



The *Gee, Tea? See* News
March - April 2005

Executive

The GTC Executive hopes everyone had a great Gwich'in Day! This year we celebrated the 13th year since the signing of the land claim. We wish to thank the staffs of GTC and the Nihtat Gwich'in Council who organized this community event in Inuvik as well as the organizers in each of the communities in the GSA as well as in Yellowknife.

This year we honoured the fine efforts of the RCMP and the volunteer fire fighters. Representatives from the RCMP and the Inuvik Voluntary Fire Department were presented plaques in honour of the dangerous jobs they do and for keeping the community a safe place for our children

New Staff



Sandy Stewart

filled by Sandy Stewart he brings a lot of lands administration experience to the position.

Terry Peterson is currently acting Executive Director with



Terry Peterson

the first floor in the Chief Jim Koe building in Inuvik.

Summer Students

Debbie English will be assisting Denise Kurzsewski, Manager Regional Wellness in preparing funding proposals so that the GTC can provide some much needed programming at the community level.



Debbie English

Bobbi-Jo Greenland will be working along side Kim Hawkins, Environmental Impact Assessment Coordinator on preparations of the review process for the Mackenzie Gas Project. The GTC will be also looking at hiring a couple more summer students in the areas of general administration and human resources. We wish to extend a warm welcome to these

the summer students. On other initiative the GTC is looking forward to implement the hiring of a Regional Youth and Elders Coordinator. This position will work closely with the community youth and elder committees.



Bobbi-Jo Greenland

Annual Assembly

Preparations have started for this year's Annual Assembly which will be held in Inuvik this summer. The GTC will be working closely with Chief Richard Nerysoo and his staff over the next couple of months to ensure that this years Assembly is a memorable one. Once the dates has been approved, we will be sending out notices to all beneficiaries.

Finance

Overall the GTC and its subsidiaries had a busy and a good year. KMPG and our auditors will be coming to Inuvik and Fort McPherson in May to complete the annual audit. Greg and Tom have started the process for the preparation of the Annual Report which will be available to the beneficiaries prior to the Assembly.

Executive

National Aboriginal Hockey Championships

On the week of April 17-23, 2005 a number of beneficiaries represented the NWT at this prestigious event for aboriginal youth of the ages 18 and under.



Stephanie Ross & Ronnie Kay
(photo: James Ross)

The Gwich'in beneficiaries attended this event; on the female team Stephanie Ross, Fort McPherson, Male team Ronnie Kay, Fort McPherson, Kelly McLeod, Inuvik, Dean Smith, Inuvik, Jeremy Lawson, Yellowknife, and Kiel Krutko, Fort Providence. Tom Williams, Chief Operating Officer accompanied the players down as the Head Coach of the Male team.

A number of parents and family members also attended

and cheered the teams on including our President Fred Carmichael and his wife Miki, James and Mary Ross.

This was a great experience for the youth from across the north to play at this high calibre of hockey. It was the first time the NWT sent teams to this national event and it won't be the last the NWT will continue to send a male and female team each year so this is something our youth can strive for. Next year's tournament is scheduled for Kahnawake just outside of Montreal.

ASEP/Aboriginal Futures

Under the ASEP program Brenda MacDonald recently joined Aboriginal Futures as the Executive Director. She will be setting up an office in Inuvik.

Brenda will be responsible for the overall effectiveness of Aboriginal Futures through leadership, sound administration and strong interpersonal skills.

She will work in collaboration with the partner organizations and manage relationships with all parties, levels of government and other parties to Aboriginal Futures activities. Brenda will administer to the financial and reporting requirements necessary to the success of the program plus manage the

Aboriginal Futures office.

Other Business

The Executive along with Chief Richard Nerysoo, Chief Charlie Furlong and GTC staff attended a Self-government workshop in Fort McPherson on May 5th. In this workshop the leaders all spoke on the issue of self-government which was well received from all participants. The participants were informed why it was important to create a Gwich'in government both at the community level and at the regional level.

