



Intergovernmental Meeting between Gwich'in Tribal Council and Government of the Northwest Territories

YELLOWKNIFE (January 22, 2021) – Premier Caroline Cochrane, Minister Diane Archie, Minister R.J. Simpson, Minister Shane Thompson, Minister Caroline Wawzonek, Minister Paulie Chinna and Minister Julie Green met with Grand Chief Ken Smith, Deputy Grand Chief Kristine McLeod, and board members Doug Wilson Sr., Angela Koe Blake, Mavis Clark, Michael Greenland, Danny Greenland, Elder Joanne Snowshoe and Yellowknife Gwich'in Society representative Roger Fraser virtually on January 22, 2021.

The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest, including:

- continuing to share information and provide updates to the Gwich'in Tribal Council and all Indigenous governments on COVID-19 including the roll out of the vaccine in the NWT;
- advocating to ensure travel options in the territory are safe during COVID-19;
- working together to address core housing needs in Gwich'in communities and maximize housing opportunities;
- maximizing economic opportunities for Gwich'in, including renewal of collaboration that builds upon the economic measures outlined within the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement;
- ongoing work to support the health and wellness of Gwich'in;
- ongoing work to support post-secondary education and trades training of Gwich'in;
- enforcement related to harvesting in the Gwich'in Settlement Area;
- advancement of Gwich'in government negotiations; and
- renewal of the shared intergovernmental cooperation agreement.

Quick Facts

- The Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding recognizes the importance of the government-to-government relationship between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories.
- The agreement commits both governments to meet at least once per year.
- The *Gwich'in Tribal Council/GNWT Umbrella Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Intergovernmental Cooperation and Coordination* was initially signed in October 2012 and renewed in May 2017.

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