



# Gwich'in Tribal Council newsletter



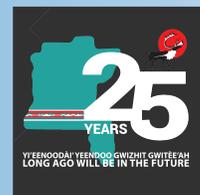
## GTC Holds 2017 AGA in Tetlit Zheh

The Executive, Board of Directors, staff, delegates and participants headed to Tetlit Zheh (Fort McPherson) for the 2017 Annual General Assembly. Held in the gymnasium of Chief Julius School, the Assembly was very well-attended and the community enjoyed nights of entertainment, discussion and catching up with friends and family.

Continuing the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the signing of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, the gathering brought together relations from across the NWT and the Yukon.

GTC Staff previewed the online version of the Gwich'in History

Timeline for the Participants, and there was a great deal of talk about the historical successes that Gwich'in have had over the years. As one Participant said "Our elders led the way and the it's up to the current and future generation to ensure the values instilled in us are maintained despite some of the pressures of living in a fast-paced world."



# Gwich'in Values

Respect = yinjí'khadhoh'ee

Honor = yinjí'gwitchilee

Love = ch'if'agwiiniidhan

Kindness = zhookhadidich'uu

Laughter = ohglaa

Strength = f'aih

Teaching = ga'oonaatan

Our Stories = gwandak

Dance/Song = oodzoo/igidlii

Spirituality = ch'anuh

Sharing & Caring = nihtat'indaii ts'àt nihk'atrìnahtii

Honesty & Fairness =

ch'igwijuu'ee tr'igwindaii ts'àt nihtat gwif'agwjj'ee gèhdanh



# Report from the Grand Chief/President



Drin Gwiinzii Shilakut,

I hope everyone had a good fall season in regards to harvesting foods and medicinal plants from the land. I am proud of all the families who spent time on the land and especially the young people who have been sharing their harvests with elders and widows and others. This is an important part of Gwich'in Values. Keep up the practice and pass on the teachings. Mahsi Cho!

I am honored to represent the Gwich'in and continue to give my best effort and time in this role as President/Grand Chief. I would like to give you a recap of the duty travel, meetings and events I have attended since the last newsletter update.

In June I attended the Annual General Assembly of the Council for Yukon First Nations (CYFN) in Carcross Yukon. Leslie P. Blake and David Krutko were also in attendance for the Teetlit Gwich'in Council. One of the many resolutions coming out of the assembly that was of most interest to the Gwich'in Tribal Council would be one relating to the Yukon Transboundary matters. This resolution was passed unanimously and basically directs the CYFN to work with the affected First Nations who have transboundary overlap issues, in order to facilitate discussions among the First Nations to collectively define the issues in order to make progress to reach a resolve. Government of Canada Federal Minister Carolyn Bennett and former Assembly of First

## Contacting the Grand Chief:

Send Bobbie Jo an email at [greenland.morgan@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:greenland.morgan@gwichin.nt.ca)

Nations Chief Ovide Mercredi were among the many attendees at the assembly and so it was a good opportunity to network with such a diverse group.

Also In June I was invited to attend the Fibre Optic Link inauguration dinner here in Inuvik. The Government of the Northwest Territories Premier and a few of the Cabinet Ministers were in attendance. I attended the High School Graduation ceremonies in Inuvik, Aklavik and Fort McPherson. It is inspiring to see more graduates - and our young people achieving their goals - working towards post-secondary, trades and employment. I also attended the Aboriginal Day Celebrations in Inuvik June 21st.

In July I had attended the Annual General Assembly for the Dene Nation at the Hay River Reserve. Chief Wanda Pascal of Fort McPherson was also in attendance. Gwich'in elders Mary Teya and Joanne Snowshoe came down as well as Gwich'in translators for Dene Nation. In addition to the many Chiefs, leaders, elders and various folk, the Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde and Western Arctic Member of Parliament Michael McLeod were also in attendance. Another good opportunity to network. Gwich'in participant Valerie Daniels who resides in Hay River also hosted a meet and greet for Chief Wanda and I at her home. It was nice to get together with Gwich'in living in Hay River, an opportunity to provide information and answer questions. Of course our get together included an open fire with good Gwich'in foods, tea, laughter and a couple rounds of Indian Bingo. In late July I also attended the Gwichya Gwich'in Council Annual Assembly in Tsiigehtchic.

In August the GTC Board of Directors had their quarterly board Meeting in Tsiigehtchic. The annual shareholders meeting with Gwich'in Development Corporation and the GTC Board of directors also took place at this time. I also attended the opening of the Youth Matters Conference in Inuvik and then later in August was the Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual General Assembly in Fort McPherson. The assembly marked the end of our rookie year and provided us with the direction of what to continue working on for the next year.

Vice President Jordan Peterson and I ended off the month of August by participating in the Beaufort Delta Education Council in-service here in Inuvik. This was organized by the Beaufort Delta Education Council and brings together all principals and educators of all the schools in the Beaufort Delta region. We participated in the opening remarks and presentations as

well as the Indian residential school blanket exercise and breakout sessions. It is important to engage with the Board and Department that is responsible for the Education and program delivery for our youth. We should be engaged and supportive of the educators to help ensure that our youth are getting a quality education that they deserve in an environment and curriculum that respects culture based learning.

In **September** I met with Chief Lawrence Neyando and had a tour of the Inuvik Native Bands new office building. Great to see and support each other in all areas where progress is made. I joined my family and the staff and students at East Three School to participate in the walk for raising awareness on suicide. The walk went from East Three to Ingamo Hall and ended with food, speeches and activities. It is important to be involved and support these community events as they are about raising awareness and supporting each other on serious matters that impacts us all. My family and I also volunteered at the Inuvik Parish Hall Community Soup Kitchen. We plan to volunteer there as much as we can, as it is a needed service that many folks appreciate. I also attended the Leadership Meeting for Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) and the Yukon Forum in Whitehorse, Yukon. . We were able to obtain a resolution at the CYFN leaders meeting to affirm and clarify the associate member status of GTC and the Designated Gwich'in Organizations at the CYFN. I spoke to the fact that our ancestors lived and breathed the air, water and land in parts of Yukon and that we as Gwich'in continue to have the rights and interests to lands in the Yukon through our in

herent right as well as our Land Claim Agreement. It is positive and we are grateful to have the unanimous support from CYFN. This is important to actually work together and make progress on our transboundary agreement and other Yukon Files.

In October I attended the open house and unveiling of the new sign at the John Wayne Kiktorak warming Centre in Inuvik. I also attended the Sisters in Spirit Vigil in Inuvik on October 4th which is an annual event across the Country to honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada. The violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls is a national tragedy and we need to be showing support in raising awareness and being engaged with the various organizations and Governments in how to address the issues and create support systems and preventive measures. I also attended the NWT Tourism Conference in Inuvik and provided a welcome and opening remarks and took in parts of the conference as it was a good opportunity to network with the diverse audience. Also in October, I was invited to Ms Michelle Wrights grade 3 classroom to chat with the students on leadership. The students were completing a unit on leadership and they had a number of questions to ask and it was a good experience for all of us to spend time together and chat about leadership. I also did a presentation on the Gwich'in and the land claim agreement through video conferencing to a northern studies class at the Carleton University in Ottawa - it is convenient to have the technology to do so. I also presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs when they were in Yellowknife. The Government of Canada covered all my expenses to get to Yellowknife and present. Both Jordan and I also



attended and made opening remarks at the opening night in Inuvik of Awareness on Family Violence. Another matter that impacts everyone and is everyone's business to get involved and help raise awareness and stop the violence.

In November I travelled to Washington D.C. and worked with the Canadian Embassy and the Canadian Delegation which included leaders from Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and representatives from Porcupine Caribou Management Board and Yukon Territorial and Federal Government. Together we put forth to the efforts to protect the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd in Alaska from proposed disruption of oil and gas development. The Gwich'in Nation continues to be strong in their position of wanting complete protection, with no room for compromise and in respect of our inherent rights as Indigenous Peoples and of our Human Rights to our culture and way of life. I participated on 2 panels speaking on Gwich'in perspective of protection of the caribou herd and the calving grounds in Alaska. As a team, we also met with staff of 5 different Senators on the issues, and of course encouraging them to support protection of the calving grounds. We answered questions and provided information. I am thankful for the support of the external funding sources that we are able to obtain to cover the costs associated with this travel and specific work.

From Washington, I then went to Fairbanks Alaska for the Gwich'in Steering Committee board meeting and where they also hosted a workshop type gathering and opportunity for leadership, elders, youth and all participants to share their ideas, concerns and advice to the steering committee board members. I hope that all the words of advice and teachings shared through stories from the elders will assist the steering committee in the direction they take with ongoing work and their strategic plan forward.

