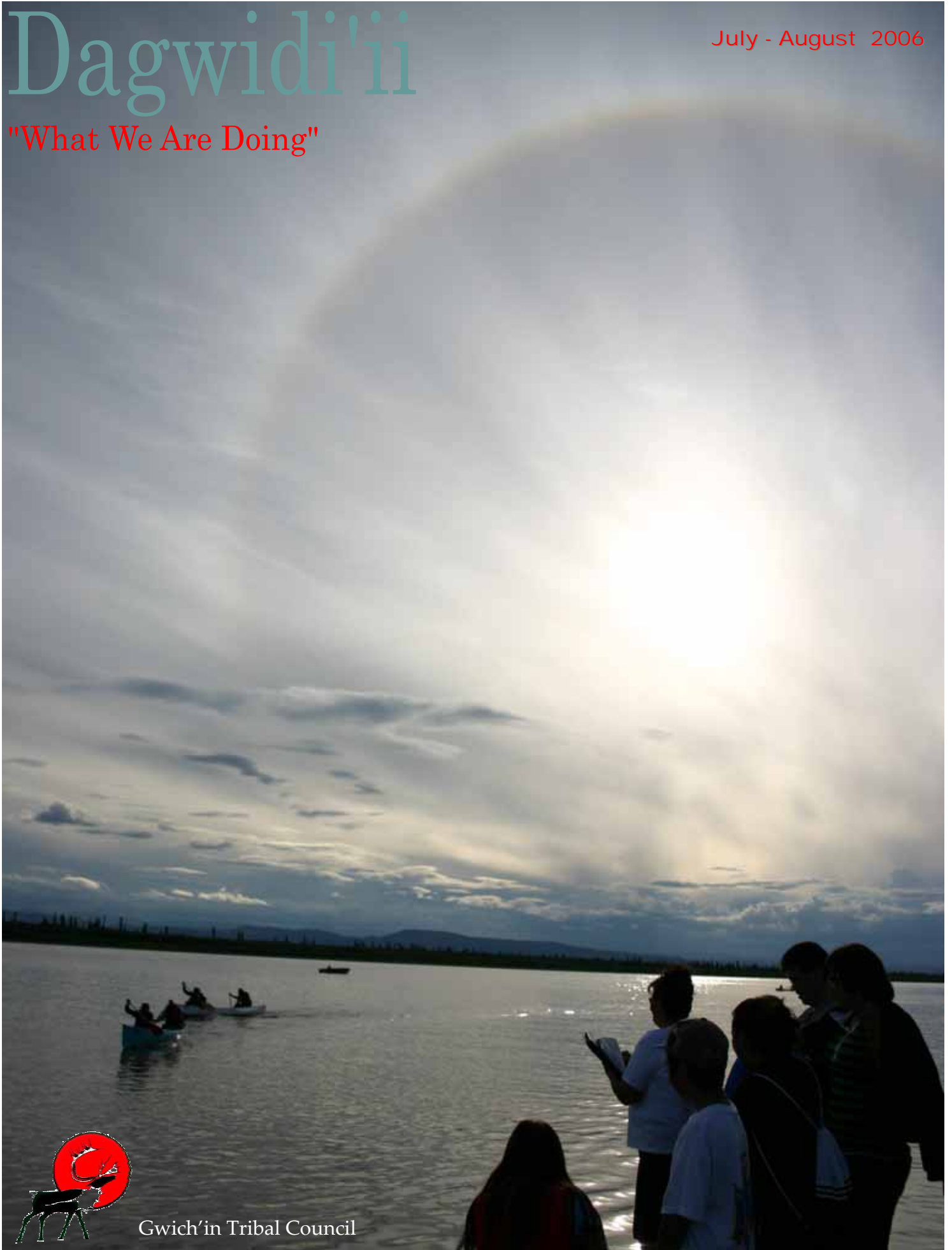


Dagwidi'ii

July - August 2006

"What We Are Doing"



Gwich'in Tribal Council



'Dagwidi'ii - What We Are Doing' is a newsletter of the:

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

1-3 Council Crescent PO Box 1509 Inuvik NT X0E 0T0

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The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) is an Aboriginal organization that represents Gwich'in Beneficiaries in the Mackenzie-Delta of the Northwest Territories. The objectives of the GTC are to:

- protect and preserve the rights, interest and benefits of the Gwich'in in reference to their use, ownership and management of lands, waters, and resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area;
- retain, preserve and enhance the traditional and cultural values, customs and language of the Gwich'in in a changing society;
- develop and promote economic, social, educational and cultural programs that will enable the Gwich'in to become self-sufficient and full participating members in a global society;
- uphold the rights, interest and benefits of the Gwich'in in reference to the *Constitution Act*, Treaty 11 and the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*; and
- receive, preserve and enhance the capital and the lands and other benefits transferred to the Gwich'in pursuant to the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* signed on April 22, 1992.

