internal review. Indian Act Band Chiefs met with GTC Executive on several occasions. The Chiefs of Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik were particularly engaged and benefited from the broader analysis and informational materials that were provided with respect to the Indian Act, Treaty 11 and the GCLCA. Technical Staff were also

continually available to address any matter that Indian Act Band Chief's expressed or needed clarification on.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the Self-government Team Members (past and present), staff members (past and present), legal advisors and all those Participants (past and present), who participated in the process for all of your input. Remember, we are not done yet, so we hope to see everyone out continuing to participate in the process as this is YOUR opportunity to make sure we have an agreement that is acceptable for our future government.



INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Annual Report

Intergovernmental Report:

The amount received for the fiscal year 2016-2017 was \$608,667.00 for Implementation Core Funding and \$330,795.00 for the Renewable Resource Council's.

ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Vice-President Norman Snowshoe (until August 2016) and President Bobbi-Jo Greenland-Morgan (as of August 2016) and the Intergovernmental Relations Director Dave Reid, Associate Director Diane Baxter and General Counsel David Wright led the GTC in the following Implementation Committee (IC) responsibilities:

- Preparation for IC meetings (held April 20-21, 2016 Inuvik; September 29, 2016 Whitehorse; and December 8, 2016 Ottawa) and delivers all reporting related to the implementation budget;
- Review of operational plans and variance reports for all public boards and Gwich'in organizations receiving implementation funding set out in the Implementation Plan;
- Assisting boards in allocating funds and fulfilling land claim implementation obligations;

ONGOING GTC IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Intergovernmental Relations Director, in conjunction with the Associate Director, Lands and Resources Director and General Counsel, carried out the majority of the GTC implementation responsibilities including:

- Land Administration
- Participation in discussions relating to overlap agreements
- Resource management initiatives, including planning
- Economic Measures related to chapter 10
- Other Implementation Plan responsibilities, as required

GWICH'IN CURRICULUM

As stated last year, the courses completed and in the schools for grades 10-12 are as follows:

- Gwich'in Cultural Studies (3 credit course)
- Celebrating our History, Our Land, Our Culture (On The Land Course – 1 credit)
- Legends, Stories & Cultural teachings (1 credit)
- Family History through Genealogy (1 credit)
- Introduction to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim [GCLCA] (1 credit)



As a result of the hard work on this project, the Gwich'in Curriculum Team Members received the Premier's Award for Collaboration on June 15th, 2016. The Team Members consisted of:

- Norman Snowshoe, Vice-President (GTC)
- Patrick Tomlinson, Previous Director of Intergovernmental Relations (GTC)
- Diane Baxter, Associate Director of Intergovernmental Relations (GTC)
- Alestine Andre, Heritage Researcher (GTC)
- Shirley Snowshoe, Principal of Chief Julius School (BDEC)
- Velma Illasiak, Principal of Moose Kerr School (BDEC)
- Denise McDonald, Superintendent of Schools (BDEC)
- Greta Sittichinli, Assistant Superintendent of Schools (BDEC)
- Angela Young, Teacher Consultant/Literacy Coordinator 7-12 (BDEC)
- Sarah Jerome, Gwich'in Elder (Retired Educator and Language Commissioner)
- Mindy Willet & Theresa Watson of ECE, GNWT also provided sound advice throughout the project.

YOUTH AND ELDERS

From April 2015 – March 31, 2016 with Jordan Peterson being elected as Vice –President in June of 2016, the majority of the organizing for the Youth and Elders programs was conducted by Patricia Louie and Janelle Wilson of the Internship Program. Patricia and Janelle organized the monthly Gwich'in Regional Youth Council meetings (GRYC) and, the youth and elders also participated in the AGA in August 2016 and the University Tour in Inuvik from March 27-31, 2017 (report below of the University Tour).

UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE - GSA

The third annual Gwich'in Tribal Council University Conference was another success that took place in Inuvik, NT Area from March 27-31, 2017. The theme this year was "The Next 40: Culture, Language & Spirituality".

