

January - February 2007

Dagwidi'ii

"What We Are Doing"



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Gwich'in land, culture & economy for a better future

**'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

Ph: 867-777-7900 Enrolment: Toll Free 1-866-414-4670

Fx: 867-777-7919 Website: www.gwichin.nt.ca

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Fred Carmichael	777-7900
Vice-President	Mary Ann Ross	777-7905
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Director, Gwichya Gwich'in Council	Phillip Blake	953-3201
Director, Tetlit Gwich'in Council	Johnny Kay	952-2330
Director, Tetlit Gwich'in Council	Eileen Koe	952-2330
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Director, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council	James Edwards	978-2340
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Director, Nihtat Gwich'in Council	Tom Wright	777-6650

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Chief Operating Officer	Tom Williams	777-7903
Chief Financial Officer	Greg Cayen	777-7904



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Communications Advisor	Lawrence Norbert	777-7923

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Lands Manager	Mardy Semmler	777-7913
Lands & Resource Officer	Glen Alexie	777-7914
GIS Technician	vacant	777-7942
Environmental Impact Assessment	Kim Hawkins	777-7934
Administrative Assistant	Melma Greenland	777-7910

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
Regional FASD Coordinator	Tena Blake	952-2592
Regional Diabetes Coordinator	Shandel Furlong	978-2340

SELF-GOVERNMENT

Chief Negotiator	Charles Furlong	777-7915
Director	Karen Snowshoe	777-7924
Regional S/G Coordinator	Margaret Gordon	777-7941
Regional S/G Coordinator	Mavis Clark	777-7910



EXECUTIVE

In an overwhelming vote, delegates at the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Special Assembly passed a special resolution extending the terms of their President and Vice-President for an additional year.

With the unanimous vote, delegates gave the mandate for Fred Carmichael and Mary Ann Ross respectively to continue their executive duties and responsibilities in resolving several important issues in order for the Gwich'in to move towards the goal of self-sufficiency.

The outstanding issues include:

- continuity in leadership and a solid working relationship with the Federal and Territorial governments;
- continuity of leadership to ensure that the GTC is fully prepared for the commencement of a proposed Mackenzie Gas Project;
- continued political support in preparing a Regional Investment Plan that will establish community and regional priorities of the GTC share of a \$500-million Socio-Economic Impact Fund;

- continued political partnership with the GNWT and other Aboriginal governments in establishing a process to negotiate a fair and equitable resource-revenue sharing and devolution agreement;
- continuity of leadership within the Gwich'in Development Corporation in making it a profitable and strong economic organization;
- continuity in leadership to implement a GTC Strategic Plan that will ensure all Gwich'in entities are fully resourced and the capacity needs are met as the Gwich'in move towards self-sufficiency;
- continuity of leadership in implementing the changes of By-Law #3 (increase in funding to Gwich'in organizations and Beneficiaries and protection of the Gwich'in Settlement Fund for future generations) and ensuring that the Gwich'in organizations are prepared to assume this added responsibility; and
- continuity in leadership in moving forward the self-government file.

“We thank the delegates for their resounding support in helping us move these important issues forward until our new terms end in June 2008” said President Carmichael and Vice-President Ross. “These are critical times, especially with the end of payments from the Federal government under our land claim agreement, plus the anticipated development of a Mackenzie Gas Project.”

As the result of a widely-circulated petition presented to the GTC Board of Directors in November 2006, a Board motion (#2006/70) was passed in December 2006 to call a Special Assembly to discuss the Term Extension of the current Executive members: President Carmichael and Vice-President Ross.

The GTC Board of Directors felt that an election in June 2007 was not in the best interest of the Gwich'in since there were a number of outstanding issues to be dealt with by the Executive and that a change in leadership might not be a wise decision.



LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION



Breakout session at NWT Barren-ground Caribou Summit, January 23-26, 2007

Drin Gwiinzii. Hope everyone had enjoyable holidays.

Implementation

As a follow up to the Implementation Committee meeting in December 2007, research is being carried out on federal policies regarding the Economic Measures Chapter of the *GCLCA*. There was also a meeting with Government of Canada Treasury Board to discuss the federal contracting process.

The Government of Canada has hired a consultant to carry out an evaluation of impacts of comprehensive land claims. The consultant met with the GTC and was advised that the GTC would not be participating in this process. The GTC as a member of the Land Claim Advisory Coalition which is already trying to amend the Federal Land Claim Implementation Policy and the GTC believes that land claim evaluations could be part of that process.

