



# The "Gee, Tea? See" News

September - December 2005





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## President's Mes-



*Drin Gwiinsii, Shilak Kat. It's been one heck of a busy year for the Gwich'in Tribal Council.*

*As most of you know by now, we negotiated and approved Access & Benefits agreements that will be the first step for our People towards becoming self-sufficient. Those agreements will also become the economic blocks for building capacity in our communities and to help ensure that our children and future generations become self-sustaining, productive, and contributing members of Gwich'in society.*

*In partnership with the Inuvialuit, Sahtu and Deh Cho Leadership, we successfully negotiated a Social-Economic Impact Benefit Agreement with the Federal Government for \$500-million over ten years to deal*

*with the impacts of the pipeline. The Gwich'in will receive \$82-million for our region.*

*In preparation for the pipeline construction, we are continuing to move forward with the MacKenzie Aboriginal Corporation which will work closely with us to ensure that Gwich'in businesses and labour force are ready to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the pipeline. MacKenzie Valley Construction was re-organized and Flint Energy Services is our 49% partner in that venture. Our commercial and real estate properties continue to improve.*

*We continue to work on the Peel River Watershed Board and recently recommended P.J. Kay as our board representative.*

*We are making progress on the Aboriginal Summit through re-organization. We hope in the New Year to make good progress on devolution and on resource and revenue sharing.*

*Our self-government team continues to work hard on Gwich'in community constitutions and other related initiatives, and are making good progress. We urge you all to get involved as this concerns your future.*

*We also started the first Gwich'in Achievement Awards to recognize members of our culture who have shown excellence, lead-*



*ership or exceptional dedication to service in ways that bring credit to the Gwich'in Nation. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of the late Maggie Elias, one of the first recipients of these awards.*

*We have a strong and dedicated staff who do a lot of the work behind the scenes for the Leaders and they deserve our gratitude for putting up with our hectic and heavy schedules.*

*In closing, I would like to urge you to support your Leaders: they try their best for their communities and make personal and family sacrifices to make your communities better places to live and bring up your children*

*M a y  
God bless  
each and  
every one of  
you this  
Christmas  
and on behalf  
of our Board,  
Executive and  
Staff, I wish  
you all the  
best for  
2006.*



## GTC approves Access & Benefits Agreements

At an emergency Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Board of Directors meeting held in Inuvik on November 24, the GTC approved the long-awaited Access & Benefits Agreements with Imperial Oil Resource Ventures Limited. This much anticipated agreement will help assist the MacKenzie Gas Project to go forward. "We recognize the importance of this project which will provide employment, training, sustained economic activity, and the

promotion of a viable and successful Gwich'in and Northern business sector", stated Chief Richard Nerysoo, Lead Negotiator.

Fred Carmichael, GTC President stated, "We acknowledge the enormous efforts of our respective negotiation teams; the Imperial team led by David Griffiths and the Gwich'in team led by former Government Leader of the NWT, Chief Richard Nerysoo. While negotiations and discussions on key matters proved difficult at times, the integrity and sincerity of the teams prevailed. The nego-

## Executive Committee

tiators recognized the enormous economic opportunities and social benefits that would be made available to the Gwich'in and all Northerners could not be lost."

The GTC and MGP Partners look forward to a valued, long-lasting and meaningful partnership in the years to come. The GTC Negotiating team will be scheduling information sessions in each of the four Gwich'in Communities in December.



Lead Negotiator, Chief Richard Nerysoo (right) and the Negotiations Team explains the access and benefits agreement to members of the Nihtat Gwich'in Council, December 6

