

2019

holiday issue



GTC HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

*The official newsletter of the
Gwich'in Tribal Council*

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Grand Chief Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan

Drin Gwiinzii Shilakut,

It has been awhile since Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) has provided a newsletter to the people. I hope that you can take the time to review the updates and information throughout this edition. Also, please remember that you can call, visit, or email us at anytime with your questions, concerns and ideas. I always encourage people to ask questions and get the correct information for any matter.

Since our last update, the GTC team has continued to increase the amount of external funding brought into the organization and decrease our internal expenses and costs to operate on a yearly basis. I am pleased that our progress in reducing expenses also reduces the dependency on our own source revenue. The increase in external funding is the result of our ongoing work with the Government of Canada to increase implementation funding overall which has been inadequate for many years. We will work together to see that this progress continues.

The GTC team will continue to implement the decisions and direction coming from the GTC board of directors at their quarterly board meetings. We will continue to work on securing more funding to deliver more programs and services that are greatly needed and appreciated in the communities. Land Claim implementation, health and wellness, education and training, language revitalization, economic and business development, and culture and heritage are just some of the most important areas that we are working on. We continue to build our working relationships with both the Territorial and Federal Governments. And most importantly, we work to see that our rights and interests as Gwich'in are being respected and upheld.

"... we work to see that our rights and interests as Gwich'in are being respected and upheld.."



The ongoing work by the GTC team can only take us so far; in order to make further progress we need to have some real action among all leaders to work together and support one another.

My observation to date in my tenure is that there is a great deal of room for improvement in this regard. Governance training as well as conflict resolution and lateral violence training is something I think everyone could benefit from. If your community has not delivered this to your organization and leadership, please do so. These are some of the changes that are required for us to make progress as a Nation.



I really want to see all of our communities healthier and happier. I believe Gwich'in leadership at all levels must focus and work on reconciliation among ourselves. Everyone talks about "working together", but what our people need and want is to see those words in real action. As leaders, our focus and actions should always be on helping the people we serve rather than on personal agendas. Those we serve, also need to show respect and positive support. We need to be building each other up and helping each other along rather than fueling animosities that may exist. Far too often we get caught up in non-supportive and adversarial actions among our leaders and while it may be brushed off as, "It's just politics"– I think it is a colonial approach and it needs to change, it does nothing good for our people. I call on all leadership to draw on Gwich'in values of respect, honour, honesty & fairness and to exemplify these values in their leadership roles. I would like for all of us to work together in good faith for the best interest of all Gwich'in.

Our leadership and management team must be mature and professional and willing to work as a positive contributor to the team. If we are not able to make a positive contribution, then we need to question our ability to carry out our roles; honesty is the best policy. We always talk about the future generations and we need to focus on what is best for them too. We need to be sharing the vision of a bright and healthy people and working together to make change and progress. Sometimes change and progress is difficult to accept, but everyone has a responsibility here and I encourage everyone to take it seriously and let us all do our part to make positive change within our own communities and organizations.

Ever since I was a child, I've noticed how people in general seem more giving and kind to each other during the Christmas season. I also think of the stories from our grandparents, of their childhoods and how our people were kind and giving to each other all the time, as they naturally helped each other out.

My 2019 Christmas wish, is that everyone will be filled with the spirit of peace and love and that everyone will continue each day forward, all year long with faith and hope. On behalf of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, I wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Season's Greetings to one and all.

Adik'anootih (take care of yourselves).
K'egwaadhatnakhwah vili' (God bless you all).

Sincerely,
Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan
Grand Chief and President GTC/GDC



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

by Deputy Grand Chief Jordan Peterson

Drin Gwiinzii,

As we enter into the Christmas season, I'd like to wish each and everyone of you an enjoyable holiday season from me and my Family.

These last few months have been a hectic one with the Territorial and Federal elections and new relationships to build. We saw a historic moment in the NWT with the election of 9 woman into the legislative assembly, going from the lowest in the country to the highest. With our Grand Chief being the first elected female and with the history made in our territory we are at a transitional time with much to be achieved.

