

EK'ITALTSI'

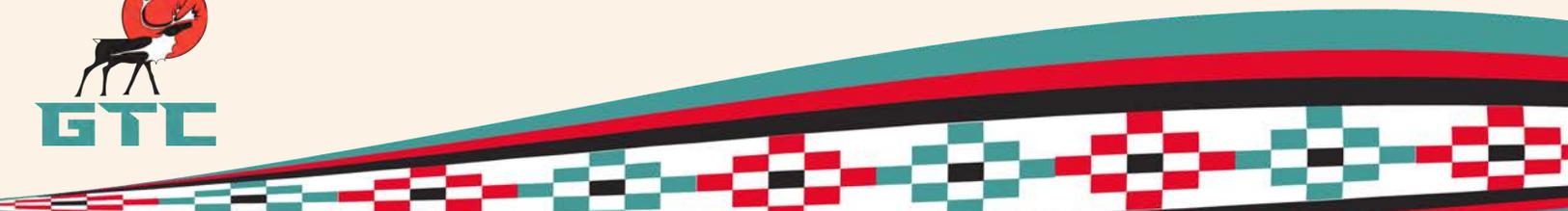
GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL NEWSMAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2021



PHOTO CREDIT: LAWRENCE NORBERT

Ek'italtsi' means Image, or Identity, and sets the tone of who we are as a people, who we see ourselves as, and how we conduct ourselves outwardly. It is a celebration and pride in our history, traditions, and culture.





Nakhwal'in shoo ihłii

We are excited and proud to bring you the first issue of *Ek'italtsi*, the new Gwich'in Tribal Council newsmagazine. Published quarterly, the newsmagazine will highlight happenings in Gwich'in Nation, profiles of Participants and businesses, and stories on the activities of the GTC and its subsidiaries.

In this issue, we meet with the owners and highlight two Gwich'in tourism-related businesses that are weathering the COVID storm by thinking outside the box. We sat with Lawrence Neyando, owner/operator of Arctic Motorcycle Adventures and with Bobbi Rose Koe, owner/operator of Dinjii Zhuh Adventures.



We also got a chance to chat with former Grand Chief Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan as she settles into her new role as the Regional Gwich'in Government Advisor for the GTC - and she shared her fun side as well!



We would like to thank Lawrence Norbert of Tsiigehtchic for the amazing freeze-up photo of the Arctic Red River on the cover of this quarter's issue.

Hai'!

ARCTIC MOTORCYCLE ADVENTURES

LAWRENCE NEYANDO, PROPRIETOR

Tell us a bit about yourself, who your family is, what you do.

My name is Lawrence Neyando and I am Tetlit Gwich'in from Fort McPherson. I was raised by my grandparents, Charlie and Clara Neyando along with my mother Ellen. I have two sons, Colton and Blaze, and my wife Trina and I have lived in Inuvik for over 20 years. My grandfather worked at the old Northern Canada Power Commission and I followed in his footsteps and have put in 20 years at NTPC myself.

Tell us about your business. Give us an overview.

Arctic Motorcycle Adventures is a motorcycle tourism company. We bring adventure motorcycle riders to the Arctic Ocean by way of the Dempster Highway. I started working on this plan in 2017 to have it in place for the opening of the Inuvik-Tuk Highway and really worked hard on my business plan and how I was going to bring it to life. Through some pretty tough times due to the pandemic, I had to shift my short-term revenue model and Arctic Motorcycle Apparel was born. It has helped us weather the storm while preparing for a full riding season.





Stopping for a break along the Dempster Highway

How and why did you decide to operate a small business?

We live in an amazing part of the world and the Gwich'in Settlement Area is a big part of that and I wanted to make sure that when the road was extended that local businesses start taking advantage of these opportunities to showcase our own backyard. I have had companies approach me to partner with them and even asking me to change my company name but I have declined, staying focused on my plan to build my dream. Arctic Motorcycle Adventures is the only tour company that brings riders to the Arctic Ocean and also put great clothes on them as well!

