



Gwich'in Tribal Council

newsletter



Santa Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan
visiting with Bill and Mabel English
at the 2016 GTC Christmas Open House

Gwich'in Tribal Council Launches New Website

The GTC is pleased to announce the launch of a new corporate website. Built in three phases, the website will launch in the first week of February. The first phase of the website will include 'Participant-First' information on the GTC, the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, Self Government, Programs and Services, and departmental information.

The second and third phases will include a scrollable 'Gwich'in Timeline' – which will highlight the history of the GTC and accomplishments of Gwich'in Participants over the years, and a formal online store to support the Craft Shop at the Inuvik offices. These phases will roll-out over the next 3 months.

"A big part of what we wanted to do was to replicate the success we have been seeing on using social media, and our Facebook page in particular" said Tony Devlin, Director of Corporate Services, "We know that not all of our Participants are active on Facebook, so we wanted to be able to share stories, photo shoots, links to third-party content, and events to a more complete audience. One of the tools we will be using with the new site will allow us to simultaneously upload content to both our website and Facebook page at the same time".

The new website will launch the week of February 6 and can be found at our new URL: www.gwichintribal.ca.

Gwich'in Values

Respect = yinji'khadhoh'ee

Honor = yinji'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'at nihk'atrinahtii

Honesty & Fairness =

ch'igwijuu'ee fr'igwindaii ts'at nihtat gwif'agwjj'ee gèhdanh



Words from the Grand Chief/ President



Drin Gwiinzii Shilakut,

Happy New Year to all Gwich'in! We have been in office for 5 months now and there is a lot to report on. As your President, my portfolios include Gwich'in Development Corporation, Department of Intergovernmental, Finance, Corporate Services, Gwich'in Services which includes Education, Wellness, Economic Development and Trusts. I will give a general overview as more detailed information will be reported throughout this newsletter.

Since I was sworn into Office I have made 6 trips to Teetlit Zeh, 3 were work related and 3 were personal trips to visit. I was to Aklavik 5 times, 3 work related and 2 personal visits. I was to Tsiigehtchic 3 times for work related and 1 for personal visit. I also made 2 trips to Ottawa, 2 trips to Yellowknife, 2 trips to Whitehorse and 1 trip to Edmonton all which were for Gwich'in Tribal Council and Gwich'in Development Corporation business. As we move into the New Year, we will be limiting executive work travel and looking at participating in meetings through teleconference and video conferencing whenever possible. Of course there will be meetings where we would have to be in attendance in person, particularly in Ottawa.

To date we engaged in a number of meetings with the elected local leadership and public in the Gwich'in communities. We visited the schools and met with the Principals. We had opportunity to observe a high school class in session at Chief Julius School and were impressed with the elders who were helping teach and deliver the Gwich'in curriculum.

We met with folks from the Beaufort Delta Education Council to discuss areas of concern and how we can be more involved. We met with Duane Smith, Chairman of the Inuvialuit regional corporation to discuss some areas of common interest and how we can work together and consider partnerships to support each other as Aboriginal groups in the region. We Started dialogue and building on relationships with Assembly of First Nations, Dene Nation, Council for Yukon First Nations and NWT Metis Association. It's about understanding each other and supporting each other as so many issues in Canada impact us all, not only historically, but present day issues and so it's important to be working together today for the future of our people. It's also part of our traditional values to respect each other. We are stronger when we do.

We have also requested internal policy reviews on some of the current policies of the GTC. One main area under review that was a concern for the people is the policy on the Executive Salaries and bonuses. Personally I don't agree with bonuses so one of the recommendations would be to remove it from the policy. Updates will come once decisions are made.

We brought the Board of Directors meetings back into the communities. They are open to the public. We consult with some of the elders on a regular basis and agree it would be good to look into funding so we can establish an elder's advisory committee. Revitalization of our language, culture and traditional values is a priority. We want to work on some new initiatives and take action in this area. Help empower our people and communities to work together in unity.

We continue work to improve the financial management practices of the organization and ensure the executive and board of directors is making informed decisions around the approved budget and spending.

We are also continuing with constructive dialogue and working with the Government of Canada and Government of NWT in the implementation of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. Continue work to seek new partnerships and investments that will see profitable returns. Seek and secure funding to deliver various workshops to the Gwich'in communities in areas of social wellness, life skills, work skills and training. Ensure all the motions and direction from the annual general assembly is being carried through, motions from past years as well as recent assemblies.

There is a lot of work to be done and it is very important to lead a staff that is willing to work hard and work together to achieve the goals and vision of the Organization. We are pleased to say that we have a good team at the GTC and will continue to build that team for the best interest of the Organization. What's good for the organization is good for the people it represents.

We encourage people to stay informed, ask questions and get the facts. Don't go on rumors, but go on facts and you get facts by asking questions, researching and seeking information. It is each person's responsibility to be informed, so please ask questions and it is part of our role as your leaders to provide answers.

Mahsi Cho to all who continue to support and pray for each other. May Kahkawthut (creator) continue to protect and guide us all and bless us with prosperity in 2017.

Mahsi Cho,

Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan
Grand Chief/President



Deputy Grand Chief/Vice President Message

Drin gwiinzii,

Greetings to all of you, I hope that you all had a special Christmas and Holiday season. By the time you read this, it will have been 5 months since we as the new executive have been sworn in. Over the last few months the Board of Directors, executive, staff and DGO's have all been working together diligently to ensure that the mandate set out by the Land Claim and our annual general assembly is being implemented.

I want to take this time, once again to thank each and every one of you, whether you voted for me or not for having the faith in President Bobbie Jo and myself to lead and represent you in all matters related to our communities, our land claim, self government negotiations, who we are as Gwich'in and the many other files we work on. There have been many meetings, in and outside of the Gwich'in settlement area which have been rewarding all on their own in how we have built relationships, strengthened others and renewed some from the past. The relationship building was something that we both agreed to from the start and have ensured that it is a priority wherever we go without limiting the Gwich'in perspective and priorities that we work so hard on to ensure is at the forefront of each of these meetings and how we move forward.

Self-Government

It is a honour to take on such an important file to the Gwich'in and to work with an amazing team and great technical staff at the GTC. We have made community consultations a priority and have done a 4 day community consultation in each community, as we believe that we need to educate each Gwich'in as much as possible on the draft Agreement in Principle so that moving into final agreement negotiations each of us are educated on the guiding principles in negotiations.

Community Consultations

Nihtat Gwich'in – October 19-22, 2016
Tetlit Gwich'in – November 2-5, 2016
Ehdiitat Gwich'in – November 16-19, 2016
Gwichya Gwich'in – January 11-14, 2017

Each of these community consultations consisted of a meeting directly with the community Designated Gwich'in Organization, two days with Diane Baxter at the DGO office and making home visits and a community open meeting on the last day. The strategy that we have taken in regards to communicating this information in each of our communities allowed each Gwich'in to be reached in a unique way that they felt comfortable with. If any of you would like to request the draft Agreement in Principle or have any questions you can send it to selfgovt@gwichin.nt.ca.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs/GTC community workshops

During the week of October 24-27, 2016 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Designated Gwich'in Organizations and the Indian Act Bands met with community members to discuss roles and responsibilities of each of the organizations in our communities in relation to rights and entitlements under Treaty 11, the Indian Act and Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992). It was clear that a lot of confusion continues despite being 25 years into the modern land claim world. It seems that some folks are still working to understand that most of our rights and protections now flow from the land claim, and that Treaty 11, while of significant historical and cultural significance, is the source of only a small collection of rights such as annual treaty payments. The GTC will continue to work with everyone to nurture a strong understanding of the modern land claim context and how we can use it to maximize prosperity and well-being for generations to come.