I am looking forward to working with our team and communities to help progress some of the legislative objectives of the 19th legislative assembly of the Northwest Territories and to improve the lives of our people in and outside of the Gwich'in Settlement Area. With the commitment to work closely with Indigenous groups by Premier Caroline Cochrane we will move ourselves forward by collaborating on negotiating, communicating and finalizing a self-government agreement and increased support for Implementation of our land claim.

Climate Change has been the number one issue across this country with increased awareness from Canadians coast to coast to coast and we are at a time where we must take the necessary steps and create the right partnerships for our people and communities. We must work on creating comprehensive community and energy plans that can be implemented by our people and supported by Government. We will do this by working with each of the Designated Gwich'in Organizations, Gwich'in business' and partners such as the University of Saskatchewan once we begin 2020.



As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines adaptation as: "the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects and as one of the smallest emitters of greenhouse gases." Gwich'in are one of the biggest voices and will continue to be so as we find ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change through these proactive partnerships.

"...we are at a time where we must take the necessary steps and create the right partnerships for our people and communities."



Over the last few months GTC has partnered with the Youth Climate Lab and Vuntut Gwitchin to provide a learning experience for 8 Gwich'in youth and 8 southern youth to learn about Climate Change, Adaptation and Indigenous Knowledge and how they relate to policy. Within the experience each of the participants are required to develop a community engagement project which can look like direct community engagement with their physical community or something like a university. We will look forward to the report and how it has helped our youth develop analytical, research and policy development skills and the exposure it provided to new ways of learning. We should all be very proud of our Gwich'in youth and how they are leading the way.

At the 2019 GTC Annual General Assembly (AGA) we passed a resolution that will create a full-time position for the president of the youth council that will work directly with the President and Vice President which will be co-developed with the regional youth council. The AGA also passed a resolution to create an elder's advisory council which I hope that we can begin early in the new year. These types of programs and projects help bring our communities together by supporting our youth and elders and providing a space that is supported and can provide advice directly to the executive of the GTC.

Although it's been a hectic few months, we still have a lot to do to communicate more effectively and to develop more tools to govern effectively. These discussions and direction from the 2019 AGA will be a primary focus of all within the GTC in the new year to continue playing a supportive role to the DGOs and to ensure that all institutions of the GTC have clarity for those that manage the respective affiliates. We continue to seek increased implementation funding through development of a new funding policy for land claim agreement holders and to look for new funding and development opportunities to increase the capacity of the GTC and communities.

In all things, we must work together, stand united and supportive to break the status quo and improve all aspects of the Gwich'in Nation.

Jordan Peterson
Deputy Grand Chief
Gwich'in Tribal Council



DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

by Stephen Charlie, Director of Lands and Resources

The Gwich'in Lands and Resources (GLR) Department is responsible for various activities and programs related to lands administration and resources management of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) including but not limited to:

- the management and administration of Gwich'in-owned lands within the NWT and Yukon;
- policies, regulations and guidelines relating to the management and planning of land use, wildlife and wildlife harvesting, water resources management, environment and forest management.

The implementation of the GCLCA is done with a collective approach among the four Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) communities. The GLR has been busy this year with many projects including Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan, Porcupine Caribou Native User Agreement, Yukon Land Concerns, and Caribou conservation.

Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan

The disputes regarding the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan has been ongoing for many years now. Finally, the Gwich'in Tribal Council is able to move forward with the Yukon Government, and other affected parties, on this important initiative.

The parties to the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan are the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun; the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in; the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Government of Yukon. The parties have agreed to work collaboratively to complete and approve and implement a Regional Land Use Plan for the Peel Watershed, pursuant to Chapter 11 of Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and in accordance with 7.1.1 of the Yukon Transboundary Agreement (YTA) in the GCLCA.

The Parties have agreed to move forward collaboratively to develop the Implementation Plan for the Regional Land Use Plan for the Peel Watershed, pursuant to the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and YTA in the GCLCA. This means that the Gwich'in Nation will be an active participant in the development of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan – excellent news for all of our participants!

Transboundary Negotiations - First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun

GLR has been assisting in the transboundary negotiations and overlap agreement for the First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun (NND). NND is currently negotiating a transboundary and overlap agreement with the Federal and the Northwest Territorial Government for traditional use rights for land within the GSA and Kasho Got'ine area of the Sahtu. The draft agreement is currently being reviewed by the Federal Government. GTC has had initial discussions with NND and Government and is reviewing ways to be better engaged and consulted as the negotiations move forward.