The Executive also took the opportunity while in Fort McPherson to hold a Public Forum to listen to beneficiary concerns and to provide an update on GTC activities including the



access & benefits negotiations, resource management and health and wellness activities.

Fred Carmichael, President, Mary Ann Ross, Vice President, Tom Williams, Chief Operating Officer and Greg Cayen, Chief Financial Officer



Gwich'in Day 2005 (Inuvik)



Gwich'in Day

We celebrated our 13th anniversary since the signing of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Each year we have a feast for all Gwich'in and the rest of the community to honor all Gwich'in. Last year we had a barbeque and had a full house. It was so full in the Jim Koe Building that it was hard to get around. The kids also were out of control and it was hard to do everything we planned for the day. We all learn from mistakes and tried to make it better this year.

A meeting was held with the staff and a lot of good ideas came up. We decided to have a couple of tents set up outside the Jim Koe Building, with picnic tables and a couple of fire pits. Chii Construction really pulled through and delivered the tent frames, fire pits and picnic tables. The boys at Chii built the picnic tables especially for this occasion. The weather was great so that we can barbeque outside. We also made tea outside on the fire pits for that good old bush taste.

We started cooking around 11:30 and it's a good thing that we did because we had a flood of people show up for their lunch hour. With three barbeques and cooks going we were able to get the people fed with-

out much waiting in line. We served the salads and some of the traditional foods inside the Jim Koe Building, but we ended up taking the soup outside to be put on the stove.

This year we did something different we chose a theme, "partnerships" and honored the Inuvik RCMP and the Inuvik Fire Department. We chose these two groups because we recognize that they go above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that we are kept safe. Recently on the news we heard that an off duty RCMP officer was trying to take away an open bottle from a teenager in the Northmart and was attacked. The four officers who were shot in Mayerthorpe, Alberta, and the two Firefighters who died in a Yellowknife fire were also contributing factors in our decision.

The Chief of the Inuvik Native Band, Richard Nerysoo presented plaques to the Inuvik RCMP and the Inuvik Fire Department during the lunch hour when we had a lot of people. Both groups were really happy that we recognized them and were honored that we did this during our celebrations.

The staff from the Nihtat Gwich'in Council and GTC staff really came through, so we'd like to say thanks to them. The people who attended the event are still talking about it and said we should always do this every

year....keep it traditional.

Acknowledgements

Evelyn Bullock (for the cake)
Town of Inuvik (Inuvik Works)
Chii Construction
Chuck Filyk
Kevin Blake
Ricky Firth
Dennis Alunik
Roy Ipana
Jody Snowshoe
Chucky Firth
MacKenzie Valley Construction
Maribeth Baxter
Sharon Dahl
Istvan Papp
Eileen Edwards
Dan Blake
Woody Kasook
Ruby McLeod
Mervin Firth
GTC and NGC Staff
Our apologies if we missed anyone...Mahsi Cho, Inuvik

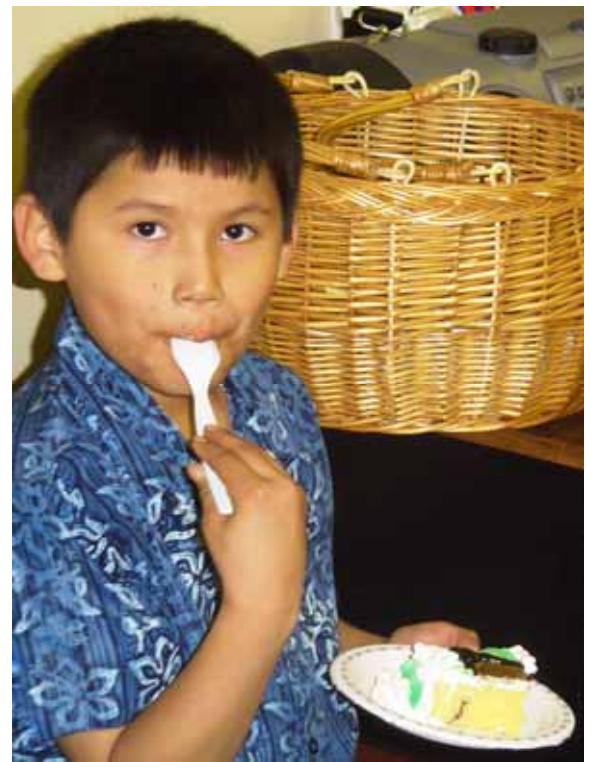


**Gwich'in
Day 2005
(Aklavik)**
- photos courtesy of
Aklavik Indian Band





Gwich'in Day 2005 (Yellowknife)