Wildlife Management

The GTC has participated in the review of the Draft Dall Sheep Management Plan. The GTC con-

tinues to work on the PCMB Harvest Management Strategy. The GTC reviewed the PCMB Harvest Management Strategy Protocol. Also the GTC continues to participate in the Bluenose/Cape Bathurst Caribou Management Strategy. There is a huge concern about the decreasing numbers of caribou in the NWT.

Land Management

Diamondex Resources Ltd of Vancouver has submitted an application to conduct Mineral Exploration within the Caribou Lakes area. The mineral exploration will consist of a ground magnetic survey and depending on the results of the survey, diamond drilling is proposed. The Land Administration has submitted comments to the Gwich'in Land and Water Board and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board for projects within their jurisdiction.

The GTC Land Administration Department is in the fourth process of reviewing the Land Use Authorization. The Land Management and Control Guidelines 2007/2008 Fee Schedule will

come into effect on April 1, 2007.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The National Energy Board wrapped up its public hearing phase for the regulatory review of the Mackenzie Gas Project in December but the Joint Review Panel will probably not be finished holding their hearings until sometime in April. The GTC participated in the hearings about wildlife, in January, along with the GRRB, to voice some concerns and make recommendations about potential project impacts. The panel that spoke at the hearings included the Renewable Resource Council presidents for Aklavik (Fanny Greenland), Tsiigehtchic (John Norbert) and Fort McPherson (Abe Wilson).

Melma Greenland is our new LRI Administration Assistant and can be reached at (867) 777-7910. Have a safe and happy winter.



REGIONAL WELLNESS

Drin Gwiinzii! Congratulations to Regional Youth/Elder Coordinator Victor Stewart and his crew on doing an excellent job in hosting the Youth Symposium. By all accounts, everyone had a great time, learned a lot and is looking forward to the next one. Thank you also to Tena Blake (FASD Coordinator) and Shandel Furlong (Diabetes Coordinator) for their work this year. We hope the program will be up and running again next year!

The GTC Wellness Office has participated in the planning and hosting of the Beaufort Delta Addictions Conference in Inuvik. There were many interesting topics of discussion for registered participants and evening sessions for the public.

There will be meetings held in each community before the end of March to discuss the Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Funding. There is much work to be done in a short period of time. We hope to see a great turn out at these meetings.

Take time to enjoy the return of the sun and we hope to see everyone out enjoying all the spring carnivals!

Regional Diabetes Coordinator

In February, the Community Kitchen Project was held in Aklavik & Inuvik. There was a great turn out and I had a few suggestions to have the community kitchen on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

On the Menu, was Caribou Stir-Fry & Whole Wheat Bannock! For many this was their first time making bannock and were impressed with using whole wheat flour.

I enjoyed working with the Communities and would like to thank everyone who attended this event. I also have been on CBC radio a few times with Diabetic Recipes and I enjoyed sharing these recipes for all to try.

Mahsi Cho.

Elders & Youth Coordinator

A Gwich'in Youth symposium "GATHERING OUR VOICES 2007" was held in Fort McPherson during February 23 – 26 with more than 80 youth from the Gwich'in communities plus from Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Hay River and Grand Prairie attended this exciting and informative conference.

The conference was done on a workshop format and the youth had the option of attending 4 workshops over the four days. 'Empowerment and Leadership' was facilitated by youth from Nichii Institute from Edmonton. These two dynamic facilitators also led the youth in some cool round dances and performances. Ellen Smith from the H&SS provided valuable insight on Youth Suicide prevention and how to help their peers who may be thinking of suicide. Re-connecting with our roots and finding out who we are was also very informative and exciting for the youth and this Cultural Awareness workshop was facilitated by Violet Doolittle. Education and Career development was the main focus of the conference and we provided the youth with valuable information and resources with Jake Heron, GTC Business Development Manager and

former Chief Julius school principle Roy Cole. The youth also found out how to access job search engines through the internet and how to submit résumés online, and this was done with Aurora College Learning center instructor Taig Connell. Recreation and Healthier lifestyle was another workshop provided for the youth and facilitated by staff from the NWTRPA from Yellowknife.