Native Users Agreement – Porcupine Caribou Herd

The Porcupine Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plan is part of the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy. The following stem from the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement and Strategy:

1. The Harvest Management Protocol Agreement;
2. The Harvest Management Plan; and
3. The Native User Agreement.

The Protocol, signed by all the parties, set out how the Plan was to be developed. This included a Harvest Management Plan Working Group to draft the Plan. The Working Group was made up of a representative from each of the eight Parties. The Protocol also includes a separate Native User Agreement (NUA). This agreement will deal with allocation issues and harvest commitments for First Nations and Inuvialuit.

NUA is between the Native user communities, and signed by the respective Aboriginal Government. The Porcupine Caribou NUA was formally signed off by the NUA Parties in Inuvik on August 27, 2019, a feast and dance followed celebrating the momentous occasion.

Land Management Database System

GLR is bringing on a new digital land management database system in collaboration with 3 Pikas, a Whitehorse based company. 3 Pikas offers customizable products to build a Lands Information System in order to maximize our capacity and productivity.

This software will better help us meet our commitments and obligations under the GCLCA. We work with many other stakeholders in land administration that require constant communication and information exchange in terms of agreements, project proposals, consultation, fee payments, permitting and deadlines, while also monitoring long term leases and activities on Gwich'in lands. By centralizing all this into one land management system, we will have multiple users, such as the DGO's, connect into the same system to view the information necessary for informed decision making and consultation. This would also save time for the community DGO's as they will no longer have to rely solely on GTC to distribute content.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of these projects and/or other work that the GTC Lands and Resources Department takes part in, please contact our office. Happy Holidays!



DEPARTMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

by David MacMartin, Director of Intergovernmental Relations

The Department of Intergovernmental Relations has had a busy year! The following report contains an update on some of the departmental projects of interest, including: Youth Programs, Self-Government, and Nation-Building projects. For more information on these or on any other Intergovernmental Relations projects, please contact us!

Self-Government

As per the decision reached in the 2018 Special Assembly, the authority to determine the best path forward in Gwich'in Self-Government remains with the Designated Gwich'in Organizations (DGOs). The GTC Regional Self-Government Advisor has been working tirelessly with this Self-Government team to revise the Gwich'in Agreement in Principle (AIP) that had been developed in April of 2016. A decision was made by the team to restructure the AIP in order to improve accessibility and clarity. While negotiations are ongoing, there will be community meetings before Christmas and in the New Year to keep participants updated on progress to date, as well as engage in further consultation and discussion.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

The newly elected Northwest Territories (NWT) 19th Legislative Assembly (LA) has identified implementing UNDRIP as one of its priorities for the coming term. Under the consensus-based system of government that exists in the Northwest Territories, in which there are no political parties, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and members of the NWT Executive Council (the Cabinet) collaboratively develop a Mandate for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) for the life of each LA. In this case for the present 19th NWT LA, the NWT Premier and Executive Council are presently finalizing the content of the new Mandate. The GTC Grand Chief and Director of Intergovernmental Relations met with the new NWT Premier and Executive Council in Yellowknife on November 28, 2019, together with leaders and senior officials from other NWT Indigenous Governments. Agreement was reached that legislation and action planning to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is a shared priority for the GNWT and for NWT Indigenous Governments to co-develop and collaborate on at all stages of implementation during the life of the 19th NWT LA.

Furthermore, the new minority Liberal Government in Ottawa aims to support the intent of UNDRIP with the Green and NDP parties supporting its full implementation. GTC President/Grand Chief Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan sees UNDRIP implementation as an opportunity to strengthen Gwich'in treaty rights and she indicated so in an interview with CBC News recently! We look forward to working with the GNWT and with other NWT Indigenous Governments in the New Year, in co-developing related legislation and action plans for the implementation of UNDRIP. We also encourage Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) participants to learn more about UNDRIP and to talk to each other and with their community Designated Gwich'in Organization (DGO) leaders and Council members about how implementing UNDRIP will be important for the Gwich'in Nation and for their communities.



Youth Programs

At the end of September, there was an on the land program teaching traditional moose hide tanning to local youth organized by the GTC Manager of Regional Capacity and Coordination, Eleanor Jerome. There were approximately twenty-five youth in attendance working with six hides.