A couple days after Fairbanks, I was then on my way to the Land Claims Agreement Coalition conference in Gatineau, Quebec where I was invited to speak on a panel on Modern Treaties and the way forward. I also moderated a panel on the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous people. It was well worth the time to attend and participate. As an invited guest, the conference host covered all my expenses. It was a diverse audience and a great opportunity to network and continue to raise the profile for Gwich'in Tribal Council. The Gwich'in presence and representation was very positive. Chief Lawrence Neyando of the Inuvik Native band as well as the Executive Director Amy Amos of the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Gwich'in Tribal Council Vice President and some staff from various departments were in attendance. It was positive to see a strong Gwich'in presence and see the relationship building and dis-



cussions taking place that will build connections and open up for opportunities.

Throughout the summer and fall months, I also had many meetings in my office with representatives from various organizations, such as the NWT Native Women's Association, the Northwest Company, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Northview REIT, Chief Jerry Antoine of the Łı́ı́dlı́ Kų́ é First Nation, the United States of America Embassy, the Canadian Border Services Agency, the Government of the Northwest Territories Industry and Tourism, Natural Resources Canada and various satellite facilities. It is good to keep all doors open for communication, updates and any potential opportunities to support programs and initiatives that could benefit Gwich'in.

I continue to receive many visits, phone calls, text messages and emails from Gwich'in participants on a daily basis. It is my honour to listen to what the people have to say and to do my best to help them. Sometimes we are able to provide assistance where possible and sometimes all I can do is to offer advice and connect them to other sources of assistance with other agencies. There is much need for more programs to help our people who are seeking assistance with various matters, such as individual or family counselling and addictions treatment and recovery programs as well as on the land programs, healing and cultural based initiatives. Thank you to the GTC staff who continue to do the best they can with limited capacity and funds. We continue to advocate for more funding and more support through the ongoing implementation of the Land Claim Agreement. We have a great staff and they are instrumental in obtaining funding and doing their best to provide resources to the membership. A lot of work to be done, but positive to note that progress is happening.

As of November 14th we have a new residential Chief Executive Officer for the Gwich'in Development Corporation. We are pleased to welcome Mr. James Thorbourne to the team. James brings years of experience and skills that are suitable to the position. James is no stranger to the north, he's worked with aboriginal groups throughout his career, including the Inuvialuit Development Corporation.

In closing I would like to thank each and every one who continues to provide me with their support, advice, encouragement and prayers. I would also like to express my sincere condolences to all families who have lost a loved one over the past few months, there have been many and our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Mahsi Cho for all the support the people offer to one another. Reminder that such support and kindness is important in both good and sad times. Take care of yourselves and each other. K'egwaadhat nakhwah vili' (God bless you all).

Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan  
President/Grand Chief



# Report from the Deputy Grand Chief/Vice President



## Contacting the Deputy Grand Chief:

Send Jordan an email at  
[jordan.peterson@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:jordan.peterson@gwichin.nt.ca)

Drin Gwiinzii,

I hope that each of you had an enjoyable summer and you've had a chance to get out on the land. This summer was a very busy one at the office and I'd like to take this time to commend our staff in pulling together a very successful and informative Annual General Assembly. With all their support, collaboration and leadership we have made great progress in all aspects of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

My objective in my annual report was to provide an understanding of where we are and the progress that has been made in the department and the Executive. Bobbie Jo and I made some portfolio changes over the last 6 months, I now

have the departments of Intergovernmental Relations, Self-Government, Gwich'in Services and Culture and Heritage. I also am involved with affiliate organizations such as the Land Claim Agreement Coalition, Gwich'in Steering Committee, Gwich'in Council International and Gwich'in Settlement Corporation.

My involvement with each department varies and each of us have committed to taking a proactive and collaborative approach to ensuring the successful implementation of all programs, projects and responsibilities under our Land Claim.

In our first newsletter after being sworn in, I talked about the solidarity and integrity we

need to show in all that we do as leadership. Working together is important for creating a positive environment and future for the generations to come.

Over the last few months I've had the opportunity to travel on behalf of the Gwich'in Tribal Council to a number of events. In September I participated in a conference and workshop at the University of Saskatchewan with the School of Environment and Sustainability. The symposium and workshop was regarding Renewable Energy in Remote and Indigenous Communities. The goal of the workshop was to seek input on the research and outcome goals of the circumpolar regions mandate to grow the renewable energy sector in Indigenous and remote communities in western and northern Canada and beyond.

I've been a part of a program called the Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA) through the Arctic Council. This program focuses on sharing knowledge in establishing professional networks related to microgrids and integration of renewable energy resources for remote Arctic communities. The call for applications came out last fall and I applied through the University of Fairbanks Alaska. As a part of the program we were asked to bring forward a project. My project is to utilize the current Community Energy Plans (CEP) that were done through the government mandated initiative Arctic Energy Alliance and put them in action. Although these plans have been in existence for a while, there has never been an initiative to ensure our cultural values and principles were a part of the plans and that there put into action.

I believe that growing my knowledge in the energy area will ensure that we are at the table when discussions happen for our region in the energy sector, which they are. Remote communities are a large focus for the federal government which we need to utilize to improve the cost of living and energy security for our communities. There continues to be good resources built such as the diverging from diesel report the Arctic Sustainable Energy Toolkit both created from Gwich'in Council International and are both on their website. I'd like to point out the missed opportunity in Aklavik where NTPC and GNWT installed solar pv and a variable speed generator to help with these needs, these projects should have gone to the community for a full consultation on ownership and a great chance to build on energy literacy. My project has the support of the University of Saskatchewan and a number of funders from Government. We will be seek-

ing external funding to bring this project forward and to ensure that the communities have ownership of any energy and renewable energy project that happens in their community.

Although we haven't had an Intergovernmental Relations Director since the spring many of our staff have had to step in to ensure the important work does not stop. I'd like to thank Carolyn, David and Diane for all the hard work they have done to ensure that we are moving forward on Implementation, Self-Government, Government to Government meetings, Gwich'in Regional Youth Council and relationship building.

In October the Implementation Committee (IC) met in Inuvik, the IC is made up of representatives from Government of Canada, GNWT and the Gwich'in Tribal Council and meets three times a year. We have been extending our implementation plan on a yearly basis since the 2003-2013 plan had ended in 2013. This means that the funds negotiated at that time have been extended based on that old plan and there is a major gap that we recognize and are working towards fixing within the negotiations of the next Implementation plan. We are working on a gap analysis to ensure that we are taking a proactive approach to our understanding of the actual costs to implement our Land Claim.

The self-government process has slowed down and there haven't been any main table negotiations since late May 2017. There were great discussions at the 2017 Gwich'in Annual General Assembly, during the assembly a resolution was passed by consensus that gave the Gwich'in Nation the direction to hold a facilitated Self-

Government session and a special assembly on the Self-Government file. The facilitated session was scheduled through the working group for September 26-27 and the Government of Canada agreed to fund the facilitator. The working group agreed that these were the dates everyone felt comfortable with. Unfortunately, the session was cancelled. We continue to work to understand every community's interests and priorities, and to plan for the special assembly required by the AGA resolution.

We are currently working with the University of Alberta for the 4th annual Gwich'in Academic Conference. The conference was established to address several challenges youth between the ages of 15-30 have been facing. The objectives of the conference are the lack of meaningful opportunities to explore post-secondary institutions and traveling and the opportunity to explore the issues and challenges facing Indigenous people in Canada. We understand that there are too many instances in which we are missing for the over 30 years old age group and are working on bringing programming that bridges this gap. In October Diane and I met with staff and the president of the University of Alberta to begin working together. During this trip we also met with the implementation office of Indigenous and Northern Affairs to discuss the conference and the Gwich'in Internship.

I've continued to stay involved with renewables and participated in the Renewables in Remote Communities conference in Whitehorse during the week of October 23. During this week, GCI met with government officials of the GNWT and Canada. These conferences are important as it gives us direct lines of communication with the staff that directly work on



energy for GNWT, Canada and the Yukon. I've continued to discuss the projects I am working on with Government officials as they continue to have more focus on the Mackenzie Delta as an area to invest in for renewables.

The LCAC met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennet, Minister of Indigenous Services Jane Philpott, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna and Minister of Justice Jody Wilson-Raybould on November 1 in Ottawa. The meeting focused on "Renewing the Fiscal Relationship with Self-Governing Indigenous Governments", "Structures of Government" and "Furthering Shared Priorities Through Participation and Engagement". The Land Claims Agreement Coalition was established in 2003 from Land Claim bodies (modern treaty holders). LCAC works to ensure that comprehensive land claims and associated self-government agreements are respected, honored and fully implemented.

I had the honor to speak on the modern treaty perspective on structures of government. The points we made were the needs for continued improvements to existing and recent federal mechanisms such as the Deputy Minister Oversight Committee, Modern Treaty Implementation Office and the Assessment of Modern Treat Implications tool that Canada created to review proposed legislation, policies and program proposals. We called on the PM to establish an independent modern treaties implementation commission. The oversight body would work to fill the accountability gaps that currently exist within and across government departments when it comes to the government's role in implementing modern treaties. We also asked for clarity on the implications of the recent Indigenous and Northern Affairs split that created two departments. I believe that Canada is still working through how to implement this change and we won't have a solid answer for some time on what this means for us and any other Indigenous group across Canada.