Mackenzie Gas Project

Benefits and Access Negotiations:

Over the past several months Benefits and Access negotiations between Imperial and the GTC have been focusing on contracting, employment, and training. Consultants hired by the GTC have been working with the negotiating team and Imperial to specify in detail the work scopes, employment, and training that will be guaranteed to the GTC.

Regulatory Review Process

The regulatory review process has been proceeding through the information request and response stages. Government and interveners have submitted information requests to Imperial and it has been completing its responses.

During the first week of May a workshop was held in Inuvik to examine in detail the available information on climate change and permafrost in relation to the project. Throughout the review process experts will be determining the impacts of climate change on the project, and in particular on the permafrost in which the pipeline will be buried. It is important to determine the expected impacts so that mitigation measures can be taken.

Imperial Delays MGP Engineering and Research:

On April 27, in meetings and news releases, Imperial delivered the message that negotiating benefits and access agreements with land claim and Aboriginal groups has become too costly. Instead Imperial wants to table what it refers to as "standard benefits and access agreements." to which the GTC responded publicly, "the Gwich'in do not intend to be told what they must accept."



Dale Blake, Jr.

Imperial also complained that the regulatory process is too slow. But the GTC maintains that Imperial bears some responsibility for the delays for not starting the benefits and access negotiations sooner and for not submitting more thorough and appropriate environmental impact statements.

The GTC supports the regulatory process and will use

it to seek answers to the socio-economic and environmental issues.

The GTC is committed to getting the best deal for the Gwich'in people so as to benefit future generations. In pursuing this goal the GTC has stated that it is willing to work with other Aboriginal groups up and down the valley to achieve consistency in benefits and access agreements.

Land Claim Implementation

The Implementation Committee is finalizing the 2003-04 Annual Report, and simultaneously pursuing a new approach to future reports.

In its report on land claims implementation the Auditor General of Canada said these Annual Reports should be more focused on results. Results should be more closely tied to the objectives of the land claim and in particular the objectives relating to economic self-sufficiency.

The Implementation Committee is taking the results of the last review of the land claim's Economic Measures Chapter and determining how future reviews can be more closely tied to progress towards economic self-sufficiency. This progress should then be covered in the Implementation Committee Annual Report.



MUSKRAT
JAMBOREE
2005



Lands

New Staff

We welcome Sandy Stewart to the position of Lands & Resource Officer, replacing Brian Alexie who resigned in March 2005. We thank Brian for his contribution to the organization. Sandy's background includes a certificate in Community Lands Administration and many years of work experience with the Government of the Northwest Territories and Government of Nunavut.

Processed Applications

- MPEG/Amec - Research Authorization G05R01, Aquatics Studies
- Daazraii Investments - Quarry Authorization G05Q02 - Source 467, Willow River
- MVC - Quarry Authorization G05Q03 - Frog Creek
- MVC - Quarry Authorization G05Q04 - Frog Creek
- MPEG/Amec - Research Authorization G05R05 - Summer/Fall Biophysical Studies
- Geological Survey of Canada - Research Authorization G05R06 - Landslide Investigations
- NorthwesTel - Quarry Authorization G05Q07 - Frog Creek

- IORVL - Research Authorization G05R08 - Spring Break-up Studies
- MPEG/Amec-Research Authorization G05R09 - Heritage Resources Studies

Gwich'in Flags/Certificates

We now have Gwich'in Nation flags to give away to any beneficiary who owns and registers their campsite on Gwich'in Private Lands. The process for receiving a flag involves filling out the application to establish a new campsite on Gwich'in Land and identifying the location of your campsite on a map. The applications will be filed with the lands department for future reference. The campsite owner will also be presented with a certificate signed by the President of GTC, along with general guidelines for campsites on Gwich'in Lands.