INAC/GTC Community Workshops

Gwichya Gwich'in – October 24, 2016
Tetlit Gwich'in – October 25, 2016
Nihtat Gwich'in – October 26, 2016
Ehdiitat Gwich'in – October 27, 2016

Gathering of Leaders (Past & Present)

After starting Self-Government community consultations, INAC/GTC community workshops and talking with past leaders the executive and GTC decided to pull together a gathering of leaders meeting that was held December 13-14, 2016 in Inuvik. We invited leaders that have negotiated the land claim, previous Presidents and Vice Presidents of the GTC, current Indian act band Chiefs, GTC Board of Directors and Designated Gwich'in Organization Presidents. This meeting I believe is the start to our communities and leaders working together in unity, when we are challenged to put our issues on the table and to deal with them we will then be focusing on creating solutions that will benefit our people and communities.

I would like to thank all of our staff, Gwich'in participants and Board members for all that you do to better the Gwich'in Nation.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to work on your behalf as the Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, in unity we will succeed.

Haii Cho
Jordan Peterson
Deputy Grand Chief/Vice President



Returning Home to Intern: A Travelogue

by Patricia Louie, GTC Wellness Intern

In May 2016, I was informed that my application for the Gwich'in Internship Pilot Project was successful. So, on Day 1 I set out for CALGARY. I packed as much of my belongings into my car and set out with my younger brother on the longest road-trip either of us had ever taken. Driving through Saskatchewan and seeing the landscape is interesting for about five minutes as it is just one field after another. It was not until we hit the Alberta border that the road-trip started to feel real. We were literally driving halfway across the country back to our hometown!



Moraine Lake, Banff National Park

Day 2: LAKE LOUISE, MORAINE LAKE & DAWSON CREEK. We left Calgary and headed through Banff towards Lake Louise, our first tourist destination. We stopped briefly at Lake Louise and took a few photos. I found it to be absolutely beautiful despite the light rain. One of my friends had suggested we see Moraine Lake, only 14km away. Even though he needed convincing, my brother agreed to go check it out. The rain in the area had stopped and the sun was beginning to shine. As it turned out, Moraine Lake was my brother's favourite place throughout our entire journey. He climbed the hill of rocks all the way to the top. He even let me take a few photos of him, a shock in itself! We continued on throughout both the Banff and Jasper National Park, stopping a few times to take photos as my brother admired the glaciers. The only wildlife we noticed throughout the National Park was evident by the vast amount of tourists pulled over and outside of their vehicles trying to photograph the bears or the buffalo. That evening we arrived in Dawson Creek, a stop I deemed necessary after watching the show Dawson's Creek as a child. Dawson Creek is also known as 'Mile 0' of the Alaskan highway, evident by a boasting sign when you enter the city. Of course, I took a photo with it!

Gwich'in Internship Pilot Project

A Travelogue

Day 3: TOAD RIVER & MUNCHO LAKE. This leg of the journey is where we saw the most amount of rain, mud, twists and turns, and the dreaded construction. We stopped in Toad River for snacks and souvenirs. Even with the rain Muncho Lake was beautiful and the place we stayed at was cozy although expensive.



Along the Dempster Highway

Day 4: WATSON LAKE & WHITEHORSE. Our first stop was for lunch in Watson Lake known for the sign post forest. That evening we arrived in Whitehorse where we had the pleasure of having supper with our grandparents, James and Eileen Wilson. It had been 10 years since the last time I was in Whitehorse, and the first time Brandon had been there.

Day 5: DAWSON CITY. Knowing there was no Tim Hortons in my near future, we stocked up before we left Whitehorse. In Dawson City, we explored and video called my dad to show him his favourite place in the Yukon. He pointed out various sites that he had stayed and told stories of him as a youth. To end our night, we did the mandatory stop at Diamond Tooth Gerties. Brandon and I tried our hand at roulette. Neither of us had ever been to a casino so the entire experience was entertaining. Both of us spent \$20 and ended up winning and leaving with slightly more than that.

Day 6: EAGLE PLAINS, FORT MCPHERSON and INUVIK. Finally, Inuvik bound! We grabbed breakfast and made our first stop at the beginning of the Dempster Highway. We continued our journey, noticing a gradual change in the landscape. The bright hues of oranges and yellows of the plants were a stark contrast to the golds and yellows of the Saskatchewan landscape we had both become so used to. We eventually stopped at Eagle Plains for a snack, to fuel up, and to update our family members on where we were. At the Peel River, I went on my first and Brandon's second ferry ever. Stopping only to fuel up in Fort McPherson, we knew that our road trip was quickly coming to an end! We arrived around 8:00pm and were welcomed by our Uncle and Aunt who took us on a boat ride that evening. It had been a long, but incredible, journey for both my brother and I.

Gwich'in Internship Pilot Project

A Travelogue



Muncho Lake, British Columbia



Dempster Highway on the Yukon Side

Re-connecting with my Culture

by Pete Greenland

My name is Peter Enoch Greenland. My mother's name is Angela Greenland (Turcotte Maiden) and she is from Ontario. My Dad is Peter Greenland as well. His dad's name is Alex Moses Greenland, whose dad is Peter Enough, whose dad is Enoch Moses. On his mother's side my Jiju's name is Elizabeth Greenland and her parent's names are Alfred and Annie Bonnetplume.



On the land outside Inuvik

I am currently about to begin my final semester of a two diploma which is ultimately becoming a three-year and a half year journey for me. When I was 21 I began applying to colleges throughout Ontario for programs some more traditional post-secondary routes such as constructions techniques, auto motive power technician, and culinary arts. When I finally decided which route I was going to take it was an unconventional one, Outdoor Adventure at the Algonquin College Pembroke waterfront campus. I chose this program on a whim. I wanted to do something I thought I would truly enjoy despite not understanding the full ramifications of what career opportunities, financial income, challenges or personal growth this life choice would provide for me. Although in retrospect that may not be the most responsible way to decide such a huge life decision, this is a choice that I do not regret. It has now greatly shaped who I am as a person, my future goals, respect and appreciation for my Gwich'in heritage.

Gwich'in Youth

Outdoor Adventure Program

When I tell people that I'm in an Outdoor Adventure Program in college I am at times met with curiosity, and often skepticism. I can't count the amount of times I've been asked the question "What are you going to do with that?". So, let me briefly explain the program. It is a professional guide training business diploma program. Much of our time is spent outdoors training in activities such as white water rafting, rock/ice climbing, mountain biking, skiing/snowboarding, winter survival camping, and more! Throughout the field training we are provided opportunities to receive national certification in various disciplines. This training is also accompanied by classes including computer applications, risk management, accounting, marketing and customer service, communication among other things, giving us a diverse skill set for employment and entrepreneurial knowledge in the adventure tourism industry.

I began the program when I was 22 with no clue what I was getting myself into. I faced academic challenges many new post secondary students experience. Especially because I was not particularly a great student when it came to time management. However, I pushed through and completed my first year then went on to work as a guide for Canoe North based out of Norman Wells and Tundra North Tours in Inuvik that summer. During a 14-day canoe trip on the Keele River in the Sahtu Region I was unfortunately informed that my Jiju had passed away so I was unable to work on a second trip that was planned that summer. Although it was a great summer season, and I truly enjoyed what I was doing, when I returned to school due to these circumstances and other personal challenges I felt I wasn't prepared to continue schooling so I dropped out.