What are some of the challenges in operating a northern business?

Operating a business in the Arctic isn't easy. There is an extremely high cost of operations, particularly with gas prices, and the conditions of the road on the



Yukon side can vary at times which affects business and can be challenging. Adding up the costs such as equipment and insurance without any income because of the pandemic led me to sell off two of my touring bikes to keep ahead of the game.

Do you build Gwich'in culture, or values into your operations?

One of the main inspirations behind my idea is that I want tours on Indigenous lands to be led by Indigenous tour operators. Building Gwich'in culture and values into the operations is a big part of the plans.

Reflecting on my Tetlit Gwich'in background, and being able to bring clients on the same path our ancestors travelled for thousands of years is the best part - but teaching them our way of life and how the caribou are a huge part of that and acknowledging that we are

passing through Treaty 11 territory is so important to the experience that we offer. Our advantage is that we know our communities and can share our culture and give in-depth, real-life experiences to folks.

Where can folks find more information on your business?

Our websites are www.arcticmoto.ca and www.arcticmotorcycleapparel.ca. We have Facebook and Instagram pages... and you can find us on half the torsos and mellons in the NWT!



Lawrence Neyando in the Arctic Moto Shop



DINJII ZHUH ADVENTURES

BOBBI ROSE KOE, PROPRIETOR

Tell us a bit about yourself, who your family is, what you do.

I am Bobbi Rose Koe. I was raised by my grandparents Rosemary & Abraham Koe, and Dorothy & Robert Alexie Sr, and the community of Teet'it Zheh. I have a

family history of travelling and living on the land and am fortunate to have visited most of Gwich'in country. I grew up appreciating the Gwich'in way of life: the culture, traditions, values, stories, history and most importantly the people and the land. I am always learning and love to teach as well. This is how I was raised and I will continue to share what we have when I can, where I can.

Once, while attending a meeting about the Peel Watershed with my grandfathers, Robert & Abraham. I was encouraged by them to speak up, especially for the people who live out on the land, the land, animals, fish, water, air and the future generations. Since then, I have been advocating for environmental issues, especially concerning the Peel River Watershed & Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Tell us about your business. Give us an overview.

I launched Dinjii Zhuh Adventures in early 2021. It was with the intent and guidance of the people, elders and youth in the North, especially from the hearts of my people of Teet'it Zheh. Dinjii Zhuh Adventures connects and offers a number of expedition services to people from around the world.



Bobbi Rose Koe at Wind River, Yukon

We grew from, and still highlight our youth group programming, where we offer a life-skills on-the-land (and water!) two-week program in the Peel Watershed (in Gwich'in called Chuu t'at Gwinjik) each summer. These youth engagement canoe journeys encompass life skills, cultural awareness and connection and are used to help build capacity and confidence in Indigenous youth.

We also run a team of certified guides that can help lead/provide support to community canoe/rafting trips - our teams focus on safety and respect for the land while arranging logistics, gear, food supplies and map-planning. We are proud that our Indigenous guides are sought out by major Canadian outfitters as the Yukon and NWT experts, but we also know that there is so much more to do in the sector. This said, we are always looking for more great Indigenous guides, so reach out!

How and why did you decide to operate a small business?

I was inspired by my elders, my dad, my ma Doris Itsi and all of the leaders to take opportunities, especially when it came to going out on-the-land. Our peoples always travelled the land, and it's an honour to walk in their footsteps with this business.

What are some of the challenges in operating a northern business?

The North is so huge, lots of opportunities but a lot of challenges I can say. There's so much to learn when going into business, and not coming from a business background was overwhelming. I took programs like EntrepreNorth that opened my eyes to the business side of operations, and the business life. I knew I had a dream and a passion for paddling, camping out on the land, and being a

river guide. So, I took a lot of training, talked to a lot of people and then met Joel Hibbard of Canadian River Expeditions. I told him about my dream and he's been supporting me since and is now my business partner and mentor. Mary Teya, also I can say, is also a big part of who and where I am - she believed in me every step of the way.

