

Drin Tsal Dai'
Tthak Eenjit
Srugoonch'uu
Niidadhan



The *Gee, Tea? See*
News

Drin Tsal Zhit
Srugoonch'uu Vili'
- Merry Christmas

The GTC Executive is pleased to present you with our new and improved newsletter "The Gee, Tea? See News". we have decided to use some of our talented staff to provide all beneficiaries a regular update on GTC activities and news. I hope you are pleased with our new format which we will be distributing on a monthly basis. I also wish to formally recognize the efforts of Margaret Gordon and Lawrence Norbert who are the co-Editors of the "Gee, Tea? See News".

Since this is your publication, we want your input. We welcome letters, photographs and story suggestions. We thank you for welcoming "The Gee, Tea? See News" as a guest in your home and look forward to hearing from you. Please send any contributions to:

The 'Gee, Tea? See' News



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LANDS & RESOURCES

Norm Snowshoe, Resource Manager, Ph: 777-7912

Drin Gwiinzii Shilik Kat

This year the Peel River Watershed Land Use Planning Working Group established the Peel River Watershed Land Use Planning Commission. This was very important because now the PWLUPC can begin to develop a Land Use Plan for the Peel River Watershed.

There is a lot of concern regarding the Watershed and possible development in the area. Former Chief Abe Wilson will represent the GTC on the PWLUPC. A big appreciation and thanks go out to all Gwich'in who contributed to the establishment of the Commission, in particular former Chief Abe Wilson and also Charlie Snowshoe.

The GTC would like to have a more meaningful role in resource and land management within the Yukon because we have title to certain lands and harvesting rights established under the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*. The Yukon Government allows the GTC to participate in Resource and Land Man-



Fred, Mary Ann and Tom receive activity update on the MacKenzie Gas Project from the Shell Canada delegation

agement but at a minimal level based on their interpretation of the GCLCA. The Gwich'in are not listed as a Yukon First Nation under land claim agreements, which limits our participation in the resource and land management regimes within the Yukon. The GTC joined the Council of Yukon First Nations in the fall to try and resolve this problem. Our membership may provide an opportunity to amend the GCLCA to recognize our historical status as a Yukon / NWT First Nation. 'Mahsi Cho' to the GTC Leadership who contributed a great deal towards this effort.

The programs that I continue to work on are:

- helping to develop a *Species and Wildlife*

Act for the NWT;

- Dempster Highway Regulations amendments;
- Gwich'in Traditional Harvesting Area database;
- Gwich'in Overlap agreements;
- NWT/Yukon Forest Management; and
- Yukon *Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act*.

Almost all programs my office works on involves other First Nations Governments and the Territorial Governments. I make sure that all work done in the Yukon involves a member from Fort McPherson. I will continue to do that in the future.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Margaret Thompson, E&T Coordinator, Ph: 952-2330

We are now managing only the Aboriginal Human Resources Skill Development Strategy program and the Aboriginal Skill and Employment Partnership program in Fort McPherson.

son. Please send all your bursary applications to Cheryl Wright, Enrolment Coordinator, fax 867-777-7919 at GTC-HQ in Inuvik who will have all bursary files.

Mary Ruth Wilson, Employment Officer for the Tetlit Gwich'in Council, and I attend an "Introduction to the Natu-

ral Gas Industry...from Wellhead to Burner Tip" workshop in Inuvik, November 2-3, facilitated by Frank Henderson from the Canadian Energy Research Institute. It was an intense two days but Frank was very knowledgeable about the petroleum industry and taught this course for five years.

EMPLOYMENT

Margaret Gordon, Employment Liaison Officer, Ph: 777-7909

Eleanor Firth, the former ELO, moved to Yellowknife to further her education. We wish Eleanor and her family well

I assumed her duties on September 27th and since then, have been catching up on what this job involves, such as updating résumés for clients and sending them out to employers for prospective employment. I've also attended several meetings of the Petroleum Subcommittee and the Regional



Training Program, which are both looking at potential training to get ready for a possible pipeline.