Rafting on the Petawawa River



Rock Climbing at Eagles Nest

Missing home I decided to drive from Ontario back to Inuvik where I worked for the winter which provided me with yet another opportunity that changed my life. I attended "the Next 40" academic conference with the Gwich'in Tribal Council. This, accompanied by the time I had recently spent in the north reconnected me with my culture in unforeseeable ways. I had a new vision to collaborate the outdoor adventure schooling I had done in the western education system with the traditional knowledge of the Gwich'in. At this point I had decided that I want to continue with my schooling at Algonquin College. Luckily my educators were glad to have me back in the program.



Gwich'in Youth

Outdoor Adventure Program

I am just about to finish my Christmas break, of which I spent much time reviewing the “talking map” the Gwich'in Cultural and Social Institute has worked on since 1992. It has provided me with much knowledge about our history and traditional way of life. Combining this with the knowledge that my family has passed on to me, and what I have me learning at Algonquin College I have started creating trip plans for canoe trips to see area's of cultural significance. In hopes of someday doing these trips myself. I wish to experience, enjoy and celebrate my Gwich'in heritage more as a result of all the work I put into developing myself and hopefully someday being able to share that with others.

I still have one more semester and some classes I need to make up before I get my diploma, but I can say now that I see the finish line in site. I often dream about future career prospects. I know that I am still not there yet, and if the rest of my journey will be as challenging as the road thus far it will not be easy. However, my love of my culture, persistence, and hard work continue to drive me because I know it will be worth it.



Trying to surf a wave called push button on the Ottawa River/Author Pete Greenland

Ultimately, this life path I have chosen all boiled down to committing to post-secondary education three years ago. It has been difficult, terrifying, and exhausting at times. So trust me when I say if you are considering pursuing higher education in anyway, as daunting as the task may seem, with a little persistence and hard work it will be worth it. I encourage all youth like myself to go for it whatever path you may choose!

As for myself I plan on pursuing more education at the Yukon college in the Heritage and Culture program once I get my diploma at Algonquin College in hopes of exploring my culture more using the skills my education can give me and combining it with on the land experiences.

Gwich'in Services

Gwich'in Services is responsible for a wide range of activities within the Gwich'in Tribal Council organization.

Staffing Update

Gina Firth commenced the Career Development Officer position in October on an 18 month transfer assignment. Verna Pope commenced the Manager of Education and Training position in October. Gina has begun to take CDO training offered through the University of Winnipeg's Career & Employment Coach Certificate program through the Dehcho First Nation in Fort Simpson. Gina will complete a total of 4 courses by March 31, 2017. Both Gina and Verna attended KETO training in November.

RTP

The Regional Training Partnership conducted community consultation meetings in Fort McPherson on November 22-23, 2016 with various community organizations to determine community training needs. Common themes such as safety training, food safety, class 7 drivers training, proposal writing and tourism related training were identified. The Manager of Education and Training met with LJ's Contracting on December 06, 2016 to determine possible training needs and TOJ opportunities. LJ's identified safety training (First Aid, Wilderness First Aid, CPR, WHMIS, TDG H2S Alive, Flagger Training, and Occupational Health and Safety training) as needs for their upcoming 2017 road projects such as the continued road widening, Stoney Creek overland road, James Creek pad and soil contamination removal. The Manager of Education and Training also met with the DGO in Fort McPherson to discuss training opportunities for the Café and Lodge.

Program Delivery

The GTC partnered with the Aurora College, DOT, ECE, IRC, and ITI to deliver Class 1 Driver Training Inuvik October 11, 2016 to December 13, 2016. The program accepted a total of 14 participants of which included 5 Gwich'in participants (3 from Fort McPherson, 1 from Tsiigehtchic, and 1 from Inuvik). Participants were divided into groups of 4 to complete 10 days of practical training and 1 day for testing licensure. A total of four Gwich'in participants completed the program.

The GTC partnered with the Aurora College, ECE, and IRC to deliver the Country Foods Processing Training in Inuvik for two one week intake sessions for 16 participants each. The first intake session was held November 7 to November 18, 2016 which included 6 Gwich'in participants (3 participants from Fort McPherson, 2 participants from Inuvik and 1 participant from Tsiigehtchic). The second intake was held November 21 to December 02, 2016 with three Gwich'in participants (2 participants from Inuvik and 1 participant from Tsiigehtchic). Participants were provided with a prorated living allowance and travel expenses were provided for participants outside of Inuvik. A total of 8 Gwich'in participants completed the training.

Upcoming Program Delivery

The GTC has partnered with Aurora College and ECE to deliver the Environmental Monitoring Training Program in Fort McPherson January 23, 2017 to February 24, 2017. The five week program allow for fifteen participants and will consist of 5 modules; 1) Foundation Skills; 2) Intro to Environmental Sector; 3) Technical Skills; 4) Health & Safety Skills; and 5) Local Knowledge.

Gwich'in Services

Update

The GTC has partnered with Aurora College and ECE to deliver Wilderness First Aid training in both Tsiigehtchic, February 20 -24, 2017 and in Fort McPherson, February 24 to March 03, 2017. Each session will allow for fifteen participants. Training will be provided by Blythe and Bathe, authorized delivery agents for BEAHR programs. Participants who complete the program will complete registration with ECO Canada/BEAHR.

The Government of Canada approved \$500K for the GTC's proposal submission for funding under the Communities-At-Risk program. The GTC will deliver a seven week Life Skills program facilitated by Esther Dobbs, Jim Smarch and Ann Firth-Jones in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic for up to a maximum of 15 participants (ages 15-30) for each community. The Life Skills program is scheduled to be delivered January 23, 2017 to March 10, 2017 and will be followed up by Aurora College's delivery of the Ready to Work NWT Program March 13-31, 2017. Donna Neyando has been hired as the project coordinator up until March 31, 2017 to ensure delivery and administration are efficient. All participants will be eligible for a living allowance. This project will help to form the basis for future 2017-2018 ASETS programing.

The BDEC have submitted a draft proposal to the Aurora College, GTC and IRC to plan a two week Trades orientation to be delivered in Inuvik, for students in grade eight to twelve. The program is mirrored from the Trades Awareness Program held annually by the South Slave Education Council. The goal of the program is to enhance trades programming/awareness and career exploration for students living outside of Inuvik. Trades instruction will most likely be provided by Aurora College Trades instructors from Thebacha Campus. The proposed delivery dates have been identified for May 2017 to ensure students stay in school until the end of the school year. Students will be selected from the communities and during the first week will be exposed to several trades. After students have been evaluated, they will select a trade that interests them and will spend the second week on intensive trade instruction.

ASETS

For the 2016-2017 ASETS AHP Annual Expenditure Plan for funded program activities, it is expected that GTC will have spent all CRF funds however, there will be unspent funds under the EI portion. In an effort to reduce the amount of unspent EI funds, the upcoming Environmental Monitoring Training Program and Wilderness First Aid courses scheduled for Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic will be promoted to encourage eligible EI participants including Reach Back clients (persons who were previously on EI in the last 36 months) to apply so that course costs and student allowances can be charged to EI funds. Similar efforts will be made in promoting the upcoming Life Skills and Ready to Work NWT programs.