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Director, Nihtat Gwich'in Council	Richard Nerysoo	777-6650
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Assistant Lands Manager	Dwayne Semple	777-7911
Lands & Resource Officer	Glen Alexie	777-7914
Administrative Assistant	Mavis Clark	777-7910
GIS Technician	Tracy Creighton	777-7942
Environmental Impact Assessment	Kim Hawkins	777-7934

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

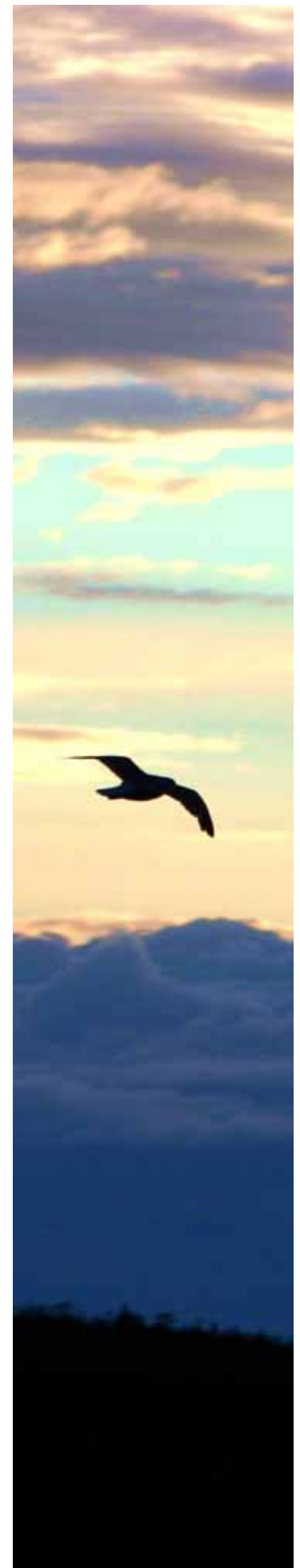
Manager	Jake Heron	777-7932
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REGIONAL WELLNESS

Manager	Denise Kurszewski	777-7927
Elders & Youth Coordinator	Victor Stewart	952-2524

SELF-GOVERNMENT

Chief Negotiator	Charles Furlong	777-7915
Director	Karen Snowshoe	777-7924
Regional Coordinator	Margaret Gordon	777-7941



EXECUTIVE

Drin Gwiinzi! We wish to thank Chief Furlong and the Assembly organizers for an excellent job hosting the 23rd Annual Assembly in Aklavik. We hope that all delegates were able to receive a complete update on all of GTC's activities. We are now all re-energized from our holidays and look forward to carrying out the direction we received at the Assembly.

Two of the biggest priorities that the Executive will be going ahead with this fall will be initiating both the community and regional planning processes for the much needed Socio-economic Impact Fund (SEIF) and to start the implementation process for the GTC Strategic Plan which was tabled at this year's Assembly.

A working group consisting of Mary Ann Ross, Denise Kurszewski and Tom Williams will be touring the four Gwich'in communities to discuss potential community and regional programs. The GTC is waiting for a favourable response on a funding proposal

which was submitted to DIAND to establish a regional plan for the four Gwich'in Communities and to set up the GTC SEIF entity. We look forward to working with the four Gwich'in communities in the fall to get input on the socio-economic impacts which will result from the Mackenzie Gas Project. The GTC hopes to access our share of the SEIF fund in April 2007.

Also this fall, a GTC Strategic Planning team will work with the DGO's in the four Gwich'in communities to conduct human resource assessments and to assist with governance training with the various councils. This is partial implementation of the GTC Strategic Plan, namely to prepare for the future as one organization. Now that By-law #3 "*Framing our Fiscal Future*" has been approved by the Assembly under the guidance of our CFO, Greg Cayen, we will be putting the necessary governance and accountabilities in place which will ensure the continued protection of the Land Claim Settlement Fund.

Due to bad weather during the Annual Assembly, we could not provide a report on the Gwich'in Development Corporation (GDC). However, Greg Cayen will be travelling to the communities this fall to report on the GDC activities.

The GTC Executive wishes to thank Barb Crawford, former Manager, Education & Training, and Dwayne Semple, former Assistant Lands Manager, for their all their efforts in assisting Beneficiaries and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We also wish to welcome Debra English as the new Regional Manager, Education & Training and Glen Alexie as our new Lands and Resources Officer.

Each of us look forward to working on your behalf and we hope everyone enjoys the nice fall weather and that you are able to get out on the land to pick some berries or pursue some of your traditional activities.

Mahsi Cho.



LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION

Drin Gwiinzii. Caribou hunting season is upon us now and remember to take only what you need and let the leaders pass. The LRI staff would like to welcome Mr. Glen Alexie as the new member of the LRI team. Leaving the LRI is Mr. Jozef Carnogurksy who moved to Yellowknife: the LRI staff wish him well. There are several projects that we are currently working on.

Implementation

Mr. Jake Heron, GTC Business Manager, and Norman Snowshoe are working with DIAND and GNWT to improve the programs delivered as required by Chapter 10 Economic Measures of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* (GCLCA). Work continues on the development of a Land Claim Implementation Policy with the other Comprehensive Land Claim Groups from across Canada.

Wildlife Management

There is a big concern with the decrease in Caribou numbers across the north. The Gwich'in are very concerned about the Porcupine Caribou because of increased harvesting and there has been no census done since 2001. The GTC along with GNWT, GRRB and RRC continue to develop measures to manage the herd so huge numbers of caribou are not taken every year and the caribou are allowed to use their traditional migration routes into the upper Peel area. This year the GTC organized an Education Campaign about the importance of letting the leaders pass. Glen Alexie, Woody Elias, Eileen Koe and Lloyd

Nerys were on the highway talking to harvesters. There will be a workshop held in November to discuss

the caribou matter with the other user groups from the area. This fall the LRI staff will be administering the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program (GHAP). The applications were received and reviewed by the RRC and GHAP Program Management Committee. Applicants will be informed on whether or not their application for GHAP was successful. The LRI staff continue to work on the *Species at Risk Act* and the Dall Sheep Management Plan.