We began each day with a prayer and words of encouragement by elders Mary Teya and Liz Colin. National Aboriginal Role Model Alisa Blake was the Opening Keynote Speaker and we had Lunch and Supper speakers throughout the weekend with words of encouragement for the youth. The Fort Good Hope Youth Drummers also provided instruction on Dene Hand Games.

The big closing workshop and motivational speech to the Youth was done by certified drug and alcohol counsellor and comedian Don Burnstick. Mr. Burnstick also provided a comedy show (free) for the community. We had a mini career fair on Sunday that was attended by all the registered youth delegates as well as community members. An essay contest and art contest was conducted: the essay winner was Miranda Stewart who won a Lap Top donated by the Northern Stores and the Art Contest was won by Jennifer Greenland who received a digital camera with printer, also donated by Northern Stores. A draw was done and Melynda Lennie won a trip for 2 anywhere Canadian North flies. GTC President Fred Carmichael closed the conference with a speech to the youth about his back ground and where he would like to see the youth 10 years from now. All in all, the conference was a success and the youth have expressed great joy and thankfulness to have had this opportunity to finally come together to receive and share information with each other.



Wellness Camp

GWICH'IN SOCIAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTE

The GSCI staff and Board of Directors are very pleased to welcome Ingrid Kritsch, Research Director, back to work after a lengthy medical leave and we wish her continued recovery. Welcome back, Ingrid!

PROJECT UPDATES

Knut Lang's Place and Vik'ooyendik Territorial Historic Sites Nomination Project, Aklavik and Tsiigehtchic

Draft copies of the nomination forms for Knut Lang's Place in Aklavik and Vik'ooyendik (Church Hill) in Tsiigehtchic are completed. Meetings with the Community Steering Committee in Tsiigehtchic and Aklavik are scheduled for March to review and change the draft nomination forms as needed before it is finalized and submitted by March 31, 2007.

Gwich'in Language Dictionary, Sixth Edition

Workshops with the Gwich'in Language Dictionary continue to progress with the most recent ones being conducted in Tsiigehtchic from January 31 – February 2, 2007. Hannah Alexie, Teetl'it Zheh Elder and Language Specialist, along with Linguist Trainee, Mary Clark, attended to a local group of Gwichya Gwich'in Elders and young people to continue with the discussion and verification of Gwich'in words for current day English words. The workshops in Tsiigehtchic went very well.

Gwich'in Elders Biographies

The Gwich'in Language Centre continues to work at gathering as

much background information recorded on Gwich'in Elders as possible. A recent focus is an attempt to get information from Gwich'in Elders presently living in the southern NWT and beyond. Their stories are also important to the overall Gwich'in identity as well. Resources permitting, a timeframe and plans are being worked on to accomplish this task. Gwich'in people continue to thrive on the wisdom and knowledge of Elders' experiences that they share and pass on. *Hain' choo nakhwagwich'in kat!*

Gwich'in Second Language Curriculum

Edward Wright, Resource Coordinator, reports the implementation of this curriculum is progressing well. The Gwich'in Language Instructors are currently attending two ALCIP courses at the Aurora College in Inuvik under the direction and teaching of Liz Hansen. A three-day discussion meeting will follow with the Language Instructors to deal with any issues related to the curriculum.

Gwich'in Repatriating Skills Project

Natasha Lyons, Ph.D. student, University of Calgary, who has recently completed an artifact project with well-known Inuvialuit in Aklavik and Inuvik, will meet with GSCI to discuss a similar repatriating project. A one day workshop is scheduled in March with Elders and other participants in Fort McPherson to view photos and items to get ideas on what traditional skills will be undertaken for this project. For example, repatriating traditional skills could in-

clude weaving rabbit skin clothing and blankets, making snowshoe frame and lacing, making babiche and lacing, making tanning tools, etc. Only a handful of Gwich'in Elders and individuals currently possess knowledge and skills on how these items are made.