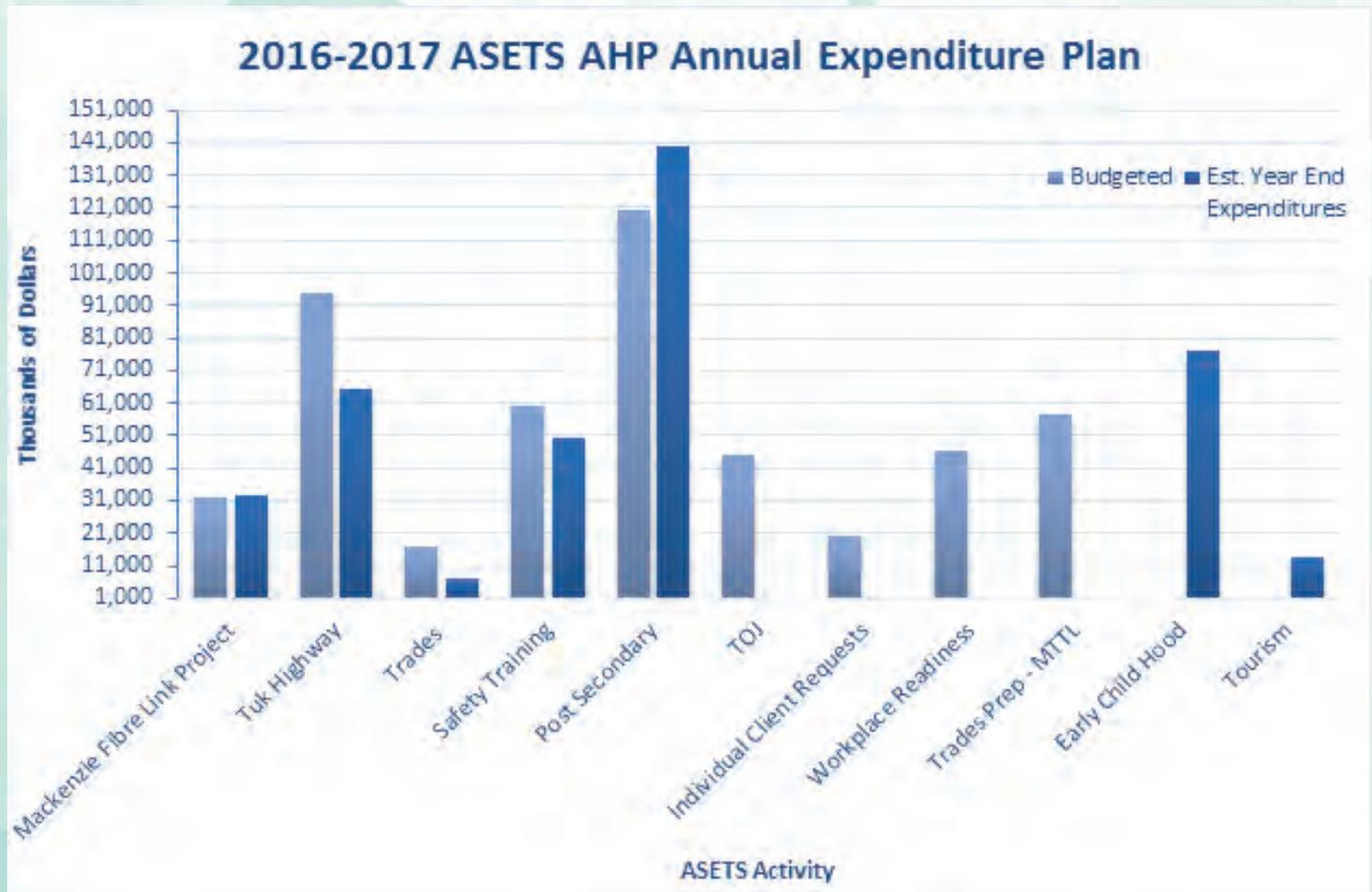
When the AHP Annual Expenditure Plan was developed, it was expected that there would be a level of activity similar to prior years. The slow economy and lack of financial resources has impacted the outcomes for the Tuk Highway, Trades and MTTL activity areas. Other projects such as partnering to fund the Early Childhood Program at Aurora College as well as the Tourism related Country Foods Processing training were held and were not initially planned for. There were no expenditures made against TOJ, and Work Readiness. No information was captured for individual client requests. Efforts were made for the Mackenzie Fibre Link Project and Safety Training activities where budgeted amounts and estimated year end expenditures will be relative. The expenditures are expected to surpass the budgeted amount for the Post-Secondary (top ups, living allowances,

Gwich'in Services

Gwich'in Services

Update

tuition, books, student travel) activity. It is assumed that since there is little to no work available in the region, many more students have opted to return to studies.



The Government of Canada has approved an extension for the GTC ASETS Agreement for the 2017-2018 year. The extension also calls for a reduction in the administrative burden in claims processing/monitoring, simplifying the annual planning process including elimination of the mid-year dialogue.

Post-Secondary Students

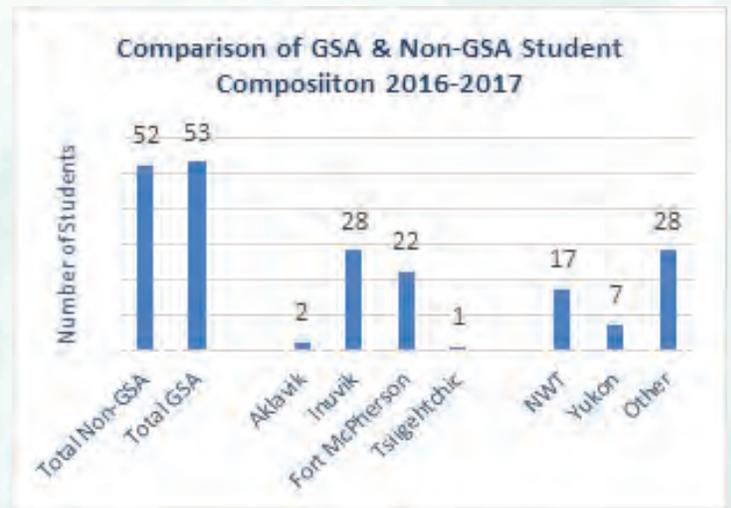
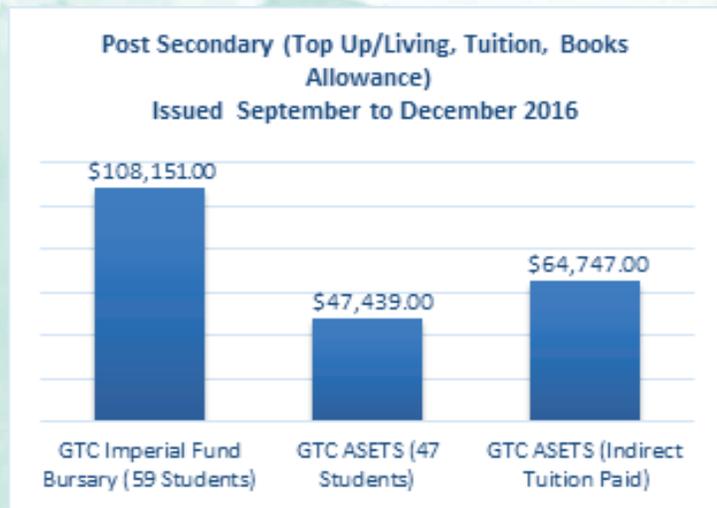
The Education and Training Department have been able to fund a total of approximately 105 Post Secondary Students from September to December 2016. The GTC issued approximately \$108,151.00 in bursaries to approximately 59 post-secondary students. Approximately 53 students from within the GSA received from the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) top up living allowances, tuition and books. The GTC paid \$64,747.00 directly to training providers for student tuition/course costs.