Land Management

The Lands and Resources Division have been issuing Land Authorization Agreements for access on Gwich'in Private Lands, most to do with research (9) and quarrying activities (5). Lands and Resources have also issued authorizations for a cultural camp and a non-Gwich'in Residential Lease. The GTC Lands and Resources have been reviewing and commenting on Land and Water Use applications for the Gwich'in Land and Water Board and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assess-



ment Board.

Lands and Resources continue to review and revise the Land Management and Control Guidelines (including the fee schedule) and will continue to administer and manage Gwich'in Private Lands according to the approved policies and procedures. Lands and Resources would like to remind the Gwich'in Participants to continue to register their cabins and harvesting areas to ensure our records and maps are up to date.

Lands and Resources represent the GTC and sit on various steering committees and working groups including the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Committee, Protected Area Strategy Steering Committee and the Northern Contaminants Program Northwest Territories Environmental Contaminants Committee.

If you have any questions with regard to the GTC Lands and Resources Division, contact Norman Snowshoe or Mardy Semmler at 867/777-7900.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An update on GTC activities relating to the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) regulatory review was given at the Annual Assembly. The National Energy Board (NEB) and Joint Review Panel (JRP) are continuing with their public hearings but have made recent changes to the hearing schedule: the NEB will visit Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic in December, and the JRP has added five more months of hearings. This means that the public hearings will continue until April 2007 and that the NEB decision whether or not to approve the project will likely not be made until late next year at the earliest.

The JRP will hold Hearings in Inuvik and Aklavik on January 8 and 18, 2007 respectively. Persons interested in participating in the public hearings can find more information on their websites www.neb-one.gc.ca/NorthOffshore/Mackenzie/index_e.htm and www.jointreviewpanel.ca. The Northern Gas Project Secretariat also provides information about the review process at www.ngps.nt.ca.

The GTC continues to work with the communities and other Gwich'in organizations such as the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, to examine potential environmental impacts from the proposed MGP and to participate in the review process.

Date	Location	Hearing Type	Topic
Oct. 4	Whitehorse	JRP- General	All JRP topics
Oct. 17	Yellowknife	JRP- Technical	Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Quality
Oct. 19-20	Yellowknife	JRP-General	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
Oct. 23-24	Inuvik	JRP- Technical	Project Routing and Design
Oct. 26	Inuvik	JRP- Technical	Water Quality and Quantity, Fish and Aquatic Habitat
Oct. 30–Nov. 3	Inuvik	NEB	Spare hearing week
Nov. 6-8	Yellowknife	JRP-General	Expenditures and Economic Benefits
Nov. 15-16	Inuvik	JRP-General	Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
Nov. 17	Inuvik	JRP-General	Harvesting and Other Land Use
Nov. 22-25	Inuvik	NEB-General	All NEB topics
Nov.28–Dec. 2	Inuvik	NEB-General	All NEB topics
Dec. 5	Fort McPherson	NEB-General	All NEB topics
Dec. 5	Yellowknife	JRP-General	All JRP topics
Dec. 6	Tsiigehtchic	NEB-General	All NEB topics
Dec. 7-8	Yellowknife	JRP-General	Education, Training, Employment and Procurement
Dec. 11	Edmonton	JRP-General	All JRP topics
Dec. 11-15	Inuvik	NEB-General	All NEB topics



EDUCATION & TRAINING (including AHRDA and ASEP)



We would like to say a fond farewell to Barb Crawford and good luck in your future endeavors, and 'Mashi cho' for all her hard work during the last three years. Welcome to Debra English as our new Regional Manager. She can be reached at (867) 777-7926, toll free 1-866-414-4670, or email at denglish@gwichin.nt.ca.

We have many new and returning students heading to school. During our July 21st meeting, the GTC Education and Training Committee reviewed approximately 65 applications for tuition, books, travel, training allowance and child care. In the last few weeks, students have been informing our staff that they are adjusting well to the lifestyle changes while at school.

Our office continues to assist other students who are applying for school in the winter semester. The deadline is November 15th, so please contact us so we can help get you to school in January 2007 or to

attend a short-term course.

Short-term course applications are being reviewed on a daily basis - make sure you apply 30 days before the start dates. These courses are offered at different times throughout the year and we review applications for: Aurora College Continuing Education courses; Class 1 Driver's training; Community School of Governance; Safety and Drill Rig courses; and other Oil and Gas courses. Contact the Employment Officer in your community or Margaret Thompson, our Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Coordinator, at 867-777-2500. It is becoming very important to obtain these tickets so that you will have a better chance at getting a job in the oil & gas industry.

