



The *"Gee, Tea? See"* News

July—August



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Canada Day



Lands, Resource & Implementation

Benefits and access agreements for the Mackenzie Gas Project have been ongoing for more than a year. However in April, Imperial shut down negotiations and further pre-construction work complaining that the First Nations and Aboriginal groups were asking for too much and that the regulatory approval process was too complicated.

In the meantime, without the knowledge of the groups Imperial began drafting their own version of what they wanted the agreements to look like. This was particularly offensive to the Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit who had already been negotiating in good faith from drafts and term sheets.

In August, Imperial unveiled its standardized

benefits and access agreements with the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu (Tulita/Deline, and the Kasho

Gotine), and the Deh Cho. All the groups met with Imperial to review and respond to the standardized drafts – and all the groups told Imperial they



were unhappy with drafts and Imperial's disrespectful approach. The Gwich'in, Sahtu, and Inuvialuit had been negotiating in good faith with Imperial throughout the winter, yet the stan-



an agreement on.

A regional caucus between all the groups is scheduled for early September in Calgary to discuss subjects on which the groups can take a common approach in the negotiations. Imperial is maintaining that the progress made at this meeting will be pivotal in a decision they will be making later that week or the next on whether to proceed with the project.

In preparation for the meeting, the Gwich'in has been preparing drafts to respond to Imperial's standardized agreements. These drafts have been prepared under the leadership of the Chief negotiator Richard Nerysoo and the supervision of the negotiating team made up of two members from each community along with legal and expert advisors.



dardized drafts did not reflect much of what the groups thought they had reached

Lands, Resources & Implementa-

Socio-Economic Impact Fund

If the project goes ahead, the Federal government has agreed to provide \$500-million to address socio-economic problems up and down the Mackenzie Valley so as to better position First Nations and Aboriginal communities to benefit from—rather than be impacted by—the project.

These funds will address existing problems and will be administered by the First Nations and Aboriginal groups,

who are currently finalizing how the funds will be divided between the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu, and Deh Cho.

This funding is pivotal in the benefits and access negotiations as it removes a major stumbling block caused by groups wanting Imperial to address the existing social problems. Imperial was arguing that it can't be held responsible for social problems that are pre-existing and not caused by the project. The funding also sets an important precedent by acknowledging that major projects imposed on communities already struggling

with social impacts will usually increase rather than relieve the impacts unless remedial measures are taken.

The Aboriginal and First Nations groups will be meeting in Calgary in September to finalize the agreement on how the money will be divided between them. After that, work will commence on how the money is to be spent. Most groups agree that drug and alcohol programs and facilities in communities are of priority.

Deb Bisson, Director
Lands, Resources
& Implementation
867-777-7915



Gwich'in Lands Administration

The Gwich'in Lands and Resources (GLR) will continue to update the harvester and hunting and trapping maps in all communities for beneficiaries to register their existing areas and camp or cabin locations. This information will be used in the event of compensation issues that may arise from development within the GSA. The GLA is also recommending all beneficiaries to contact the Land Administration office to register their camps or cabins on Gwich'in Private Land.



John Dixon has been hired by GLR as the Lands and Resources Of-

ficer. Some projects John will be working on include:

- Gwich'in Harvester Assistance Program (GHAP) Coordinator
- Gwich'in Inuvialuit and Sahtu Overlap Agreements
- Northern Contaminants Program
- assisting in the review of the RRC Manual

- assisting in the development of Wildlife Monitor Guidelines
- review of the Gwich'in Territorial Park Management Plan and Regulations – presentations to communities with regard to the plan and Territorial Park Regulations
- other projects as needed within the Lands and Resources divisions
- signs for the Deep Water Lake access roads
- Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Environmental Assessment Act
- Martin House area water sampling program
- Peel River Watershed water sampling program
- GTC Burial Site Policy (outside of municipal boundaries)

Other projects as required to fulfill GTC Lands obligations

GLR has issued fourteen land use authorizations since January 2005. The most recent have been one research, one lease and one quarry authorization. Other projects completed or worked on during the summer have included:

- signs for the special harvesting and secondary use areas along the Dempster

Also, this is to remind beneficiaries or the general public that our **Land Management Control Guidelines and Fees Schedule** has changed. Please contact us for more information.