Gwich'in Services

Gwich'in Services

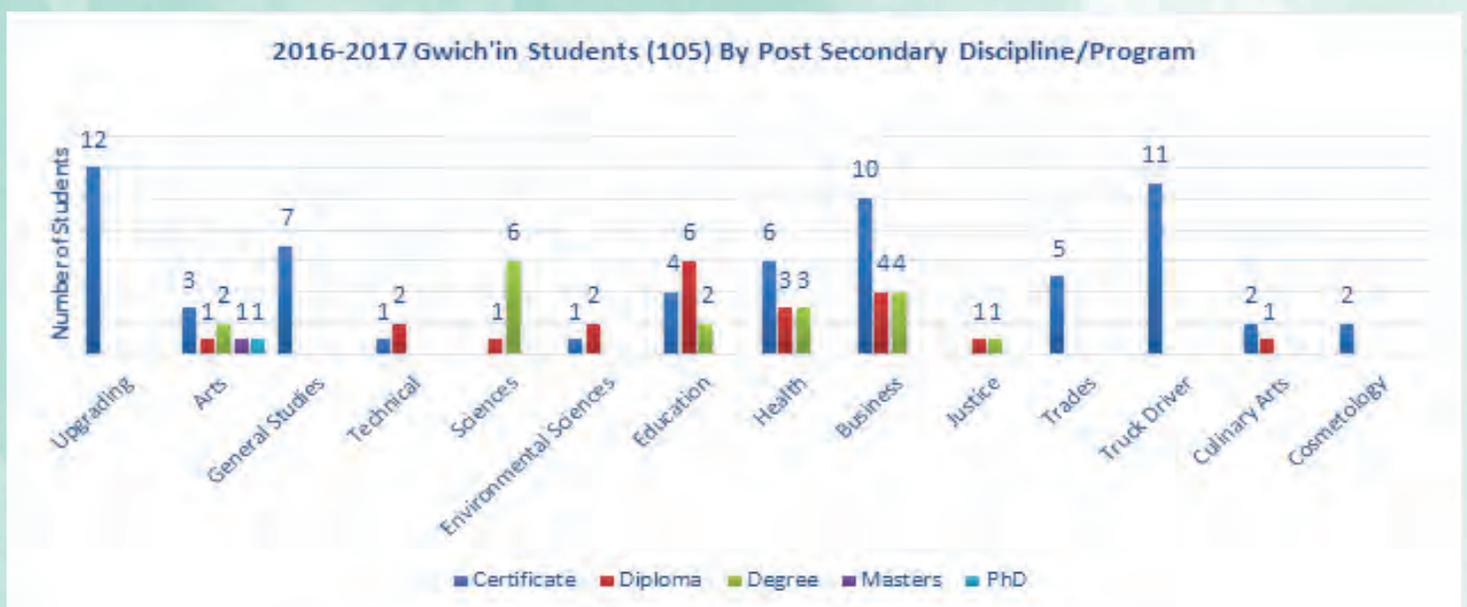
Update

Some GSA students received funding from ASETS and a bursary. Student numbers also include students who attended Heavy Equipment Operator and class 1 Driver Training.



The GTC currently funds 52 students that reside outside the GSA and 53 students that permanently reside within the GSA. A majority of students from within the GSA are from Inuvik and Fort McPherson. Aklavik and Tsiigehtchic have a total of 3 students. Other Gwich'in students that reside within the NWT, live in the Yellowknife and Fort Smith Locations. We currently fund 7 post-secondary students that reside in Whitehorse. Of the 28 other students, 11 students live and attend studies in the Edmonton area. The remaining other students live in areas throughout Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and 1 student in Gander, Newfoundland.

Of the 105 students, 64 students are in certificate type programs, 21 students are enrolled in diploma programs, 18 students enrolled in degree programs, and 1 student each in a masters and PhD programs. A majority of students are enrolled in the business or office administration type programs followed by equal numbers of students enrolled in the health and education fields.



Gwich'in Services

Update

A total of 6 students are pursuing science degrees. A total of 15 students are enrolled in Arts and General studies programs. Students in the upgrading category are enrolled in Access, UCEP, and Access Pathways type programs. Lastly, the GTC have funded 11 students to become heavy equipment operators and class 1 driver training.

Of all 105 funded Gwich'in students, Edmonton, Inuvik and Whitehorse have greater than 20 students each. Fort Smith and Calgary have about 5 Gwich'in students each.

Resolution Health Support Program

The Resolution Health Support program continues to provide emotional support to Indian Residential School survivors and family members on a daily basis. Cultural support workers continue to work with other agencies to ensure their clientele has the support services that they require or referrals for counselors.

One of the main focus for 2017 is to work on securing funds for the Wellness Camp. Arctic Energy Alliance will assist us to obtain funding for renewable energy and other recommendations as suggested from their department.

Some activities which occurred from October to December 2016:

October 4-6/16: Attended a meeting with Canadian Partnership against Cancer. This meeting focused on cancer survivors and their stories, concerns relating to travel, escorts and how to better streamline support networks for cancer patients, family members and providing support for when the patient returns home.

October 18-19/16: H-pylori workshop hosted by CPAC and facilitated by Manpreet Khaper with the University of Toronto and Kathy Gilmour, Northern Health Research Consultant for Inuvik. This workshop focused on 2 goals.

1. To identify goals for an H-pylori infection for Inuvik region similar to Aklavik, NWT
2. Start designing a project to achieve the identified goals.

Participants from IRC, GTC, Public Health, Nihtat Gwich'in Council, Hospital and other community groups attended. We will be meeting at the end of January 2017 in Calgary to work on the goals and the project.

October 25-26/16: Health Canada site visit. Marrissa White and Maureen Niven from Yellowknife head office met with Robert, Tanya, Patricia and I to discuss concerns to funding, other program ideas, other funding sources and what next after fiscal year 2018. We visited another project in Ft. McPherson that HC funds which gave us an opportunity to visit with the CSW's.

November 10-12/16: Youth Forum held in Ft. McPherson. Program support worker Tanya attended. This forum focused on healthy choices and healthy lifestyle, communication, fun activities and support networks for youth between the ages of 7-12 yrs.

November 23-29/16: Tanya and Patricia attended Building our Spirits workshop. This workshop dealt with Loss & Grief, Communication and setting up support groups for all age groups.

Gwich'in Services

Gwich'in Services

Update

November 29-30/16: Anti-poverty meeting held in Inuvik.

Tanya and Patricia will continue with their community visits to the schools in the New Year and focus on setting up Support group meetings with youth. Patricia and Janelle Wilson oversee the Regional Youth Council and are busy organizing and setting up meetings. Keep up the great work Tanya and Patricia.

GTC Executive and departments held strategic planning during the week of January 16-20, 2017. Program goals for the Wellness Department during the term of the new Executive is to provide more Mental Health programs such as Suicide, Depression, Dementia, Old Age and other topics at community request. We will focus programming for OTL for all age groups such as Life Skills, Grief/Loss, Healthy choices, traditional components and advocacy.

Thanks to our Cultural Support workers that continue to provide emotional support to IRS students and family members on a daily basis. We continue to network work with the Dept. of Health & Social Services (4 Gwich'in communities); Community Wellness; Elders programs, Schools, Justice Committee's and DGO's.



Continuity of Care Workshop - Yellowknife

Gwich'in Services

GTC LEGAL

Each day continues to be a busy and exciting one on the legal side of things at the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC). Most of this work is constructive, geared toward upholding the rights and interests of all Gwich'in while strengthening the foundation for future prosperity and well-being. As an organization born out of a legal agreement – the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement – the GTC typically has a significant amount of legal work to do. In practice, this includes work in each sphere of GTC functions – from lands and resources, to intergovernmental affairs, to Gwich'in services, to finance, to human resources and everything in between.