With all the hard work and meetings, I can ensure you that the GTC is making leaps of progress with our Government to Government relations, partnerships and information sharing with other Indigenous Governments especially those that surround us and our partnerships with other organizations. We are working towards a solid implementation plan, ensuring that education is the foundation for progress and recent changes in our culture and heritage department have had me asking where do we go next?

All of the above and so much more is what we are doing to ensure that we take our organization to the next level. All the relationships that we have built and continue to build are an important part of this progress. All of this to say, we are still struggling within our own nation to all come to the table



and build a Nation.

I believe in the Gwich'in Nation, I know that we can come together with all our differences and create the type of change we so desperately need for our communities and organizations. We need to focus on our cultural values, principles and who we are as Gwich'in to bring our people back together. I came into this job thinking that we could create so much change with young people leading the GTC and bringing people together. I felt the encouragement during the election and even more at the Assembly where myself and Bobbie Jo were sworn in. I hoped we could move forward with one voice. With a united voice we can ensure that all were represented when we met with Government to create the programs and services to better our people, this is what I had hoped.

The reality is, everything people had warned me about when you step into leadership is true. No matter what you do, people will talk about you and try to bring you down. This has been the hardest thing to deal with in my role, it may have been naïve of me to think that I can create a space where everyone feels comfortable to share but I do still believe that we all can work towards this goal. I believe in this so much because of the way I was raised, the elders that were around me and the conversations I continue to have with elders from each of our communities. They see what we need to do, why can't we follow that direction? We are told this is what it's like when you get into leadership. This is untrue if we stood by our Gwich'in values of respect, honor, love, kindness, dance/song, laughter/humour, teaching, our stories, spirituality, honesty and fairness and sharing and caring. If we stood by these values, we wouldn't have to tell the next leaders be ready for what it's like.

I want to remind everyone that my door is always

open, come in and speak to me with ideas on how I can better represent the GTC or if you would like to talk about an idea you have. I want everyone to know that I am open to criticism and I want to grow to be the leader I had hoped and a leader of the people.

With time in my role, I am reconfirming a need to spend more time in the communities listening. A priority for me in the rest of my term is spending this time to listen, build solidarity and move forward together. I hope I have all your support in doing so and you will meet me at the table, whether with criticism so we can find a solution or with ideas on how to move forward.

The message has always been the same from our elders and that's work together and be united. Let's meet that objective and make our elders proud.

Let's meet with open hearts, open minds and with the respect and dignity our elders have instilled in us.

Adik'anootih

Take care of yourselves

Jordan Peterson

Deputy Grand Chief/Vice President

# CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORT

## **Vanh Gwinzii/Drin Gwinzii sha Gwich'in Kat**

This reporting period will highlight the Board of Directors quarterly meeting, the Annual General Assembly; and operations.

First of all, I would like to welcome new staff to the GTC team: Joy O'Neil, Economic Development Specialist; Erika Tizya-Tramm, Transboundary Specialist; Annie Rose MacNabb, Gwich'in Outreach Assistant; and 3 Interns: Mariah Peterson, Human Resources/Education & Training; Peter Greenland Jr, Lands & Resources; and Kaylynn Koe, Corporate Governance /Self-Government.

## **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting on August 10-11th in Tsiigehtic. Leslie P. Blake was sworn in as Director appointed by the Tetlit Gwich'in Council and Nihtat Gwich'in Council appointee Lawrence Neyando's resignation was accepted by the Board. Lawrence will be replaced by Barry Greenland. Current Board of Directors are Gwichya Gwich'in Grace Blake and Anna May MacLeod; Tetlit Gwich'in Wilbert Firth and Leslie P. Blake; Ehditit Gwich'in Andrew Charlie, Gladys Edwards; and Nihtat Gwich'in Eliza Firth and Barry Greenland.

The Board of Directors approved the quarterly and audited financial statements, presentation of Executive (President & Vice President), Executive Officers (Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Legal Counsel, Human Resources), Department and Affiliate reports. The Human Resource Committee presented its recommendations and the Board of Directors approved the revisions HR manual and the Executive Compensation Policy. Other matters included: Directors appointed to the Human Resource and Audit and Finance Committee; AGA agenda, resolutions and Co-chairs; Self-Government matters with Nihtat and Tetlit Gwich'in; Gwich'in Investment Limited Partnership; Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act; Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) Support Unit; Gwich'in Council reports; Enrolment

acceptance and withdrawals; and appointment to co-management boards.

The next quarterly Board of Directors meeting is scheduled November 28-29, 2017 in Fort McPherson and the January meeting will be held in Aklavik, the meetings are open to Gwich'in Participants.

## **Annual General Assembly (AGA)**

The annual financial and operations report to the annual general assembly (AGA) went very well and we were able to report on progress made on the 2015 and 2016 AGA resolutions. The purpose of the AGA is for GTC to provide such reports to the members of GTC which are the Designated Gwich'in Organizations (DGOs) and for the AGA to appoint an auditor and provide direction to the GTC for the year. Since the Self-Government (SG) file is one of great importance to Gwich'in, the AGA agreed to call a special assembly to discuss further SG matters.



## **Operations**

As Chief Operating Officer I am involved in many meetings with Departments, Government of Northwest Territories, Yukon Government, and First Nations regarding operations and financials, GTC representation, Transboundary issues, programs and services, and various improvements and needs of GTC.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council has satellite offices in Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtic, and Yellowknife. The Cultural Heritage (CH) Department and a GTC finance position is located in Fort McPherson and a CH office in Yellowknife; the YK Gwich'in Society Office is now a GTC outreach office; and the Cultural Heritage office in Tsiigehtic is now a Language Center.

Over the past year, we have completed a lot of restructuring and reorganizing GTC operations to ensure we are cost effective and efficient in program and service delivery. We've assessed position duties to align with the land claim implementation, created or improved processes and systems, contributions/revenues and expenditures according to projects and proposals, policy revisions, implement Board of Directors and AGA motions/resolutions, educate on GTC and the land claim, improve communication and collaborate when possible.

The GTC has a huge responsibility in implementing the Gwich'in Compressive Land Claim Agreement in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the Yukon Transboundary. We are assessing the implementation of the agreement internally, both operational and funding, negotiating with the Federal Government and Government of the Northwest Territories and where possible Yukon Government. GTC has been working to ensure Gwich'in Rights and Interests are represented in NWT and Yukon. We need to ensure funding is adequate to implement the land claim agreement.

Over the years, GTC administers programs and services such as Education, Wellness, Residential School, Youth, Languages, and others which are

funded by third party, whether it is the Federal or Territorial Governments, who set the criteria of eligibility. Although we try our best to maximize services to Gwich'in Participants, DGOs, RRCs, and other Gwich'in entities we also have to follow established policies which may cause concerns with clients. GTC continues to utilize the objectives in the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement as follows:

1. To provide for certainty and clarity of rights to ownership and use of land and resources;
2. To provide the specific rights and benefits in this agreement in exchange for the relinquishment by the Gwich'in in certain rights claimed by any part of Canada by treaty or otherwise;
3. To recognize and encourage the Gwich'in way of life which is based on the cultural and economic relationship between the Gwich'in and the land;
4. To encourage the self-sufficiency of the Gwich'in and to enhance their ability to participate fully in all aspects of the economy;
5. To provide the Gwich'in with specific benefits, including financial compensation, land and other economic benefits;
6. To provide the Gwich'in with wildlife harvesting rights and the right to participate in decision making concerning wildlife harvesting and management;
7. To provide the Gwich'in the right to participate in decision making concerning the use, management and conservation of land, water and resources;
8. To protect and conserve the wildlife and environment of the settlement area for present and future generations; and
9. To ensure the Gwich'in the opportunity to negotiate self-government agreements.

**Gwich'in Language**

For many years, the Gwich'in Language Center was located in Fort McPherson. This year, through the Board of Directors approval the Cultural Heritage office in Tsiigehtchic was transitioned to a Gwich'in Language Center. This is to fully recognize that the Gwich'in have two dialects: Gwichya (Tsiigehtchic) and Tetlit (Fort McPherson). The plan is to ensure all Gwich'in have access to resources, resources are developed in the two dialects, programs are developed to enhance Gwich'in speakers, and that GTC works with the DGOs to implement their language programs.