Mardy Semmler
Lands Manager, 777-7913



Education & Training

The Education & Training Department has been very busy throughout the summer.

The deadline for funding under the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA) was Friday, July 15th, 2005. There were a large number of applicants who applied for tuition, books, travel and other expenses.

I can't stress the importance of applying before the deadlines. The Education & Training Department has a limited amount of funding available to students and late applications will not necessarily be accepted.

The Education & Train-

ing Committee met on July 21st, 2005 to review applications and allocations were made. To date, we are funding approximately 28 individuals.

The next deadline for the winter semester is **November 15th, 2005**. Please ensure that you apply well before the deadline. Funding is available for expenses not covered by Student Financial Assistance. To apply for the bursary or for scholarship or graduation gifts, call Cheryl Wright at the GTC office in Inuvik at (867) 777-7916 or toll free at 1-866-414-4670.

The Aboriginal Skills to Employment Partnership (ASEP) program is being utilized to provide training related to the oil/gas industry.

In May, a class "1" driver

training program was held in Fort McPherson. There were twelve individuals who participated in this program and 11 completed this program. This was followed by a class "1" program in June held in Inuvik. Both programs were quite successful and most of the individuals who participated are currently employed.

Plans for the winter include a heavy equipment operator's course, a class "1" in Aklavik and surveyor training. All training will be advertised so watch for ads in your local employment offices or contact the Education & Training office for details.

It will be an extremely busy year and there will be a lot of opportunities for training. Just remember that our department needs at least two weeks to make arrangements for training.

Please submit your application as soon as possible since late applications will not necessarily be accepted. You can also fill out an ASEP application for our office to keep on file. Have a nice day!

Barb Crawford
Manager
Ph: (867) 952 2592



Self-Government

The self-government team at the GTC has been busy all summer long on getting the communities involved with the self-government process.

On August 12 and 13, the Elders and Youth Regional Gathering met on the Flats in Tsiigehtchic. The delegates had many productive discussions about self-government, especially on what it means to write a constitution. We also worked on what it meant to have a good community and good leaders—both very important as we prepare to govern ourselves. Each of the communities came together, discussed, and came up with a list.

Among other things, the delegates stressed the importance of communication and consultation as part of good leadership, and that healthy living and a good



knowledge of Gwich'in culture were important parts of being a good community. The Gathering ended with a nail-biting tea boiling contest, in which the winner took home a primer stove.

The GTC self-government team is also launching a Home Visit Program at the request of the Chiefs and Councils of Tetlit Zeh and Tsiigehtchic. They have hired youths in each of those communities to conduct these visits. The GTC self-government team has been working hard to train these youths, and their eagerness to learn about self-government is a very hopeful sign for the future of our people. The purpose of the Home Visit Program is to bring news and information directly to the people, and to get feedback and direction for self-government straight from the communities.

The youth doing the home visits are also taking down any questions that people might have about self-government. The self-government team is then go-



ing to create answer sheets for those questions, and send them out as part of a newsletter. We're also going to answer those questions on the radio.

We're also hiring a new negotiator who will work only for the Gwich'in. We're going to work with the communities to find out where people want to go with self-government. We're developing a new mandate—a mandate is a set of instructions for our negotiator. More than ever, we'll need your help to decide what we want out of self-government.

We're working hard to make sure all the communities feel in touch with the self-government process. Getting to self-government is the job of the entire Gwich'in People—we need everyone's wisdom as we come together to make some big decisions.

Story/Photos: Senwung Luk
Summer Law Student

Self-Government

Margaret Gordon

Self-Government Regional Co-ordinator

Drin Gwiinzii I'm the new Self Government Regional Co-ordinator. This is a term position until the end of August 2006. My job is to work closely with the fieldworkers and also the Home Visit Staff.