On the lands side of things, files such as the Peel Watershed litigation, proposed Northern Cross oil and gas activities, and the proposed Dempster Fibre Optic project require vigilant attention and ongoing legal analysis. In the intergovernmental realm, files such as self-government, land claim implementation, and the current federal review of environmental and regulatory review processes have many important dimensions that tend to need legal input. Similarly, in the more operational aspects of GTC's business such as human resources and finance, legal review often helps ensure risks are mitigated and opportunities maximized. While it's impossible to address all challenges and priorities at once, I've noticed significant progress since arriving last summer.

In approaching this work as GTC's in-house legal counsel, I take an optimistic outlook that embraces the opportunity to methodically work through the many priorities and concerns that arise in the course of implementing the land claim and advancing the interests of all Gwich'in. The work is tremendously rewarding and I am continually grateful to be part of the incredible team at the GTC. Bobbie Jo and Jordan's leadership has been nothing short of inspiring – their hard work to move forward in a constructive and inclusive manner brings a sense of energy and optimism that benefits everyone at the GTC and beyond. The future is bright.

Haii!

David V. Wright
General Counsel



Cultural Heritage

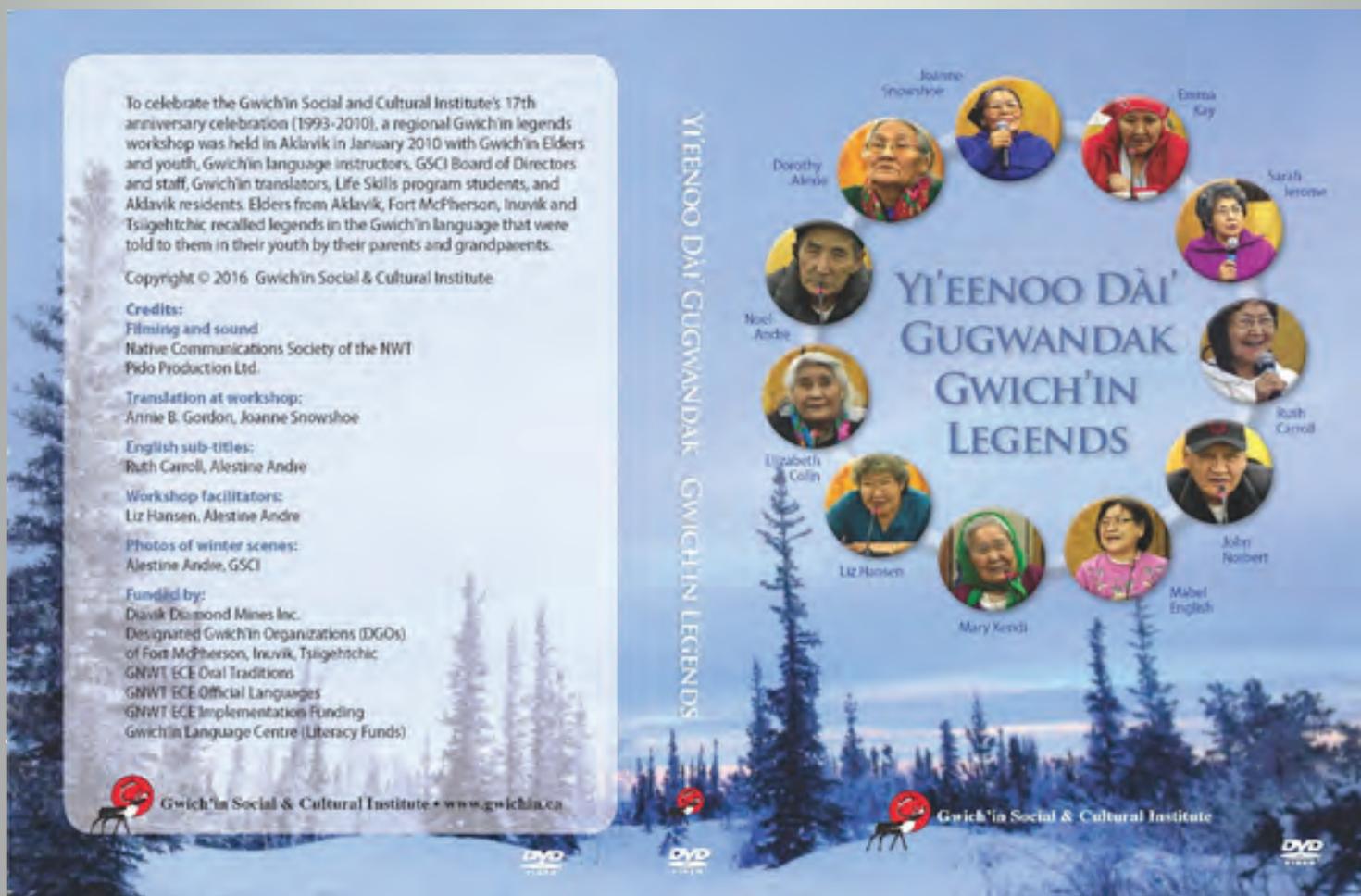
Gwich'in Legends – Official launch January 16, 2017

In 2010, a workshop with Gwich'in Elders telling old time legends was filmed in Aklavik to celebrate the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute's 17th anniversary (1993-2010). Elders from all four Gwich'in communities participated and fifteen legends as told by the following 11 Gwich'in Elders have been selected to showcase on YouTube and DVD – Mary Kendi, Dorothy Alexie, Noel Andre, Emma Kay, Elizabeth Colin, Joanne Snowshoe, Liz Hansen, Mabel English, John Norbert, Sarah Jerome and Ruth Carroll. The legends were officially launched by GTC during the week of January 16, 2017.

The following links take you to the videos on the GTC Department of Cultural Heritage YouTube channel:

1. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmDMFqlvzwEPI4alRJ_lvqHq86mLozbaK (with English subtitles)
2. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmDMFqlvzwENoLhBd3gDe2hAtNDz96N0Y> (without English subtitles).

Besides accessing the legends on YouTube, 1,000 DVD's will also be available and mailed out to ca. 500 Gwich'in elders, leadership, funders, communities, etc. Please contact us if you would like copies.



Cultural Heritage

Gwich'in legend Whisky Jack and Woodpecker by Ruth Carroll

One cold winter day, perhaps in January, Woodpecker was living way up on the mountain side. He was living up there, he was laying back and enjoying the good life.

Meanwhile, suddenly, he heard someone walking outside by the door. There was a knock. "Come in!" he said. Here was Whisky Jack, looking very pathetic, walking in. I suppose he told him, "Hello! What's new?" So he walked in and sat by the door, his head hanging. He did not look well so he asked him, "How are you?"

"Oh my uncle or my auntie? I don't know how he called him. I think he called him 'uncle', I live down by the edge of the river with my children. It is extremely cold and we have no food so I came to see you," he said.

That's when Woodpecker glared at him. He glared at him. "What were you doing around here during the warmer summer days, that you have no food? Why didn't you live up around here where it's warm with my nephews and nieces? Why are you living down there where it is cold? There is no wood. Why do you live there?"

At first he really scolded him.

After he did that to him, after that, he looked around his pillow. He found and pulled out a huge bag, out of which he gave him one cranberry, they said.

"Now go back down and feed your children," he told him.



Corporate Services

Update

CORPORATE SERVICES

Internship Project

Our second-intake interns are now four months into the program and have progressed nicely – working towards their work plans and gaining experience and mentoring. Patricia Louie (Wellness) and Janelle Wilson (Cultural Heritage) have taken on, in addition to their departmental duties, the coordination of the Gwich'in Regional Youth Council. A callout for applicants to the 2017 GRYC occurred in November and the new Council held its first meeting later that month in Inuvik. Along with standard programming, the Youth Council participated in workshops and attended the Past and Present Leaders Gathering at the Midnight Sun Complex.

