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GWICH'IN BUSINESS POLICY APPROVED

The Gwich'in Tribal Council's board of directors has approved a business policy that will govern companies that work in the Gwich'in Settlement Region. Under the terms of their land claim agreement, the Gwich'in have a right to implement this business policy.

The policy was developed by the Nehtr'uh Development Corporation, a Gwich'in Business that consulted extensively with Gwich'in businesses, local development corporations, community leaders and individuals.

The policy will create certainty for companies operating within the region. It will also increase cooperation and communication between the Gwich'in Development Corporation, community development corporations, local Gwich'in businesses and outside businesses.

The new policy requires that when goods and/or services that are required by companies working within the settlement region can be supplied on a competitive basis and can meet all qualification criteria, the contract will be awarded to a Gwich'in Business.

A Schedule "A" has been created and includes four subsidiaries of the Gwich'in Development Corporation: Gwich'in Properties, Gwich'in Ensign Oilfield Services, Trans North Arctic Helicopters, and Mackenzie Valley Construction Ltd.

These four companies will be provided the first opportunity to supply whatever goods or services are required in their designated specialty. They will have this right as long as they are able to provide goods or services on a competitive basis and meet all of the contractor's health, safety, and environmental standards. When contractors in the settlement region solicit bids, they will first solicit bids from these four businesses. Schedule "A" companies will also look to other Gwich'in Businesses to joint venture on a project-by-project basis. They will have the first right of approval for significant government contracts.

For midsized and small government contracts, the right of first refusal shall go to the local community's development corporation. If that company is not interested in the work or not successful in negotiating a contract, the government work shall be tendered out to qualified businesses on the Gwich'in Business List.

In the event that there are no qualified Gwich'in Businesses that meet a contract's selection criteria, companies working in the region must provide contracts on a preferential basis first to Beaufort-Delta companies, then to Northwest Territories companies, then to businesses located anywhere in the world.

For more information or to set up interviews, contact:

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