

**Gwich'in Tribal Council  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly  
Chief Paul Niditchie School, Tsiigehtchic  
August 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Resolutions & Action Items**

**Resolutions**

**Motion #01:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the 28<sup>th</sup> Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual General Assembly be Fred Koe and the Co-Chair be Peter Ross.

Moved by: Diane Baxter

Seconded by: Melba Mitchell

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

**Motion #02:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for the 2011 Gwich'in Tribal Council 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly be approved as amended.

Moved by: President Charlie Furlong

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

**Motion #03:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Resolutions Committee for the Gwich'in Tribal Council 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly be Diane Baxter, Carolyn Lennie, Abe Wilson, Eliza Greenland and Brian Grindey.

Moved by: Maureen Clarke

Seconded by: Chief William Koe

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

**Motion #04:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the 2010 Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual General Assembly be approved as presented.

Moved by: Diane Baxter

Seconded by: Frederick "Sonny" Blake

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

**Motion #05:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Gwich'in Tribal Council for the year ended March 31, 2011, be approved as presented.

Moved by: President Charlie Furlong

Seconded by: Carolyn Lennie

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

**Motion #06:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT KPMG be appointed as auditors for the Gwich'in Tribal Council for the year ended March 31, 2012.

Moved by: Barry Greenland

Seconded by: Diane Baxter

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

**Motion #07:2011 AGA**

WHEREAS, the Leadership of the Gwich'in Tribal Council has discussed the issues of concern in the NWT Devolution and Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement in Principle dated September 17, 2010, and commissioned a Report re: Fiscal and Self-Government Issues in Connection with Devolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council have reviewed the finding of the report for the Gwich'in Tribal Council entitled "Fiscal and Self-Government Issues in Connection with Devolution prepared for Richard Nerysoo, President, Gwich'in Tribal Council"; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors have agreed to a strategy on next steps to address the concerns of the Gwich'in Tribal Council about the fiscal and guiding principles of the NWT Devolution and Revenue Sharing Agreement in Principle; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors support the recommendations of the Report re: Fiscal and Self-Government Issues in Connection with Devolution submitted to Richard Nerysoo, President, Gwich'in Tribal Council prepared by Peter Eglinton and Lew Voytilla dated January 25, 2011.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly support the decisions of the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors to approve the amended draft report and the recommendation contained in the report entitled: Report re: Fiscal and Self-Government Issues in Connection with Devolution; and

FURTHER that the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly approve and support the implementation of the next steps to address the concerns of the Leadership of the Gwich'in Tribal Council in the process leading to an Agreement in Principle, the terms set out in the Agreement in Principle and the process to complete an agreement with Canada respecting Devolution and Resource Revenue Sharing in the Northwest Territories; and

FURTHER that the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly support the efforts of the President to work with the Dene Leadership in the development of a unified position on the matter of devolution and resource revenue sharing which will be in the interest of all residents of the NWT and improve the financial terms of any agreement on devolution and resource revenue sharing.

Moved by: Bert Bullock

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland

Question called: CARRIED unanimously.

#### **Motion #08:2011 AGA**

Be it resolved that the Assembly begin an in camera session at 10:23 a.m.

Moved by: Frederick "Sonny" Blake

Seconded by: James Cardinal

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

#### **Motion #09:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly end the in camera session at 10:50 a.m.

Moved by: Chief Herbert Blake

Seconded by: Wanda Pascal

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

#### **Motion #10:2011 AGA**

WHEREAS the Gwich'in Tribal council has an election manual it uses to help administer elections for the Gwich'in Tribal Council Executive; and

WHEREAS in 2008, a report was tabled suggesting a number of recommendations to improve the procedure with respect to elections; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement these changes, it is necessary to make changes to By-law No. 1.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following recommendations and associated changes be made to By-law No. 1 as noted below:

#### **1. Recommendation: Lengthen the election period by 30 days**

## CHANGES TO BY-LAW NO. 1

- i) In Section 7.4 of By-law No. 1, replace the reference to “thirty (30) days” with “sixty (60) days”.
- ii) In Section 7.7 of By-law No. 1, replace the reference to “fifty (50) days” with “seventy (70) days”.

## 2. Recommendation: Have polling stations in centres where there are more than 100 participants residing.

### CHANGES TO BY-LAW NO. 1

- i) Replace Section 7.13 of By-law No. 1 with the following wording:

**“7.13 Casting of Ballots.** The Chief Returning Officer shall establish poll booths in each Gwich'in Community and in any community where there are at least 100 eligible voters residing and each eligible voter shall place his or her ballot in the ballot box at the designated poll booth for that eligible voter. The casting of ballots shall be by secret ballot. Anyone who does not reside in a location where there is a poll booth shall specify which Gwich'in Community they have been associated with for purposes of enrolment and to arrange (with the Chief Returning Officer) to vote by mailing in a ballot prior to the date of the election.”

- ii) In Section 7.7 of By-law No. 1, add the following words after “Community”:

“and each community where there are at least 100 eligible voters residing”

## 3. Recommendation: changes respecting who is eligible for nominations

### CHANGES TO BY-LAW NO. 1

- i) Amend the first sentence of Section 7.8 so that the sentence begins:

“Any two (2) Active Participants...”

## 4. Recommendation: Eligibility

### CHANGES TO BY-LAW NO. 1

- i) Add the following Section 7.25:

**“Gwich'in Tribal Council Employees.** Any Gwich'in Tribal Council employee or staff member shall, before filing nomination papers for any election, whether with the GTC, a designated Gwich'in organization or a board of management (as such term is defined in the Election Policy and Procedures Manual) they shall either tender their resignation or have sought approval for and received an approved leave of absence effective from the time that nomination papers are filed until the results of the election are declared.”

## 5. Recommendation: Participants

### CHANGES TO BY-LAW NO. 1

- i) Change references to "Active Participants" and Active Participant" to "Participants " and "Participant".

Moved by: Barry Greenland

Seconded by: James Cardinal

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

### **Motion #11:2011 AGA**

WHEREAS:

The Gwich'in retain the inherent right of self government under Section 35(1) of the *Constitution of Canada, 1982*;

The Gwich'in have constitutional commitments from the Crown in Right of Canada in the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement 1992, to negotiate self government for the Gwich'in;

The Gwich'in have now established an effective and respectful negotiating relationship on a self government agreement with the Crown in Right of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories;

The Gwich'in Leadership, including the Gwich'in Executive, the Gwich'in Chiefs, Elders, Youth and advisors have conducted twelve strategy workshops between October 2009 to July 2011 to develop negotiating options and positions to advance to Main Table negotiations with Canada and Government of the Northwest Territories and this workshop format will continue to inform the negotiating options and positions of the Gwich'in on self government matters;

The strategic options developed in these workshops have provided a solid foundation to continue self government negotiations with Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories based upon Gwich'in Leadership direction and Gwich'in community consultations on the Gwich'in self government positions and options being advanced; and

A workplan to complete a draft Agreement in Principle by December 31, 2012, on Gwich'in self-government has been accepted by the Gwich'in, Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly confirms and re-affirms its support for the principles, options and positions being advanced at the Gwich'in Self Government Main Table based upon the advice and direction of the Gwich'in Leadership, Elders, Youth and Gwich'in communities;

2. Further that the Gwich'in Senior Negotiator, will provide community updates and Leadership reports on the progress of the self government negotiations as may be directed by the Board of Directors or the Gwich'in leadership from time to time;
3. Further that an update be provided at the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly by the Gwich'in Senior Negotiator; and
4. Further that the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly continues to support the Gwich'in self government negotiation team and encourages them to continue good faith negotiations to achieve a good and effective draft Agreement in Principle on Gwich'in self government with the Crown in Right of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Moved by: Ellen Smith

Seconded by: Maureen Clark

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

## **Motion #12:2011 AGA**

WHEREAS questions have been raised about:

- (a) the relationship between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organizations and, in particular, whether the relationship as currently constituted is the most advantageous for Gwich'in Participants; and
- (b) the differing policies and procedures of the various Designated Gwich'in Organizations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to, in consultation -with the Designated Gwich'in Organizations:

- i) consider the nature of the relationship between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organizations; and
- ii) evaluate the effectiveness of the overall Gwich'in organizational structure and, in particular, the effect of having differing policies and procedures amongst the Designated Gwich'in Organizations;

with a view to ensuring that the relationship and structure is the most advantageous to Gwich'in Participants having regard at all times to the provisions of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Moved by: Archie Norbert

Seconded by: James Cardinal

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

## **Motion #13:2011 AGA**

WHEREAS the community of Tsiigehtchic is the only one of the four Gwich'in communities without a high school such that is a parental responsibility to find appropriate accommodations for children - either in Inuvik or Fort McPherson;

AND WHEREAS the community of Tsiigehtchic remains concerned about the lack of facility where their children can reside while going to school;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to research the costs of a home boarding facility versus the existing arrangements (billeting) with a view to determining the economic feasibility of a home boarding facility.

Moved by: John Norbert

Seconded by: John Firth

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

#### **Motion #14:2011 AGA**

WHEREAS the Gwich'in Tribal Council is now fully responsible for the costs of Annual General Assemblies and it is recognized that the costs of holding an Assembly are significant;

AND WHEREAS significant cost savings may be achieved by reducing the number of delegates;

AND WHEREAS it would be beneficial to, on a trial basis, explore conducting an Annual General Assembly with fewer delegates;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. For the 29th Annual General Assembly each of the four Gwich'in Communities bring five delegates to such Assembly; and
2. At the end of such Assembly the delegates pass a resolution giving direction with respect to the number of delegates at future Assemblies recognizing that such resolution may require an amendment to By-law No. 1.

Moved by: Barry Greenland

Seconded by: Diane Baxter

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

#### **Motion #15:2011 AGA**

WHEREAS it is critical to continue capacity building within the Gwich'in Settlement Area of businesses in which the Gwich'in have significant interests;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the delegates of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly give the general direction that the Gwich'in Tribal Council make Mackenzie Valley Construction Ltd. (or any successor company or entity) the

company of choice for work on all highway/road systems that lie within the Gwich'in Settlement Area; provided always that such direction is subject to the legal duty of the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board to act in the best interests of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Moved by: Bert Bullock

Seconded by: Barry Greenland

**Motion #16:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly begin an in camera discussion at 5:03 p.m.

Moved by: James Cardinal

Seconded by: Frederick "Sonny" Blake

Question called: CARRIED unanimously.

All non-Participants were asked to leave the room for the discussion.

**Motion #17:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly end its in camera discussion at 6:17 p.m.

Moved by: Barry Greenland

Seconded by: James Cardinal

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

Question called for Motion #15: CARRIED, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions (Herbert Blake, Diane Baxter, Philip Blake and Johnny Charlie declared conflict for this motion and did not participate in the vote or discussion.)

**Motion #18:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the location of the 2012 Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual General Assembly will be the community of Fort McPherson.

Moved by: Diane Koe

Seconded by: Maureen Clark

Question called: CARRIED unanimously.

**Motion #19:2011 AGA**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council supports the President to continue discussions as laid out in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Gwich'in and the Nacho Nyak Dun.

Moved by: Archie Norbert

Seconded by: Bert Bullock

Question called: CARRIED unanimously

**Motion #20:2011 AGA**

To adjourn the 2011 Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual General Assembly at 9:30 p.m.

Moved by: Frederick "Sonny" Blake

**Action Items**

Item	Person/Department Responsible	Results
Dolomite Lake – Community Forum re management of the area with Municipal & Community Affairs and Town of Inuvik	Municipal & Community Affairs	
Need to send letter requesting a Housing Committee to begin the process.	Community of Tsiigehtchic	
Follow up on funding to Inuvik Homeless Shelter re renovations money that might be available.	Minister McLeod	
Provide a written response why the Gwich'in were not given the opportunity of first refusal on Commissioner's Land at Dolomite Lake.	Yvonne Doolittle	
Provide copies of President Nerysoo's comments to all Gwich'in.	GTC Staff	
Distribute copies of the Executive Summary for the Report on Devolution and Resource Revenue Sharing for Participants to pick up.	GTC Staff	
Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program – look at funding allocations between communities to see if there is unused moneys that could be transferred.	Mary Ann Ross	
Send staff to Tsiigehtchic to counsel young people until an Employment Officer can be hired for the community.	Gwich'in Services	
Note the names of the Elders that participate in research projects along with the names of the southern researchers.	Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute	
Establish scholarships in the name of Elizabeth Hansen and Jonathon Andre	GTC Board of Directors/Executive	