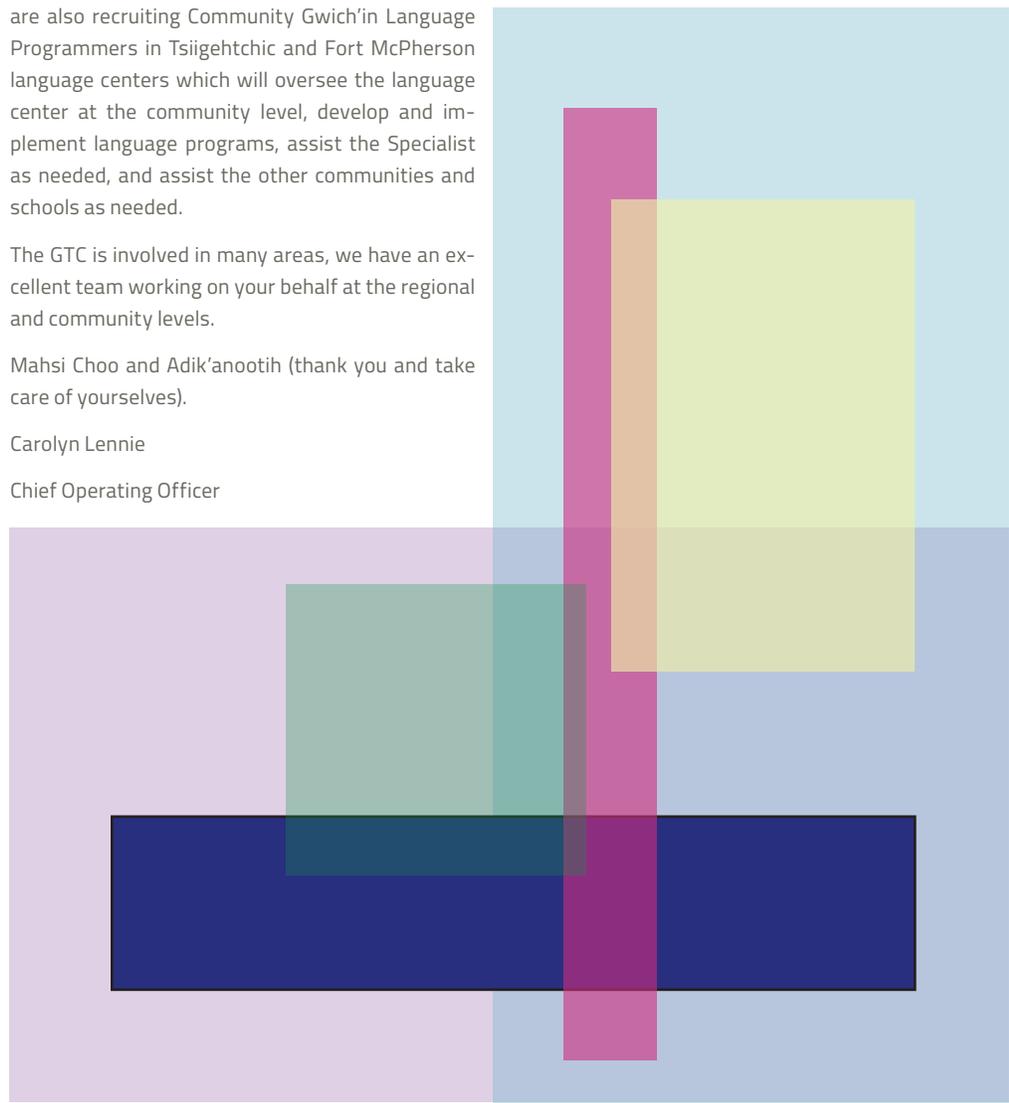
GTC is currently recruiting for a Language Revitalization Specialist to lead the Gwich'in Language division, to develop resources and curriculum, to seek funding and management all language funding, to oversee the language centers and staff. We

are also recruiting Community Gwich'in Language Programmers in Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson language centers which will oversee the language center at the community level, develop and implement language programs, assist the Specialist as needed, and assist the other communities and schools as needed.

The GTC is involved in many areas, we have an excellent team working on your behalf at the regional and community levels.

Mahsi Choo and Adik'anootih (thank you and take care of yourselves).

Carolyn Lennie  
Chief Operating Officer



PREFERRED RATES!



**Holloway  
LODGING**



**GWICH'IN PARTICIPANTS:**  
STAY AND SAVE WITH HOLLOWAY HOTELS!

**GWICH'IN PARTICIPANTS / HOLLOWAY LODGING AGREEMENT**

*The Gwich'in Tribal Council is proud to announce a new agreement with the Holloway Lodging in Western Canada for Gwich'in Participant hotel stays for 2017 and 2018*

Holloway Lodging is pleased to offer competitive discounts for hotel bookings within the Western Canada district:

 <b>DAYS INN WHITEHORSE</b> 2288 Second Avenue Whitehorse, YK Y1A1C8 867.668.4747 <a href="http://www.daysinn.com/whitehorse">www.daysinn.com/whitehorse</a>	 <b>WESTMARK WHITEHORSE HOTEL &amp; CONFERENCE CENTRE</b> 201 Wood Street Whitehorse, YK Y1A2E4 867.393.9700 <a href="http://www.westmarkhotels.com">www.westmarkhotels.com</a>	 <b>SUPER 8 FORT NELSON</b> 4503-50 Avenue South Fort Nelson, BC V0C1R0 250.233.5025 <a href="http://www.super8fortnelson.com">www.super8fortnelson.com</a>	 <b>SUPER 8 FORT ST. JOHN</b> 9500 West Alaska Road Fort St. John, BC V1J6L5 250.785.7588 <a href="http://www.super8fortstjohn.com">www.super8fortstjohn.com</a>
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Please see full booking details below:

Individual reservations can be made by calling the property directly. In order to receive the preferred rate, travelers must identify themselves with the company name (GTC). Reservations must be guaranteed at the time of booking, with a major credit card.

# GTC HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

## Career Opportunities

For information on current job opportunities with GTC, visit our website at: <https://gwichintribal.ca/resources/jobs>

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply and/or make contact with us for more information on these opportunities:

[jobs@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:jobs@gwichin.nt.ca)

## Summer Students

Two post-secondary students were able to complete summer employment terms with GTC. Raven Firth worked with Intergovernmental Relations and Rebecca Baxter with Corporate Services.

Rebecca is off to Yellowknife for Aurora College's Bachelor of Nursing program, and Raven is in Edmonton pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Animal Health with the University of Alberta. It was wonderful having them as part of the GTC this summer and exciting to see where they are headed in their career paths!

## Gwich'in Internship Pilot Program

The Gwich'in Internship Pilot Program launched in 2015 and is focused on capacity building, providing development opportunities for Gwich'in Participants, and preparing for Self-Government. Participants complete three one-year work terms as part of the program: one with GTC, one with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), and one with the Federal Government. Participants receive mentorship, career coaching, development opportunities, and diverse experience to prepare them for the next steps in their careers.

We have now entered into an exciting phase of the internship program, the third year, where we have Interns placed at all Governments. All partners (the GNWT, Federal Government, and GTC) have worked hard to secure awesome opportunities for these Interns that allow them to grow along their career paths.

Three new Interns recently joined the program and are completing their first year at GTC:

- **Peter Greenland** – Lands and Resources Intern
- **Maria Peterson** – Human Resources / Education & Training Intern
- **Kaylynn Koe** – Corporate Governance / Self-Government Intern

Interns who worked this past year at GTC are now working with the Federal Government:

- **Patricia Louie** – Senior Program Officer with the Mental Wellness Division of Health Canada in Edmonton
- **Janelle Wilson** – Citizen Services Officer with Service Canada in Yellowknife

The first intake who worked this past year with the Federal Government are now working with the GNWT:

- **Nicoline (Nikki) Minakis** – Senior Finance Clerk with Shared Services in Yellowknife

▪ **Bridget Larocque** – Assistant Negotiator with Executive and Indigenous Affairs in Yellowknife

▪ **Delores (Bella) Charlie** – Renewable Resources Officer with Environment and Natural Resources in Inuvik

## Human Resource Projects

There are lots of HR programs and projects on the go. These relate to HR strategic planning, recruitment and retention, on-boarding (orientations), policies and processes, training and development, performance management and performance reviews, employee relations, HR records management, workforce and succession planning, HR compliance and risk management, organizational design, and compensation and benefits. Each day continues to be busy.

Looking forward to another successful winter!

Mahsi,

Lynn MacKinnon  
Director of Human Resources



# GWICH'IN SERVICES REPORT

## Resolution Health Support Program

The Resolution Health Support program is busy with on-going activities focusing with On-the-Land activities, referrals for counseling, healing programs, community visits and daily contact with clients and family members.

Some activities from July-October occurred through the Wellness Department.

- Proposal submitted to GNWT for On the Land funding and is approved for this fiscal year 2017-2018. This year's funding is for individuals or families to submit an application and include a healing component. Funds have to be spent by March 31, 2018. A review process will be done by in-house staff from different departments to review and provide their recommendations for successful applicants.

- Urban Partnerships Funding: The purpose of this proposal is to address issues received from members who request grieving workshops, Life skills, Cultural components and building a support group.

- Youth Matter Conference was held from August 14-17, 2017. This year's conference was opened to youth across the NWT. There was about 35 participants attending this conference and was a success with keynote speakers during the conference. Aurora College donated the space for the breakout sessions and in-kind student dorms to house the participants.

- Cultural Support workers Sarah Jerome and Eileen M. Koe attended the 1st National Elders Gathering in Edmonton in September and was well attended. Breakout sessions focused on Climate Change, Reconciliation, Revitalization of Language and Culture.

- GTC Wellness Newsletter is being developed by our department and will be out in November 2017.