# Environmental Impact Assessment

## MGP Regulatory Review

### Background Information

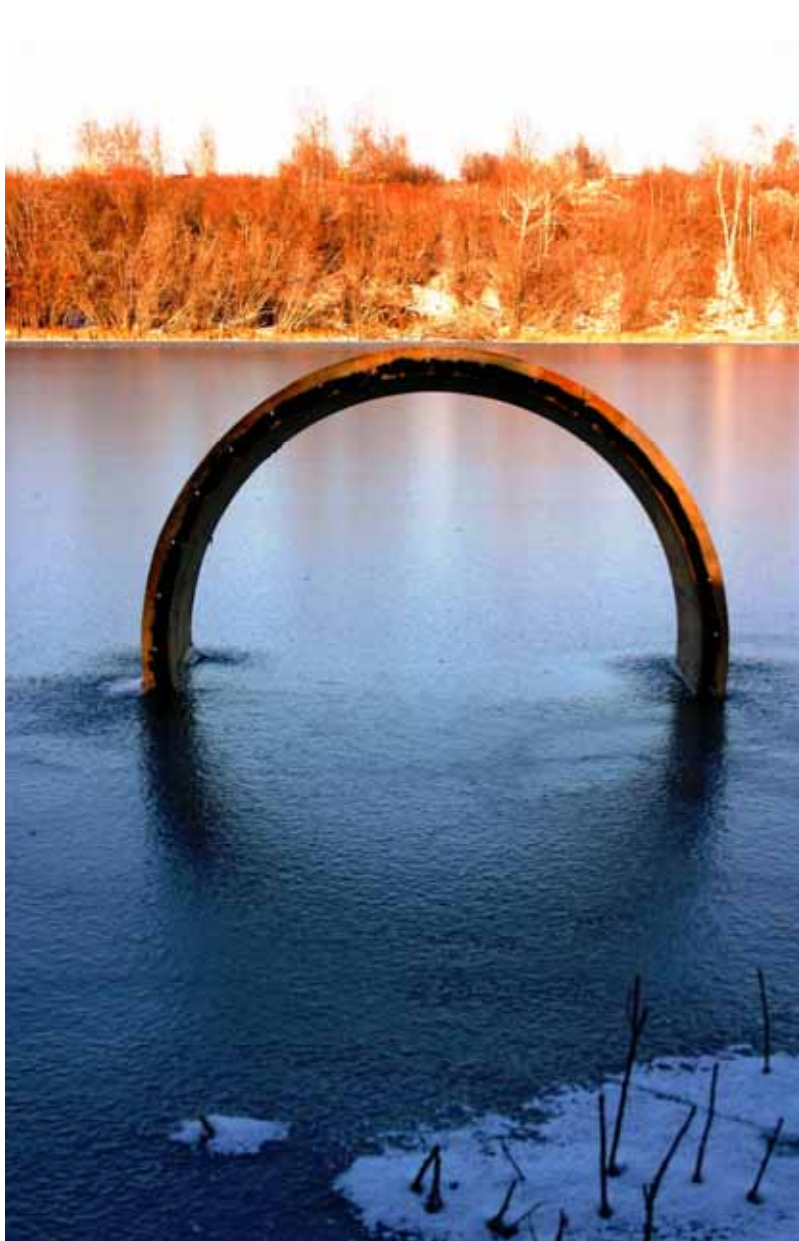
As most people are aware, Imperial Oil Ltd. and the other producers who are proposing to build the Mackenzie Gas Project ('the Project') filed their main regulatory applications last October. Earlier this year however, in April, Imperial announced that they were pulling back on some project-related activities, such as their field studies and detailed engineering work, while they concentrated on negotiating access and benefits agreements with First Nations.

Due to the size and scope of the Project, it is subject to an intense review by regulatory agencies, especially the National Energy Board (NEB). The regulatory review

process has been proceeding and is anticipated to take approximately two years in total to complete. At the end of the review, it is the NEB who will decide whether or not the project will be allowed to go ahead. Before making that decision, the NEB will review the material filed by the project proponents, ask questions and hold hearings to listen to the concerns of the public. The NEB will be hold-

ing hearings on topics such as engineering and pipeline route selection, tolls, tariffs and economic feasibility.

A special seven member panel, the Joint Review Panel, has been appointed to look at possible impacts from the project on the environment and the local people. The Joint Review Panel will also hold public hearings, including Community Hearings in all four of the Gwich'in communities, where everyone will be given the opportunity to speak their views about the Project. After the hearings are held up and down the valley, the Joint Review Panel will submit a report, with recommendations, to the NEB to assist them in their decision about whether or not the project should be approved and, if approval is given, what conditions should be attached to the certificate to ensure that the environment and people are not negatively affected by the project.





## The Latest News

Imperial recently announced that they feel they will be ready to start the public hearing phase of the Project review in the New Year. The Joint Review Panel and the NEB have both released suggestions for hearing locations and topics. The NEB has proposed to start their hearings on January 23, 2006 and complete them sometime in October. A confirmed schedule for the hearings should be issued soon.