Career Day was on November 2nd and the GTC opened their doors to beneficiaries who may

have had questions about a career choice - we had a good turnout.

The upcoming Career Quest 2005 open house will take place on March 16-17, 2005.

IMPLEMENTATION

Deb Bisson, Lands Director,
Ph: 777-7915

Arbitration: In December 2002, the Implementation Committee recommended the Land Claim parties arbitrate on six issues. The GTC responded with two that it would agree to arbitrate at this time. The Federal Government has responded by saying it concedes the issue on one point (that there doesn't have to be agreement to arbitrate) and on the other it awaits our referral to arbitration if we decide to proceed. The GTC is pleased with the concession and is now considering whether to refer one or more of the matters to arbitration.

Auditor-General Review: This past year the federal Auditor-General completed a review of DIAND's performance in the implementation of land claim implementation groups. The conference considered the common issues facing land claim implementation bodies and how they could work together to address these issues. A coalition

was formed to enable Land Claim groups to continue working together to inform the Federal government on what needs to be improved in its approach to the implementation of land claims. The coalition has developed a draft approach and policy for implementation and is lobbying Ottawa to improve its approach to implementation.



Economic Measures: Chapter 10 of the GCLCA establishes objectives for economic self-sufficiency. Every three years the governments must meet to discuss whether their programs are effective in achieving these objectives. On November 16-18, the land claim agreement parties and various government agencies and some Gwich'in community members met in Inuvik for the third of these

reviews. The participants "test drove" a new procedure which the implementation Committee had developed to bring more consistency to the reporting and to ensure it will focus more closely on whether government economic programs are achieving the land claim objectives. All participants agreed that this review was an improvement on the last one, but there were numerous recommendations for further improvements for the next review three years from now. From the indicators presented it was clear that there has been some progress towards economic self-sufficiency, but it was difficult to determine if the progress was adequate. Most participants thought there was room for improvement.

CD-ROM: We are in the finishing stages of producing a CD-ROM containing information on the GCLCA for distribution to students and governments. It will be discussed at an upcoming Implementation Committee meeting in December.

Summary of MGP Benefits & Access Negotiations

The GTC and Imperial negotiated further on the Land Reservation Agreement. The GTC has more research and drafting to do on this agreement before it can table a next draft with Imperial.

The latest developments in the Deh Cho action were reviewed. It has been announced that negotiations have broken off and the Deh Cho law suites against the Mackenzie Valley Project will be proceeding. It appears likely that the



Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, and Sahtu will have to intervene in an unexpected court "motion" by the Deh Cho to temporarily halt any further regulatory review of the project.

Imperial's letter to Tom Williams of November 16, 2004 was discussed. Imperial was asking for more information about the GTC's proposal

that Imperial negotiate the prime contract with the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation, a contracting model designed to ensure Gwich'in business opportunities. In the context of this discussion Imperial reviewed again its procurement model whereby some construction work will be bid only in

the GSA, but the majority of the construction work will be handled through an open bid process. Other than global agreements for major instrumentation and controls, compressor turbines, and valves Imperial clarified there are no existing "alliances". A global agreement is an pre-existing agreement between Imperial

and a supplier of goods that applies to all regions in which Imperial operates and is ongoing in time.

Imperial and GTC exchanged information and requirements with respect to how unions will be involved in the construction of the project. Imperial said that it currently ex-

pects that there will be some union involvement but that the project will not be "closed shop", meaning only unions can work on it.

The list of Proposed Benefits Terms was not dis-

cussed with Imperial as the GTC had not yet obtained consulting advice and finished its review of the most recent response from Imperial. On Thursday the GTC caucused and several consultants the GTC is thinking of hiring attended and worked with the negotiations team on its review of the Benefits Term Sheet.

REGIONAL WELLNESS

Denise Kurszewski, Coordinator, Ph: 777-7927

ELDER ABUSE

Traditionally, Gwich'in Elders were regarded as the keepers of our heritage, traditions and wisdom. As Aboriginal people, we often state that Elders - along with children - are the most respected among our people.