The GTC Senior Implementation Advisor, Diane Baxter, has been quite busy working to ensure Gwich'in Modern Treaty rights are upheld. But she made time to accompany ten youth to the University of Saskatchewan in May of 2019 for the fifth yearly academic conference! This year's conference included life skills workshops, public policy and energy sovereignty presentations, and keynote speakers. A particular emphasis was placed upon climate change and renewable energy sources in Arctic communities. This program has contributed to Gwich'in youth deciding to pursue higher education, which is a critically important aspect of Gwich'in Nation Building.

Nation-Building

There has been a positive approach developed to continue Nation Building efforts, including building positive relationships with all levels of Government and other Indigenous groups. Moreover, there has been an ongoing development of various partnerships and collaborations for business opportunities and projects. This includes the Chance Oil and Gas project in the Yukon and the Dempster Fibre Project, both of which are expected to bring economic opportunities for Gwich'in. Furthermore, an arrangement has been made with *Daitch and Associates* to prepare a Gwich'in Community Infrastructure Strategy. This will help determine the way forward to improve infrastructure in Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic.

We are looking forward to another productive year serving the Gwich'in.
Happy holidays from the GTC Intergovernmental Relations Department!



GWICH'IN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

by James Thorbourne, CEO of GDC

The Gwich'in Development Corporation's (GDC's) mission is to create wealth by generating business through acquisitions, investments and partnerships. GDC is currently invested in the following businesses:

1. **Zheh Gwizuh' Limited Partnership** represents the Gwich'in interests in a partnership with Northview Properties. Its real estate portfolio includes various commercial properties in Inuvik and the Inuvik Capital Suites.
2. **Larga Ltd.** is the medical accommodations investment in Edmonton. Other partners in this investment include Nunasi Corporation and Kitikmeot Corporation.
3. **Aadrii** is a Joint Venture with Northwest Territories Power Corporation and it operates a Waste Heat Resource Recovery system in Fort McPherson.
4. **Gwich'in Helicopters** is a Joint Venture with Great Slave Helicopters 2018 – it owns one helicopter and a hangar in Inuvik and leases both to Great Slave Helicopters for operations mostly in the Region.
5. **GDC Civil Construction** is wholly owned by GDC and is working on remediation of hydrocarbon impacted soils contained in two land treatment units at the James Creek Highway maintenance camp.
6. **GDC Properties** is wholly owned by GDC; it owned the warehouse at 170 Airport Road that burned in January 2018.
7. **Delta North Alliance** is a 50/50 Partnership with the Inuvialuit Development Corporation and is pursuing the contract to build the proposed new Inuvik Airport Terminal Building.

All of these operating entities were profitable in 2019 and are projected to continue profitability in 2020.

The GDC Board along with its CEO are working to improve the financial performance of the existing operating entities and to invest its available cash in other opportunities to ensure that GDC remains sustainable in the long term. GDC Civil, Inuvik Capital Suites and Larga Limited currently employ Gwich'in Participants – GDC wants to see these numbers grow.

GDC is pursuing planned infrastructure projects in the Region including the High Point Wind Turbine, Inuvik 48 Bed Long Term Care Facility, Inuvik Airport Terminal Building, Dempster Fibre Op project, and support infrastructure for the Inuvik Satellite Station Facility. In addition, GDC is looking at additional investment in the Larga in Edmonton to accommodate the marked growth in the number of people referred to the facility. All of these projects have the potential to fit with GDC's investment goals of a minimum 10 percent Return on Investment, creating employment opportunities for Participants and subcontracting opportunities for Gwich'in businesses.

The current GDC Board members are Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan (GTC Grand Chief and Chair), Geordie Hungerford (Gwich'in Participant), Lenora McLeod (Gwich'in Participant), Fred Hunt, and Wayne Huffman. Kristine MacLeod (Gwich'in Participant) is a non-voting Board member appointed by the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation. The GDC CEO is James Thorbourne.