The GTC hosted this academic conference through funding received from INAC and invited presenters from various universities and colleges to attend. During the weeklong event, 10 Gwich'in youth traveled from outside the GSA, 6 attended from the four (4) Gwich'in communities inside the Gwich'in Settlement Area and 2 youth participated at their own cost from the Tlicho area as well. Leadership (Bobbi-Jo Greenland-Morgan & Jordan Peterson), GTC staff (Tony Devlin, Diane Baxter, Janelle Wilson & Patricia Louie) organized and participated in the conference and three mentors (Elder's – Eileen Koe, Tom Wright & Randall Tetlitchi and Nigit'stil Norbert) were also in attendance. We did have other people also stop in and participate as well but not all of their names were recorded.

The conference taught students the importance of achieving a post-secondary education as well as maintaining who they are as Gwich'in – the ability to thrive in two worlds so to speak.

K'egwaadhat nakhwah vili'
Diane Baxter

LEGAL SERVICES

Annual Report

GTC General Counsel – Activities Overview

It is impressive how much work is accomplished by the Tribal Council on a daily and weekly basis. In many ways, my work as GTC General Counsel, and the work of the external lawyers who provide specialized services, is that of a facilitator. Diligent work on the legal side of things can help ensure that the rest of the work of the GTC runs smoothly. As an organization born out of a legal agreement – the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) – the GTC typically has a significant amount of legal work to do. In practice, this includes work in each sphere of GTC functions – from lands and resources, to intergovernmental affairs, to Gwich'in services, to finance, to human resources and everything in between.

I am pleased to report that the legal affairs of the Tribal Council at the conclusion of this year are in a healthy and stable state with a strong foundation going forward. This short report provides an overview of some of the work accomplished over the past year, including highlights from work associated with different GTC departments.

On the lands and resources side of things, the GTC has been able to ensure that Gwich'in are appropriately consulted and, where appropriate, accommodated. This past year saw consultation on law reform initiatives led by the federal and territorial governments. For example, the GNWT has been consulting on its Air Regulatory Framework and a new Recreation Land Management Framework, while Canada has been consulting on potential amendments to the Fisheries Act, Navigation Protection Act, National Energy Board Act, and federal environmental assessment legislation. There has also been consultation on different development activities, including the Dempster fiber optic loop, Northern Cross oil & gas activities, and a wind energy project near Inuvik.

GTC involvement in these consultations and others is important work, and the GTC has been working hard to involve Designation Gwich'in Organizations and community members to ensure the best possible positions and submissions are put forward. For example, the GTC hosted a workshop in December to discuss some of the federal law reform initiatives. Overall, we have seen positive results in the form of government acknowledging and incorporating the perspectives put forward on behalf of Gwich'in. Going forward, the GTC is also working to put in place a consultation tracking system so that such consultation can be systematically monitored and so that there is a clear collection of information that demonstrates to government just how high the volume of such consultation activities can be for a modern land claim organization.

This past year also saw the Peel Watershed litigation in the Supreme Court of Canada after several years of litigation that started in the Yukon courts. The GTC was an intervenor in this case, making oral and written submissions to the court that supported the position of the Yukon First Nations. The GTC submitted that the final recommended land use plan should be upheld in its entirety, including treating the

Land Use Planning Commission's final recommended plan as the final plan and setting aside the Yukon Government's alternate plan that was unilaterally imposed late in the process. The Court's decision is expected to be released in fall 2018. While it's difficult to predict the outcome, it's clear that the Gwich'in put forward the most persuasive arguments possible.

Legal work for the GTC Department of Intergovernmental Affairs remained busy throughout the year, including work on intergovernmental MOUs, meeting with key Ministers and senior government officials, and cooperating with other modern land claim groups to ensure government is held to account. A key priority has been reviewing and advising on the government's implementation obligations under the GCLCA. This is a long-term project, but over the course of the past year the GTC has made progress in building an understanding of where potential implementation shortcomings may lie and how to negotiate better arrangements going forward. One early success was the commitment by Canada to increasing annual core funding for each Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council (RRC) to \$170,000 every year going forward.

