



NEWS RELEASE

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Removal of Deputy Grand Chief Position

INUVIK (July 15, 2022) – At its 2021 Annual General Assembly (AGA) held in Inuvik on March 29-31, 2022, the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) was directed to seek removal of the Deputy Grand Chief position from the GTC Executive. Preliminary advice provided during the 2021 AGA suggested that a referendum may be required to remove the elected position of Deputy Grand Chief from the organizational structure of the GTC.

Given the significant financial cost and process required to undertake a referendum of the Participants to the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA)*, the GTC undertook a more in-depth review of the process to be followed. The results of this review are that the GTC AGA has the authority to remove the Deputy Grand Chief position through special resolutions to amend the GTC's Articles of Continuance (under the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*) and the GTC's By-laws. Therefore, a Participant referendum is not required to make this change to the GTC's organizational structure.

The GTC Board of Directors, at its June 2022 Meeting in Teet'it Zheh (Fort McPherson, NT), decided to propose amendment of the GTC's By-laws and Articles of Continuance to effect this change through the necessary special resolutions to be sought at the next GTC AGA to be held in Teet'it Zheh on August 16-18, 2022. Other key items for discussion and review at the GTC 2022 AGA include the allocation of the GCLCA Negotiations Loan repayment and a progress update on the negotiations toward a Final Agreement on Gwich'in Government for the communities of Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Teet'it Zheh.

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