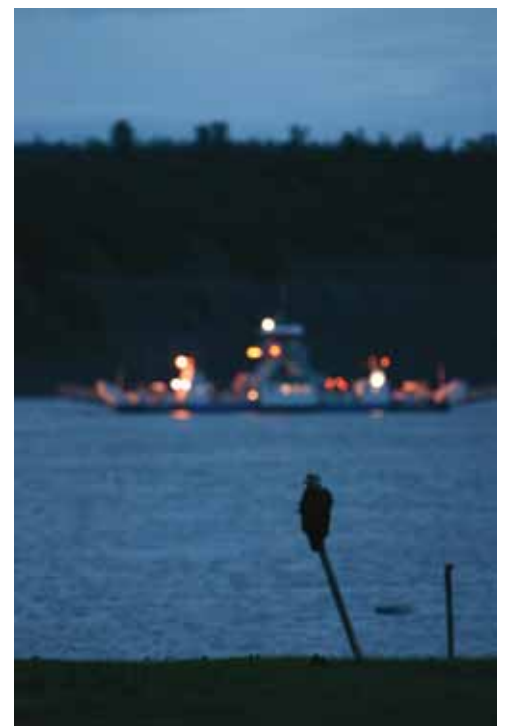
We have calendars from Aurora College, Yukon College and many other colleges across Canada in the community employment offices for you to view. Students are welcome to

drop by their employment offices to use the phone and computers for educational purposes only.

Keep in mind that if you drop out or are dismissed from your program, you will have to pay back the funds you received from the GTC Education and Training Department before we are able to review any application for future post-secondary or short-term programs.

We would like to encourage the students who are in post-secondary programs to keep focused on your studies!

Remember we're just a phone call away and always willing to help you. Our toll-free number is: 1-866-414-4669 and our fax is (867) 952-2238.



EMPLOYMENT LIAISON

Since starting on August 14, I've helped with four job searches; three applications for post-secondary training; six assistance in resume preparation and updates; four cover letters; three career counseling sessions; one apprenticeship placement (Drayden Valley AB); and eight training opportunities (Norman Wells).

I also began a network connection with different organizations to offer assistance in finding workers if they need any potential employees. I network daily with the Registrar at Aurora College (Inuvik campus) regarding students applying for courses. We have 40 stu-

dents attending the Inuvik campus from the four Gwich'in communities. We will attend the Fall Orientation to provide information to Gwich'in beneficiaries about funding programs.

We have begun a Career Cruising Program where we interview a client. This assesses that person on: exceptional interest; in-depth occupation profiles; multi-media informational reviews; comprehensive college and university information; career portfolio tool and resume builder; printable lesson plans, assignments and worksheets

We are also updating the

database and resume files. Your database profile and information is very important for companies and/or organization looking for potential employees.

We are also producing a Role Models Calendar showing Gwich'in Beneficiaries who have accomplished their educational goals. Contact me if you or someone you know would like to submit a picture and a short profile.

I would like to encourage everyone who is attending University/College to continue to follow your dreams – we are all proud of you here at the GTC.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

At the Gwich'in Annual Assembly, I began the presentation to the delegates with a quote of the goal from the Business Policy for Work in the GSA, which is; *"A fundamental goal of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement is to have Gwich'in Beneficiaries and Gwich'in owned businesses participate fully in all aspects of the economy."* The Business Development section is primarily focused on the provision of support and assistance to Gwich'in-owned businesses wanting to pursue their goals. At the same time, the Business Development section will assist, support and provide technical advice to Beneficiaries wanting to either start up or buy a business. We also know that most Beneficiaries want to secure good paying and rewarding jobs to care for themselves and their families.

Part of my responsibilities is to represent the GTC on a working committee of the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation (MAC). The MAC vehicle has been set up to achieve the objectives and intent of the Access and Benefits Agreement with Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd.

MAC is 51% owned by the Gwich'in Development Corporation and 49% owned by five construction companies: Flint Energy Services; Kiewit; Ledcor; North American Construction Group; and Midwest. MAC is positioned to create business opportunities for Gwich'in businesses and ready to invest in their capacity development. For example, MAC has announced that it is immediately prepared to offer up to 25 apprenticeship positions for

qualified candidates. The administrative details are being developed to begin the process for selecting candidates. Gwich'in desiring to learn a trade should watch for future announcements about these apprenticeship opportunities.

A business plan workshop planned for August in Inuvik for existing businesses had to be cancelled due to lack of participants. It is being planned again for early November in Inuvik.

GTC - in cooperation with the GNWT Department of Industry Trade & Investment - has selected **Kisquared** of Winnipeg/Yellowknife to carry out a business survey and evaluation of the Memorandum of Understanding, starting in October. Gwich'in businesses doing contract work with the GNWT will be surveyed. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. The project is anticipated to be completed by January 15th 2007.

Imperial Oil Resources Venture Limited and GTC Business Development are planning to hold a business development workshop on October 24th in Inuvik. The workshop will focus on scope of work business opportunities for the set-aside work identified in Appendix "A" of the Access and Benefits Agreement. Inuvik was chosen because of the number of Gwich'in businesses in the community, accessibility to the folks coming from the south and other communities outside



of Inuvik, and the facilities available to hold the workshop. It's the first of a series to prepare both Gwich'in businesses and potential businesses in securing the work negotiated in the Access and Benefits Agreement. Watch for future advertisements on the time and place. Some financial assistance for folks from Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Aklavik will be made available on a first-request basis.

I will be making community visits, meeting with Gwich'in businesses to make sure they are registered with the Gwich'in Business Registry, to discuss updating their business profile, to talk about website links with the main Gwich'in Business Development website, and to develop greater relationships with them. It cannot be emphasized enough that future business activity within the GSA will require Gwich'in businesses to register before they are going to be considered for the "set-aside work" on the potential Mackenzie Gas Project.