Do you build Gwich'in culture, or values into your operations?

When I was thinking of the business name, people wanted it to be called Dinjii Zhuh. Shijah William Firth shared this with us:

The term "Dinjii Zhuh" refers to a person that is a humble being, who is one with nature and his/hers surroundings. He/She is a person who is not boastful but quiet, someone who listens and contemplates before sharing knowledge. He/She is not to be selfish and is one who shares what he/she has to those less fortunate. He/She is at peace with themselves, and with all that nature has to offer. He/She is always learning and has the mind of a wise person. He/She is someone that follows their heart but is also careful as to how he speaks to others, especially the elderly. He/She takes care of all that they have, and yet is willing to share. He/She is a spiritual person, in balance with all that they invoke around them. He/She is one with their creator and takes care of the land, the animals, the water, and those that depend on it. Beyond all else, He/She is educated in the ways of the land, and respects the laws of the land, the animals, the birds and fish and all which grows thereon. He/She is practical and humbled at the balance of all that he/she encounters. He/She is someone that is respected but does not boast about who he/she is.

It's a lot to live by, but it helps us break open that trail again especially when we are able to work with youth and community. Everyone brings a little of everything – and those Gwich'in values are what we are built on.

Where can folks learn more about your business?

Great that you would ask, we designed a beautiful website www.dinjiizhuh.com, and you can find us on Facebook.



WHAT ARE THE COMMON OBJECTIVES OF GWICH'IN GOVERNMENT



Establishment of an Effective Governance System

Using historical methods and models of governance through elected Chief & Council at a Community Government level, and Executive & Chiefs at a regional Dinjii Zhuh Government level.

Language

The revitalization, preservation, and strengthening of the Gwich'in language to achieve a level of fluency amongst citizens and those working in the institutions for Gwich'in Government.

Development of Sustainable Communities

Healthy Gwich'in communities with leading infrastructure, quality homes and food & water security.

Economic Prosperity

Support development of a sustainable economy in Gwich'in communities and creation of generational wealth to close the socio-economic gaps between Gwich'in and non-Gwich'in residents of Canada.

Reconnection to Land, Culture and Heritage

Ability for the Gwich'in to pursue cultural activities and stewardship on its lands as outlined in the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Promotion of Health and Well-Being

Provision of accessible health care and supports in Gwich'in communities along with an appropriate level of care and support, in accordance with Gwich'in values, for children, non-resident populations and respected Elders.

Unlocking Potential

Quality education and training for Gwich'in citizens, particularly Youth, to succeed in the modern economy while retaining Gwich'in values.

Inclusive

Support, promote and involve Youth and Elder populations in all levels of government and decision-making.

MEET

Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan

What's your name? Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan

Where were you born/raised? Born in Inuvik and raised in Aklavik.

Who is your family? Well family is everything and like my late grandmother taught me, we always have to share who our parents and grandparents are so people can make connection to who we come from. First though is my husband who is Wyatt Morgan and he is from the Trondek Hwech'in First Nation of Dawson City, Yukon. We have one daughter Elisha, she is 12. We also have dog named Trixie. My dad is Freddie Greenland, he is

Ehdiitat Gwich'in and his parents are Joseph Greenland and Bella (Stewart) Greenland, they moved from Teet'it Zeh to Aklavik in the early 1900's. They moved with the Stewart family who set up the first Hudsons Bay trading post at the start of the town of Aklavik. My mother is Bella Greenland. She is from Old Crow, Yukon, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, and her parents are Robert Bruce Sr. and Ellen (Kyikavichik) Bruce.

Where did you go to school? I went to Moose Kerr School in Aklavik from Kindergarten to Grade 9. I did my grade 10 at Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon, Grade 11 and 12 at Samuel Hearne



MEET

Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan

Secondary School in Inuvik. I went to Yukon College and got a Diploma in First Nations Management Studies. I also attended the University of Regina for one year and the First Nations University of Canada for 3 years. I left University to take a 6-month internship working at the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat of the Arctic Council in Cøpenhagen, Denmark.