- Cancer Peer Support groups will com-

mence in the communities in November 2017. Susan and Tanya will get the support groups started in each of the communities and community members can oversee and run them regularly.

- Community visits happened in Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Aklavik to discuss GTC submitting a proposal for the Group IAP funding and working with the Designated Gwich'in Organizations to assist groups with their applications. Group IAP Funding is available on-line at [www.iap-pei.ca](http://www.iap-pei.ca) or email [groupiap-peicollectif@irsad-sapi.gc.ca](mailto:groupiap-peicollectif@irsad-sapi.gc.ca)

**Deadline to apply is December 1st, 2017 and mailed out to:**  
Group IAP Unit  
Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat  
25 Eddy Street, 7th Floor  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

Mahsi,

Susan Ross, RHSW & Tanya Snowshoe, Program Support Worker

## Education and Training Department

On June 9th and June 14th Maria Peterson, Career Development Officer completed post-secondary funding presentations in Inuvik and Fort McPherson.

September 18-22, 2017, Robert Charlie and Verna Pope attended NWT ASETS meetings in Edmonton to meet with Service Canada to gain more information on the ASETS program replacement scheduled to be rolled out on April 01, 2018.

September 26-29, 2017, Robert Charlie and Verna Pope attended the Yukon College meetings in Dawson, YT, to review their guiding document "The Sunrise Report" and to provide input into a new Strategy for the College to ensure that they are meeting the needs of First Nations in the Yukon and the NWT.

GTC Education and Training staff and other service providers scheduled a resume writing workshop for October 10-17, 2017 in advance of the Inuvik Job Fair. GTC Education and Training staff attended the Fort McPherson Career Fair on October 12, 2017 and the Inuvik Job Fair on October 18, 2017.

The GTC continues to attend monthly Regional Training Partnership (RTP) Committee meetings. The Committee meets on a monthly basis to collectively identify education, training and employment needs based on regional labour market demands and potential opportunities for participants.

Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) Program Delivery

For the 2017-2018 year, the GTC received an extension with ASETS funding. The funding allows the GTC to continue offer programming and financial supports to participants residing within the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

The GTC partnered with Aurora College, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Education Culture & Employment to offer a thirteen (13) week program October 23, 2017 to February 02, 2018. Program introduces students to the construction trades of carpentry, electrical, and plumbing; and prepares them to write the appropriate trades' entrance exam.

The Education and Training Department have been able to provide top up living allowances to 60 students from within the Gwich'in Settlement Area with funds from the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS).

In June 2017, the GTC was approved carry over Communities at Risk (CAR) funds to continue delivering programming targeted to youth at risk between the ages of 15-30. During June 2017 through September 2017, participants were invited to participate in a one week on-the-land cultural program followed by career development activities that covered topic areas such as job search, and career and education planning for post.

On-the-land camps allowed participants to learn about the Gwich'in Way of Life Long Ago and Today. Topics included camp safety, tent setting, medicinal plants, fishing, sewing, wood identification, cooking and storytelling.

The Fort McPherson on-the-land camp was hosted by Alice and Ernest Vittrekwa at 8 Miles June 19-23, 2017. A total of 9 participants attended the session.



The Inuvik on-the-land camp was hosted at Sarah and Freddie Jerome's camp June 26-30, 2017. A total of 5 participants attended the session.



The Aklavik on-the-land camp was hosted at the camp of the late Alfred and Catherine Semple during the week of July 3-7, 2017. A total of 8 participants attended the session.



Maria Peterson and Gina Firth facilitated the Career Planning component of the CARS project. Sessions were held in Fort McPherson July 10-14, 2017 and in Aklavik September 6-8, 2017.

### **Education Foundation**

The GTC have been able to fund a total of approximately 39 post-secondary students from April 2017 to October 2017 under the Gwich'in Education Fund. Eligible Gwich'in students were from within the GSA and all provinces and territories.

#### **REMINDER Deadline for bursary applications:**

July 15 (each year) for Post- Secondary programs starting in the Fall Semester (Semester)

November 15 (each year) for Post-Secondary programs starting in the Winter Semester (January)

March 15 (each year) for Post-Secondary programs starting in the Spring/Summer Semester (May)

For all other programs and short courses, application must be received 30 days prior.

Information and application forms can be found at:

[www.gwichintribal.ca/education-and-training](http://www.gwichintribal.ca/education-and-training)

### **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, Tl'oondih Healing Society and Aklavik Child Development Centre.

Mahsi,

Verna Pope, Manager Education & Training



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT

## **Implementation:**

The Implementation Committee (IC) meeting scheduled for the spring in Inuvik took place via teleconference on May 4th, 2017. Therefore, the fall meeting normally scheduled in Yellowknife, took place in Inuvik from October 3-4, 2017. The next IC meeting will be taking place in Ottawa on December 7th, 2017.

Attendees at these meetings are:

- Jordan Peterson, Deputy Grand-Chief/Vice-President
- David Wright, General Counsel
- Diane Baxter, Senior Implementation Advisor
- Carolyn Lennie, Chief Operating Officer (when meetings are in the GSA)
- Departmental Director's (as needed) either via teleconference or in person, depending on the location of meeting.

Some of the highlights of discussion at these meetings revolved around the following items:

### a) Implementation Plan Renewal:

After a significant amount of inactivity due to other more urgent priorities, the Implementation Plan Working Group (IPWG) started meeting again to review the revised activity sheets. Meetings have taken place on the following dates:

August 15, 2017 Yellowknife, NT

October 2-3, 2017 Inuvik, NT

The next round of meetings will take place via teleconference on November 10 & 28 and a face-to-

face meeting may take place while in Ottawa prior to the IC meeting. The IPWG hopes to have a final draft Implementation Plan by the end of the calendar year.

### b) Gwich'in Surveys:

The Surveyor General has been in contact with both the GNWT and the GTC in regards to surveying of Gwich'in owned lands. The Surveyor General, GNWT and GTC land experts will be coordinating this work.

### c) Funding:

Gwich'in Co-management Boards have received anywhere from 15%-24% increase in funding. The Renewable Resource Councils have received a 106% increase in funding. According to Canada, the increase in funding "was based on an analysis of historic core funding and supplemental funding requests";

GTC has hired a consultant to do a Gap Analysis on the spirit and intent of the land claim agreement, and what has occurred over the past ten years with respect to implementation and funding. Basically, compare the funding received to implementation activities required.

### d) Economic Measures:

A contracting workshop is tentatively being planned for February 2018 and Joy McNeill, Economic Development Officer, will be the lead on this workshop; and

At our last meeting, GTC stated that a large emphasis has always been placed on the contracting opportunities in the GSA as opposed to building

and maintaining the traditional economy. GTC referenced the 2006 Report to the IC entitled "Working Towards a Shared Vision for Chapter 10 of the Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement" and stated a review should be done by an external expert. Government of the NWT (GNWT) agreed to prepare a first draft of the Terms of Reference for an external report for Chapter 10.

## **GTC Academic Conference:**

The Intergovernmental Relations Department and University of Alberta (U of A) faculty have begun discussions for the U of A to host the fourth week long Academic Conference on education. The proposed dates for the next Academic Conference is March 9-13, 2018 in Edmonton, AB. However, planning is in the early stages so watch for advertisements on the conference in the New Year.

Statistically, in the last three years we have had 43 participants (actual 37 as 6 were repeats from previous conferences). Of those 37 participants, we have 33 that are either finishing high school, entering post-secondary, interning or employed (6 completed or had some post-secondary before becoming employed) and 4 that did not go any further or did not respond to survey so unknown. (Note: 33/37 students is definitely a success as that represents 89% of the participants that have pursued their goals).

Mahsi,

Diane Baxter,  
Senior Implementation Advisor

UNIVERSITY:	HIGH SCHOOL	POST-SECONDARY	INTERNSHIP	EMPLOYED	DID NOT GO ANY FURTHER OR UNKNOWN
Memorial #1	1	7		1	1
Carleton #2	1	6	2	2	3
GSA #3	3 (1 from prev.)	8 (3 from prev.)		8 (2 from prev.)	

# CAPACITY AND COORDINATION REPORT

## Gwich'in Harvester Assistance Program

Continuous updates and edits are still being made to the Draft Policy and working along with GTC legal counsel to have ready for the January BOD meeting to approve.

Scanning of GHAP documents started with this year's summer students to the GTC drive to keep electronic files on hand.

Fall payments have all been allocated to the RRC's for disbursement for harvesters for the fall allocation and participants should be out fishing, hunting or purchasing new supplies to set up a camp.

## Regional Youth Council

The purpose of the council is to provide Gwich'in youth who reside in the Gwich'in Settlement Area ("GSA") opportunities to build capacities and knowledge related to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement ("GCLCA"), the Self-Government Negotiations Process, and the Gwich'in Tribal Council, as well as to provide meaningful exposure to the Gwich'in Culture, Language and Gwich'in traditional Practices. The permanent Gwich'in Regional Youth Council ("Youth Council") will also serve to build leadership skills and solidarity among youth in all four Gwich'in communities in the GSA.