REGIONAL WELLNESS

Drin Gwiinzii. By all accounts, the hectic summer schedule went very well: the residential school reunion, the Gwich'in Gathering, the Midway Lake Music Festival and the Gwich'in Annual Assembly in Aklavik. Congratulations to the organizers!

We hope that everyone has enjoyed the beautiful fall weather and managed to get some time to fish, hunt or to pick berries!

We were pleased to have Debra English working in the Wellness office over the summer but are sorry to see her leaving for our Education Department.

To all the students entering or returning to post secondary studies, we wish you all the best. As you are busy meeting a hectic schedule and for some of you managing families, remember to manage take care of your health: eat and rest well. We know that it is often difficult to be away from home for long periods; however, remember that you are supported and that the more educated our people are, the stronger the Gwich'in Nation. Have a great year!

The office has been busy advocating for and supporting Gwich'in beneficiaries in medical concerns, family emergencies, housing, and residential school compensation issues. Many of our Elders have received their initial compensation and there are those still waiting. We have received word from the Ottawa office

that they are processing thousands of cheques each day and there will be some delays. For those who have received letters stating that there is no record of your attendance, it only means that we must look further into other archives for information. For those wishing to



do their own research, you can contact the following; NWT Archives, phone 867-873-7698, or Nancy Hurn: phone 416-924-9199, fax: 416-966-7983 or on the internet at archives@national.anglican.ca.

In August, Eileen Koe, Gladys Edwards, Linda Andre-Blake and Denise attended the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide conference in Edmonton. This

was a wonderful opportunity to see how other Indigenous groups are working towards overcoming their health issues, which seem to be the same all over the world. A strong message was that people were beginning to take responsibility for their health and learning, and that we need to participate and work cooperatively with the current health system. We also heard of alarming rates of obesity and the need to counteract this by encouraging people to go back to traditional foods and traditional preparation of foods. The message is that 'high sugar content and constantly frying foods is not good'. Another strong message is 'When one member of the family is sick, everyone is sick'. This relates to how we are affected by addictions of family members, and the need to learn to take care of ourselves. We all came back with new information and hope to have the opportunity to share this with you over the year.

The Regional Wellness Office will be receiving funds to hire half time Diabetes and FASD Coordinators. The competitions will be out and we hope to have these initiatives implemented by the middle of October. Draft copies of the Strategic Plan "Sriigwandaii, Gwich'in Datthat eenjit (Wellness for all Gwich'in)" have been sent out to the DGO's. Please take the time to review it. We welcome your feedback.

ELDERS & YOUTH

Four Members of the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council of Fort McPherson, along with Youth Coordinator Victor Stewart, attended the 23rd Annual General Assembly.

The Tetlit Gwich'in Youth decide at their August 1st regular meeting that it was time to ask the GTC to start putting more time and effort into recommendations and suggestions made by Youth at this year's and previous assemblies.

Along with youth from Tsiigehtchi, Inuvik and Aklavik, Fort McPherson youth presented their report on the issues that have overwhelmed them for the past decade. The main issues were of Drug and Alcohol abuse in their respective communities. Summer employment; lack of community support for leadership training; and workshop follow-ups were also concerns raised by all Gwich'in Youth.

The four Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council members from McPherson were Band Council Youth Representative Denise Firth, Councillors Krista Jerome, Miranda Stewart and Jennifer Greenland.

Krista presented the following report on issues and concerns that were synonymous to all four communities.

We also took part in a break-away meeting with youth from the four communities. This was the time when all youth were able to discuss issues and concerns that are related to each community. The youth talked freely and easily in their own environment, which is verification that more regional gatherings are essential. All youth stated that meet-

ing on their own level was easier for them to talk, since they are not intimidated by expectations from adults, time and reporters. However it was explained to them that in the future this is what they will have to deal with, and now was the time to appreciate the invitation to speak.

I believe that the youth are ready to form their own regional council and that issues and concerns can be worked

out between all four communities as a whole. The Tetlit Gwich'in will be presenting the Tribal Council with a recommendation to form a Regional Council in the New Year.

On behalf of the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council I thank you for the opportunity to allow them to stand up and be counted.



TETLIT GWICH'IN YOUTH COUNCIL Presentation to the GTC Annual General Assembly

Mussi Mr. Chair, Drin Gwinzii Shilak kat; my name is Krista Jerome from Fort McPherson, President of the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council. It gives me great pleasure to be a part of this grand organization and I applaud the efforts and achievements of our past and present leaders; I also thank my peers for their efforts in participating in the social, cultural, political and economic transformation of their respective communities.