On the Road to a Healthy Workplace

by Olivia Mensah, Director of Human Resources

The Gwich'in Tribal Council's Board of Directors recognized the need for all employees and executive to take lateral violence training. In November, Human Resources contracted Linda Crockett, founder of Alberta Bullying Research Resources and Recovery Centre, to facilitate lateral violence and workplace bullying workshops at GTC. The purpose of the training was to bring awareness to this form of abuse; to help us understand what lateral violence and workplace bullying is, to recognize that it exists at GTC but also that we have the tools to take action to prevent and address harassment and bullying in our workplace.

Lateral Violence

When people who are both victims of a situation of dominance, in fact turn on each other rather than confront the system that oppresses them both. Lateral violence occurs when an oppressed groups or individuals internalize feelings such as anger and rage, and manifest their feelings through behaviours such as gossip, jealousy, put downs and blaming.

Workplace Bullying

When a variety of negative tactics (for example: gossip, rumours, undermining, sabotage), are being used over a period of time (3 months or more), with intent to harm (embarrass, humiliate, insult, degrade) a person or group of people, in some way. Bullying is the abuse of power and power comes in many forms.

Almost all of our employees were able to attend the workshop and provided positive feedback about their experience. Below is a group photo taken on November 15, 2019 of employees displaying their certificates for completing the workshop. We would like to send a special thank you to Ruby Edwards who provided the catering for the workshops. Mahsi Cho!

Through the workshop we also identified gaps in our system that will be addressed in the coming months. We want to keep the momentum going. Our aim is to continuously improve, increase transparency and provide a healthy workplace where employees can work together more harmoniously in the best interest of the Gwich'in Nation. The key takeaway for employees and for anyone suffering from workplace bullying is that you do not have to suffer in silence. There are many resources, professionals and agencies available to help guide you through to recovery whether you are a perpetrator or victim. For more information on lateral violence and workplace bullying, please contact the Human Resources department at the Gwich'in Tribal Council (867-777-7900) or visit the Alberta Bullying Research Resources and Recovery Centre site (www.abrc.ca).



Language

by Andrew Cienski, *Language Revitalization Specialist*

We've been having a very good year this year, with some real growth in the number of people learning the language. Elders, learners of all ages, translators, teachers and administrators in Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, McPherson and Inuvik have been working together to create some very exciting programs and keep Gwich'in ginjik in people's minds and ears. There are many faces to language revitalization. There is recording and documenting words and stories; creating resources like dictionaries and teaching text books; and then there is having people actually learning and using the language. The main focus this year has been to have people learning and using the language, though we also have some new storybooks coming soon. In addition, some teaching materials that the Gwich'in Language Centre created in the 1990's are being updated to be used in our learning programs; some have been uploaded to our website Gwichinlanguage.ca.

For the last two years, we have supported about two Mentor Apprentice teams. Mentor Apprentice is a one on one learning with an adult learning from a fluent speaker, usually an Elder. There is no classroom. The learner and the speaker simply spend time together, maybe doing laundry, fishing, or just having tea, trying to speak to each other only in the language. This is very difficult in the beginning but over time, as the learner gets better in the language, and as the speaker gets better at speaking to someone who's only starting to learn, the time spent together gets easier. One team has been going the entire three years so far, Grace Martin learning from Mary Effie Snowshoe. I would like to congratulate them on working so hard for so long, and never missing a week when they spend time in the language. This year, we have partnered with the GNWT to really increase our numbers. The result is we have 18 participants now, coming from all the communities. We had a three day training workshop in Inuvik this summer, and a two day workshop in Yellowknife, all focused on how to work together in the language.



"There is no classroom. The learner and the speaker simply spend time together, maybe doing laundry, fishing, or just having tea, trying to speak to each other only in the language."

All the learners in this program spoke or understood the language as children, and still do now to some degree. Because they already have some knowledge of the language, we're hoping they learn very quickly. The goal is for everyone to reach 300 hours of working together before April.

Another amazing program we have up and running is a Gwich'in daycare in Inuvik. The daycare is called Tr'iinin tsal ginjik gè'tr'oonahatun (Teaching the language to the children). A daycare in the language is called a language nest. The Maori were the first to start language nests, followed by the Hawaiians.