The NEB proposes to hold hearings in Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Norman Wells, Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Wrigley, Fort Simpson, Fort

Providence, Hay River, High Level, Calgary and Yellowknife. They are considering holding hearings in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic and the GTC will request that they do so.

The Joint Review Panel is proposing to hold their hearings in the same locations as well as in Sachs Harbour, Holman, Paulatuk, Colville Lake, Deline, Tulita, Fort Liard, Trout Lake, Jean Marie River, Kakisa, Edmonton and Whitehorse.

## GTC Participation

Leaders from each of the Communities and representatives from the Tribal Council have been meeting with the project proponents for over a year and a half to

## Environmental Impact Assessment

negotiate access and benefits agreements for the project.

Agreements have now been reached and the negotiating team is currently visiting each community to share the details of the agreements with them.

This is a very important process for the Gwich'in people and many environmental and socio-economic issues have been discussed at the negotiation meetings, but they will also be discussed within the regulatory review process and it is important that the Gwich'in participate in this process as well.



## Environmental Impact Assessment

The regulatory review process is an opportunity to make sure people's concerns and opinions were taken into account by the project applicants and, if they weren't or if there are additional concerns, that these are raised and hopefully addressed. To this end, the GTC, on behalf of the Designated Gwich'in Organizations and the Renewable Resource Councils, became an intervener in both the National Energy Board and the Joint Review Panel processes. Being an intervener does not mean being entirely against or for the project, it simply allows full participation in the review activities.

As a way of making sure the Communities are involved in the project review proc-

ess, working groups were formed to meet with the GTC Environmental Impact Assessment Coordinator (Kim Hawkins) and to help with the review of the project application material and to discuss potential concerns or issues.

The expertise of certain Community members, the Gwich'in boards and organizations, government agencies and consultants have also been used in our review of the Project and a workshop involving representatives from all four communities was held in Inuvik in July to discuss potential project impacts to the environment.

At a similar workshop to

be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, in Inuvik, potential project impacts to local people will also be discussed.

Anyone with questions or comments regarding GTC's participation in the regulatory review of the Mackenzie Gas Project is welcome to contact Kim in the GTC office at 777-7934. More information will be available shortly with regards to how Community members can make their views known at the public hearings.

Kim Hawkins  
Environmental Impact  
Assessment Coordinator



## Gwich'in Resources

The LRI staff have been extremely busy since the assembly on various projects. Deb Bisson, Director of LRI, has moved on to British Columbia. The staff here at the LRI wish Deb well in her new employment with BC Hydro.

Norman Snowshoe will be assuming the Implementation files on behalf of the GTC. Norman will continue to work on the Resource Manager files as well. The files that are currently being worked on by Norman are:

### *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) Amendments*

During the Tlicho Land Claim negotiations there was a need to amend the MVRMA to include provisions from the Tlicho Land Claim. During this process it was agreed to by Government of Canada, GNWT and GTC that the MVRMA should be amended

to correct inconsistencies with the GCLCA. Brian Crane and Norman Snowshoe are the GTC reps on this file.

### **Economic Measures Reporting**

The Auditor General and the GTC pointed out to the Government of Canada that Economic Development Programs as provided by the GCLCA are not working and part of the problem is the way we are reporting on the programs. We should be reporting on the results of the programs to check to see if they are working. The GTC and Government of Canada are developing indicators to measure the success of the programs.

### **NWT *Species at Risk Act (SARA)***

The GTC and other aboriginal groups are working with the GNWT to develop a process to develop the SARA that would make sure all provisions from the Land Claims are included in the new Act. During the previous process the Aboriginal Groups pulled out of the process because we did not think that GNWT was making a substantial effort to include provisions from the Land Claims. During this process there has been a great deal of effort to coordinate with other Aboriginal Groups a common voice to include Land Claim provisions.



## Yukon *Species at Risk Act* and Wildlife Amendments

This process has started up again and the GTC submitted a letter requesting funding for our participation and for legal counsel to provide technical advise. YTG has yet to respond to our request.

## Dall Sheep Management Plan

There has been a great deal of effort between the GTC, GRRB and GNWT Environment and Natural Resources to develop a Yukon/NWT Trans-

boundary Management Plan for Sheep in the North Richardson Mountains. There has been agreement from the Yukon Government and Vuntut Gwitchin that there should be Transboundary Management Plan in place. The next step is to actually develop a plan that all parties would agree to.