We encourage all beneficiaries to take this opportunity to protect your interest and also receive a free Gwich'in Nation

Flag. We are also in the process of editing the cabin poster which describes the application process for the establishment of campsites on Gwich'in Owned Lands.

Canadian Coast Guard

Tom Maher (Director, Coast Guard in Hay River) will be coming to Inuvik in May at which time we will have a face to face meeting about the establishment of Navigational Aids and Consulting with Gwich'in about sites on Gwich'in Owned Lands. The government is granted the right to establish navigation aids on Gwich'in Land from the Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement. They will also prepare a presentation with regards to what they normally do when they select a site for use. At the meeting we will discuss our process for accessing Gwich'in Lands and our ideas on how we would like to be consulted with regards to their use of Gwich'in Lands. Our relationship with the Coast Guard will be similar to the procedure used by Indian Affairs when the Coast wants to establish navigational aids on Crown Land. If you have any questions regarding

Gwich'in Lands, contact Mardy Semmler or Dwayne Semple at the GTC Fred Koe Building 867-777-7900.



McKenzie River
Jamboree
2005
(Tsiigehtchic)



Regional Well-

Welcome to Debra English, who will be working with Denise for the summer months! Debra has a background in social work, education and many years experience working in Inuvik.

Our primary responsibility is to assist the Executive and Chief Operating Officer in responding to beneficiaries' health and social concerns. We spend a majority of time advocating for and working with beneficiaries. Each situation is assessed, most are manageable; however there are situations where the Executive is consulted. Some concerns only take a phone call, others require ongoing assistance; phone calls, letter writing and meetings. The majority of the concerns relate to medical, housing and Elders' issues. There is also general assistance for letter writing, proposal development and researching for beneficiaries.

We also manage The Bereavement Assistance and Social Emergency Assistance Program. Bereavement Assistance is set up to assist beneficiaries and families who have lost loved ones. The Social Emergency Assistance Program is intended for Beneficiaries who require emergency financial assistance in the event of undue financial hard-

ship and stress such as accidents, illness, household fires or victims of crime. The Social Emergency Assistance Program does not grant loans or pay bills such as overdue rent or utilities. Both programs follow strict guidelines and there is an application process.

There has been much discussion during the winter regarding the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. GTC has consulted with communities



and prepared a report on the potential social impacts of the project. Our communities are currently facing many social challenges and it is felt that the potential Mackenzie Gas Project will further burden communities with more social problems. The challenge now is to look at mitigation (ways to make the problems less severe), management and to work with all responsible parties. GTC is planning a con-

ference in September that would focus primarily on Social Impacts.

The Wellness Department of GTC would like to focus on prevention and education. If you have ideas towards this goal, please call Denise at (867) 777-7927 or email dkur-szewski@gwichin.nt.ca.

GET ACTIVE COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

If you haven't already heard about it the 'Get Active' community challenge is taking place from April 1 – July 1, 2005. This is a friendly challenge between communities that encourages its people to make healthier choices and lead active lives. People from all across the NWT can enter the challenge to find which community in the north is the most physically active. There is a grand prize for the winner's community. You can walk, jog, go out onto the land, chop wood or help to clean your community. All you have to do is keep record of your active time. Get a friend to join you and start your way to better health! For more information you can log on to www.getactivenwt.ca.

The Economy and Spirit of the Land will not be strong unless the People are strong.

(author unknown)

Bertha Francis Retires

The Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute (GSCI) held a retirement dinner for respected Gwich'in Elder, Bertha Francis, in Fort McPherson on March 30th to recognize her contribution to the GSCI and other Gwich'in organizations throughout her career.



Bertha worked as an Interpreter and Translator for the Gwich'in Language Centre in Fort McPherson when it was operated by the GNWT. When the Centre was transferred to the GTC under the GSCI, she maintained her position as Interpreter/Translator from June 1997 until her retirement on March 11th.

Bertha also interpreted and translated for the MacKenzie Delta Tribal Council (predecessor of the GTC) during the negotiations of the Gwich'in land claim process beginning in

1990. After the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* was signed in 1992, she continued to provide interpretation & translation services information to the Gwich'in at meetings, over CBQM and CBC radios, to individuals, and various government departments and industry.

When the GTC established the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute in 1992, Bertha was appointed as one of the founding members until 2001.

She translated and transcribed into English the majority of audio-cassettes housed at the GSCI Head Office and at the Gwich'in Language Centre Office. She worked on education materials for the schools and language materials for adults and her pronunciation of Gwich'in can be heard on the cassettes, CDs and on our website. Bertha has assisted and participated in meetings on the preservation and standardization of the Gwich'in language; she has provided input into the content of the GLC's Gwich'in Dictionary right from its inception. Bertha also provided support and advice to GSCI staff when requested.

She would always do her best to accommodate anyone who asked for her assistance in translating or interpreting.

Whenever there was a voice needed to be heard regarding any aspect of language or culture for the Gwich'in, you were sure to hear from Bertha. All business regarding the Gwich'in was Bertha's business and we thank her for her strong support and dedication. Bertha, although you are retired we know that you will always be there for us!

Ni'divee goozh' and Mahsi' Cho from the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute



Bertha with Friends

(Photos: Barb Crawford, GTC Education & Training)

Self-Government

Karen Snowshoe, Community Development Manager, and Lawrence Norbert, Self-Government Regional Coordinator, conducted two mock treaties with the SAMS Grade 5-6 classes on April 8th to demonstrate how treaties were made in the past. The following excerpts are from the report of the 'Treaty Commissioner':



"I held meetings with the two classes of Students of Grade 5, and explained the terms of treaty. They were very apt in asking questions, and here, as in all the other classes where the treaty was signed, the questions asked and the difficulties encountered were much the same.

The Students seemed afraid, for one thing, that their liberty to learn, study and go on fieldtrips would be taken away or curtailed, but were assured by me that this would not be the case, and the Government will expect them to graduate

from high school in the not-too-distant future and to support themselves in their own way, and, in fact, that more computers and more recess time were given under the terms of this treaty than under any of the preceding ones; this went a long way to calm their fears. I also pointed out that any career after high school graduation were to their advantage, and, whether they took treaty or not, they were subject to the laws of the Gwich'in Dominion.

They also seemed afraid that they would be liable for cubs, scouts, guides, brownies or army cadet service if the treaty was signed, that they would be confined to the classroom, but, when told that they were exempt from cadet service, and that the classrooms mentioned



in the treaty would be of their own choosing, for their own use, and not for the junior or senior high school students or Aurora College students, and that they would be free to come and go as they pleased except for detention, they were satisfied.

Practically all the classes dealt with wanted more provision for hot chocolate at each classroom, cubbyholes for their clothes and boots, and supplies for their whiteboard and computers.

I pointed out that they were still able to make their grades, and that the Beaver Program Volunteer was then with me at Treaty 13, and that they could see him, and that he would attend them free if they



wished, but that it was impossible for the Gwich'in Government to furnish regular hot chocolate, when they were occupying such a vast tract of territory. Clothesracks were already established, and supplies were left at each classroom for the whiteboards and computers."

People and Events of Interest



Bertha Allen and Sharon Firth celebrate their Aboriginal Achievement Awards



William Charlie (R) receives his carpentry certificate from Chief Johnny



Connie Wright checks out the new swimming pool in the Inuvik Family Centre



Sarah Ann Gardlund with great-grandchildren Paisley Van Vliet, Keirsten Rogers and Christian Van Vliet



Peter James Vittrekwa (R) receives his electrician certificate from Chief Kay



PLEASE...

have a safe Spring!