Over the decades, language nests helped spark all the community effort it takes to create a whole new generations of speakers. Their languages were not saved by their governments or by their schools. Their languages are strong today because individuals, families, and Elders came together and spoke to each other. When they began, they faced all the same problems that we do: not many speakers, scarce funding and resources, difficulty in knowing how to teach and learn, etc. So a group Elders simply started speaking only their language to their grandchildren and great grand children in daycare programs they ran out of their own homes. These were the first language nests. Over time, family members started really trying to learn. Then they got language into the schools. And now, thirty years later, those babies have grown up in the language. Many are young parents and since they're fluent they're raising their own children to speak their language before any other. Kathryn Michel, who spoke at our Gwich'in Gathering last October, told us about her nest program in BC that has grown, and now it goes up to grade four, children immersed in their own Secwepemc language.

Our nest has five children between two and four years old. They spend the full day with Gwich'in being spoken to them. The program is run by Mabel English with the help of Margaret Thompson and Melissa Bonnetplume. Melissa isn't a speaker, but as she spends the day supporting the speakers, she is also learning the language. So we have about six people learning language from 9 to 5 every day.



"Over the decades, language nests helped spark all the community effort it takes to create a whole new generations of speakers."



The Gwich'in language nest is a pilot program that the GTC secured funding through ESDC (Employment and Social Development Canada). The program is a collaboration between the GTC and Children First Society in Inuvik. The society has provided a fantastic room full of toys, and even a jungle gym. The society also helped with recruiting, training, and overseeing the program. Thank you to Patricia Davison for dedicating so much time to help get us going.

In late August, we partnered with University of Victoria to put on a six day training workshop in Inuvik. The program was open to speakers and daycare staff. Our Inuvik team were there, along with John Norbert and Eileen Cardinal who came to prepare for working in the Gwichya nest we are planning in Tsiigehtchic with the Charter.

It has been a real honour to be able to spend my days working with the Elders, staff and learners over the past year and a half. Many Elders and keepers of Gwich'in have been working for so long to keep language in the schools, homes, meetings and airwaves. With their dedication, energy and patience, so much has been accomplished over the last 30 years, and there is much more to do. If anyone would like to help with translating documents or stories, or help to teach, please contact the GTC. Even if you aren't perfectly fluent, we need everyone to pitch in what they can to lift the Gwich'in ginjik for the next generation.

Hajj choo,
Andrew



Economic Development

by Joy O'Neill, Economic Development Officer

Helping Gwich'in-owned Businesses to Succeed

Congratulations go out to Gwich'in Participant, Bobby Ross, on the launch of his new windshield repair business. Repairing windshields saves time, money and is easier on the environment when compared to the alternative – heading to Whitehorse or Alberta to get the job done. Although he's based in Inuvik, Ross' business is mobile, so he can also head to other communities to provide these services. He can be reached at (867) 888-2552.

GTC has had the privilege of working with Bobby over the past year as he has enlarged his vision and moved into a new business sector, attended workshops, and enhanced his skills set. Bobby is a genuine entrepreneur at heart. His willingness to learn, his stamina, and never-give-up attitude have helped him move upward along his pathway. We wish you all the best, Bobby!

At GTC we recognize that established entrepreneurs, as well as budding entrepreneurs, can sometimes benefit from general business counselling. We also may be able to assist with specific needs, such as developing a business plan, or learning how to do business with different levels of government. For many Gwich'in business people, it may be helpful to register with GTC as a Gwich'in business, to provide greater visibility to government or others seeking to work with Gwich'in. Whatever your business needs, we'd be pleased to meet with you. Economic Development Officer Joy O'Neill can be reached at joy.oneill@gwichin.nt.ca, or via telephone at 1 (867) 777-7932.

Prospective Gwich'in Prospectors Needed!

The Introduction to Prospecting course finally made its way to Inuvik! Over two days in August, staff from the Mining Recorder's Office, Northwest Territories Geological Survey (NTGS), and a professional prospector/trainer, instructed 14 attendees from across the Beaufort Delta (including several Gwich'in Participants) on the basics of prospecting.



"At Gwich'in Tribal Council we recognize that established entrepreneurs, as well as budding entrepreneurs, can sometimes benefit from general business counselling."



"One of the Strategy's recommendations is increased prospecting training for Gwich'in Participants, so Gwich'in can directly benefit from any mineral development..."