We have been recruiting new youth representatives from each of the communities and have 2 representatives from each. We are in the planning stages of scheduling a meeting which is going to be in Fort McPherson once the winter road opens and as well as future ones. The RYC has expressed various training such as proposal writing, minute taking etc. they would like to take and hopefully we can incorporate this in next couple gatherings before March of 2018.

The Regional Youth Council is always open to ideas and or suggestions so please contact me as I'm open to anything that will encourage our youth.

## DGO's

Assisting DGO's when requested. November Election is scheduled for Tetlit Zeh for new President and Board of Directors then followed by the Gwichya Gwich'in in December/January. Defining Roles and Responsibilities as well as touching on some Human Resources such as creating and or updating Job Descriptions along with By-laws.

Mahsi,

Eleanor Jerome

Manager, Capacity & Coordination



# OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

## **GTC Legal**

An uncomfortable reality with law and policy is that things are seldom black and white. Rather, nearly everything falls on a spectrum between what's plainly clear and what's 100% mud. In a litigation context, for example, the "truth" is almost always in the middle. Driver A did make the wrong turn, but the other driver reacted poorly and the municipality hadn't repaired the road properly. In a corporate deal or development scenario, the negotiated outcome will typically fall somewhere between each parties' respective rights and desires (though hopefully with creative solutions on both sides can create value leading to "win-win" solutions). The developer gets to build a new project, and the community members secure employment and enjoy new park space for kids and families.

But for every instance where there is a lack of clarity in the law, be it due to statutory interpretation or divergent case law or differing legal opinions, there is an example of people using the law to build and create their own clarity. From my perspective, this is an area where the Gwich'in have excelled over the past 25 years and, indeed, since time immemorial. The land claim itself is a testament to using law in a proactive way that charts a path toward future well-being and long-term sustainability. We are

all aware that there have been hiccups since the land claim was finalized in 1992, but what strikes me as tremendously impressive is the vast amount that has been accomplished. The co-management boards were set up and have completed an incredible amount of work. The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act was co-developed with land claim groups, including the Gwich'in, and put place. The Gwich'in Tribal Council's land management and administration regime was developed, complete with a relatively robust review and approval system. And numerous legal and governance structures have been created, including the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and Designated Gwich'in Organizations.

What's more, this work continues today and continues to be impressive. One way to think of the Annual General Assembly (AGA) is an annual opportunity to come together, have constructive dialogue, make decisions collectively, and decide how to use the law to keep the Gwich'in nation building exercise going. This year was an example of this in action. The AGA in Fort McPherson provided excellent direction on important matters such as pushing the government to work harder on implementing its commitments in the land claim, on moving forward with language preservation and revitalization, on contracting with the GNWT, on internal Gwich'in

governance, and, of course, on self-government. Although these are tough conversations and difficult decisions, it is inspiring and energizing to see an enduring collective desire to reach good decisions in the best interest of all Gwich'in.

As the GTC works to implement AGA resolutions while also carrying out ongoing initiatives and land claim matters, the law will remain a tool that can be used to build a future that Gwich'in desire - a future that is based on Gwich'in values, traditions and visions. This work will further strengthen as Indigenous laws - Gwich'in laws - are increasingly revived and applied in today's modern context. When the timing is right, self-government will bring new and exciting opportunities on this front as well. My own impression is that Gwich'in history shows that these developments will be wise ones and that decision making and associated laws will be created and applied in a way that can be a model for other groups in the process of building their nations.

What may seem to be mud today, may well be the soil of pathways forward tomorrow. The law may seem intimidating and inherently confrontational, but it need not be. Rather, it is often just another tool for creative construction and cooperation, especially if infused with wisdom from Gwich'in of the past, present and future.

-David Wright, GTC Counsel



# CULTURAL HERITAGE REPORT

**Na'kwendo Gwaiijit (for our future generations): Gwich'in Legacy Project (Archiving of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute's Collection) 2016-2020**

This is a multi-year project that will preserve Gwich'in archival material to archival standards (partner with NWT Archives) for our future Gwich'in generations. Much has happened within the department this past summer that has forced DCH staff to focus on this one project.

In 2016, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) became the GTC Department of Cultural Heritage. In 2017, the GTC Board of Directors passed a motion to donate the GSCI's research collections—audio, video, photos, documents, maps, etc. from research the GSCI carried out over 25 years—to the NWT Archives, until a time in the future when GTC has adequate facilities and capacity to effectively archive and manage the "GSCI Legacy Archives".

The Na'kwendo Gwaiijit (for our future generations): Gwich'in Legacy Project is extremely important. They are the recordings of Elders, many who have now passed on, speaking in the Gwich'in language about topics of great importance: culture, history, land-use, family, values, and language. The files contain priceless and irreplaceable materials.

The successes of this project include the GTC Board of Directors passing a motion that honors the wishes of our Gwich'in Elders who shared and wanted their stories safeguarded for their future grandchildren. The GTC are in the process of signing a Gift Agreement with the NWT Archives that will transfer the material. Several obstacles include key staff Ingrid Kritsch taking unexpected medical leave until further notice, staff retirement postponed to deal with extra work load, contractor's time cutback, and departmental cutbacks on projects necessitating DCH to seek outside funding to complete this large undertaking. Despite pitfalls, community engagement will include DCH staff attending an upcoming Canada 150 event in Tsiigehtchic, celebrating the Arctic Red River (Tsiigehtchic) Canadian Heritage River, to present a Tsiigehtchic Story Map

and getting feedback from the community.

Currently DCH staff Alestine Andre, contractor Kristi Benson, and Sharon Snowshoe are preparing research material for transfer to the NWT and are focusing on the excel table. The materials cannot just be sent into the NWT Archives as they are. Rather the project files must be updated, organized and catalogued and entered to a spreadsheet. An Excel spreadsheet created in 2006 and updated by Kristi Benson and DCH staff provides an overview of all GSCI research projects, from 1992-present plus other pertinent Gwich'in materials created from 1970-1992, along with products generated for each project such as audiotapes and corresponding transcripts, maps, photos, exhibits, reports, and publications. Below is an example of some of the information contained in the table:

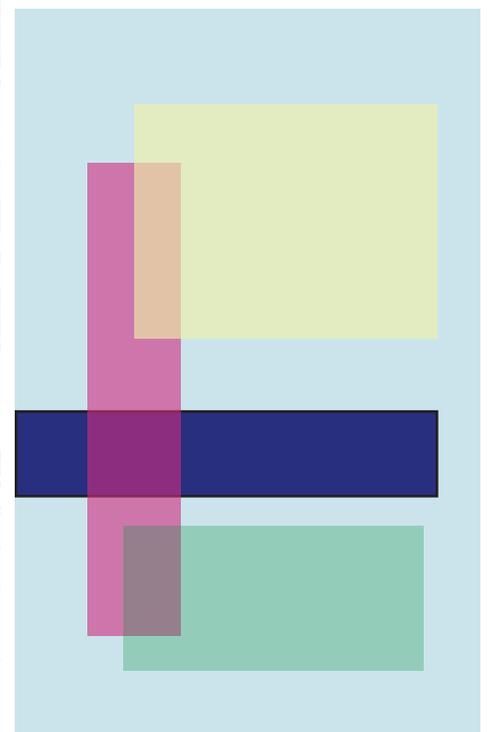
Year Started CODE	1994 GGPN94
Type of Project and Year Researchers	Gwich'ya Gwich'in Oral History & Place Names Project 1994 Ingrid Kritsch, Alestine Andre
Area	Gwich'ya Gwich'in (along the Dempster Hwy between Arctic Red R. and Fort McPherson and into the Delta)
Type of Information Collected	Recorded locations of old trails, 89 place names along with associated oral history of place, traditional campsites, cabin sites, resource utilization on maps. Also recorded stories and legends.
Products	•19 tapes and transcripts •1:50,000 scale NTS maps •1:250,000 scale NTS maps •photographs (places & people) •publication
Authors, Title of Report/Publication/Video and Year Number of maps	Kritsch, Ingrid and Alestine Andre 1994. Gwich'ya Gwich'in Place Names in the Mackenzie Delta, Gwich'in Settlement Area, N.W.T. Published by Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, Tsiigehtchic, NT. 61pp. plus 11" X 17" map with place names. ISBN 1-896337-00-7 17
Number of interviewees Number of tapes	8 19
Number of photographs (est.)	193
Notes for Archives	Prints from negatives, negatives. Digital text files include MS Word transcripts, and PDF final report. All materials already at archives in GSCI Collection except CDs with .mp3s and photos. Digital files on DCH cloud storage.
Digital file size (text) MB	5
Digital file size (audio) MB	
Digital file size (video) MB	0
Digital file size (photo) MB	0
Digital file size (scanned maps) MB	489

Over the next months, project summaries must be prepared for each project. Suraj Chhetri, GTC IT Consultant, has set up a Cloud based storage system for DCH where we can upload this material with the goal of transferring it and all "hard" copies of research and administrative files to the NWT Archives. The GTC will also have access to this material.

