



March 4, 2021

Attention: Gwich'in Participants

Re: Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Board of Directors Meeting – February 24/25

Vanh Gwinzii,

On February 24 & 25, 2021, the GTC Board of Directors held their regularly scheduled meeting in Inuvik. At this meeting, the following key items were discussed:

- Update on the Action Items from the previous meeting on November 19 & 20, 2021 in Inuvik.
- Update on the current financial position of the GTC. Due to the restrictions in place throughout the year surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an inability to carry out various programs and services, resulting in unspent contribution dollars.
- Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GTC has distributed the following dollars through the Designated Gwich'in Organizations (DGOs) for Participant benefits with a focus on mental wellness and health:
 - \$2,058,000 in Total Funding distributed to-date
 - \$381,000 to the Gwichya Gwich'in Council.
 - \$409,000 to the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council.
 - \$449,000 to the Nihtat Gwich'in Council.
 - \$474,000 to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council.
 - \$345,000 retained by the GTC to carry out region-wide programs and services(Note all amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand)
- A review of the issues encountered in the administration of the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program (GHAP). A commitment was made for the GTC Gwich'in Services team to review the GHAP and recommend changes to the existing policy.
- Approval of GTC Board Appointments of Roger Fraser to the Gwich'in Land & Water Board (GLWB), Crystal Fraser to Gwich'in Council International (GCI) and Former Grand Chief Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan to the Beaufort-Delta Education Council.
- Concerns on:
 - Recent activities surrounding the harvesting of caribou and sale of meat that has occurred in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA);
 - GNWT Unauthorized Cabin Removal Plan;
 - Need for navigation services in the area of Non-Insured Health Benefits; and,
 - Need for Alcohol & Drug Treatment services in the GSA.
- An update on recent Main Table Discussions for the Gwich'in Collaborative Government was provided by Grand Chief and Lead Negotiator Ken Smith.
- Planning for the upcoming Special Assembly on March 25 & 26, 2021 in Inuvik to finalize

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- the Organizational Review and complete outstanding items from the 2020 Annual General Assembly that was shortened due to COVID-19 limitations.
- Review of activities at the Gwich'in Development Corporation (GDC), approval of the GDC Audited Statements for 2019 and appointment of the GDC Chair Ken Smith and Directors Lenora McLeod of Inuvik, Geordie Hungerford of Vancouver, Wayne Huffman of Whitehorse and Fred Hunt of Thetis Island.
 - An overview of the Economic Development Workshop coordinated by GTC in Inuvik on February 17 & 18, 2021.
 - Quarterly reports from Grand Chief Smith and Deputy Grand Chief McLeod on their activities for the period of November 2020 to February 2021.

The next scheduled meeting for the GTC Board of Directors is scheduled for April 21 & 22, 2021 which will land on the 29th anniversary of the signing of our Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement in Teetl'it Zheh (Fort McPherson).

Regards,

Ken Smith
Grand Chief

Kristine McLeod
Deputy Grand Chief