Despite the fact that many of the quality of life indicators for Gwich'in youth have improved over the past decade, we continue to face essential

challenges addressing the gaps in many key, social, economic and health issues in our communities. The causes of the problems experienced by the youth are varied, complex and inter-related. If not addressed, the poor socio-economic and health outcomes coupled with high levels of youth unemployment will continue to affect the social structure of our communities and lead to major costs to local and regional governments, particularly in the justice and social departments. We desire the establishment of a budget that the youth can work with to help improve these issues from the youth's

TETLIT GWICH'IN YOUTH COUNCIL Presentation to the GTC Annual Assembly

With the ever-increasing approach of the Mackenzie Gas Project, youth are committed to finding opportunities that will allow them to be a part of the working force. While some may want to see the MGP put on hold awhile longer, there are those who realize we cannot return to our traditional way of life and that times are changing and with it comes higher cost of living, required education for better job opportunities, a chance to start our own business, and a chance to travel to other job sites worldwide. Whereas some are concerned about the impacts on environment and socio-economics, we feel satisfied that a benefits agreement that stress education, training, employment and business opportunities as well as an access agreement that preserves the principles of the Gwich'in Land Management Process was reached and for that we thank Richard Nerysoo, Tom Williams and the rest of the access & benefits negotiating team.

In spite of this, with development we will experience many social challenges in our communities, especially for youth. With the increase of cash flow, we will witness a boost in drug and alcohol availability and the problems that comes with it. In last years' presentation by the youth, Tsiigehtchic reported alcohol and drug abuse as their main issue; McPherson stated that youth unemployment and cre-

ating work experience were just 2 of their concerns; Aklavik reported their desire to receive more "on the land" programs as well as Summer Schooling for students with difficulties; and Inuvik wanted more Gwich'in language and cultural education. These are major issues and on-going struggles for the youth. Suicide is a complex issue - it is the end result of one of many contributing factors such as the ones just mentioned. The fact that a



lot of emphasis is put on education and training is appealing to the youth. However, we would like to see more funding available for drug and alcohol programs in the communities, now rather than later.

The youth need support and encouragement to seek training opportunities in the field of Peer Counselling, Drug & Alcohol counselling, and other related programs. It is essential that programs of this nature, currently offered, are also continued with follow-ups and continuous training. In each community, office space

must be provided for the youth to provide services to our peers in our own way - only then we may start to see progress. You cannot continue to provide programs and workshops merely for the sake of making the Government look good. Continuity is essential if these programs are going to work for us and the youth we serve. With the announcement of the Residential School Settlement, we must ensure that the youth and certainly the elders are going to be provided with essential support and counselling in regards to trauma of Survivors their children and grandchildren. Many of our people will have more money than ever before in their lives: therefore, workshops and programs that deal with money management, drug and alcohol issues and elder abuse must be provided immediately or we will continue and even get worse in our unhealthy lifestyles.

Recreational and sport activities must be enhanced to replace the substance abuse and facilities must be made available. We must lobby the municipal governments to do this and for that, we need the support of our chiefs and councils. Community coordinators must have a closer working relationship with the municipal recreation providers as well as the youth councils in order to provide and enhance healthy lifestyles for our members.

TETLIT GWICH'IN YOUTH COUNCIL Presentation to the GTC Annual Assembly



As I stated earlier, we cannot return to our traditional way of life. However, we can keep it alive through on-the-land education and in particular, our language and culture. Traditional training opportunities in land management and wildlife management would be an asset for employment in the monitoring field, as well as in renewable resource management. Week-end retreats at bush camps, in the Delta, at Tl'oondhi, the Rachel Reindeer Cultural Camp and up the Arctic Red River should be encouraged by both parents and resource people. These activities should include inter-community outings, which will bring the youth and communities closer in social and working relationships.

We are grateful to the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Self-Government Committee for their efforts in bringing the process closer to home. Self-Government is essential in keeping our inherent right as a unique people and we are grateful for the opportunity to be involved in the process. The

idea of doing community workshops and school presentations will eventually put the youth at the forefront of the process and get us more involved once we realize the importance of these consultations. Students have learned the importance of historical and current issues as well as political concepts, and so we encourage the Self-Government staff to continue their efforts in involving the youth. As a matter of fact, give us summer jobs or work-experience on the frontline, such as with lawyers, and head negotiators, for today's youth will become proud owners of tomorrow's Gwich'in self-government.

Young people today are a new generation of leaders and innovators, and I am proud to work in this area with the many talented, positive youth today. We are proud of who we are and we want to be involved in the shaping of our future and our children's future. We are indebted for the many struggles and hardships our families have faced. We are grateful for the many gifts that

are within us - our traditions, our beliefs, our strengths and our values.

If my parents and grandparents have taught me anything, it is that we are survivors; we are proud people and we must work for what we want. Our parents, grand-parents and our ancestors withstood decades of oppression so that we could be here today. They worked together, survived and supported each other. Their endurance and unity guaranteed a future for us.

Our ancestors signed treaties that also guaranteed our future and our survival as a nation. These treaties and our inherent right to govern ourselves must be fulfilled to be once again a self-determining people.

To my peers and young adults, I say that in order to regain our rightful place in this organization we must unite in the classrooms, on the streets, in the boardrooms, and in our homes. Our history is within and our pride is showing among us today.

Today's youth are joining with the leaders of the present. We are learning your strategies and we will continue your progress when our time comes. We will continue to fight for our rights as individuals and as a Nation.

So in closing, and on behalf of the Tetlit Gwich'in youth and indeed all Gwich'in youth, I ask you, as leaders, teachers, parents and grand-parents, to support and encourage us in our own struggles and endeavors as future leaders.