Down the road, photographs must be catalogued, or the archives will not know who is in each photograph and where it was taken. The Gwich'in recordings and the translations must be carefully linked to ensure the Gwich'in of the future can use them to learn and celebrate their language and culture. Without careful planning during the donation process, much of the information will be lost. This is a multi-year undertaking.

Mahsi,

Sharon Snowshoe, Director, Department of Cultural Heritage.



Page 80  
Tuesday, August 8, 2017 Fred W. Koe N.I.

During the years that I trapped and hunted for muskrats, I've learned a few things from my Mom and Dad and my older brothers who started trapping way back in 1950's and 1960's.

The first time you start trapping in March for muskrats, you'll notice that there's some black spots on the back of the muskrat skin; this is caused because ~~the~~ sun is not really out for the whole day yet.

Approximately the first of April the muskrats start getting prime, this is the time the sun starts shining all day long and the muskrats stays longer in the houses.

In the month of May the muskrats starts mating (breeding) and this is the time the muskrats start going for muskrat

TRAPPING MUSKRATS  
BY FRED W. KOE

Page 2

calls. This is done by the mouth and there's some muskrat calls being made today that people use.

Approximately the tenth of June female muskrats start showing signs of being pregnant and about this time green grass and leaves starts growing around the lake banks and this is when the muskrats start getting wild and hard to get.

Approximately the 20<sup>th</sup> of June the female muskrats all have young ones and already swimming around in the lakes.

This is about all the information I have concerning muskrats.

Take Care

Fred Wilbur Lee

# TRANSBOUNDARY LANDS REPORT



Drin Gwinzii,

I am happy to deliver my first newsletter update as the Transboundary Specialist for the Gwich'in Tribal Council. I am Vuntut Gwitchin from Old Crow, Yukon where I have worked in the Natural Resources department for 12 years. I also sat on many boards and committees and dedicated much of my time to my community. I am excited for the new challenges ahead in my work with GTC and I hope to add much value to the efforts being made on this side of the mountains! I am so impressed with the good work and good people I am surrounded by.

As Transboundary Specialist, I work primarily with the GCLCA's Appendix C: Yukon Transboundary Agreement between GTC and Canada. This Appendix deals specifically with Gwich'in rights and interests in their Yukon lands and ensuring they are upheld at various decision making and planning tables in the Yukon. GTC recently achieved associate membership to the Council of Yukon First Nations, which is actively involved with files that impact or

have the potential to impact Gwich'in Yukon lands. By participating at this table, GTC has an important voice to add to these discussions and certainly benefit from information exchange with our Yukon First Nation neighbours.

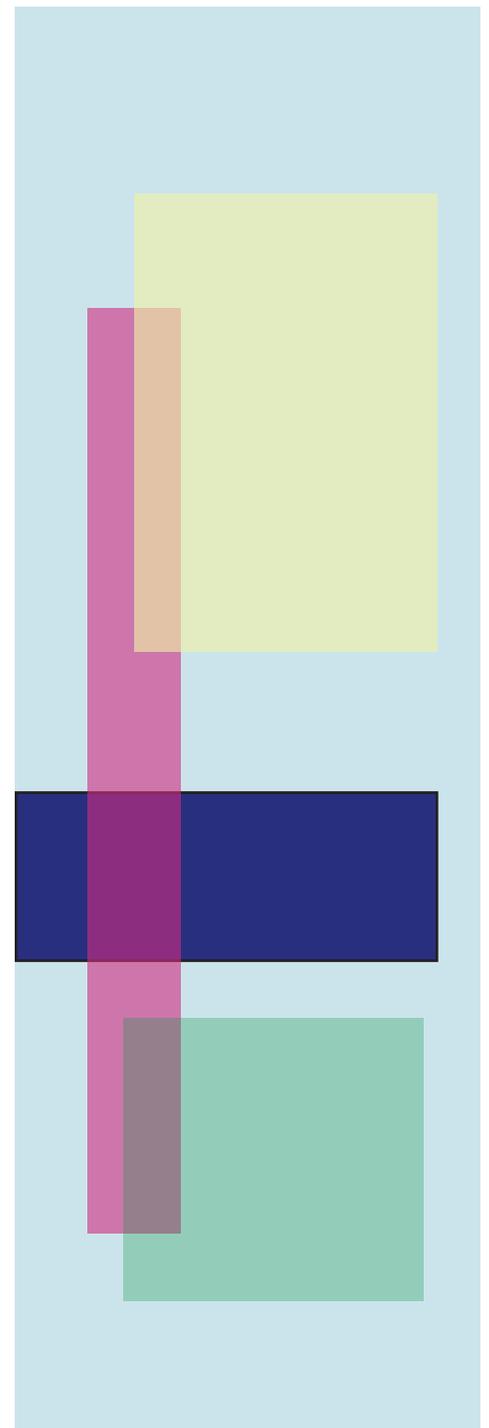
The Yukon Forum is another Yukon table at which Yukon Government and Yukon First Nation representatives discuss the common ground to be covered with the various interests played over the Yukon landscape and Gwich'in certainly see their place at this table being an important one. GTC is working on seeing representation here as well. Also with respect to effective communication flow and the Yukon Government, I have been a part of the GTC-YG discussion on a draft Communications and Consultation Protocol, which is hopefully nearing its conclusion. I have also been supporting the work dealing with outstanding land exchanges of the Vuntut Gwichin Governemnt and Yukon Government in four parcels in the Secondary Use Area as well as a Parks Planning process in Vuntut Traditional Territory that overlaps with the Secondary Use Area. In this work the focus is on proper consultation of the Gwich'in in order to protect the rights and interests in these areas.

Aside from the majority of work focussed on Yukon lands, I have been working on Land Use Authorizations for access and development.

If there are ever any questions or you would like to come by and have a tea with me, please do not hesitate to stop by to chat or give me a call. Thank you for the opportunity to update you briefly on my work.

Mahsi'

Erika Tizya, Transboundary Specialist



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

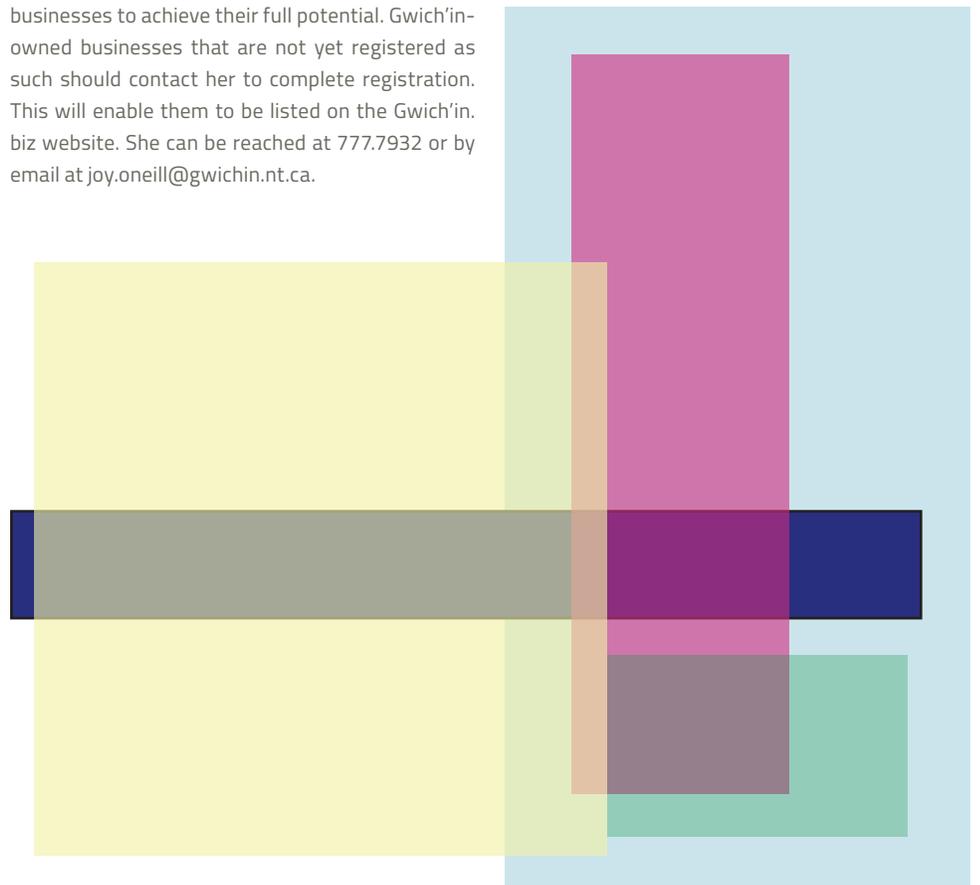
Drin Gwinzii,

Helping Gwich'in-owned businesses to grow, and assisting budding Gwich'in entrepreneurs in setting up their new businesses are just two of the responsibilities assigned to GTC's new Economic Development Officer, Joy O'Neill. In addition to these business advisory services, she will also be involved in economic development planning and program management. If a Gwich'in-owned business requests some guidance in responding to Territorial or Federal tenders or Requests for Proposal (RFPs), she will be available to assist. Based in Inuvik, services will also be available in Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Aklavik.