The home visits started in Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic this past fall and have been working out well so far. We are presently working on getting Home Visit staff in Aklavik and Inuvik.

The Home Visit staff makes an appointment with a resident and visits them with a questionnaire, and a handout on how a certain program will work under the Gwich'in Government, such as nursing stations.

The staff in Tsiigehtchic consists of Archie Norbert, James Andre in Fort McPherson and the Home Visit Staff consists of Grace Martin, Roberta Koe, Jennilee Vaneltsi, and Robilee Kay-Koe.

Robilee is the daughter of Kenny & Maureen Koe and the granddaughter of Peter & Mary Kaye, and Thomas and Eileen Koe.



James Andre, Archie Norbert, Margaret Gordon, Grace Martin, Roberta Koe, Robilee Koe, Jenilee Vaneltsi, Bertha Francis

Jennilee is the daughter of Wanda & Douglas Pascal, and her grandparents are Cecilia & Michael Pascal, also Emma & Percy Kaye.

Roberta Koe is the daughter of Chief Johnny & Annie Kaye, her grandparents are William & Mary Teya, and Peter & Mary Kaye, and great grandparents are Bella & John Tetlich.

Grace Martin is the daughter of James & Edith Nerysoo, her grandparents are Ronnie & Laura Pascal and William & Catherine Nerysoo who have both passed on.

Bertha Francis is the translator who is available when needed on the home visits. She was born in the Yukon. Her parents are John & Bella Tetlich, grandparents are George & Annie Robert and Alfred & Alice Tetlich.

Archie and James have been working for the self-government for many years and have a lot of knowledge to pass onto the Home Visit Staff.

The staff is hired by the Local bands and reports to the Band Administrator.

I hope you will take some time out of your busy schedule to meet with the Home Visit staff.

In the next year I hope to get the word out on self government so that everyone can understand how the Gwich'in Government will work.





The 2005 Annual General Assembly hosted by Chief Richard Nerysoo & NGC Staff



Delegates, Guests, & Observers...



CYFN Grand Chief Andy Carvell & Chief Steven Bucyk



Bob Overvold, DIAND



Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, MP
Western Arctic, with Fred



Jack Anawak, Commissioner for Circumpolar
Affairs



Youth Caucus



Annie Bernard & Mary Decker, Whitehorse Observers



Bridgette Larocque & Alayna Krutko, YK Observers



Greg Cayen (l) & his Financial Wizards





There were the Fort McPherson "Jijees & Jijoos" ...

... 'Jijoo' Eunice Mitchell



...and "Jijee" Frank

...thrills, chills and spills at the canoe



... and Barry G's
Water Safety Course
(& redesigned life



GWICH'IN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Holly Norris (Gwich'in Economy), John Carmichael (Gwich'in Land - Fred accepted on his behalf), Maggie Elias (Gwich'in Lifetime Achievement - Bertha Francis accepted on her behalf), Alestine Andre (Gwich'in Culture), Alayna Krutko (Gwich'in Youth)

The GTC and Gwich'in Development Corporation established the Gwich'in Achievement Awards to encourage and recognize those people who have demonstrated excellence, leadership or exceptional dedication to service in ways that bring credit to the Gwich'in Nation. The GAA is founded to build self-esteem and pride for the Gwich'in Nation and to provide role models for Gwich'in youth. The awards will serve to honour our Elders, Youth and leaders who share a vision of equality and human dignity and who make a difference in Gwich'in society.



Robert Alexie was recognized for his 13 years of dedicated services on the **GWICH'IN ENROLLMENT BOARD**, missing only two meetings since March 1992 (he was out at his camp). Robert has reviewed thousands of applications, continuing to provide insight and stories about families that he remembers and ensuring that our family histories are recorded.



Vicki Alexie was recognized for her 10 years of public **service** to the Gwich'in Tribal Council (her sister, Gladys, accepted on her behalf).