GWICH'IN SOCIAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTE

The GSCI welcomes Edward Wright as the Resource Coordinator in the Language Centre in Fort McPherson. Edward will be working with other Language Centre staff to oversee the research and development of all language and culturally related materials to be used within the regional school system, as well as to assist in putting materials together for the continuing promotion and preservation of the Gwich'in Language for all Gwich'in beneficiaries. Edward will also be focusing on funding proposal development to Industry and other outside agencies for projects on a broader scale that will further enhance the tools at our disposal for the promotion and preservation of the Gwich'in Language.

Programs

Second Language Curriculum

The Gwich'in Language Centre has been participating in the translation of a second-language curriculum to be used in schools to teach Gwich'in. The curriculum, developed through BDEC, will be implemented as soon as this school year. The Language Centre looks forward to making this curriculum work for local schools in the years to come.

Teet'it Gwich'in Googwandak

Sharon Snowshoe and Alestine Andre are assisting Michael Heine with this community history book project that will describe the history of the Teet'it Gwich'in. Michael Heine has been conducting research in various archives in the south to prepare for the

research phase of this project. The community history book might be published by December 2008, depending on funding sources and other factors. The GSCI will be conducting archival research, oral history interviews, and using information from previous studies such as ethno-archaeology to complete the book.

GSCI Five Year Plan

The final GSCI Five-Year Plan is complete and was presented at the GTC Annual Assembly in August. The Five-Year Plan outlines the direction the GSCI will take in research, staffing, and office locations. The Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council will review the plan at a future meeting.

Gwich'in Language Centre - Customer Friendly!

The Gwich'in Language Centre is always working to

create a friendly space for community members to drop in and look at their collection of materials about the language. If you are interested in learning the language, please feel free to drop by for resource material and advice.

Dene Nation Mapping Project - Phase II

The GSCI is working with the Dene Nation about Gwich'in materials from the Dene Mapping Project. This project was carried out in the 1970s and 1980s. There are various Gwich'in maps and tapes gathered during this project in Yellowknife that are deteriorating while in storage. The GSCI has secured multi-year funding from GTC to do a portion of the required work: photocopying text documents, converting cassette taped interviews to computer files and map conservation.



GWICH'IN SOCIAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTE

Vik'ooyendik Historic Sites Nomination Project, Tsiigehtchic

The GSCI and the Gwichya Gwich'in Council will be working together to nominate the Tsiigehtchic Church Hill to the NWT Historic Sites Register. The community steering committee will be meeting soon, and interviews will then be conducted with knowledgeable community members about the history of the Church Hill area.

Gwich'in Language Lessons

The GLC has contacted Leanne Hinton from Berkeley University in California who will be assisting in the format of teaching and learning Gwich'in from local fluent speakers. The method we would like to attempt was created and has proven its success within the communities in Alaska. Dates and further information will be communicated to the communities at a later date.

Other Proposals: Gwich'in Language Centre

The Language Centre is seeking funding to create an "Interactive" computer-based language chart program that would be more enticing to our computer-literate younger people. The language charts include language sentences to reinforce the letter, sound and pronunciation, and it includes "verbal" exchanges between two individuals to further reinforce language. The program can also have cultural information such as living on the land.

The Language Centre is also seeking funds to start a Traditional Drumming project. The goal is to get this traditional form of communication

and celebration back into our culture so that it can be used in our gatherings to further strengthen our Gwich'in identity. Please contact the Language Centre at 952-2377 for more information or to assist.

A new Elder's Biographies calendar is in the works, and the Language Centre is considering printing all the biographies in a book. They anticipate about 70 Elders from all four communities will be in the book.

Dinjii Zhuh Ginjik: Font Updating, Dictionary

Chris Harvey, a linguist and computer software developer, is coming to Inuvik and Fort McPherson to train all the Language Centre staff in using a new type of computer font - called a Unicode font - and keyboard program. This will make it much easier for us all to produce materials in our Gwich'in Language, and will ensure that computer documents produced in the Gwich'in Language today are still readable in ten years (which is currently not the case). Chris will also be visiting other community groups. A new edition of the Gwich'in dictionary will be published next spring.

Hain' choo Shilak kat!



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BEAUFORT-DELTA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS REUNION



In the Walls of His Mind
- lyrics by Stephen Kakfwi

*I remember the years
They took all the children
and they locked them away
Where they taught them to pray
There were children each night
Who were quietly crying
They are in the walls
And the halls of my mind.*

*How many little souls
That surely were dying
And they will be bury so deep
The shame that they keep
They will all be alone
In their Garden of Eden
Alone in the walls
And the halls of their minds.*

*"Oh" he cried to his father
"Please come and help free me"
Now he longs to be free
Of the wounds you can't see
And he tires of those demons
That keep him from sleeping
Alone in the walls
And the halls of his mind.*



Inuvik, July 10-14



*He tries to be a father
For his wife and his children
And he hides the pain
That will drive him insane
And that voice each night
That is quietly crying
Somewhere in the walls
And the halls of his mind.*



*Now he's back forty years
To confront all his fears
And he reaches down in that hole
To the pain in his soul
Now he knows he is the child
Who has been quietly crying
All alone in the walls
and the halls of his mind.*



*Do you remember the years
When you were the children
They locked you away
And taught you to pray
And your voices each night
Still quietly crying
Somewhere in the walls
And the halls of your mind.*



GWICH'IN GATHERING 2006



Inuvik, July 28 – August 3



MIDWAY LAKE MUSIC FESTIVAL



August 4-7



The GTC 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Hosted by the EHDITAT GWICH'IN COUNCIL



Aklavik GSA, August 15-18



Fred's Last Assembly Address





GWICH'IN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2006



Back row: President Fred Carmichael, Chief Richard Nerysoo, Chief Peter Ross, Robert Bourque, Tom Wright, Neil Colin, Noel Andre, Chief Charles Furlong, Chief Johnny Kay, Vice-President Mary Ann Ross Front: Bertha Francis and Mary Teya

Five Gwich'in Beneficiaries were recognized by their peers at the 23rd annual general assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. This is the second time the awards were presented by the GTC – in conjunction with the Gwich'in Development Corporation – to those who have demonstrated excellence, leadership or exceptional dedication to service in ways that bring credit to the Gwich'in Nation.