Many of our Elders today have gone through a lifetime of difficulties: they did not have the opportunities for jobs or education, nor did they have all the programs most people today have access to for assistance when times are difficult. They raised large families by working hard throughout their lives: hunting and trapping was not an easy lifestyle by any means.

We hope that during their "Golden Years" our precious Elders would be able to enjoy an easier lifestyle doing the things they love, such as fishing, berry picking, traveling, and enjoying family. Sadly, this is not always the case. Some Elders are experiencing financial, emotional and physical stress because of pressures from their own family or community members.

The three most frequent types of abuse are:

- **Physical** - the use of physical force that can result in

injury, pain and /or impairment. Assault, rough handling, sexual abuse and withholding of physical necessities such as food, personal care, hygienic care or medical care are indicators of physical abuse.

- **Psychological / emotional** – include actions that cause anguish, pain or distress through verbal or non-verbal acts which could include verbal assault, social isolation, threats, humiliation, or treating an elder like a child. Many times Elders are subjected to this kind of treatment by family or community members who are intoxicated.

- **Financial (or material)** - the improper or illegal use of an Elder's money, property or other assets. This can include pressuring the Elder for money to meet your personal needs or the needs of your family, charging food and other items to their accounts or using their telephones and not paying the bills. We know that our Elders love to have the attention of their loved ones. There are cases where individuals will withhold this attention if they are not supported financially by the Elder. This is not fair, nor is it respectful! Our Elders deserve to spend their pension the way

they best see fit and should not need to support anyone else who is capable of taking care of their own needs. Sadly and often times, Elders will not report abuse, as it may be their children, grandchildren or loved ones who are causing the abuse. They would not like to see their loved ones charged or no longer have interaction with them.

What Can We Do About IT?

1. **If we are the abusers**, we can stop our actions! We need to start taking care of our Elder's needs instead of having them take care of us. We can stay away from their homes if we are drinking or angry. No one – including Elders - deserves to be abused in any way.
2. **For the rest of us**, we need to become aware of the issue and to talk openly about it with other family members, community members or leaders.

The Gwich'in Nation prides itself on being a strong and proud people. As such, we should take care of our Elderly: we do not verbally or physically abuse them or make them feel that it is their responsibility to take care of our financial needs. Let them enjoy their golden years in peace and happiness - they deserve it!

**- DECEMBER -
DIABETES AWARENESS
MONTH**

We've all heard the statistics on Aboriginal people and diabetes: we have four or five times greater risk of getting the disease than European Canadians. How did we get there?

A hundred years ago, European explorers brought sugar, flour and alcohol to the Western Arctic peoples. Although many foods made from white flour and sugar are tasty and convenient, they are often not as nutritious as traditional foods and they have greatly influenced our health.

Traditionally, Gwich'in had developed the technology to secure an abundant food supply from a variety of sources. From spring through fall,

Gwich'in lived near the water and fished, drying the fish for winter use. In the fall, camps were moved where land animals such as caribou and moose could be hunted in the winter. Diets were supplemented by small game, berries, roots and other plants. We are fortunate to have still access to many of the traditional foods. It may take a bit longer to prepare but it is worth the effort!

Our young children are at a greater risk of developing the disease, not only with the convenient foods they prefer but also from lack of exercise from too much television, computers and video games. A can of pop contains half sugar; a handful of French fries with gravy is the same as a plate of fat!



To keep our Nation strong, we must keep our children strong and healthy. There isn't a cure for diabetes, so prevention is the answer: encourage your children to drink lots of water; get active; eat healthy; limit junk food as much as possible. Your children will be more likely to do these things if you participate with them!

Enjoy the Christmas season; share plenty of good traditional foods with family and friends!

**Grand Opening of the Capital Suites—Zheh Gwizuh, November 15
...a Gwich'in home away from Home**



Left: David Krutko, MLA MacKenzie Delta; Joe Handley, Premier of the NWT; Susan Marie, APG Communications Manager

Right: one of the suites (bring your own firewood!!)