Ongoing work toward Gwich'in self-government also required significant legal input this year. This work is inherently forward and backward looking at the same time. Self-government raises important long-standing questions about legal authorities under Treaty 11, the Indian Act, and the GCLCA, and this year brought improved clarity in this area. Meanwhile, the finalizing of the draft Agreement-in-Principle has required vigilant and creative legal work to ensure the agreement is as strong as possible. In some ways, there remains a need for all Gwich'in Participants and groups to keep coming together to continue building a shared vision. This past year's work puts everyone in a better position to do that than ever before, as it builds on what has been a 10-year effort toward recognizing Gwich'in self-government across the Gwich'in Settlement Region.

On the GTC corporate and organizational sides of things, the pace of legal work has been necessarily brisk as we work to make improvements in a number of areas. In general, legal review often helps ensure risks are mitigated and opportunities maximized. While it's impossible to address all challenges and priorities at once, there has been significant progress over the past year. For example, the GTC has been revising many of its policies and procedures to ensure they are clear, effective and mutually reinforcing. As well, the GTC has been leading revisions to the Gwich'in Harvester's Assistance Program to fulfill the expressed wishes of past Annual General Assemblies and to ensure it runs smoothly going forward. Legal input has also helped ensure that GTC Board of Director meetings run smoothly and that resolutions are drafted such that they can be effectively followed and implemented.

Looking back, it is safe to say that 2016/17 was an extremely productive year with progress on many fronts. However, there is still much to be done. There's an oft-cited passage from the 2010 Little Salmon Supreme Court of Canada Case. It says, "The treaty is as much about building relationships as it is about the settlement of ancient grievances. The future is more important than the past. A canoeist who hopes to make progress faces forwards, not backwards." This captures the work of the GTC today, including on the legal affairs side of things. It has been a year of steady paddling with a focus stabilizing the waters and moving forward, and the journey continues in pursuit of further progress.

-David V. Wright

LANDS AND RESOURCES

Annual Report

The Gwich'in Lands and Resources (GLR) department is responsible for coordinating and facilitating various activities and programs related to lands administration and resources management of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) including but not limited to:

- management and administration of Gwich'in-owned lands within the NWT and Yukon;
- issues, policies, regulations and guidelines relating to the management and planning of land use, wildlife and wildlife harvesting, water resources management, environment, forest management, and; other GCLCA related issues.

The implementation of the GCLCA is done with a collective approach among the four Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) communities.

GLR Department mandate included the following project responsibilities described below:

Land Use Authorizations

GLR issued twelve Authorizations between April 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017:

Authorization #	Applicant	Activity
GTC16Q001	GDC	access road/quarrying Stony Creek, Parcel 8
GTC16R003	NWT Geological Survey	permafrost research, Parcels 8 & 22
GTC16R004	Geological Survey of Canada	geological research, Parcels 5/7/20/33/D/E/F/O
GTC16R005	GRRB	fish survey/sheep monitoring, Parcels D & 5
GTC16Q006	GDC	quarrying Midway Lake
GTC16R007	GDC	reconnaissance Stony Creek, Parcel 8
GTC16Q008	L.J's	quarrying Frog Creek
GTC17R001	Geological Survey of Canada	bedrock study, Parcel R-7FS
GTC17R002	IRIS	communication relay site, Parcel 8
GTC17Q003	L.J's	quarrying Frog Creek
GTC17S004	L.J's	stockpiling gravel, Parcel 22
GTC17S005	Hamlet of Aklavik	material storage, Parcel A

Administration of current Authorizations is ongoing:

Authorization #	Activity	Expiry
GTC03L02	access road/tower site, Parcel 26	30-Jun-28
GTC03L06	access road/pump house, Parcel 26	21-Oct-19
GTC03R09	permafrost research, Parcels 15 & 17	30-Sep-17
GTC12L004	Rachel Reindeer Camp	24-Jun-40
GTC13L004	cabin, Parcel B	07-May-28
GTC13Q002	quarrying, Frog Creek	31-Mar-18
GTC15L002	fire look-out cabin, Parcel 22	11-May-40
GTC16Q001	access road/quarrying Stony Creek, Parcel 8	05-Dec-17
GTC16Q006	quarrying, Midway Lake	04-Aug-17
GTC16R003	permafrost research, Parcels 8 & 22	31-Dec-20
GTC16R005	fish survey/sheep monitoring, Parcels D & 5	31-Dec-17
GTC17R001	bedrock study, Parcel R-7FS	31-Aug-17
GTC17R002	communication relay site, Parcel 8	31-Dec-20
GTC17S004	stockpiling gravel, Parcel 22	30-Sep-17
GTC17S005	material storage, Parcel A	07-May-18

LANDS AND RESOURCES

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Land Management and Control Guidelines and Fee Schedule: The GTC land access fees are adjusted annually. The Land Management and Control Guidelines is a working document and is updated when required on the direction and approval by the GTC Board of Directors to ensure all elements of land use and policy are followed.