The \$50 course fee included not only the 2-day instruction, but a prospector's license, a set of tags for staking a claim, and basic beginners' prospecting gear including a backpack, mallet, compass, protective goggles, safety vest and more.

This training takes place every year in Yellowknife, but the geology in the GSA is totally different, and warrants a different approach. GTC had been working to get this training on site in our region for quite a while. It all came together at a good time, with the development of the Minerals and Mining Strategy for the GSA being completed earlier in the year. One of the Strategy's recommendations is increased prospecting training for Gwich'in Participants, so Gwich'in can directly benefit from any mineral development that may eventually be undertaken.

The Prospector Mining Incentive Program offered by GNWT can provide up to \$25,000 to help get eligible, budding prospectors properly equipped and out in the field.

GTC is working to bring the Introduction to Prospecting course to Aklavik in 2020. GTC will also be holding meetings in all the communities in early 2020 to outline details and recommendations contained in the Mining and Minerals Strategy.



Nan Gwichidhàa'eh: We Value the Land

Video Project 2018-2019

by Sharon Snowshoe
Director of Culture & Heritage

Videos are a wonderful way to tell stories! Combining the words of elders, other knowledgeable experts, and beautiful vistas from the Gwich'in landscape, the videos provide an opportunity to share knowledge with our communities and with our relatives and friends across Canada and beyond. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) and the Department of Culture & Heritage (DCH) recently partnered on a video project, which was very successful. Originally, the GRRB approached the DCH during their Research and Management Needs Workshop in September of 2017; the GRRB board and staff heard from the communities and RRC members that there was a strong interest in documenting traditional management practices. After hearing this, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board was interested in learning more and spreading the news about how the Gwich'in have always taken care of the land and the animals. With this in mind, they partnered with the DCH on a project to have Arlyn Charlie record three elders using a video camera, as they were speaking about how their own parents and grandparents took care of the land.

Arlyn went to the elders' homes and their camps on the land and recorded stories and lessons on a camera and microphone. The three elders were Joanne Snowshoe, Mary Snowshoe, and Mary Teya. The DCH and the GRRB are very thankful for these elders' knowledge and agreement to participate.



Pictured: Joanne Snowshoe, still from the video taken at her home.

After Arlyn had made the video-recordings, he went back to work on a computer to turn the raw footage into the finished product he envisioned. First, he took the “opener”, which is a short section of video that the Gwich’in graphic artist Cynthia Walker had created. Cynthia owns the design firm Rebel Soul Creative in Edmonton. The opener is the same on all three videos and ties them together with a title.

After the opener, Arlyn added the video of the elders speaking about traditional management of the land. He added in a beautiful sound track to each video as well. In addition to the video footage of the elders speaking, he added in many beautiful photographs.

In addition to recording the elders as they spoke, Arlyn also took more video footage, called “B Roll.” This footage adds to the overall story by showcasing more activities and scenes. Arlyn cut in many B-Roll shots, for example, one shot shows him fishing in a scow, while another shows water running in a small drainage, and various other shots.

Finally, when the whole story was put together, with the opener, music, and the footage and images, Arlyn was finished. He saved three new short films and sent them to the GRRB. Soon, the GRRB will have a viewing event in each community and the public will be welcome to come and see the videos and listen to the wise words of our Elders. Once the video have been shown to the communities, they will be available on the DCH’s Facebook page for the whole world to see. The project has shown how well the Gwich’in tradition of story-telling works in a modern, digital context.



Pictured: Still from B-Roll footage of Mary Snowshoe working with fish.

GALLERY

A Collection of Photographs from 2019

JUNE 21
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY







SEPTEMBER 08
YELLOWKNIFE IZHII K'AIK'IT TAT GWICH'IN
SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS



NOVEMBER 22
EAST THREE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM



Christmas A Long Time Ago

by Neil McDonald



"I will tell you a story about a long time ago at Christmas. In the year 1896 in Fort McPherson, I remember my first Christmas. At that time I was seven years old. I was very young and I don't remember what went on.

Later in the year 1905, when we were living in Winnipeg, that's when I saw my first Christmas tree. I remember there were presents tied on to the tree, and presents around under the tree. To me, it was the most beautiful sight I ever saw.