There are other files that are being worked on but those will be reported on in the future. In closing I would like to encourage any beneficiaries who has any concerns to

## Gwich'in Resources

contact the LRI office. The staff here will be happy to assist you to deal with any issues you may have.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and all the best to you and yours in this festive season from the LRI Staff.

Norman, Mardy, Dwayne and John



## Gwich'in Lands Administration

GLA continue to work on policy and guideline development, including a GTC Burial Site Policy, Reporting of Non-compliance Policy, and a Wildlife Monitor Roles and Responsibilities Guidelines.

We have completed a brochure for circulation to various organizations, government departments and conferences and other venues attended to by the GTC.

Signs have been ordered for the Dempster Highway to identify Special Harvesting Area 1 and the Secondary Use Area.

We continue to work on a Forest Management Plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area in conjunction with Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and GNWT Forest Management Division. As well, we continue to represent the GTC on the Northern Contaminants Committee and the Protected Area Strategy Steering Committee.

We are proposing to hold Environmental Monitor Training Workshop after the New Year.

John Dixon, Lands and Resources Officer, is in the process of finalizing information for the annual Renewable Resource Council Regional Meeting to be held in January 2006.

Mardy Semmler  
Lands Manager  
867-777-7913

## New GTC Staff



Welcome to:

- Evelyn Bullock, Finance Officer (left), who comes to us from the Joint Secretariat (Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees)
- Charlene Ross, Controller (centre), from the NWT Housing Corporation (Inuvik, Cambridge Bay)
- Rick Bennett, Self-Government Negotiator (right), from the GNWT Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

## Education & Training

Welcome to Diane Koe who is now our Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA) Coordinator. Diane will be handling all student requests for funding under the AHRDA program. The AHRDA program is to provide funding for individuals interested in returning to school for post-secondary studies. You can contact her at (867) 952 2501.

Margaret Thompson has been re-assigned as the Aboriginal Skills to Employment Partnership (ASEP) Coordinator. She will be handling all student requests for funding under the ASEP program. The ASEP program is to provide training for individuals interested in working in the Oil/Gas field. You can contact her at (867) 952 2500.

I have been working very closely with the Regional Training Partnership and the Petroleum Sub Committee to determine the

training needs for this winter. There will not be as much activity in the Beaufort-Delta this winter so it is an opportune time to concentrate on training.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!! I would also like to say a big "Welcome Home!" to students returning from school. Hope you all enjoy a nice break from your studies!

Barb Crawford  
Manager

ConocoPhillips makes a \$25,000 donation to the Gwich'in Tribal Council at

Inuvik, December 6th. The donation will help the Gwich'in Social & Cultural In-

stitute to promote, protect and preserve Gwich'in language and culture.

Front: Chief Johnny Kaye, Chief Peter Ross

2nd row:  
GTC President Carmichael, Glenn Bishop, ConocoPhillips, Chief Richard Nerysoo, Bob Blainey, ConocoPhillips



## Regional Wellness

It's hard to believe the Christmas season is almost here! Although this should be the most joyous time of the year, we recognize that there are individuals who experience depression and sadness at this time. There are those without family members close by or those experiencing other difficulties. Let's all be aware and thoughtful of all our community members.

There have been many beneficiary concerns which come to our attention, the main ones being medical and housing. We have also had many people looking for residential school application forms. We know that currently there is no set agreement and the AFN is still working with the Federal Government to come to an agreement.

The GTC and community representatives have been taking part in the Aboriginal Blueprint on Health discussions, a joint initiative of the Assembly of First Nations and the Federal Government to improve health services

for Aboriginal people. The Dene Nation is organizing and facilitating the meetings and writing the final report. Each community and region has discussed their issues and priorities such as addictions, housing, care of Elders, response time and misdiagnosis, cancer, diabetes, pandemic flu, special needs interpretation services, and referrals, to name a few. At the November 8-9 meeting in Inuvik we also met with



the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Dave Murray to discuss your concerns.

Recently, GTC representatives met with the new CEO of Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Authority (IRHSSA), Deborah Tynes. Unfortunately it was a busy time for the communities so they were unable to attend. Deborah is now aware of

many of the health and wellness initiatives of our communities. She has also been brought up to speed on the main concerns.

A Gwich'in Regional Wellness Forum is being planned for December 8 & 9 in Inuvik. The purpose of the forum will be to share information on Wellness initiatives and health issues of the communities. It would also identify the gaps and work toward improving communication with all communities. The recent **Assessment of Social Impacts** document will be reviewed. A Wellness Strategic plan will be developed for action over the long term. Your band councils will be selecting the participants for the forum.