Review of applications (referrals)

GLR reviews and comments on applications that are forwarded by various organizations in the NWT or the Yukon. Over the past year this included referrals by the Gwich'in Land and Water Board (10), Environmental Impact Screening Committee (3), YESAB (1), Yukon Energy Mining and Resources (2), and Yukon Tourism & Culture (14).

Consultations on Legislation and Regulations

GLR participates in the review of proposed legislation, regulations and guidelines and assisted in the preparation of submissions, including MVRMA amendments, AMP Regulations, ENR Legislative review, Air regulations, and OROGO guidelines.

Coordination of Consultation

GLR is the point of contact for consultations on lands and resource matters. The department disseminates consultation requests and documentation to the communities, facilitates the consultation process, and assists with the preparation of coordinated submissions.

George Niditchie Sr. - Compensation for Wildlife Harvesting Income

GLR has corresponded with GNWT Officials on the matter – a discussion paper will be presented to delegates and recommendation will be sought from the Assemble on a direction to move forward.

North Yukon Protected Area Management Plans

Yukon Government is working jointly with the Vuntut Gwitchin Government on management plans for two new protected areas in northern Yukon: Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park (Summit Lake and Bell River area) and Ch'ihillichik (Whitefish Wetlands) Habitat Protection Area. Both of these protected areas arise from the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan that was approved in 2009 and Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park also has extensive overlap with the Gwich'in Secondary Use Area. Both Yukon and Vuntut are keen to hear the perspectives of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and its citizens. Due to scheduling the consultation meeting planned for June 2017 is now tentatively scheduled for September 2107.

Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (CIMP) and Audit: CIMP is a requirement of the GCLCA and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. Funding commitments from the Government of Canada Treasury Board are secured every year to fully implement CIMP and this year the Steering Committee have created a joint-letter to the premier illustrating importance that there be no funding cuts to CIMP, including capacity development at the community level and community based monitoring programs. CIMP proposals are funded on an annual basis. Research projects may be longer than one year but the

researcher has to resubmit proposals for funding each year. CIMP guidelines recommend researchers enter into partnerships with other organizations for research projects and encompass an ecosystem approach to research rather than individual projects. GTC has continued to participate in the CIMP through the working group.

Protected Areas Strategy: The GTC is a member of the PAS Steering Committee. The GTC does not have any PAS nominations put forth for the GSA and is utilizing the Gwich'in Land Use Plan (GLUP) as the mechanism for land use protection. The GLUP includes Conservation Zones, Special Management Zones and General Use Zones. The GLR will continue to monitor to ensure that adequate protection of lands is provided within the GSA. The GTC will continue to use the GLUP as the main instrument for Protected Areas within the GSA.

Northern Contaminants Program (NCP): The GLR continues to be a member of the Northwest Territories Regional Contaminants Committee (NWT RCC). The federally funded NCP is for research projects looking at effects of long range contaminants brought to the north through ocean and air currents. Categories include Human Health, Communications, Capacity and Outreach, Environmental Trends and Community Based Monitoring projects. The GLR submitted their annual funding proposal to participate within the National and Regional Coordination and Aboriginal Partnerships on the NWT Regional Contaminants Committee (NWT RCC). The GTC participated at the annual social and cultural proposal review on February 14-15, 2017. The NCP Management Committee met on those dates to recommend funding for the approved research proposals submitted.

Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Line

The Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Line (MVFOL) passes through the GSA with over 100 km passing through Gwich'in private lands. The construction/remediation project is to be completed in the spring of 2017. The GNWT and the Contractor have committed to continue to ensure that the MVFOL installation works with an absolute minimum damage to the environment. The fibre optic line reached Inuvik in April 2015 but there has been remediation and restoration work to mitigate erosion. The majority of the erosion remediation work was completed during the 2016 field season. The GLR continues to collaborate with the affected communities' Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs), to ensure that there is a GTC monitor on-site at all times during the 2016-17 season. GLR reviewed with the GNWT and Contractor, remediation plans for correcting problems of erosion along the line. It is important to continue thorough monitoring and documentation of project to ensure that impacts on the environment are minimised.

Peel River Watershed Appeal to Supreme Court of Canada

The Judge of the Yukon Court of Appeal agreed with the plaintiffs (Nacho Nyak Dun, Trondek Gwich'in, Vuntut Gwitchin, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and Yukon Conservation Society), that the Yukon government had violated the land use planning process

LANDS AND RESOURCES

Annual Report

laid out in the Umbrella Final Agreement with respect to the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan. But he ordered the planning process return to the stage where Yukon government 'ran it off the rails'. The GTC membership have traditionally worked and lived in the Peel Watershed area and there are Gwich'in settlement lands along the Peel River. Along with the plaintiffs, the GTC is also interested in having the final recommended plan for protecting the Peel Watershed implemented. On June 9th 2016 the Supreme Court of Canada announced that they would hear an appeal on the Yukon Court of Appeal decision, on March 22, 2017 the Supreme Court of Canada heard the case and their ruling is pending.

Transboundary Negotiations: The GLR has been assisting in the trans-boundary negotiations and overlap agreement for Nacho Nyak Dunn. The First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dunn is currently negotiating a trans-boundary and overlap agreement with the Federal and Territorial Governments for traditional use rights for land within the GSA and Kasho Got'ine area of the Sahtu. The draft agreement is currently being reviewed by the Federal Government.

GLR involvement in Regional Working Groups and Workshops

The Porcupine Caribou Management Board; The Wildlife Act Working Group; The Aboriginal Steering Committee for GNWT Trans-boundary Water Stewardship; The GNWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP); Waste Sites Management Committee (WSMC); Northern Contaminants Program (NCP); The Northern Governance Forum as well as the on-going GTC involvement with Yukon First Nations as intervenors in the Northern Cross Judicial Review has been additional work that GLR staff have also been required to attend to over the past year. In 2016, the Gwich'in Lands and Resources Department has been involved in presenting information at local workshops such as the Inuvik - Porcupine Caribou Management Board – Annual Harvesters Meeting, at the Inuvik GTC Self Government – Leadership forum, and at the preliminary review of the Stoney Creek (Gwatoh Tai Njik) quarry proposal in Ft. McPherson.

Next Year

Our work in Gwich'in Lands and Resources on GCLCA land claim implementation will continue in a coordinated way among GTC departments, DGOs and their GCLCA partners. GLR will continue to provide effective and timely research, monitoring and decision making support for the GTC



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) and Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement (PCMA): Phillip Kay has replaced Wilbert Firth as the GTC representative on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, GTC thanks Wilbert Firth for his excellent service as the GTC representative on the PCMB.

GTC and the four aboriginal parties to the PCMA, met July 2017 to draft up two Native User Agreements for the Porcupine Caribou Herd – an agreement for both the NWT and Yukon. The GTC is a signatory to the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan and the Implementation Plan for the Porcupine Caribou Herd in Canada. Both of these documents are available on the PCMB website.

The GLR attended the PCMB's Annual Harvesters Meeting - Inuvik in February 2017. All of the Parties to the agreement were in attendance, it was a good opportunity to discuss their common interest and also an opportunity for the public to shared their concerns.

Regional RRC Meeting: The GLR staff participated in the Regional RRC meeting in Aklavik -January 2017. Each community RRC is represented at the Regional RRC meeting. The Regional RRC meeting allows for the community members to come together with government and other wildlife and resource management groups within the GSA to discuss projects and programs with regard to resources and wildlife management for the GSA. The Regional RRC meeting is held in a different community of the GSA each year.

GTC Lands and Resources Staff

If you have any questions with regard to this report or would like to discuss the projects identified in the report you can contact the Lands and Resources Staff at the GTC.