Proposed projects for 2007/08

- Aklavik Heritage Sites Project
- Arctic Red River Headwaters Project Phase III: Heritage Resources and Traditional Use – on-going
- Peel River Watershed Planning Commission Project
- Self-Government Chapters (Heritage, Culture and Language)
- Gwich'in Language Dictionary, Sixth Edition – on-going
- Teetl'it Gwich'in Googwandak Project
- Photo Digitization Project
- Board Training for GSCI Board of Directors and Staff

CONTACTS:

Sharon Snowshoe, Executive Director, 952-2524

Ingrid Kritsch, Research Director, 669-9743

Alestine Andre, Heritage Researcher, 953-3613

Kristi Benson, Aurora Research Institute, 777-3298 ext. 30

William Firth, Language Centre Manager, 952-2377

Edward Wright, Language Resource Coordinator, 952-2377

Mary Clark, Linguist Trainee, 952-2377

Peter Loovers, Ph.D. Candidate / Researcher, 952-2377

Shawna Nerysoo, Research Assistant Trainee, 952-2377

GWICH'IN COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

The newest member to the GCI Board is Charlene Stern. Charlene was born and raised in Interior Alaska. Her maternal family is Neetsaii Gwich'in from Arctic Village. Charlene holds a bachelors degree in American Cultural Studies from Western Washington University and a masters degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico. Her past experience includes working for the Gwich'in Steering Committee where she advocated on behalf of the Gwich'in Nation on the issue of proposed oil and gas development in the Artic National Wildlife Refuge. Charlene currently lives in Fairbanks and serves as Brownfield Program Manager for the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, a coalition of 64 tribes and first nations committed to protecting the sacred Yukon River. Charlene's primary areas of interest are community development and planning issues.

The GCI is please to welcome Bridgette Larocque as the new Executive Director for the Gwich'in Council International. Bridgette is a Gwich'in beneficiary who was

born and raised in Inuvik, NT. Bridgette has studied Social Work and worked in this field for 17 years. Bridgette has extensive knowledge in office administration, finance, corporate governance, management and leadership. Bridgette is the proud mother of two boys, Kyle and Russell Bird, who reside in Yellowknife, NT. Bridgette's oldest son Kyle is a board member of the Izhii K'aaik'it Tat Gwich'in organization. Bridgette enjoys curling. She is an avid reader and never wants to stops being educated. Bridgette is presently taking a correspondence in Aboriginal Governance and Law from Athabasca University.

Ms. Larocque returned home on February 4th and started in her new role on February 5th. Bridgette has been familiarizing herself with the office and the Board members of the GCI. Bridgette and Maryann Ross, Chair of the GCI, have traveled to Toronto and Ottawa to meet with the GCI's funding agencies and department. They also took the opportunity to meet with Adele Dion, Director General, Human Security and Human Rights



Bureau; Paul Gibbard, Director, Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs; Owen Everts-Lind, Policy Advisor/Project Manager, Circumpolar Affairs; Claudette Fortin, Senior Advisor, Circumpolar Liaison Directorate; Martin Rubenstein, Audit Manager, Office of the Inspector General

Bridgette is eager to assist the Board of the GCI to fulfill their mandate and goals and objectives for the betterment of all Gwich'in in the NT, Yukon and Alaska.

The GCI office is in the Mack Travel Building so please stop by to get more information on the GCI and to share your thoughts and ideas with Bridgette.



GWICH'IN YOUTH SYMPOSIUM



"Gathering Our Voices 2007"



February 22–26, 2007



TETLIT ZEH



Wazzup?



Graduates of an Environmental Monitor training course held in Aklavik during January 22—February 23 by Aurora College through IMG-Golder Corporation of Inuvik.

Top row, left to right: Darin Hansen, Robert Buckle, Phillip Ross, Dennis Semple, (name withheld by request), Leonard Gordon, Louis F. Jerome

Bottom row: Gary Edwards, Robert Semple, Colin Gordon, Carol Rose Arey

Photo courtesy of IMG-Golder

The Family of Mary Kendi held a birthday party on March 3rd, to celebrate her 92nd birthday. The event was enjoyed by all and especially by Mary. The Family would like to thank the following for their generous contribution including time, cooking, deliveries, the hall and clean-up, to name a few:

Aklavik Indian Band
 Gwich'in Tribal Council
 Nihtata Gwich'in Council
 Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre
 NorthMart, V&S Options
 Stanton's Distributing
 CBC-North Radio (Inuvik)
 New North Networks
 MacDonald Bros. Electric Ltd
 Inuvik Community Corporation

Margaret Vittrekwa, Peter Clarkson, James Firth, Paul Koe, Jr., Bella Kay, Evelyn Bullock, Ruby Edwards, Donna Edwards, Jane Charlie, Kathy Wilkinson, Sarah Early, Doreen Firth, Vincent Firth, Alice Francis, Ken & Karen Stair, Hazel Heron, Minnie Vittrekwa, Darlene Koe, Ellen & Louis Dalby, Grace Blake, Robert Alexie, Jr., Penny & Susie, and Forrest



Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (Canadian Council for Aboriginal Businesses)

Heidi Dixon is one of the 2007 national recipients for the FAAY (High School) awards. She is a 15-year-old, Grade 10 Beneficiary at Gander Collegiate in Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador. An honours student, she is a very active volunteer in the community. Heidi is an award-winning public speaker and a dancer and musician. She is also a diabetic and plans to pursue a career in medicine or research. Yup - she's the niece of John "Tsal" Dixon (right).