Mary Ann Ross, vice-president of GTC and I have visited Fort McPherson during a recent difficult time. Although we are not counsellors, we hoped to bring some support to the Chief and Sub-Chief who bear a lot of the burdens during stressful times. We also visited many of the Elders, and it was a real pleasure to eat the wonderful food they offered us. Mahsi Cho!

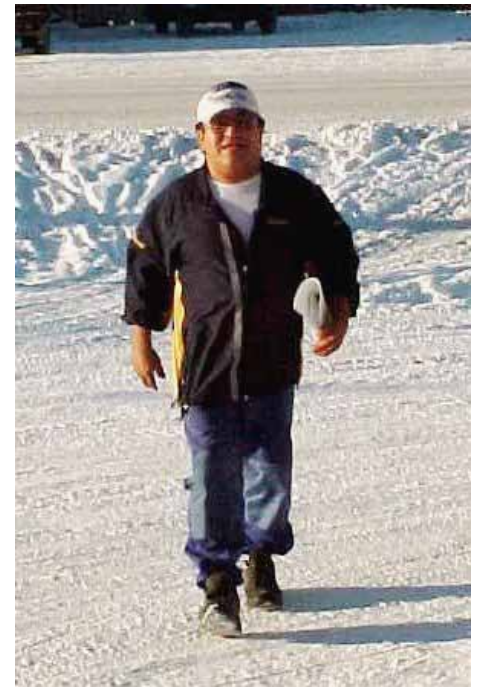
## Elders & Yutes

As the new Regional Elder and Youth Coordinator, I will implement, monitor and provide a wide range of programs and services for the Gwich'in Elders and Youth Councils.

My main function will also be to meet and respond to the concerns, issues and recommendations put forth by the elders and youth councils.

My main focus at this time is to ensure that all Gwich'in Communities have a proper working elders and youth council, by bringing in experienced facilitators and presenters to educate councils on setting up proper council and working on proposals, meetings and assemblies.

I will also be available to attend any Elder or Youth Council meeting. I look forward to visiting with you and advocating on your behalf.



You can reach me at 952-2524 in Fort McPherson.



Just a short note to let you know that I am doing very well here in Copenhagen. I am enjoying my work at Indigenous Peoples Secretariat. They seem pleased in having me here and stated they are impressed with my work habits. Today they have given me more tasks and responsibility, so I take that as a positive thing that makes me feel trusted and useful. I have been assigned a couple portfolios relating to the Arctic Council working groups.

It worked out to be the same portfolios that I am involved in for GCI as well, so that's perfect. I am satisfied with this work placement and I am happy that I took this opportunity despite small doubts I may have had. I wanted to say thank you again for your help in getting me financial support and also your words of encouragement. I feel I am enhancing my leadership skills here and I am learning a lot in regards to policy development and management. The cultural experience is also a learning experience on its own. I am working on a newsletter and will send it to

## From Denmark

you on Friday. Please circulate around your office and to people in the community who may be interested to learn more about the program I am on right now and hopefully engage other young people to consider and go after the opportunities out there. Thanks.

By the way, Charlie, did you manage to get Garnet to YK for George Jones? I heard George Tuccaroo was able to sing with the "Legend" - that's pretty neat.

Bobbie Jo Greenland

# Self-Government

## Home-Visits

Fort McPherson was the first community to do their home-visits with great success. The Home-visit staff completed about 144 surveys. We received a lot of questions and comments on where Self-Government is now and where it's heading. The people are tired of hearing about this and nothing seems to be done. The beneficiaries really liked that we had youth going door-to-door with these surveys.

We've been meeting with the other Gwich'in communities to do the home-visit program as well.

We've trained youth in Aklavik and Inuvik to start

doing the home-visits. They started on Monday, November 28th.

In Inuvik, the Nihtat Gwich'in Council hired Marjorie Greenland, Cathy Coyen, Lisa Coyen, Rhonda Lee Cardinal, Beverly Mitchell, Bella Jean Stewart and Andrew Greenland.

In Aklavik, the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council hired three youth - Rhonda John, Cora Simpson and Myrna Greenland.

In Tsiighetchic, we hired Dan Andre as the Coordinator. We will be training youth in Tsiighetchic and that should be starting very soon.