Joy has been working in economic development for the past 10 years, principally in Nova Scotia, where her portfolio included projects with local Mi'kmaq businesses, particularly those in the arts and crafts sector. Her background also includes bank lending and auditing, as well as ownership of a garment manufacturing enterprise. She holds degrees from Western University and Thunderbird School of Global Management, and has completed programs at Waterloo University and Dalhousie University. She has lived and worked in several countries, and is now pleased to be based in Inuvik.

Joy looks forward to assisting Gwich'in owned

businesses to achieve their full potential. Gwich'in-owned businesses that are not yet registered as such should contact her to complete registration. This will enable them to be listed on the Gwich'in.biz website. She can be reached at 777.7932 or by email at [joy.oneill@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:joy.oneill@gwichin.nt.ca).



## Joy O'Neill, Economic Development Officer

As an economic developer, Joy O'Neill has been helping entrepreneurs to grow their businesses for the last 10 years. Previous to joining the GTC, she worked in rural Nova Scotia, concentrating in the tourism and agriculture sectors. Joy's background includes bank auditing, lending and business advisory functions and operations management of a customer care centre.

For twelve years she owned and operated her own garment manufacturing company, specializing in clothing fashioned from organic and recycled fabrics. Joy holds degrees from University of Western Ontario and Thunderbird School of Global Management, a diploma from Waterloo University, and has furthered her economic development studies at Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Universities.

# CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

## Website

The second phase of the GTC website was released following the 2017 Annual General Assembly. This phase included updates to the backend and the introduction of the Interactive Historical Timeline - which features over 600 entries celebrating Gwich'in history and achievements compiled by Diane Baxter, Margaret Gordon and GTC staff. Going forward, we will be able to add to the Timeline as events/achievements occur in realtime.

After having our search engine re-pointing in late August, we recently set up Google Analytics for our [www.gwichintribal.ca](http://www.gwichintribal.ca) website, and will be generating hard user data to share for the next newsletter.

## Digital Literacy

After a successful pilot workshop in June 2017 held in Inuvik with 15 participants, we are working again with Dr. Rob McMahon of the University of Alberta

to run Digital Literacy workshops for Participants in each of the four communities in Spring/Summer 2018. Dr. McMahon has secured \$30K in funding from the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) to support the workshop series. We co-chair a working group planning the series.



## Annual General Assembly

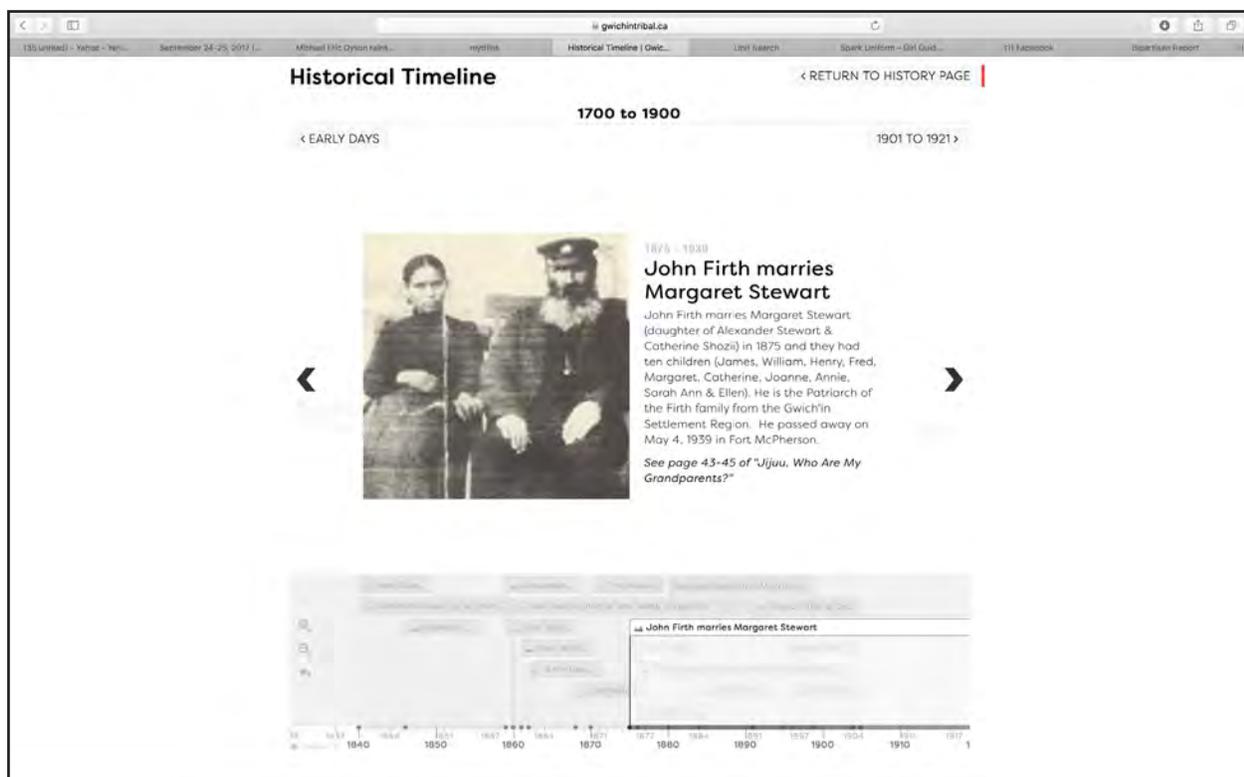
A big mahsi to Anita Koe, Nina Ruben, Cheryl Wright and Eleanor Jerome for leading staff and volunteers in the planning and logistics of this year's assembly. Everyone did a tremendous job, and the event ran very smoothly.

## Academic Conference

We are working with VP Jordan Peterson and Diane Baxter in planning the 2018 The Next 40 Academic Conference. We have had preliminary logistics and agenda planning talks with Dr. Roger Epp of UAlbertaNorth and have a struck a scheduled working group.

## Digitization

As part of the increased language funding, we have requested to purchase two wide-format archival scanner systems for the Language Centre in Fort McPherson and the office in Inuvik.



We are moving towards digitizing the language resources (tapes, books, transcripts, photographs, negatives) and will be training staff in meta-tagging and format preservation so that we may match international standards. The system in Inuvik will be a back-up for redundancy and may be used for map scanning for Lands.

#### **MOU - University of Alberta**

We are currently working with VP Jordan Peterson, David Wright, Diane Baxter and Dr. Roger Epp on finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Alberta covering at least three fronts: the Academic Conference, the Digital Literacy Workshop Series, and the U of A Press publishing of The People of the Peel (through Cultural Heritage)- as well as other future collaborations.

#### **Records Management**

Suraj Chhetri and I have been researching how to build a standard records management and retention system for the GTC. Effective retention systems and proper records management are essential steps to meeting our legal obligations. We have spent time meeting with the Inuvialuit to understand their systems, software, training, legal requirements and challenges - and we are preparing a report, proposal and budget for consideration by the Executive.

#### **YK Office**

We have just completed the formal hiring and orientation of our parttime Yellowknife Outreach Officer, Annie Rose McNab, who will be working out of the GTC office on 49th Street on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. She will be acting as an information conduit between Participants living in the southern NWT and the GTC offices in Inuvik and Fort McPherson, and will report through Corporate Services.

We hold a lease on the two offices and boardroom in Yellowknife until mid-2019, and will evaluate the office space and need upon expiration.

#### **Antenna Project**

We were approached in the Spring by Natural Resources Canada about recommending and coordinating with a Gwich'in artist to provide a 2D fine art design to be incorporated onto one of the 13-metre dishes at the Inuvik Satellite Station Facility. NR-CAN decided on Ronnie Simon and commissioned him to work on a piece that would be transferred to a permeable skin and applied to the dish.

#### **NWT Tourism Conference**

We participated in the 2017 NWT Tourism Conference held in Inuvik Nov. 1-3, and created a 'Selfie Station' stop along a centrepiece 'Drive the Dempster' showcase to be set up in the Roy Ipana Mem-

orial Arena.

#### **Sunrise Festival**

The GTC sits on the Sunrise Festival Advisory Committee for the GTC and attends regular meetings. We have agreed to sponsorship of the event and will be showcasing Gwich'in Jiggers as part of our contribution.

#### **ITH Official Opening Ceremonies**

We sat on the Planning Team for the Inuvik-to-Tuktoyaktuk Highway Opening Ceremonies, and while GTC leadership was unable to attend due to the Land Claims Coalition Conference in Gatineau, Nihhat President Jozef Carnogursky spoke on our behalf at the Opening.

Mahsi,

Tony Devlin, Director of Corporate Services





THE GTC NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED 4 TIMES A YEAR  
FOR COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

TONY DEVLIN  
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES  
GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL  
867-777-7923  
TDEVLIN@GWICHIN.NT.CA