The years went by. In the year 1913, when I was at New Rampart House, Yukon Territory, I saw people celebrate Christmas. Christmas was near and people with families were coming into the village from their winter camps and trap lines with dog teams. In those days, there used to be lots of people.

I remember on Christmas morning, everyone, old and young, went to church. Reverend Amos Njootli made the service. At that time, people knew nothing about "Christmas Tree", but the people gave gifts to each other. Peter Moses made a feast for the people. Everyone enjoyed it, and there were dog races that day, too.

Later in the evening the dance started which lasted till late the next morning. In those days, people made a big time - dancing to violin music of old time dances such as jigging, brandy dance, eight-couple dance, and others.

Everyone had fun and was happy. At that time, people knew nothing about liquor.

At New Years, a white trader named Dan Cadzow made a New Year's feast for the people. There was a dog race, too, and a big dance all night.

Everyone had a good time, everyone was happy.

1914 was the first Christmas in Old Crow for me. At that time, I was trading for Dan Cadzow in Old Crow.

He told me to make a feast on Christmas Day and New Years for the people. I did that. On Christmas morning the Catechist, John Tizya, made a service for the people.

Everyone went to church. There was a dog team race that day. I put up the prizes for first, second, and third.

Then everyone came to the feast.

That evening at the dance, Elias Kwatlattyi played violin for the dance and the dance was in his cabin.

On New Year's Day, I made a feast again for the people. There was a dog race and I again put up the prizes for the winners. After the dog race, everyone came to the feast and the dance followed. In those days, everyone had fun. Everyone was happy with one another.

1914 was the first year the police came, stationed in New Rampart House, Yukon. The first policeman was Sergeant Dempster. A few years later the police moved to Old Crow where the barracks were built. In those days, the police never did anything for the people during the holidays.

Our first minister in Old Crow was Reverend Moody. Then after him was Reverend McCullum. These ministers never showed the people what was done on Christmas Eve - they never showed them what a Christmas Tree stood for or Santa Claus.

In the year 1929, Reverend Julius Kendi and his wife came to Old Crow to work there. That Christmas they put up a Christmas tree and decorated the church. This is the first Christmas tree the Old Crow people saw. At the same time, Mrs. Kendi started the Women's Auxiliary for the women of Old Crow and from then on right up to today, the Old Crow Women's Auxiliary still carried on its good works.

Later on, a policeman named Corporal Kirk and his wife came to Old Crow. This couple did lots for the people. They were with the people in everything, good times and fun. At Christmas time, they would give groceries to the old people, candies and small toys for the children. They would go to the feast and dances.

In those days, on Christmas morning, everyone went to church. After the service, people would go from house to house shaking hands with one another. The Women's Auxiliary would make a feast on Christmas Day.

Two days before New Year's Day, men would go house to house carrying a large toboggan wrapper and had two or three toboggans pulled behind them. As they went to a door, they would sing some Indian song. The owner of the house would give whatever he or she could give. It could be half a caribou or more. It could be a pound of butter or lard - anything they could give for the feast. What was collected the teenage boys and girls or older ones would cook up for the New Year's feast, helping the chief who put up the feast.

While the food was prepared on New Year's morning, there was a dog race for men and for women - young boys and girls would have one dog race.

After all this was over, everyone went to the feast. After the feast, the old people, men and women would get up and made a speech thanking the chief and his helpers. Then they would tell about long ago, how Christmas was celebrated even if there was no meat - even when it was hard times. Or they would tell about how people made their living in the hard way. They told these old time stories of long ago so the young people would know and remember and never forget.

Nowadays, it is not the same in every village, through this drinking. Not only one village is bad for drinking. Today there is drinking going on in every settlement. Some older people and young people work against this drinking problem. They are doing God's work and it is up to most of us to pray for their work.

Another thing, nowadays, when Christmas or New Years comes around, most of the people do more drinking. Most of them don't even know Christmas and New Years passes.

Through this we old people must take to our young people in a kind way. Try and show them the right way and help them.

In this world there is no one perfect, only God knows. Through this we must not think one is bad. We older people should help our young people, not think against them because we think they are bad. We are all God's children, no matter who, good or bad. We are all one.

To the people of Fort McPherson, Arctic Red, Aklavik, Inuvik, and Old Crow - I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."





*GTC would like to
wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!*