SELF-GOVERNMENT

Lawrence Norbert, Self-Government Regional Coordinator, Ph: 777-7926

The main focus in the past few months has been to provide training to the Gwich'in self-government fieldworkers on multi-media production, e.g. digital camera, powerpoints and laptop computers. Hopefully in the new year, they'll also have videocameras to use with their home visits, as well as to document and preserve the events and perspectives of their communities, such as interviewing Elders and youth, and recording community activities. James Andre, for example, is moving ahead with a production of a caribou hunt (Karen was chief hunter).



The other focus has been on the development of a Gwich'in Constitution. One workshop was held so far in Fort McPherson and the people wanted to have a draft constitution based on the Nisga'a and Dogrib models.

Under the *Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle*, the Gwich'in are required to develop and approve a constitution that provides for powers and duties, structures, procedures, elections, delegation of law-making, financial accountability, residency requirements, conflict of interest rules, appeal and redress mechanisms, and constitutional amendments.

Fort McPherson continues to be the only active Gwich'in community in terms of the self-government process, e.g. holding community workshops, keeping an active self-



government advisory committee, and working on a Gwich'in Constitution.

Top: Archie Norbert (right), Tsiigehchic Self-Government Fieldworker, shares a laugh with Inuvialuit Elder Victor Allen

Bottom Left: Neil Heron, Ehdiitat Self-Government Fieldworker

Bottom right: Jennifer Bowen, Multi-Media Trainer, Beaufort-Delta Self-Government Office, and James Andre, Tetlit Self-Government Fieldworker





MGP REGULATORY REVIEW

Kim Hawkins, Environmental Impact Assessment Coordinator, Ph: 777-7914

In July, after conducting workshops with representatives from each of the four communities, the GTC submitted comments on the draft “Agreement for an Environmental Impact Review of the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP)” and the “Environmental Impact State-

ment Terms of Reference”, prepared by the Minister of Environment, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, and the Inuvialuit Game Council. Many of the comments submitted were incorporated into the final documents, which were issued on August 18, 2004.

The MGP proponents filed their main regulatory application with the National Energy Board (NEB) and submitted the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the Joint Review Panel in October. The NEB review process will also involve public hearings. The NEB issued a Hearing Order which describes the process and procedures to be followed for the Technical Review. The timing of the hearings have not yet been announced but the timelines outlined in NEB Hearing Order indicate that the regulatory hearings are likely to

commence after May 2005.

The NEB will be considering the following areas with regards to the proposed project:

- Design, Construction and Operation
- Safety and Security
- General Routing and Land Matters
- Access for Shippers
- Tolls and Tariffs
- Natural Gas Supply and Markets
- Economic Feasibility
- Report of the Joint Review Panel

December 21st is the deadline to request any changes to the list of issues that the NEB will consider and to apply for intervener status in order to fully participate in the hearings. The Joint Review Panel recently announced December 17th as the deadline to apply as an intervener for the environmental impact review process.



Far left: Cathy Coyen, Receptionist (casual)
Left: Brian Alexie, Lands Administration Officer
Right: Millie Jensen, Executive Assistant to Fred



GWICH'IN BUSINESS

Grant Sullivan, Business
Manager, Ph: 777-7932

Chii Construction - a Profile

Solely owned by the
Nitaht Gwich'in Development
Corporation in Inuvik, Chii
has - over the past ten years of
operation - been employing
and training beneficiaries in
the carpentry trade, boasting
an average 90% Gwich'in em-

ployment rate. The NGDC,
under the leadership of former
Chief James Firth, established
Chii Construction to give
beneficiaries the opportunity
to participate in the local
economy. Since that date Chii
has grown into a successful
construction company within
the community.

Chii's past projects in-
clude the renovations of the
Gwich'in Tribal Council of-

fices, the renovations of the
Beaufort Delta Self Govern-
ment Negotiations Offices,
labour for the Capital Suites –
Zheh Gwizuh project, and the
Gwich'in Campground, to
name a few.

To contact Chii Con-
struction for all your construc-
tion needs, please call 777-
6650.