In Fort McPherson, Wilbert Firth is the Coordinator. Dan and Wilbert can be reached at their band offices.

The Home-Visit staff

will be asking questions about your age, gender and what you think should be in the Gwich'in Constitution for your community as well as the Regional Government.

We hope that you will welcome these youth into your homes so that we can get your views and comments on this very important process.

Margaret Gordon can also be heard on CBC Northwind every Tuesday talking about some aspect of the Self-Government process.



Aklavik Home-Visit Staff: Myrna Greenland, Rhonda John and Cora Simpson.

The GTC Newsletter is a bulletin of Board and Staff activities for the information of Gwich'in Beneficiaries.

Send your contributions, ideas or suggestions to:

The 'Gee, Tea? See' News

PO Box 1509

Inuvik NT XOE OTO

Ph 867-777-7923 E-mail: Inorbert@gwichin.nt.ca

Dinjii Zhuh Ginjik Geenjit Aanatr'aadaa  
Teetl'it Zheh, NT  
Videetoh Goojiidhat, 2006 gwandoo

GS&CI

Aii Gwich'in Social ts'at Cultural Institute kat chan GNWT goots'at tseedhoh diits'an tr'aátsaii hah yeendoo sriinanh Videetoh Goojiidhat gwàndòò àanatr'a-haadaa geenjit gàtookhwindaih. Leii kat nakhwanankak gwats'at aanàih gootr'àhaanjaa ts'at ihàèh diitat t'agiheech'yah. Nijìn gwàts'at zhik gwats'at gwitr'it gwadhàatsaii, juk gweendòò zrit nijin gwizhìt gwitr'it t'atr'agwah'ii, ts'at yeendoo jì' nijin gwà'àn gwitr'it t'atr'agwahah'yaa geenjit akòò t'agwidi'ii. Drin tik gâhshùk nihkhàh àanatr'ahaadaa ts'at drin chih ts'at drin t'á'ee khaihtak gog-watahtsaa. Juudìn diits'at tr'igiheendal ts'at goots'anyuu kat igidint'eh diiyàh akòò t'agiheedi'yaa. Akòò ts'at juudìn chan diiyàh t'iinch'uh nohthan jì' ts'at hanoh'yaa geenjit jì', akòò t'okhwe'ii geenjit diinjiidìzhit ts'at agadhan geenjit than' kheenjit gisrìinatr'àhnjii geenjit gwiiniindhan. Jùu t'agwáhchii gwizrih. Mähsi' choo.

**Upcoming Gwich'in Language Conference**

**Fort McPherson, NT**

**January 2006 - specific date yet to be determine**

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute with funding from the GNWT will be sponsoring a Gwich'in Language Conference in January 2006. We will be inviting people from across the Gwich'in Territory to attend. Our goal this year is to determine where we have come, where we are at and where we are going with regards to the Gwich'in Language and its future. The Conference is slated for three days with two days of travel. We are expecting facilitators and co-facilitators to partake in this worthwhile event. All interested people within the region are invite: however, you are asked to make your own arrangements if you would like to observe. Mahsi' choo, Shalak kat!

For more information, contact William G. Firth, Language Program Director, GS&CI, Phone 867-952-2377, E-mail: [wgfirth@learnnet.nt.ca](mailto:wgfirth@learnnet.nt.ca)



# 90 and still goin' strong!!





TADIT FRANCIS  
ERNE FRANCIS  
JOHN SIMON  
ISAAC KUNNIZZIE  
EVAN MCLEOD  
JOHN ROSS  
EDWARD N. BLAKE  
JAMES NERYSOO  
BILLIE KAY  
ANDREW STEWART  
ERNEST BONNETPLUME  
NEIL PASCAL  
JAMES GARDLUND  
VICTOR STEWART  
NEIL GREENLAND  
GARNET GREENLAND  
GORDON CLARK