Stephen Charlie, Director
Helga Harlander, Senior Lands Analyst
Tas-Tsi Catholique, Lands Analyst

RESOLUTION HEALTH SUPPORT

Annual Report

The Gwich'in Tribal Council Resolution Health Support Program continues to provide emotional support to Indian Residential School survivors, family members and Intergenerational families. Referrals to Health Canada counselors, family counseling or community wellness workers for support.

The Resolution Health Support program continues to provide and share information to survivors and family members as requested.

Part of the RHSW program is to seek funding to offer programs such as On the Land activities, workshops or other wellness initiatives. The Wellness department offered a series of OTL programs in the Gwich'in communities and were successful. This fiscal year the Wellness department received funding from the GNWT Health and Social Services department to run a two-year On the Land program.

Clients: We continue to provide support to all clients individually or as a group, referrals to counseling, or cultural support workers. All information pertaining to clients is strictly confidential.

Statistics:

This year the Resolution Health Office was busy with clients, family members and intergenerational members. Stats recorded on a quarterly basis indicates number of on-going clients and number of interactions with clients and combined totals for the 4 Gwich'in communities as well as clients outside the settlement area.

1st Quarter:	# of Clients	# of Interactions
April-June 2015:	133 clients	346
2nd Quarter:		
July-September 2015:	121 clients	231
3rd Quarter:		
October-December 2015:	157 clients	308
4th Quarter:		
January-March 2016:	157 clients	308

NWT OTL Collaborative Fund:

The fund promotes and support on-the-land initiative in the NWT by providing access to funding for Individuals or Community groups. The fund is a collaborative effort between Tides Canada, Government of the Northwest Territories, J.W McConnell Family Foundation, PEW Indigenous Leadership Initiative, Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation, TNC Canada and Community Advisors from across the NWT.

- Applications were due January 31st, 2016.
- Funding requests must be at least \$1000. There is no maximum amount.
- You can submit multiple applications for different projects.

Health Canada:

Health Canada provides yearly funding to the Resolution Health Support Program to provide emotional support to Indian Residential School survivors and family members. As Independent Assessment process hearing wind down there is still a lot of work to address other issues/concerns in the areas of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, Mental Health issues, Grieving and support networks for individuals and families. Health Canada conducts site visits once a year with GTC RHSW and CSW's to discuss concerns.

The NWT Cancer Strategy

The NWT's first territorial cancer strategy was released in the winter of 2015. This strategy, Charting Our Course: Northwest Territories Cancer Strategy 2015-2025, will guide the health and social services system and our partners toward the achievement of five goals:

1. Support NWT residents to lead healthy lifestyles that reduce their risk of cancer;
2. Improve cancer screening rates among eligible NWT residents;
3. Improve patient transitions between each stage of the cancer journey;
4. Support health professionals to communicate within the circle of cancer care; and
5. Improve the quality of life of cancer patients, their families and caregivers, and cancer survivors.

These goals emerged from extensive consultation with partners and stakeholders and describe our most urgent needs. Charting Our Course will not resolve all of our challenges, but will help us to make significant progress and lay a foundation for continued improvements. The successful implementation of this strategy will lead to the best health and best care of all NWT residents in all communities, charting our course for a better future.



RESOLUTION HEALTH SUPPORT

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Youth Matter Conference:

Gwich'in Tribal Council hosted a Youth Empowerment Conference August 29-September 2, 2016. A total of 60 youth from the Beaufort region attended. This conference was open to youth between the ages of 12-29 years. The conference focused on discussion on Suicide, Lateral violence and education. This conference was a huge success and will be annual event.

Community Visits:

The RHSW does community visits 3-4 times a year to meet with Cultural Support workers and clients as well as to debrief with CSW's. The CSW's provide emotional support to Indian Residential School survivors and family members on an as needed basis and referrals to agencies for counseling or treatment programs.

I would like to thank the CSW's for their commitment and support to our clientele throughout this fiscal year and the Gwich'in Services team for their support throughout the year.

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.

Mussi Cho

Susan Ross
Resolution Health Support Worker
Gwich'in Tribal Council