Going forward, the Youth Council met in Tsiigehtchic in January where they took a workshop on Life Skills and Youth Empowerment, set snares as part of the cultural aspect, and analyzed a film on indigenous residential schools in Australia.

Website

IT Administrator Suraj Chhetri and Director Tony Devlin have been working on the new website with our design team out of Kellett Communications in Yellowknife. In addition to holding a face-to-face meeting, the team has been tele- and video-conferencing on a bi-weekly schedule to keep up-to-date on reaching milestones in the project.

The framework for the first phase has been built out, and final testing is occurring in January, with content creation and uploads. The second and third phases of the project will take us into the summer. These phases include a scrollable Gwich'in History timeline and the online store to support the GTC Craft Shop.

In analyzing the reach of the domain, it was suggested that we drop the three-level domain gwichin.nt.ca and replace it. After consideration, we will be migrating (slowly) to a new domain at www.gwichintribal.ca.

Enrolment and Contribution Agreements Database

Our new enrolment database is in the last phase of development leading towards the formal beta test mid-month. Cheryl Wright, our Enrolment Officer has been working with our IT Administrator and receiving training on the software. The new database includes employment and education information, will provide multiple options in regards to searching/sorting, and is built on a much more robust platform that is quite user-friendly.

Treaty 11/Self Government Videos

Based off of the success of the Powerpoints that the Executive, the Intergovernmental Affairs department, and INAC have delivered in the communities over the past few months, we are scripting graphical videos for inclusion on the new website and for distribution through social media that will help to explain the history, challenges, legalities and future while looking at the past, Treaty 11, the GCLCA and how it will all tie together with self government.

Policy Development

The Department recently wrote a new GTC Policy (included for your approval at this BOD meeting), on State of Emergency Funding. This was borne out of the Fort McMurray wildfires last summer, where 31 Gwich'in Participants were affected.

Corporate Services

Update

CORPORATE SERVICES

Equipment

The GTC recently upgraded its teleconferencing hardware in the main boardroom in Inuvik. The new technology should bring vocal clarity and microphone convenience to our meetings.

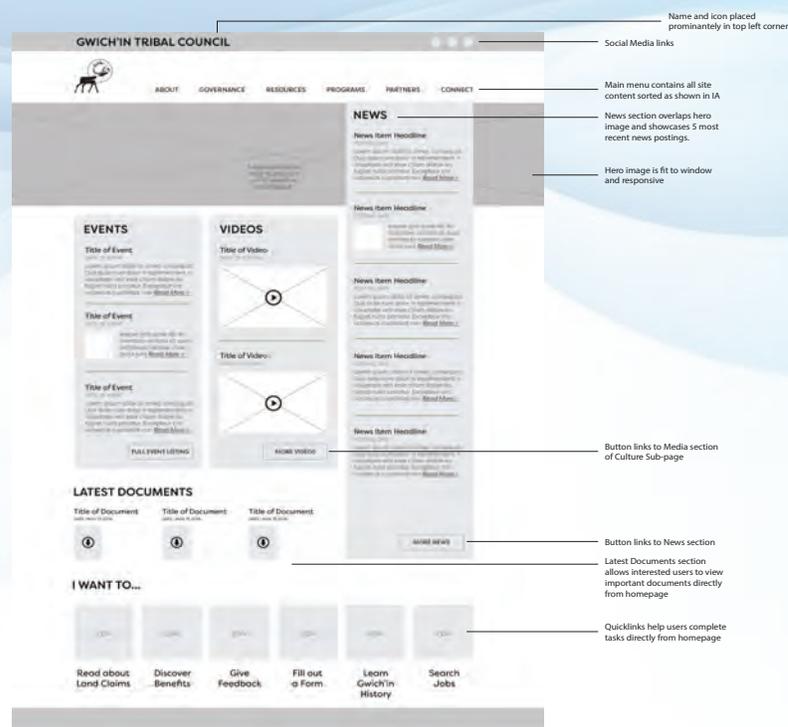
We have also purchased a new GTC-branded backdrop for formal press opportunities and some of the video work we will be doing. New video/photography lights were also purchased to facilitate the projects and reduce rental costs. Following direction from the Board, the Department also purchased a small PA system, microphones and a portable pop-up screen for meetings and workshops held in the communities, where often there is a need for the tech support, but a lack of it.

It's been a busy winter season so far, with great direction and strong ideas from the Executive. We are looking forward to the launch of many projects over the next few months. I would like to commend my staff for diligently working on behalf of our Board and Participants.

Mahsi,

Tony Devlin
Director of Corporate Services

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL WEBSITE HOMEPAGE WIREFRAMES



www.gwichintribal.ca

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Drin Gwiinzii,

Since the last newsletter the department of Intergovernmental Relations has been moving steadily forward on consultations with Participants for the Draft Agreement-in-Principle as directed by the Annual General Assembly. This has resulted in community meetings in Aklavik, Ft. McPherson, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic.

During the fall, staff from the department as well as the Executive, representatives from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) as well as staff from the GNWT toured the four Gwich'in communities hosting workshops in an effort to provide clarity on the relationship between the Gwich'in Tribal Council, INAC Bands, Treaty 11 and the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA). From all accounts, the workshops were well received.

As well, in December, the department organized and facilitated along with other Gwich'in Tribal Council staff the Gwich'in Past Leaders workshops. The idea for this workshop came from President Bobbie Jo and Vice-president Jordan, as a way to bring together past and present leaders in an effort to hear where the Gwich'in Tribal Council has come from since 1992 and where it needs to be heading in the future for the benefit of all Gwich'in Participants.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, the department continues with its mandate in implementing the GCLCA, meeting with both Federal and GNWT departments on a regular basis in support of both Implementation and Self-government negotiations.

Joining the department is Meeka Blake as an Administrative Assistant for Intergovernmental Relations, Lands and Resources and Legal. Meeka is a welcome addition to the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Last but not least, we will be mailing out copies of the draft Gwich'in Self-Government Agreement in Principle and other related documents within the next month. For a successful self-government that reflects the Gwich'in values and traditions, please ensure you provide feedback on the document if you feel changes or clarification is required.

Mahsi,

David Reid
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs

News and Updates

GTC granted intervenor status in Peel Watershed Litigation at Supreme Court of Canada

INUVIK (16 December, 2016) The Supreme Court of Canada has granted intervenor status to the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) in the Peel Watershed litigation. The hearing is set for March 22, 2017. As an intervenor, the GTC will make submissions that will assist the court in making its decision on the case. This is important because the traditional territory of the Gwich'in includes lands in the Peel River Watershed and Gwich'in continue to rely on and draw strength from the area as primary place for hunting, fishing, trapping and healing. The GTC was also an intervenor at the trial and appeal level courts in the Yukon.

"This very important area is deeply valued by our people", said GTC President and Grand Chief of the Gwich'in Nation, Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan. "The Peel Watershed and all its wildlife and resources have been the lifeblood of our people since time immemorial. We look forward to sharing our perspectives in this litigation so the court can make the best decision possible".

At issue is the land use plan for the Peel Watershed, which will determine the future for the area. An independent land use planning commission recommended a plan in 2011 that protected 80% of the watershed and allowed development on the remaining 20%. Late in the process in 2014, however, the former Yukon government re-wrote the plan, protecting only 29% and leaving up to 71% of the area open for resource development projects. The First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Yukon Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and the Yukon Conservation Society are the parties who started the litigation. They will continue to argue at the Supreme Court that the Yukon Government's imposition of the land use plan was not consistent with modern land claim agreements in the Yukon and that the independent commissions plan should be the final plan. Intervenor status has also been granted to the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Attorney General of Canada.