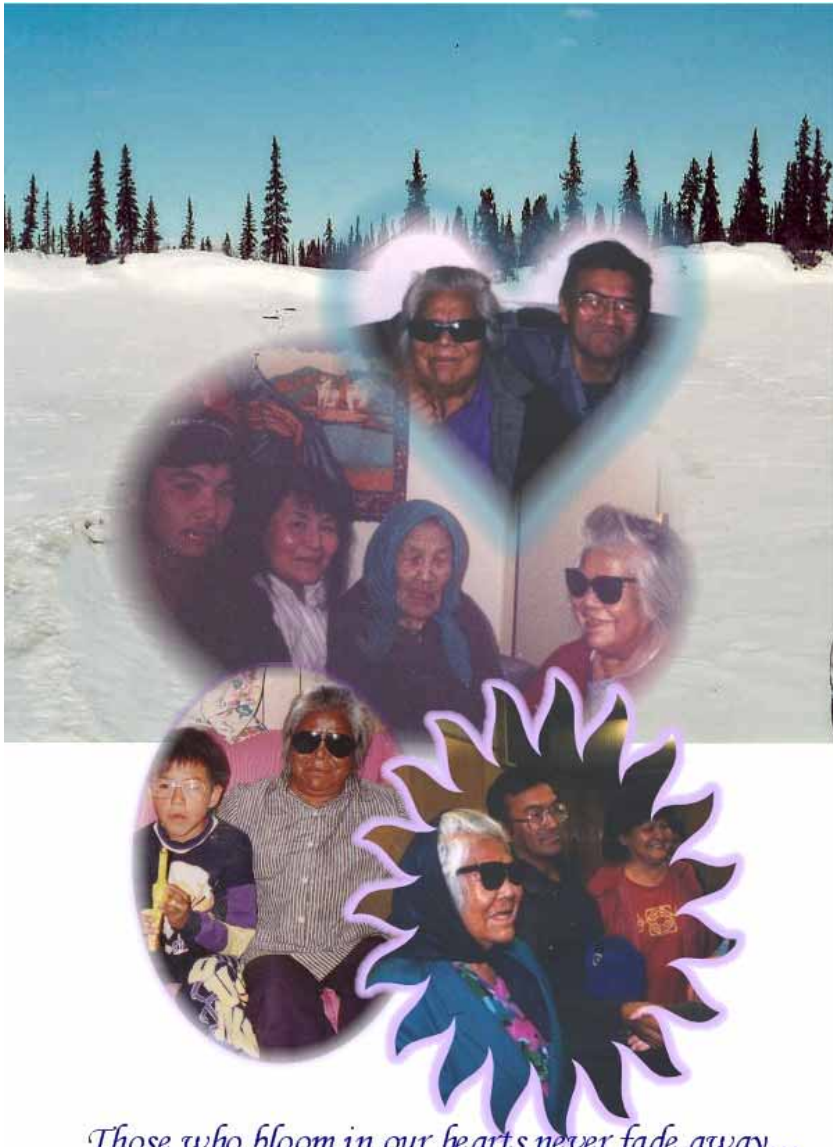
# In recognition of & tribute to those GWICH'IN WHO SERVED



ETHEL WILSON  
TERRY ELIAS  
VERNON ELIAS  
HUGH COLIN  
SUSIE KENDI  
TRINA DOBBS  
JOHN DIXON  
RYAN CLARK

COMRADES:  
CHARLIE MARTIN  
FREDDY ALBERT  
MARCEL LACERTE  
HENRY RIVET





Maggie Alice ELIAS

March 4, 1930 -

November 17, 2005

Recipient of the first Gwich'in  
Achievement Award (Lifetime  
Achievement)



*Those who bloom in our hearts never fade away...*

National Energy Board Pre-  
Hearing Planning Conference,  
Inuvik, December 5: (L-R)  
Gaetan Caron, Vice-Chair;  
Kenneth Volman, Chair; David  
Hamilton, Board Member

The NEB will hold hearings at  
locations along the proposed  
pipeline route to seek the  
views of interested persons on  
the proposed MacKenzie Gas  
Project.





The Gwich'in Delegation (some members above) to lobby in Washington, DC, during September included Miranda Charlie, Mary Jane Moses, Florence Thomas, John Joe Kaye, Joe Linklater, Vernon Kaye, Greg Charlie, Michael Francis (photo credit)



Frank Jerome (photo credit) in Traditional Dance regalia (Alberta) - a part of his lifestyle to heal, stay clean and sober, and to learn and be proud of a tradition's heritage and culture.



Photo: Johnny Edwards

The "Gee, Tea? See" News  
Chief Jim Koe Zheh  
1-3 Council Crescent  
PO Box 1509  
Inuvik NT X0E 0T0 Canada

TO:

Have a safe Christmas and New Year's!