Photo courtesy of CCAB



GWICH'IN CUP 2007



March 1-4, 2007



LAND SELECTION WORKSHOP, JULY 1989

In July 1989, two workshops were held in Fort McPherson by the Mackenzie Delta Tribal Council (predecessor of the Gwich'in Tribal Council): one was to meet with Federal and GNWT officials on land selection and the other for Elders to meet on a proposed Elders payout package.

Lawrence Norbert was the acting Executive Director at the time, on a four-month secondment from the GNWT Department of Justice. Here are his personal photos taken at those workshops, as a tribute to those Gwich'in who helped lay the foundation for the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*.



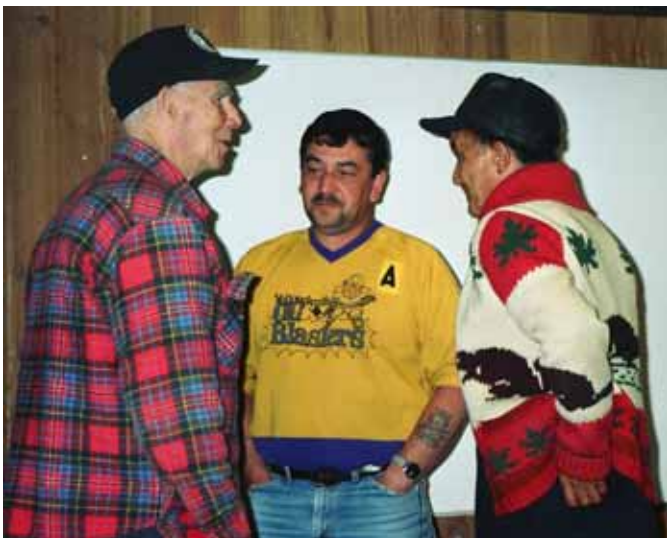
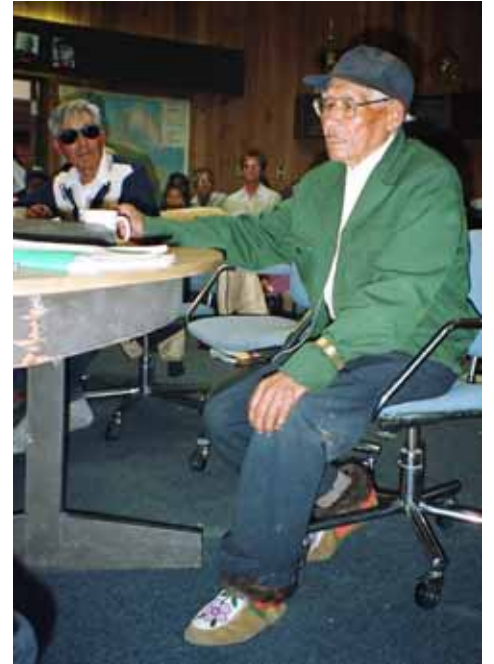
LAND SELECTION WORKSHOP, JULY 1989



There were tense moments, lots of strategizing, questions, moments of contemplation...trying to imagine the future and what lay in store for our children



LAND SELECTION WORKSHOP, JULY 1989



ELDERS PAYOUT WORKSHOP, JULY 1989



'Dagwidi'ii - What We Are Doing'
is a bulletin of GTC activities
published every two months
for the information of Gwich'in Beneficiaries.

Please send your suggestions, comments or
photographs to our address or e-mail:
Inorbert@gwichin.nt.ca
Ph: 867-777-7923 Fx: 867-777-7919

All photos by Lawrence Norbert,
GTC Communications, unless noted otherwise.

Publisher: CanArctic Graphics

Dagwidi'ii
Beneficiary Services
Gwich'in Tribal Council
PO Box 1509
Inuvik NT X0E 0T0 Canada

TO:

Blustery Day on the Dempster