"Gwich'in lands in the Yukon are of such importance to our people", said Jordan Peterson, GTC Vice President. "The Peel Watershed is critical for the health, well-being and cultural survival of our communities; there is no question that we must do everything we can to protect that".

The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim was settled in 1992 for the Gwich'in Settlement Region. The Gwich'in Settlement Region is made up of the Gwich'in Settlement Area, the Primary Use Area and the Secondary Use Area. The Gwich'in Settlement Area is entirely in the Northwest Territories and is approximately 56,935 km². Both the Primary and Secondary Use Areas are in the Yukon Territory. The Primary Use Area (21,988 km²) encompasses much of the watershed of the Peel River. The Secondary Use Area (11,456 km²) is a traditional use area in the Richardson Mountains. The Supreme Court's decision in the Peel Watershed litigation may also affect future interpretation of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim.

News and Updates

GTC Releases 'Gwich'in Legends' DVD

FORT MCPHERSON (January 16, 2017) – The Department of Cultural Heritage at the Gwich'in Tribal Council recently produced a compilation DVD 'Yi'eenoo Dai' Gugwandak - Gwich'in Legends'. Drawn from a regional Gwich'in legends workshop held in Aklavik, Northwest Territories in January 2010, elders from the four Gwich'in communities (Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Aklavik and Inuvik) recalled legends in the Gwich'in language that were told to them by their parents and grandparents.

Produced by the Gwich'in Tribal Council in association with the Native Communications Society of the NWT (NCS), and Pido Productions, the DVD is offered as an original Gwich'in language production with English subtitles. Audience at the workshop included elders and youth, translators, GTC staff and Board, Life Skills program students and residents of Aklavik, and features stories by Joanne Snowshoe, Emma Kay, Sarah Jerome, Ruth Carroll, John Norbert, Mabel English, Mary Kendi, Liz Hansen, Elizabeth Colin, Noel Andre and Dorothy Alexie.

"Preservation of both our language and our stories is a vital part of our Gwich'in identity", says Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan, Grand Chief/President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. "As technology has progressed, it is important for us to recognize and preserve the legends that our elders pass down to us through oral history. I am proud that this project was spearheaded by our Cultural Heritage department and combined a practical workshop with language preservation. Some of the elders featured have passed on, but their valuable words and wisdom remain with us".

The Legends DVD was officially launched in mid-January, and will be distributed to all Gwich'in elders, funders of the program, schools in the Beaufort Delta and to other institutions in the NWT. The stories are also available on the GTC Cultural Heritage YouTube channel (GwichinNWT) – with, and without English subtitles.

Sharon Snowshoe, Director of Cultural Heritage at the GTC summed it up, "Our stories and legends are at the heart of our being Gwich'in".

Mentor Apprentice Workshop – February 6-10, 2017

Eleanor Firth and Liz Vittrekwa are planning a Mentor-Apprentice training workshop in Inuvik in February 2017. The workshop will be delivered by First Peoples' Cultural Council from Brentwood Bay, B.C. This will be a two-day intensive training workshop in the Mentor-Apprentice method of language learning.

The Gwich'in Language Centre will invite the DGO's Language Coordinators, fluent speakers interested in being Mentors and language learners interested in being Apprentices from each of the Gwich'in communities to participate in this workshop.

The intent is to implement a Mentor-Apprentice program with trained Mentors and Apprentices in each of the Gwich'in communities. This program has been very successful in revitalizing native languages in B.C. and will be a great asset to the Gwich'in Nation in language revitalization.



GDC Who We Are and Frequently Asked Questions

1. Our Mission

To generate wealth and create opportunities that enrich the lives of Gwich'in.

2. Our Values

Respect, Trust and Diligence

3. What Do We Do?

We seek out and manage partnerships.

4. How is GDC governed?

In 2013, GTC decided to appoint Directors who have significant business experience and no conflicts of interest in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Our current Directors include:

- Nicole Jauvin, a lawyer and a former Deputy Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor);
- Fred Hunt, an experienced northern businessman and former Chief Executive Officer of Nunasi Corporation;
- Wayne Huffman, a long-term resident of the Yukon and business owner with significant experience in heavy equipment and construction;
- Geordie Hungerford, a lawyer and an engineer with substantial experience in capital markets.
- Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan, as President of GTC, serves of Chair of GDC.

5. Accomplishments

The GDC Board of Directors has overseen the following accomplishments:

- Improved financial performance. In 2015, GDC reported its first profit of \$1.5 million;
- Enhanced organizational development. GDC has updated its strategic plan, developed policies to govern its activities and prepared a business plan;
- Reduced debt. GDC has paid \$1.3 million to the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation in the last year.
- GDC has contributed to the Gwich'in Cup and GTC Youth programs.

In 2016, GDC Civil Construction Ltd. worked on the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic line, earning \$8.9 million in revenue. Of that amount, over \$7 million was paid to Gwich'in contractors.

6. What Happens Next?

The GDC Board will continue to work together to build a healthy, profitable organization. When opportunities arise, GDC will seek the input and involvement of community leadership.



Have you heard of the Arctic Council? According to a public opinion survey done in 2015, chances are you might not have.

So, what is the Arctic Council and what role do Gwich'in have in it?

The Arctic Council is the primary place where the eight Arctic countries work together to overcome common challenges. It has a primary focus on environmental issues, but also has undertaken projects related to search and rescue, sustainable economic development, and issues of common concern to Arctic Indigenous Peoples, such as language revitalization. The Arctic Council does not address military issues.

When the Arctic Council was created, Indigenous leaders made it clear that the organization must provide for the active and robust involvement of the original Arctic peoples. The category of "Permanent Participants" was created that allows Indigenous organizations to have a seat at the table alongside state governments. While the Arctic Council takes its decisions by consensus of the eight governments, the viewpoints of the Indigenous organizations carry substantial weight. The Arctic Council is the only international body to give Indigenous peoples such a status.

There are six Indigenous organizations that have "Permanent Participant" status, of which Gwich'in Council International (GCI) is one. GCI gives Gwich'in a voice in discussions taking place internationally about our home and our role means that we can speak directly to the national governments of Arctic countries, including Canada, the United States, and Russia. In particular, GCI has been a vocal advocate at the Arctic Council for its projects to incorporate traditional knowledge to develop a deeper understanding of the changes occurring to our lands and waters; changes that often originate far outside our region.

The Arctic Council also facilitates collaboration amongst different Arctic Indigenous peoples. Through Arctic Council projects, we share our best practices and learn from what Aleuts, Inuit, Sami, and Russian Indigenous peoples are doing to address similar challenges.

GCI's membership is made up of Gwich'in communities from the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Alaska. In this way, GCI facilitates collaboration amongst Gwich'in across political boundaries.

There is one full-time staff member based in Whitehorse. The Board is comprised of representatives from Gwich'in Tribal Council, Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation, and the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments in Alaska.

The Arctic Council celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2016. The Council, as well as the Arctic, are remarkably different than twenty years ago and the work being carried out in this forum has never been more relevant for our communities. To this end, GCI is working on new platforms to keep you informed about what is going on at the Arctic Council and how GCI is engaging in the work of the Council. We'll be launching a new website shortly, have started a Facebook page, and are excited by the opportunity to provide regular updates to you through this newsletter.



Christmas Fun at the GTC Open House





THE GWICH'IN CRAFT SHOP IS OPEN!
VISIT US AT THE CHIEF JIM KOE BUILDING IN INUVIK

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

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