



**GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL**  
**26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**September 8-10, 2009**  
**Resolutions (official)**

NOTE: these are the motions that were presented in the Resolutions section of the agenda and do not include any of the other motions made during the Assembly – this means that the numbering of these motions will be adjusted once the minutes have been completed.

**Resolution #1**

WHEREAS the implementation of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* remains of critical importance to all Gwich'in;

AND WHEREAS issues arising from transboundary agreements remain;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the four Gwich'in communities be directed to work with the Government of Canada to ensure proper consultation and accommodation be implemented on issues arising from any transboundary agreement are adequately funded through the Implementation Plan for the next review and that a Gwich'in Tribal Council representative work with the Gwich'in Communities on related issues and updates.

Moved by: Eddie Wright

Seconded by: Chief Sonny Blake

Question called: CARRIED with 2 abstentions

**Resolution #2**

WHEREAS it is of the utmost importance to promote and sustain the regular use of the Gwich'in language and its various dialects;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute be directed to work with the Government of the NWT to establish official use of the Gwich'in language in each of the respective communities of Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Inuvik and to generally promote the regular use of Gwich'in language dialects

Moved by: Cheryl Greenland

Seconded by: John Norbert

Question called: CARRIED

**Resolution #3**

~~WHEREAS there have been concerns raised about the safety of ferry approaches and air quality at fish camps and in residential areas;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to lobby the Government of the NWT Department of Transportation to address such concerns by, among other things:~~

~~(a) installing sliding ramps on ferry approaches; and~~

~~(b) implementing a program of crystal mage applications to control the dust problem in fish camps and residential areas.~~

Moved by: ~~John Norbert~~

Seconded by: ~~Herbert Andre~~

~~Revised resolution:~~

~~WHEREAS there have been concerns raised about the safety of ferry approaches and air quality at fish camps and in residential areas;~~

~~BIRT the GTC conduct a legal review of the terms of the GCLCA as it applies to the ferry landing approaches location and facilities.~~

~~MOTION DEFERRED~~

#### **Resolution #4**

~~WHEREAS it has been some time since there was a review of the amounts payable with respect to billeting in communities with hotels;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to review and revise their budget respecting billeting in communities with hotels so as to ensure that the budget reflects current economic realities.~~

Moved by: ~~Alex Greenland~~

Seconded by: ~~Doug Kendo~~

~~MOTION WITHDRAWN by Mover and Seconder~~

#### **Resolution #5**

WHEREAS it is critical that Gwich'in youth have access to education and related support services;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organizations be directed to work with the Beaufort Delta Education Council with respect to the following initiatives:

(a) development of a boarding facility (with tutors, staff and land activities) for Gwich'in students residing outside of the four Gwich'in communities, with priority being given to students from communities that do not have grade 10, 11 and 12 services;

(b) provision of supervisors, counsellors and tutors for Gwich'in students to access throughout the school year to assist them with their education needs and with sufficient skills to allow such supervisors to

(i) quickly identify and react to areas where students require particular assistance; and

- (ii) monitor, track and offer weekly assistance to students from outside of one of the four Gwich'in communities when they enter a new school.

Moved by: Douglas Kendo

Seconded by: John Norbert

Question called: CARRIED, 2 abstentions

#### **Resolution #6**

~~WHEREAS hunting and guns are an important part of Gwich'in society and culture;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to work with the various Gwich'in communities and the Renewable Resource Councils to hold gun workshops in each of the four communities examining, among other things, gun laws, the relationship between Gwich'in culture and guns, gun safety and related matters.~~

~~No mover for the motion.~~

#### **Resolution #7**

WHEREAS the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program ("GHAP") is critical to the Gwich'in people from an economic, cultural and social perspective;

AND WHEREAS it has been some time since GHAP has been reviewed;

AND WHEREAS there are concerns with respect to GHAP including concerns about the inability of part-time harvesters to access funding for fuel;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed, in consultation with the various Gwich'in communities, to engage in a full review of the GHAP to ensure that it is operating as it was intended and to examine the concerns raised with respect to the GHAP (including those related to no fuel for part-time harvesters) and to report back to the next Annual General Assembly with any arising recommendations, if any.

Moved by: May Andre

Seconded by: Eddie Wright

Question called: CARRIED with 4 abstentions

#### **Resolution #8**

~~WHEREAS it is critical that the Gwich'in Tribal Council have a voice with respect to all natural resources within the Gwich'in Settlement Area including wildlife resources;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to work with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to examine the Grizzly Bear Management Plan so as to ensure that the Gwich'in have appropriate and proper control over wildlife resources within the Gwich'in Settlement Area.~~

~~No mover for the resolution.~~

**Resolution #9**

WHEREAS it is a critical priority to take advantage of Brighter Futures Funding;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to take steps to secure "Brighter Futures" funding, on a regional basis, so that all Gwich'in youth can benefit.

Moved by: Liz Hansen

Seconded by: Chief Herbert Blake

Question called: CARRIED

**Resolution #10**

WHEREAS it is critical that the Gwich'in Tribal Council have a voice with respect to all natural resources within the Gwich'in Settlement Area including gravel and other granular materials;

AND WHEREAS it is of utmost importance to ensure that the Gwich'in people are fairly compensated for gravel and other granular materials that are being used, particularly with respect to any road construction;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to ensure that parties using Gwich'in gravel and other granular materials are paying proper royalties with respect to the use of the same.

Moved by: Chief Wilbert Firth

Seconded by: Florence Vaneltsi

Question called: CARRIED with 1 abstention

**Resolution #11**

WHEREAS it is critical that board members of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the designated Gwich'in organizations and the other related Gwich'in boards understand their responsibilities arising as board members;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to take steps to educate the Gwich'in people with respect to Gwich'in governance generally and board governance specifically;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to work with the designated Gwich'in organizations and other related Gwich'in boards to:

- (a) develop (or where terms of reference already exist, update) clear terms of reference with respect to each board;
- (b) develop a set of qualifications for board members;
- (c) develop a board orientation package/process for incoming board members; and
- (d) establish board development workshops for current and possible board members to educate them on their roles and responsibilities as board members and to address reporting requirements, attendance requirements, and related matters relevant to board governance.

Moved by: Chief Herbert Blake

Seconded by: Diane Baxter

Question called: CARRIED

**Resolution #12**

WHEREAS the construction of the Mackenzie Highway would represent significant opportunities for the Gwich'in people;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to develop and implement a plan with respect to taking steps to facilitate the construction of the Mackenzie Highway and to prepare the Gwich'in people for the possible construction of the Mackenzie Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council prepare a report on the status and results of the work for 2009 and 2010 and present to the 2010 Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual General Assembly.

Moved by: Chief Herbert Blake

Seconded by: Bernice Furlong

Question called: CARRIED

**Resolution #13**

WHEREAS concerns have been raised with respect to the lack of legislation addressing trespass in the NWT;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to lobby the Government of Canada and the MP for the Western Arctic to pass trespass legislation that would apply throughout the NWT including within the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Moved by: Chief Herbert Blake

Seconded by: Alan Firth

Question called: CARRIED

~~Resolution #14 was withdrawn by the Fort McPherson delegation.~~

**Resolution #15**

WHEREAS the percentage of aboriginal people in the Gwich'in, Sahtu, Inuvialuit and Central Arctic regions who are former Indian Residential School students is higher than anywhere else in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the negative impacts of Indian Residential Schools have included the loss of Gwich'in language and culture, physical and sexual abuse, emotional and spiritual well-being;

AND WHEREAS the direct and indirect impacts of Indian Residential Schools upon former Gwich'in students, their families and future generations are of great concern to all Gwich'in;

AND WHEREAS a Truth and Reconciliation Commission has been established by the Government of Canada to contribute to the truth, healing and reconciliation goals of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission includes the funding and hosting of seven national events to engage the Canadian public and provide education about the Indian residential schools, the experience of former students and their families and the ongoing legacies of the residential school institutions;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the intergenerational impact of Indian Residential School attendance on the aboriginal peoples of the Gwich'in, Sahtu, Inuvialuit and Central Arctic Regions is unprecedented and deserving of national recognition through the holding of one of the seven national events in the Town of Inuvik where the largest Indian Residential School and the last to operate was located;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an organizing committee, consisting of representatives of all aboriginal peoples who attended an Indian Residential in the Western Arctic, be established to work in cooperation with the Truth and Reconciliation Committee to plan and conduct such an event.

Moved by: Hazel Nerysoo

Seconded by: Victor Stewart

Question called: CARRIED

#### **Resolution #16**

WHEREAS the Gwich'in language is an important part of Gwich'in identity and culture;

AND WHEREAS it is anticipated that there will be an increased need for Gwich'in translators in the future;

AND WHEREAS there is currently a shortage of qualified Gwich'in translators;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to work with Yukon College, Aurora College, the Native Communications Society and the Department of Education Culture and Employment to establish a Gwich'in Translator Program.

Moved by: Victor Stewart

Seconded by: Liz Hansen

Question called: CARRIED

#### **Resolution #17**

WHEREAS sport can play a significant role in enhancing the lives of people engaged in sport;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to work directly with the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Western Arctic to implement programs in the Gwich'in Settlement Area for Gwich'in people and, in particular, Gwich'in youth.

Moved by: Victor Stewart

Seconded by: Daniel Blake

Question called: CARRIED

**Resolution #18**

WHEREAS economic opportunities are extremely crucial to the growth and strength of each of the Gwich'in communities;

AND WHEREAS there are ongoing concerns from members of the Fort McPherson community regarding the lack of business contracts awarded to members of their community;

AND WHEREAS the Gwich'in Tribal Council has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the NWT concerning economic growth and business opportunities within the Gwich'in Settlement Area;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to take steps to ensure that the Government of the NWT meet its contractual obligations as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding so as to ensure that businesses in the Gwich'in Settlement Area receive economic benefits in an equitable manner.

Moved by: Richard Wilson

Seconded by: Eddie Wright

Question called: CARRIED

**Resolution #19**

WHEREAS the legacy of residential schools continues to impact people and their lives throughout the NWT and there remains a critical need to address the impacts in a positive way;

AND WHEREAS there are concerns that significant funds are not available to address the adverse impacts of the residential school legacy until (and if) the pipeline arrives;

AND WHEREAS there are plans to hold a national Truth and Reconciliation Commission event in the North to address the legacy of residential schools;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to establish a residential schools working group to develop an action plan and recommendations with respect to the upcoming national event and to address future issues that may arise with respect to residential schools and the healing journey of Gwich'in survivors;

AND BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to allow the Gwich'in region to develop and deliver story telling projects among the four Gwich'in communities using local resources.

Moved by: Liz Hansen

Seconded by: Mary Ann Ross

Question called: CARRIED

**Resolution #20**

WHEREAS Gwich'in Participants are entitled to receive \$3,541 (in 1991 dollars) (the "Payment") pursuant to the provisions of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the Payment is being paid out over time and is scheduled to be paid out for all Gwich'in Participants by March, 2017;

AND WHEREAS there have been concerns expressed that Gwich'in elders are being adversely affected by not being entitled to fully access the Payment until March, 2017;

AND WHEREAS there is a desire to provide a one-time payment to Gwich'in elders so as to ensure that they get access to the full value of the Payment in a timely manner so as to allow them to use the funds in the manner they desire;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation be authorized, after consultation with their financial advisors (including the Investment Advisor), to:

- (a) payout, to those Gwich'in participants who are aged 70 or older at September 30, 2009, the remainder of the Payment due to them as a one-time capital payment, and
- (b) payout, to those Gwich'in participants who are between the ages of 65 and 69 at December 31, 2009, the remainder of the Payment due to them as a one-time capital payment.

Moved by: Phillip Blake

Seconded by: Eddie Wright

Question called: CARRIED, 1 abstention

**Resolution #21**

WHEREAS the Izhii K'aiikit Tat Gwich'in living in the south MacKenzie communities wish to formalize their relationship with the Gwich'in Tribal Council;

AND WHEREAS in 2002 at the Annual General Assembly motion #16 – H / 02 was passed directing the Gwich'in Tribal Council to, among other things, consider changes to its by-laws to allow a minimum of two delegates each from Whitehorse and Yellowknife to attend Gwich'in assemblies;

AND WHEREAS the Gwich'in Tribal Council currently provides support to bring two participants each from the Izhii K'aiikit Tat Gwich'in and from the Yukon;

AND WHEREAS these participants only have observer status at the Assembly;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to act and implement motion #16 – H / 02 to allow the participants from Izhii K'aiikit Tat Gwich'in and the Yukon to have full voting delegate status at future Gwich'in Tribal Council Assemblies and Special Meetings;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to incorporate these recommendations in their by-laws.

Moved by: Eddie Wright

Seconded by: Victor Stewart

Question called: CARRIED with 4 abstentions

**Resolution #22**

~~WHEREAS some Gwich'in participants are desirous of receiving a pay out of their annual capital payments and ceasing to be enrolled as Gwich'in participants;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to establish a committee (with one member from each of the four Gwich'in communities plus an appointed chair) to develop a guideline to pay out Gwich'in participants who choose to take their cash benefit, which committee will report back to the Gwich'in Tribal Council with its findings and recommendations.~~

~~Moved by: Eddie Wright~~

~~Secunder: John Norbert~~

~~Question called: DEFEATED with 2 abstentions~~

**Resolution #23**

WHEREAS the Gwich'in Tribal Council established a bereavement fund program which has been in effect for a number of years and as funding levels have been held steady since the program's inception;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council be directed to examine increasing the funds payable under the bereavement fund program and provide feedback on the review within 4 months.

Moved by: Hazel Nerysoo

Seconded by: Eddie Wright

Question called: CARRIED with 2 abstentions