What brought you to the GTC, and what do you do? I was brought back into the GTC by the current leadership to help out and fill in on a term basis. I have been at GTC in different roles such as a summer student, Grand Chief and now Regional Gwich'in Government Advisor. I always made it known that I am willing to help our leadership and work for our people. So now I am currently working as the Regional Gwich'in Government Advisor. I provide support and advice to the Grand Chief and Regional team on Gwich'in Government. I provide support with the logistics and administrative duties for the team. I provide information and materials upon request to our negotiations team and our participants.

What are the priorities of your department, Governmental Affairs?

I believe the Priorities of Governmental Affairs is to ensure the Implementation of the GCLCA. Supporting the Leadership in implementation of GCLCA as well as carrying out mandates and decisions from the GTC Annual General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings. Supporting the ongoing negotiations of Gwich'in Government and prioritizing Gwich'in interests, culture, values, beliefs, and rights throughout the Agreement-In-



Principle (AIP), throughout the GCLCA and all work that comes from the Department. Working towards a Gwich'in Government that is truly based on Gwich'in fundamentals.

What are some of the challenges on the file?

It can be challenging to get people interested and engaged in the file, but that's where it can be fun as there are always new ways, new ideas, new approaches when it comes to communications. We have participants/members who live across Canada and it's important to be able to reach everyone, so although it is a challenge at times, it's always possible. It can also be challenging to have so many elected bodies in our small region. We have the GTC elected executive and then each of the four (4) communities has a President and Council elected to a Designated Gwich'in Organization (DGO) and each also has an *Indian Act* Band Chief and Council. So having so many councils and many leaders for a small region can be confusing in various ways and causes challenges.

MEET

Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan



What was the last book you read?

Defending the Arctic Refuge by Finis Dunaway

What is your favourite traditional dish?

Almost everything Caribou and Fish. Fried caribou meat or white fish cooked to the fire. Caribou smoked Dry meat (Nili Gai'), dry fish.

Do you have a favourite expression?

The Land is our church and our medicine, a natural healer for us mind, body and soul.

Do you speak any other languages?

A little bit of Gwich'in which I am trying to speak more of each day.

What was the last gift you gave? I gave some baby clothes and books to my friend for her newborn baby.

Whitefish or coney? Whitefish

Can you use the word 'deadly' in a sentence?

I first heard the word deadly when I was a kid back in the 1980's and it's still a part of the deadly Delta vocabulary and slang being used today 😊

Gwich'in traditional food is ever deadly 😊





Deputy Grand Chief Kelly McLeod and Grand Chief Ken Kyikavichik attend the NWT Council of Leaders meeting in Yellowknife



GTC Staff wear orange in honour of our children left behind.

GWICH'IN FORMS

THE ONE-STOP FORM SHOP

www.gwichintribal.ca/forms

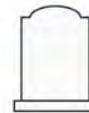
ENROLMENT



Forms for: Enrolment, Change of Personal Information/Address, Community Transfer, Withdrawal, ID Card

BEREAVEMENT

Forms for: Bereavement Assistance, Templates and Protocols, Readings, General Information



EDUCATION



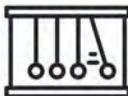
Forms for: GTC ISETS Applications, Post-Secondary Scholarship Program, Bursary Program, Graduation Gifts

LANDS/RESOURCES

Forms for: Registering, Transferring or Selling Cabins/Campsites; Gravel, Access to/Leases on Gwich'in Lands



OTHER FORMS



Forms for: Jordan's Principle Health and Wellness Funding, Filmmaking in the GSA



ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY CELEBRATING OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Tuesday, February 8 - Thursday, February 10, 2022
MIDNIGHT SUN COMPLEX - INUVIK, NT

For further information, please contact the AGA Event Coordinator at 867-777-7922.

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