The recipients included:

- Neil Colin of Fort McPherson, for his contribution to Gwich'in Land;
- the late Shirley Kyikavi-

chik of Inuvik for her contribution to Gwich'in Culture (her sisters, Mary Teya and Bertha Francis accepted the award on her behalf);

- Karen Wright-Fraser of Yellowknife for her contribution to Gwich'in Economy (her uncle, Tom Wright, accepted on her behalf);
- Hycinthe Andre, Gwich'in Elder of Tsiigehtchic, for Gwich'in Lifetime Achievement (his son, Noel Andre, accepted on his behalf); and
- Jolene Mae Bourque of Inuvik for her contribution to Gwich'in Youth

(her father, Robert Bourque, accepted on her behalf).

"These five individuals are an extraordinary group who deserve much respect and admiration." said Mary Ann Ross, GTC Vice-President. "They have overcome many obstacles and demonstrated their dedication, energy, skills and knowledge to succeed in life. They provide inspiration for all of us, they remind us of all that that we can achieve, and that each of us has an important gift to share with others, our families, our communities and with the Gwich'in Nation."

CHIEF HYCINTHE ANDRE

MAY 14, 1910 - AUGUST 22, 2006

Born at Hehnuu deetâ'yah tshik (Bernard Creek) on May 14, 1910, on the eve of world war, Hyacinthe was the eldest son of Jullienne (Jerome) and John Tsal. He spent most of his life living on the land in the Khaii luk (Travaillant Lake) area, the Dachan choo gëhnjik (Tree River) area, the Delta around Nichitsii diniinlee (Big Rock) and 'up the Red' (Tsiigehnjik). At eleven years of age, he was witness to the signing of Treaty 11 in 1921, which took place on the Flats in front of the community.

In 1923, when his brother, Camelle, contracted TB, Hyacinthe accompanied him on the Roman Catholic mission boat to the hospital in Fort Simpson, where he stayed for two years working with the Sisters as a cook's assistant. When his brother died in 1925, Hyacinthe returned home and spent the next two years living on the land with his parents. In the fall of 1927, his parents arranged his marriage to Eliza Sam and on July 2, 1928 the young couple was married. In 1942-43, Hyacinthe and Eliza established a permanent camp at Tree River and over the years, raised 12 children there.

From his home at Tree River, Hyacinthe hunted, trapped and fished throughout the region. During summer he frequently planted a large garden at Tree River and in years of plenty, often sold boatloads of vegetables in town.

In 1942 he was first elected Chief of Tsiigehntchic, an office he held until 1980. During his 38 years as Chief, he became widely respected for his fair-mindedness, his decisive and clear thinking, and for his quick action, and today has the distinction of being the longest serving Chief in Gwich'in history.

When his wife, Eliza, passed away in 1977, Hyacinthe moved from Tree River to Tsiigehntchic, where he spent the rest of his years.

In the space of one lifetime Hyacinthe travelled by moose-skin boat and by high altitude passenger jet; he lived in a moss house and visited cities of skyscrapers; he attended the signing of treaty in 1921 and helped his people negotiate a comprehensive land claim, which was signed in 1992. He watched an epidemic of influenza sweep uncontrolled through the Mackenzie Valley in 1928 and witnessed the opening of a modern, new hospital in Inuvik in 2003. Six different Canadian Prime Ministers held office during his tenure as Chief. He helped launch the Dene Nation (then, the Indian Brotherhood) in 1969, saw the Dempster Highway completed in 1978, and witnessed the creation of Nunavut in 1999.

There were times of tremendous grief and sadness too as, over the years, he buried his wife and seven of his children. Through it all he remained a father, a husband, a hunter, and a leader and was widely respected for his knowledge, his welcoming, open and inviting way, and for his willingness to share his experiences.

He was a masterful storyteller sharing his experiences and knowledge of Gwich'in legends and history and many have enjoyed his craft. He was passionate about his language always encouraging young Gwich'in to learn it. He spoke Gwich'in fluently but also spoke English,



Slavey, and some French. His interest in Gwich'in heritage led his community to name the home of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Centre in his honour: the Chief Hyacinthe Andre Cultural Centre.

In his later years, failing eyesight and hearing made it difficult for him to tell stories or to hear news from other people and places, something else he always loved. His death brought him freedom from these discomforts, but in the bargain made us all poorer for his passing, for with him a book of knowledge and experience of unimaginable depth was lost and an entire era was brought to a close. May he rest in peace. *Khatsah gwiinzii Hyacinthe.*

A tribute from his friends, Tom Andrews and Ingrid Kritsch

Photo: courtesy of Alestine Andre

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