Saturday Arts & Crafts





Karen Snowshoe, Community Development Manager (top right); Denise Kurszewski, Regional Wellness Coordinator (top right); Sharon Firth, Youth Programs Advisor, MACA (and former Olympic cross-country skier)

Community Feast

Margaret Gordon, Employment Liaison Officer, Ph: 777-7909

The Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Development Corporation, Inuvik Native Band and Ingamo Hall Friendship Centre joined together this Christmas to plan a Community Feast and Dance. In the past, each organization would put on their own Christmas Dinner and all had the same problems - no room and running out of food!

The organizations all met and wanted to put on a celebration that the whole town can take part in. The committee decided to have the Community feast and dance on December

17th at the Midnight Sun Complex. The Town of Inuvik donated the main hall for the night.

The feast will start at 6:00 pm with all kinds of food: the traditional turkey, ham, traditional foods, salads, and desserts, tea, and coffee. The rest of the evening will be made up door prizes, games, dancing, singing, entertainment from the youth drum dancers, jam session, and much more. We've also invited the outline communities to help us celebrate. We ask that they bring some kind of donation, such as more food.

If this event is a success we hope to make it an annual celebration.

FINANCE

Greg Cayen, Chief Financial Officer, Ph: 777-7904

The finance department is located in Inuvik and in Fort McPherson. Vicky Alexie and Norma Blake provide financial services in the Fort McPherson office. Vicky maintains the financial records for the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation, the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust and the Gwich'in Enrolment Board. In addition Vicky processes the GTC payroll. Norma provides accounting support to the Gwich'in Education Department maintaining the financial records for the ARHDA and ASEP programs.

In Inuvik, Diane Koe maintains the Gwich'in Tribal Council - Operating Accounts. In September the GTC hired Deanna Smith to as-

sist Diane with GTC accounting. In addition Deanna maintains the records for the Gwich'in Development Corporation, the Gwich'in Education and Training Fund, the Gwich'in Children's Trust and Gwich'in Council International. The GTC is very fortunate to have all of them as part of the finance team.

GTC Operations have increased significantly during this year as a result of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. Our operating budget for the year ended March 31, 2005 is approximately \$8.5 million. New activities include the negotiation of an access/benefits agreement with Imperial Oil and the Gwich'in Pipeline Environmental Assessment Project. Also we will be receiving new training funds this year under ASEP to provide oil and gas training to Gwich'in.

The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation as at October 31, 2004

had an investment portfolio with a market value of approximately \$98 million. The markets have been positive this year and we all anticipate the day when the Gwich'in will have over \$100 million in the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation.

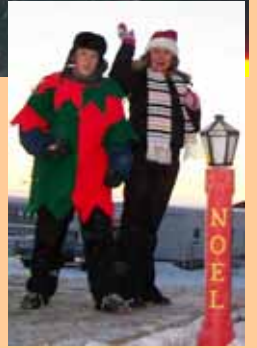
The Gwich'in Development Corporation has an investment portfolio of approximately \$9.3 million. Major investments include Mackenzie Valley Construction Ltd., Inuvik Capital Suites Zheh Gwizu', Gwich'in Helicopters Ltd, Larga Ltd., Camp MGK Ltd and a significant land assembly in Inuvik.



Dear Editor -

I am 8 years old.
Some of my little
friends say there is
no Santa Claus. Papa

says, "If you see it
in *The Sun*, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?



Virginia O'Hanlon



Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.



All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.





Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.



Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.



Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus.





The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.



Did you ever see fairies dancing

on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.



You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart.

Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can



push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.





Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Francis P. Church

The New York Sun, 1897

From your co - Editors...

A composite image featuring a man sitting on a toilet in a folding chair outdoors at night. The man is wearing a blue jacket, a cap, and brown boots, and is holding a red cup and giving a thumbs-up. The background is dark with white specks, suggesting snow or stars. In the top right corner, there is a small inset photo of a woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a white top. Large, stylized text is overlaid on the image: "Have a Safe Christmas and New Year's..." in red with white outlines, and "Remember: Don't Potty & Drive!" in green with white outlines at the bottom.

Have a Safe
Christmas and
New Year's...

Remember: Don't Potty & Drive!