Izhii K'aiik'it Tat Gwich'in

Alayna Krutko and I were both excited and very happy to be back home. We felt the assembly and the GDC shareholder's meeting ran smoothly. We came away with answers to our questions, some excellent reference and resource materials, along with contact information of the staff to address issues of self-government, communications, land administration, strategic planning, business development and our claim. We also enjoyed a picnic out at my parents camp, BBQ's with our family and visiting with nu-

merous friends and relatives.

I am hoping that the Izhii K'aiik'it Tat Gwich'in office phone, fax and internet system is set up soon and that the surplus computers from the GTC in Inuvik also arrive as it would be nice to get an Administrative Assistant into the office.

This person's duties will be to arrange meetings, answers all inquiries, draft proposal, research issues, establish a membership database, develop a website, prepare articles for the Gee Tea See newsletter and oversee all other administrative duties.

Should we get reconnected soon and equipment in place we are hoping to have a meeting at the end of

this month and invite the Executive down to participate in the meeting and our office opening. This meeting will allow us to determine our next steps and what initiatives we want to pursue. Our fundraising events will have to be planned out along with our social and cultural events.

It should be a busy fall and winter for all of us but I'm positive that our working together will produce great results.

Last but not least, cheers, hugs, and salutes to the Executive, Board of Directors and staff for a job well done at the assembly!!

Bridgette Larocque

The GTC Newsletter is a bulletin of activities of the Board and Staff for the information of Gwich'in Beneficiaries. We are obliged to let you know:

- what we have done since the last issue;
- how it impacts, benefits, influences, involves, concerns or changes your life; and
- what we plan to do in the next while.

Send all newsletter contributions or ideas and suggestions to:

The 'Gee, Tea? See' News

PO Box 1509

Inuvik NT X0E 0T0

or email: Inorbert@gwichin.nt.ca

All photographs by Lawrence Norbert unless otherwise noted.

Greetings, Mahsi-Cho's & Good-byes

*Happy Birthday to Mom, Evelyn Krutko,
for September 20th:*

*Wishing you the best now and always.
Have a wonderful day and an even
more spectacular year. We love you!*

Lotsa love,

Alayna, Michael and Kiel

*To the Gwich'in Tribal
Council*

*I am very honoured to have
been awarded a scholarship
from the Tribal Council.*

*It is through your gener-
osity I will obtain my
Bachelor's Degree in So-
cial Work on December 5th.*

*Thank you and warmest re-
gards,*

Nicol e Comi n

Thank you, GTC, for your financial contributi on:

*My Canada World Youth (www.cwy-jcm.org) experi-
ence during September 2004–March 2005 was one of
the most influential parts of my young life. I
lived and did volunteer work in Powell River, BC,
and Beijing, China where I learned about local
and international development and gained essen-
tial job skills for my future. I have made life-
long friendships both across Canada and interna-
tionally and now want to pursue photography and
environmental science when I go on to university.*

*This experience also helped me to get accepted on
a two-month program in mid-January 2006 with Ship
for World Youth (www.swycanada.org) as one of 12
Canadian youth ambassadors
travelling to Japan, India,
Kenya and the Mauritius Islands
with over 250 youth from 15 na-
tions. The goals are to foster
the spirit and practice of in-
ternational cooperation and to
promote friendship and mutual
understanding between the youth
of Japan and the other parts of
the world.*



Thank you again, GTC!!

Ni gi t' sti l Norbert, Yel lowkni fe

IN LOVING MEMORY



Fl or ence Hagen
October 1941 - June 2005

Photo: Inuvik's First Ice
Carnival Queen, 1957

Submitted by: Lisa Fox

A 25th Anniversary tribute
to some former
Dempster Highway
"DPW Boys" (mid-1970's)
Photos courtesy of Jim Norbert



Simon Snowshoe, Mac Craw-



George Niditchie



Abe Tho-



Simon Snowshoe



Simon Snowshoe, Gary Payne, Gerry Ocol, George Niditchie, Gilbert 'Labine'

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TO:

