



March—April 2006



**"Gee, Tea? See" The
Newsletter**



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GWICH'IN SOCIAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTE

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GWICH'IN COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

Executive Director	Terry Peterson	777-5960
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ABORIGINAL FUTURES

Executive Director	Brenda McDonald	777-5942
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EXECUTIVE

President - Fred Carmichael

The Executive has been busy implementing two major initiatives which will improve better services to beneficiaries; the first one is the launching of the GTC Education Strategy. The Executive wishes to welcome Andre'e Jove as the newly created Program Coordinator, Education & Training. Andre'e a long term resident of Inuvik brings to the GTC several years of education and experience. Andre'e will be leading the evaluation of the E&T Program, develop an Education Strategy, an implementation communications plan, and to provide on-going mentorship of the E&T staff. *"We do a lot of good things in education however, there are areas where we know that we can improve upon, education is critical for the success of the Gwich'in people and we need a new vision"* said Fred Carmichael.

The second initiative was the establishment of a Wellness Camp outside of Inuvik on the East Branch. The GTC has acquired two buildings from GDC which will provide approximately 24,000 sq/ft of space. A working group will be established to determine which regional wellness programs will be offered at the camp. The Executive is hoping that other partners such as the IRC, the GNWT, and the Town of Inuvik will participate with us in this new wellness camp. This new initiative will go a long way to allow our people to prepare for the socio-economic impacts associated with the pipeline. *"We need healthy people in order to allow us to continue to build the capacity of our people"*

said Fred Carmichael. These new initiatives were made possible with the monies the GTC received from the Access & Benefits Agreements and GDC.

In April, Fred Carmichael travelled down to Norman Wells along with Chief Richard Nerysoo and Chief Charlie Furlong to attend the *"Circle of Northern Leaders Meeting"* In this meeting a number of important issues such as resource revenue sharing, devolution and the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline were raised with the Honourable



Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The meeting with Minister Prentice was promising and the Gwich'in Leadership looks forward working with the Minister and the new Conservation Government.

In April, Fred Carmichael also travelled on a trade mission to Alaska along with Minister Bell, Industry, Tourism and Investment and representatives from other aboriginal groups in the Mackenzie Valley. The purpose of the trade mission was to learn how aboriginal businesses managed to take

advantage of the economic opportunities that came with the Alaska Pipeline. It was an excellent opportunity for everyone involved and certainly open many eyes on what types of business opportunities which will be available to us here in the NWT.

Vice-President - Mary Ann Ross

The New Year started off with the Regional Renewable Resource Council meeting hosted by the Teetl'it RRC in McPherson. A lot of very good concerns came out of this meeting which set our direction for the year. Our mid-term meeting with the RRC Coordinators is fast approaching to determine if we are on track with our tasks and meeting our objectives. This meeting will take place in June, preferably in McPherson the host community of the recent Regional RRC meeting.

The planning for the Gwich'in Language Conference began in early January with Sharon Snowshoe - Executive Director and William George Firth - Gwich'in Language Manager. The Dinjii Zhuh Ginjik Eenjit Ginjih Tr'adaaghoo (Gwich'in Language Conference) was held March 7, 8, 9, 2006 in Teetl'it Zheh, NT. The delegates consisted of Elders, Youth and Language Teachers from each of the four Gwich'in communities and representatives from the Vuntut Gwich'in Nation. Other guests that attended came from Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Grimshaw, Alberta. Unfortunately we were unable to get delegates from Alaska, due to scheduling and their hosting the Arctic Winter Games.

EXECUTIVE

The conference brought out a lot of pain, resentment and joy at the same time. We heard of the beginning of the loss of language, culture and identity that some of our delegates endured. The joy in hearing our youth express themselves was overwhelming at times, because they to are hurt by not knowing much about their language and culture. Knowing that many youth in our communities want to learn the language and practice the culture is going to be the driving force of this campaign to "Bring Our Language Home". There are people that are working and volunteering to save our Dinjii Zhuh language from extinction. The respect for our language begins at home with our children; the language instructors will appreciate your assistance by practicing our Dinjii Zhuh at home. Through this language conference we committed to speak out more in our language whenever and wherever possible. At the end of the conference there were 43 recommendations made to GSCI, GTC, Bands/DGO's and GNWT. Everyone needs to be responsible for the survival of our Dinjii Zhuh language. Through our concerted efforts this is possible.

The Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute (GSCI) has been going through some changes that you need to be aware of. The Inuvik office was set up to accommodate the Traditional Knowledge Study for the Mackenzie Gas Project. The study was completed in June of 2005, the office continued to remain open doing various other pro-

jects with no substantial funding like the TK study. My concern was that our administration and overhead costs would put the GSCI in a deficit if something was not done soon to stop this. The GSCI board was counselled on the long term affects on GSCI if decisions on office locations were not addressed soon enough. The GSCI currently has an office in Yellowknife to accommodate the Research Director. This office space is in-kind from the GTC so it is not costing the GSCI any rent.



The main office in Tsiigehtchic accommodates two staff members and the Language Centre in McPherson which accommodates our Language Manager and up to two other staff at times. In December I met with Charlene Ross, GTC Comptroller on the financial position of GSCI and from her report I decided to inform the GSCI board members on December 15th meeting of our discussions about GSCI and what direction should be set for its future. The board agreed to wait until March 31st to set their direction. I met with the GSCI staff along with Tom Williams, Tammy Rogers and Greg Cayen in Fort McPherson on

January 27th to discuss the situation that GSCI was in with the staff. The discussion went well with most staff but not so great with some. I informed them that I was going to seek approval from the GTC and GSCI board to relocate the Executive Director position to McPherson, shut down the Inuvik office; seek combined funding for the GIS – IT tech, have the TK Researcher/Coordinator to act in the Research Director's position for one year and to work out of Inuvik. We agreed that GTC would revise the GSCI Five Year Plan and to work towards the changing future of GSCI. The GTC and GSCI Boards approved the changes in March, effective April 01, 2006. There will be more reporting on this at the GTC Annual General Assembly.

There are other portfolios that I am assigned to and will report on in other periodicals of our news letter. I hope you have a safe spring break up and good luck in your spring hunting.

Gwich'in Day was another huge success the Executive wishes to thank all the staff of the GTC and the Nihtat Gwich'in Council for all their hard work to make this year's Gwich'in Day another huge success! The theme for this year's Gwich'in Day was in honour of "those who served" and recognizing those that are currently serving around the world in peace keeping missions.

Over the next few months the GTC Executive and staff will be preparing for the 23rd Annual Assembly in Aklavik, August 15-17; travel days are August 14 and 19. The GDC annual general meeting will be August 18.

EXECUTIVE**Chief Operating Officer - Tom Williams**

The Executive is pleased to welcome Jake Heron as our new Manager, Gwich'in Business Development. Jake comes to us with a wealth of experience including several years of senior management experience in the GNWT. Tom Williams and Jake Heron have been busy travelling to the communities holding information sessions on the Access & Benefits Agreements and particularly focussing on the business opportunities and the programs which the GTC will have in place to assist Gwich'in Businesses to prepare for the Mackenzie Gas Project. These information sessions along with a variety of workshops will take place in each of the Gwich'in communities over the next few months.



Tom Williams attended the first Joint Advisory Committee meeting held in Inuvik on April 20, 2006 in Inuvik. Tom Williams and Jake Heron have been appointed to this important implementation committee for the access & benefits agreements. The committee is comprised of two GTC representatives and two representatives from Imperial Oil these are Gordon Deets and Linda MacDonald. The committee's role is to deal with all contracting and employment issues.

Welcome to Andrée Jove who joins us from the Family Counselling Centre as Program Coordi-

nator, Education & Training.

The GTC Executive wishes to congratulate all the graduates all the best in fulfilling their education dreams. Education is the first step in preparing for our future as Gwich'in people.

The GTC Executive also wishes to congratulate both the NWT Male and Female teams who both did extremely well at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championship held May 2-5, 2006 in Kahanawake, Quebec. Players came from across the NWT including some of our own Gwich'in athletes: Stephanie Ross, Frederick Ross and Troy Alexie representing Fort McPherson and Kelly McLeod representing Inuvik. Thank you for being great ambassadors for the Gwich'in Nation.

**Chief Financial Officer – Greg Cayen**

The finance department is currently preparing for the March 31, 2006 audits for the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Our auditors, KPMG will be arriving on Tuesday May 23, 2006 to complete the audits. We will have the audits completed and financial statements issued by June 30, 2006. As in previous years the Executive will be presenting the reports to the communities at the community assemblies this summer.



I wish to thank our Controller Charlene Ross, Vicky Alexie and Norma Blake from our Fort McPherson office and Evelyn Bullock and Deana Smith from our Inuvik office for their very hard work.

I am pleased to report for the year ended March 31, 2006 the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation earned a rate of return of 14.2%. Total market value of investments amounts to \$116.6 million. These investments are managed by CIBC Asset Management (\$67.4 million), Royal Bank Dominion Securities (\$21.7 million) and Union Bank of Switzerland (\$27.5 million).

The Gwich'in Tribal Council negotiated access and benefits agreements last fall with Imperial Oil. The Gwich'in Tribal Council now has two new funds, The GTC – Imperial Oil Education Fund (\$100,000) and The GTC-Imperial Oil Business Capacity Fund (\$175,000). Terms of reference have now been completed.

As at December 31, 2005 the Gwich'in Children's Trust has investments of approximately \$847,000. An additional \$208,400 was contributed into the trust on December 1, 2005. During 2005 a total of \$46,400 was distributed to Gwich'in beneficiaries turning 19 years of age.

The Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust has investments of approximately \$5.2 million on December 31, 2005. Total harvesters assistance disbursements for 2005 amount to approximately \$290,000.

REGIONAL WELLNESS—Denise Kurszewski

This report will cover the period from January to April 2006 as we did not make the last edition. At the Wellness Office at GTC, we strive to assist the Executive with the many inquiries and requests for assistance that are brought forth. We advocate for our beneficiaries on many issues.

From September 01, 2005 to April 30, 2006 we have provided assistance with the following: housing/homelessness - 31, personal and family issues/emergencies - 26, medical inquiries - 30, foster children (legal services, grandparents' rights - 14, treatment programs - 14, special needs/disabilities - 6, residential schools - 46, miscellaneous (victim's services, forms, family search, proposal writing etc.) - 48. Some requests only take a phone call or a letter, some are on-going and continue to be worked on.

Since the last report, Mary Ann Ross, Norman Snowshoe and I met with the beneficiaries in Yellowknife to update them on programs at GTC, and also listened to their concerns and issues.

Elder Elizabeth Colin and I attended a meeting with the Department of Health and Social Services in Yellowknife to discuss how Stanton Yellowknife Hospital could better meet the needs of northern Aboriginal people during their stay in the hospital.

A Gwich'in Regional Forum was held in December, each community was represented by participants chosen by the local bands. Information on activities and health issues were also shared by the various community members.

We worked on identifying the gaps as well as reviewing the GTC document *Assessment of Social Impacts*. The document covers the many issues related to alcohol, drugs and solvents (twice the national average), suicide (double national average), violent crime (five times national average), family stress, poverty



and unemployment.

It is important that a proactive approach is taken not only to address the symptoms of these issues, but to address the *root causes* of them as well.

The major focus of the forum was to begin developing a Wellness Strategic Plan for GTC. A draft plan, titled *Sriigwandaii, Gwich'in Datthak Eenjit (Wellness for all Gwich'in)* will soon be sent to communities for review. There will be further meetings with the community representatives to discuss this plan, as well as to look at the future possible social im-

pact funding and the Joint Review Panel presentations this fall.

GTC, along with other organizations has also been involved in the development of a Wellness/Counseling Diploma Program with Aurora College. This is an exciting new program that will prepare local people for wellness positions. The plan is to begin with an access year in 06/07. More details will follow as plans for the program are finalized.

There were several community visits over the past few months. Along with the regular visits, I have also participated in the health fairs in Inuvik and Aklavik as well as the FASD session held in Aklavik. In June, we are planning to do community seminars on preparing Wills and Estates. The plan is to train local people to assist community members

who wish to prepare Wills or to do their own.

We're happy to have our assistant, Debra English back in the office for the summer months. Debra brings with her a wealth of experience as she has worked with both the Department of Social Services and Education in the past. Welcome!

Please take note that we are also accepting nominations for this year's Gwich'in Achievement Award, if you know of anyone who should be recognized for their achievements or accomplishments, don't hesitate to submit a nomination for them.

REGIONAL WELLNESS

Although we are often focused on assisting our people with difficulties they encounter, we understand how important it is to recognize some of the wonderful things that are taking place in our communities.



RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL COMPENSATION UPDATE

It has been determined that the Conservative government will follow through with previous commitments to compensate former residential school students.

To date, former residential school students who are 65 years or older as of May 30, 2005 are eligible for an advance payment of \$8000.

At GTC, we have had a number of requests for assistance and inquiries. We are currently seeking funding to hire a coordinator/counselor for one person to fulfill the duties of assisting our beneficiaries. In the meantime, we will assist as much as possible.

As the process moves

forward, there will be an application form to be completed, this form has not yet been developed.

There is no final time line set, it is not possible for us to determine how long it will be before the first cheques are delivered.

ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE

This is a difficult subject and often one that no one wants to talk about. The Gwich'in Nation prides itself on being a strong, proud nation. Strong, proud people take care of their Elders - they do not verbally or physically abuse them or make them feel that it is their responsibility to take care of anyone's financial needs except their own.

There are concerns brought to GTC about Elders who will receive residential school compensation and may have family members who may attempt to take advantage of their funds. Financial abuse can include pres-

suring the Elder for money to meet your personal needs or the needs of your family, charging goods to their accounts or using their telephones for long distance calls and not paying for them.

This is not fair, nor is it respectful. Please take time to discuss this with your family members. Many of our Elders have gone through a lifetime of difficulties, including their residential school experiences. They did not have the opportunities for jobs, education, nor did they have all the programs most people have access to today for assistance when times were difficult. They raised large families by working hard throughout their lives.

As family members we need to recognize and look out for our Elders. Ensure that they are not taken advantage of in any way, let them enjoy any financial compensation they may get, they deserve it!



LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION- Norm Snowshoe & Marty Semmler

Drin Gwiinzii! Best wishes to everyone and hope you are all enjoying the spring from the GTC LRI staff. These are a few updates on some of projects that the GTC LRI divisions are currently working on.

IMPLEMENTATION

The GTC continues to work on implementation of the GCLCA. Each year the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Gwich'in Co-Management Boards receive implementation funding from the Federal Government of Canada to carry out their mandates as provided by the GCLCA. The funding requires annual audits and reporting. The Director of LRI coordinates the reporting of the various boards to the Implementation Committee. Funding is allocated based on the reports and any additional request that may arise.

The GTC also sits on the Implementation Committee that discusses projects and issues that arise out of the Implementation of the GCLCA. This year there is a huge focus on the effectiveness of programs initiated

by the Environmental Measures Chapter 10. The GTC continues to ensure that our participation in Land and Resource Management activities in the Gwich'in Settlement Region is properly funded.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Dall Sheep Management Plan

The GTC is participating in the development of a Transboundary Dall Sheep Management Plan. The reason for a Transboundary Management Plan is because the sheep inhabit areas in the Yukon and the NWT. A working group has been formed to develop the Management Plan with representatives from both the Yukon and NWT.

NWT *Species at Risk Act*

The GTC is participating in the development of the NWT *Species at Risk Act*. The GTC wants to make sure that the act reflects provisions from the GCLCA that gives direction to development of such management processes.

Cape Bathurst Caribou

The GTC is participating in the development of a workshop to discuss the decline of the Cape Bathurst Caribou Herd. The GNWT is putting in regulations to limit harvesting of the herd. The GTC is participating in the management process to ensure that provisions of the GCLCA are included in



this management regime.

LAND MANAGEMENT

The GTC continue to participate in the Implementation of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act (YESAA) and the Peel River Watershed Land Use Plan. The YESAA was finalized in November 2005 and the GTC has been reviewing the YESAA to determine the role of the GTC in the Environmental Assessments that YESAA requires. This is part of the capacity development phase of YESAA that each First Nation is experiencing now.

The Peel River Planning Commission is gathering information about the Peel River Watershed Area. The GTC participated in a workshop in Fort McPherson where information was gathered from elders. This workshop was very informative and thanks must go to the elders who participated in the workshop.

The Land Administration has processed 3 Research Authorizations for research on Gwich'in Private Land and 1 quarry authorization for Midway Lake. The quarry authorization will identify closure of the Midway Lake pit and access during the Midway Lake Festival in August 2006.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT—Kim Hawkins

The GTC has been participating in the regulatory review currently underway for the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP).

The GTC is an intervener in the review process and has held meetings with other interveners as well as the project proponents, participated in various workshops and conferences, discussed the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project with Gwich'in community members and Gwich'in regulatory bodies, and is preparing submissions for hearings to be held in Inuvik in October.

The main regulatory agencies for the gas project, the National Energy Board (NEB) and Joint Review Panel (JRP), commenced their public hearings in Inuvik in early

2006. Following hearings held in Inuvik in January about the gas field development plans in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, gas supply and market studies,

The NEB held hearings in Norman Wells in April to listen to engineering matters to do with pipeline design, materials and facilities. The NEB will hold hearings in Fort Good Hope in May and in Tulita in early June with regards to tolls and tariffs and anything else within their mandate, and will return to Inuvik in

November.

Hearing transcripts and other information about the NEB's review of MGP can be found on their website at http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/NorthOffshore/Mackenzie/index_e.htm.

A ruling by the NEB on whether or not the project is approved is expected in 2007, after which it will be up to the gas companies to decide if they still want to go ahead with construction of the \$7 billion project.



The JRP's first Community Hearings were held in Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic in February. There was an excellent turn out for these hearings in both communities, including youth and elders.

Many people shared their views of the proposed project with the panel; while some were against the project and others supported it, all seemed to agree that there is a need for education, training and jobs for local people, current and anticipated social impacts must be addressed and the

environment protected.

The JRP held Technical Hearings, in Inuvik in March, with regards to the project design. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada questioned Imperial's panel extensively about permafrost, ground ice, stream crossings and granular resources. Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Sierra Club of Canada, the Government of the NWT, the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat, and the JRP and their technical experts also asked questions.

General and Community Hearings were held in the Sahtu region in April; people at these hearings also spoke out for or against the pipeline and raised concerns about cultural impacts, the need for training and employment, the effects of climate change, effects of the project on fish and wildlife, and the social impacts of past development. Some felt it would be best to wait until the Sahtu land use plan was finalized before allowing major development.

The JRP hearings are scheduled for the Deh Cho region in May and June and will resume in the Beaufort-Delta area in September. More information about the JRP, including the hearing transcripts, can be found on their website www.jointreviewpanel.ca.

The Northern Gas Project Secretariat also provides lots of good information about the review process at www.ngps.nt.ca.

ABORIGINAL HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (ARHDA) - Diane Koe

Hell-o Sha' Gwich'in,

I've been transferred from the Finance Department to the Education & Training Department as the AHRDA Coordinator. From day one, my job has been a real challenge. I assist in administrating the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) on behalf of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. I serve as a liaison between students who are in post-secondary education and the Manager/Committee of the Gwich'in Education & Training Department (GE&T). My job also includes preparing Contribution Agreements between the students and the GE&T Department and keeping the student files up to date. I also submit Quarterly Reports to Service Canada (Contact IV) for the funds we administer. Every Wednesday morning, Barb Crawford and I do a regular radio program and give out information to the public in regards to the training opportunities and common information that students should know. I have been busy assisting students who are applying to colleges and short courses.

It's been a real pleasure to work here in my community with my own people. It's great to see our beneficiaries seeking new or more training opportunities. I would like to encourage our people to drop by the Gwich'in Education & Training Office and browse through our College Calendars, or to pick up applications for either funding or colleges. We have applications for Aurora College and Yukon College. We can also print of applications from the



College Website you would like to apply to.

Make sure that you are prepared: Career Planning and making the right choice of what you would like to study is the first step. Financial Planning is important to make sure that you will succeed when you enter into your college year(s). Fill out and complete all applications before you send them out. Incomplete applications may not be processed or sent back to the student(s). Send out your applications before the Deadline. Colleges and Funding Sources have deadlines so that students can be given a seat in the course and sponsorship will be allocated in order for students to be successful. A complete, accurate application and a well planned objective to your choice of study will help you succeed and lessen your worries when you do start your program.

I am always willing to assist anyone with applications so please, feel free to ask

for help. Asking questions is part of learning. As for myself, I'm still learning, this job has a lot of challenges and I'm enjoying it very much. I encourage our beneficiaries to get back on your feet and reach out!! There are a lot of career choices out there waiting for you, be a part it!

Enjoy Learning, be a part of the TEAM. Time, Education, Accomplishment, Money!!

Congratulations to 2006 Grad Students throughout and the students who have completed a year of studies. Welcome Home, work hard, enjoy time with family and eat lots of traditional foods. All enjoy your summer and God Bless!!



ABORIGINAL SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM - Margaret Thompson

The Survey Assistant program started March 08 with 20 participants from Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson. There were 2 instructors from Inukshuk Geomatics Inc. who held the program at the Tetlit Co-op board room.

Some of the training included WHMIS, TDG, First Aid with “B” CPR and H2S Alive. Originally the Chainsaw Safety program was cancelled but it was held close to the end of the program. Some of the training included:

- Introduction to Oil & Gas Survey
- Introduction to conventional & GPS survey equipment
- Maintenance, transportation & storage.
- Basic survey procedures
- Introduction to logistics and field crew support
- Practical Exercise Outdoors
- Introduction to survey equipment
- Introduction to plans, maps datum & coordinate system
- GPS

The students who passed this program had dinner at the café and received their Certificate of Completion. Congratulations to those of you who passed. It was also the end of our fiscal year so we were busy with closing files. I need a copy of your tickets and certificate for those of you who passed this program for your files.

I have a new “Application for Training Funds” and its only



Photo: Jim Broadbent, Gwich'in Helicopters, May 21

two pages. I need information from people who took training in the past for Aboriginal Futures. I will be phoning you. We receive funding from Government of Canada and we have to report as to how money is spent. This is why we ask you to complete the two pages. We need information from you 3 months after you complete a program so you need to keep information of where you worked. I will then contact you 6 and 12 months later to find out if you worked.

If you feel that you need to attend any academic preparation please let me know. You need to keep track of where you worked, number of weeks you worked and number of jobs you held over the past year. If you need help with any questions please contact me at toll free number 1-866-414-4669 or call me collect at (867) 952-2500.

We will have a Safety Training in Fort McPherson start-

ing May 29 and ending June 01, 2006. Don't forget to give me a copy of your tickets for your files. I would like a copy of Safety Training or Certificates for those students who pass their training for your files.

Spring is here, enjoy yourself and be careful out there.



Joey Creek "Falls"

GWICH'IN SOCIAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTE– Sharon Snowshoe

There have been a few changes to the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute. The GSCI had to downsize their office by moving the Executive Director position to Fort McPherson effective April 1, 2006. Sharon Snowshoe is the Executive Director and is now working out of the Charles Koe Building. The other position that the GS&CI is looking at cost-sharing is the GIS/IT position. Presently there is little funding to fully support this position. Alternatively, Kristi Benson will take on some duties and any major work will be as-and-when contracted through the GTC's GIS-IT technician, Tracy Creighton. The GS&CI staff are as follows:

Fort McPherson

Sharon Snowshoe, Executive Director

Ph: 952-2524

Fax: 952-2238

William G. Firth, Language Manager

Eddie Wright, Casual

Ph: 952-2377

Fax: 952-2433

Inuvik

Kristi Benson, Researcher

Ph: 777-5965

Fax: 777-5994

Tsiigehtchic

Alestine Andre, Heritage Researcher

Mavis Clark, Administrative Assistant

Ph: 953-3613

Fax: 953-3820



The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute will be working on revising their 5-year plan. R.T. Associates Ltd. will be working with the GSCI to facilitate a workshop to identify the key issues facing GSCI today and how to address these issues in the context of the strategic plan. A draft of these findings will be submitted to the GSCI and then another workshop will be held and a revised strategic plan will be submitted. This revised strategic plan will be submitted to the GTC Board of Directors for approval and presented to the Annual General Assembly.

Alestine Andre successfully defended her Master's thesis on March 24, 2006 at the University of Victoria. Her thesis titled, "Nan t'aih nakwits'in ahtsih (The Land Gives Us Strength): The Medicine Plants used by Gwich'in People of Canada's Western Arctic to maintain Good Health and Well Being" detail the research work that Alestine carried out with Ruth Welsh in the Husky River,

Tree River, and at traditional camps along the Dempster Highway that focused on medicine plants, their uses and application.

The Gwich'in Language Centre has copies of the new Elders Calendar 2006 on sale for \$10.00. If you would like to order a copy, please call William Firth at the Gwich'in Language Centre in Fort McPherson at 952-2377 or fax him at 952-2433.

This booklet entitled *Yeenoo Dài' Gwats'at Teetá'it Zheh Googwandak: The History and Archaeology of Fort McPherson*, co-authored by Melanie Fafard and Ingrid Kritsch, is now printed and available. This booklet provides a window into what we have learned about Teet'it zheh from the oral history of elders, the archaeology and published historical documents. The book was put forward to Canadian Archaeological Association's Public Writing Award by Sheila Greer and this book will be receiving an award later this month in Toronto.

Teetl'it Gwich'in Googwandak

A planning meeting was held in Fort McPherson on April 27. Sharon Snowshoe and Alestine Andre of the GSCI met with an Elders' steering committee and with Michael Heine, a researcher from the University of Manitoba. They discussed how to start work on a book describing the history of the Teetl'it Gwich'in and of Fort McPherson. A similar book was completed for the community of Tsiigehtchic in 2001. In Tsiigehtchic, as well, the GSCI worked with an Elders' steering committee, community researchers and university researchers to complete the history book.

Steering Committee

- Robert Alexie Sr
- Fred Koe
- Walter Alexie
- William Koe
- Jane Charlie
- Rachel Stewart
- Bertha Francis
- Mary Teya
- Doris Itsi
- William Teya

GS&CI

- Sharon Snowshoe
- Alestine Andre
- Kristi Benson

Gwich'in Language Centre

- Eddy Wright

University Researcher

- Michael Heine, University of Manitoba

Working with Elders in Fort McPherson over several years, the GSCI has carried out land use research in the Teetl'it Gwich'in traditional land use area. A lot of information on the history of the Teetl'it Gwich'in and the way the people used to live on the land has been gathered. Archaeological research has also been carried out — all of this information will be used in the Teetl'it Gwich'in history book. But not all the information that is required to complete the book has been gathered yet. A lot of research still needs to be done, and the steering committee will provide advice and guidance when that work is carried out.

Additional land use research will be necessary, especially for the regions of the land down the Peel River. A lot of information about Gwich'in history and culture can also be found in archives, and the documents in those archives have to be examined. Then there are the COPE stories recorded with the Elders in the early 1970s. The tapes are a very important source of information, and they have to be re-transcribed. Later on, GSCI and community researchers will work with interested community residents to find out if people in the community have access to other sources of information, for example, old-time family photos.

Some archives that contain information on Gwich'in history and culture:

- National Archives of Canada
- NWT Archives
- Yukon Archives
- Provincial Archives of Alberta
- Anglican Church of Canada Archives
- Oblate Archives
- National Museum of Man
- Hudson's Bay Archives
- Provincial Archives of Manitoba
- Smithsonian Institution
- Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land

It will take some time to collect all of the information required to complete the book. Then a draft of the book will be written for the steering committee and the community to review. Following the community review, the final version of the book will then be completed. It may well take several years to finish the book.

The GSCI office has copies of the Gwichya Gwich'in history book. It shows what the Fort McPherson history book might look like. If you want to take a look at the Gwichya Gwich'in



REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE—March 24-26



STAToil Delegation (Norway) - March 31



STAToil is an integrated oil and gas company with 25,600 employees with activities in 32 countries. The Norwegian State, acting through the Minister of Petroleum and Energy, holds almost 71% of shares in STAToil. The delegation also included a representative of the Sami Parliament of Norway and from the UN Environmental Programme.

DENENDEH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DELEGATION



FORT MCPHERSON CARNIVAL 2006



MUSKRAT JAMBOREE 2006



MADTRAPPER RENDEZVOUS 2006



MacKENZIE RIVER JAMBOREE 2006



GWICH'IN DAY 2006



GWICH'IN HELICOPTERS LTD.



On Gwich'in Day, keys to the new Astar 350-B2 of Gwich'in Helicopters Ltd. was passed from Great Slave Helicopters (partners in this joint venture) to Fred Carmichael, GTC President, then to Jim Broadbent, Chief Pilot, Gwich'in Helicopters. This was a symbolic moment: it's OURS!

GIRL HOCKEY POWER

Stephanie Clark of Tsiigehtchic (now going to school in Whitehorse) played with the Minor Hockey Association, then with the Skylight Warriors (a mostly-girls team) during the Native Hockey Tournament where she received the Most Sportsmanlike Medal. Photos: courtesy of Maureen Clark



" THANK YOU, GTC"



"Hi there! Well, I'm officially finished with school. I had a really nice grad and the fashion show was just great!! I ended up winning The Most Promising Fashion Professional Award!! I have to thank you all for your



support along the way...I couldn't have done it without you and the rest of my family.

Love,

Billie Lennie (daughter of Tommy Wright)

Photos: courtesy of Billie Lennie

" THANK YOU, GTC"

"Dear Mary Ann:

I would like to express my appreciation to the GTC Education & Training Committee for supporting me in attaining my Commercial Helicopter Pilot Licence which I received on February 14, 2006. The support—both financial and personal—that I received from the Gwich'in Tribal Council and beneficiaries made me more determined to reach my goal. I would especially like to thank Barb Crawford for assisting me through the process, providing me with on-going support, and for encouraging me when I most needed it. She was also positive, firm, and professional in our discussions and provided me with motivation and incentive to continue studies in a field in which I want to be involved. Through the support of GTC, I now have qualifications to pursue a management position within the helicopter industry. Please pass my appreciation on to Barb and to the Education & Training Committee Board Members.

Regards,

Paul Sullivan"

GTC Education & Training Committee, April 2006

(L-R) Mary Ann Ross, V-P; Barb Crawford, E&T Manager, Mavis Clark, Committee Member; Norma Blake, Senior Accountant; Diane Koe, AHRDA Coordinator; Committee Members Brian Alexie, Leanne Nerysoo, Robert Charlie



"Dear Mr. Carmichael:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Gwich'in Tribal Council for the continued support I received while attending school. I have completed a degree in the bachelor of professional arts in criminal justice program and I am looking forward to returning to the North to seek employment. I would especially like to thank Barb Crawford for all the work she has done over the last four years. She has also been very supportive and encouraging.

Often students take funding for granted and forget how lucky we are as Northern residents to have our education paid for. I am the only person in my graduating class who does not owe at least \$40,000 in student loans and I have the Gwich'in Tribal Council and NWT SFA to thank for that.

The funding and support your office and staff has given is appreciated and I wanted to make sure that I acknowledge that.

Thanks again for everything,

Krista Carnogursky"



2nd Annual
GWICH'IN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Gwich'in Tribal Council – in partnership with the Gwich'in Development Corporation – is now accepting nominations for the 2nd annual Gwich'in Achievement Awards. These awards were established last year 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.

Under the guidelines, any Gwich'in or Canadian resident may nominate individuals:

- of Gwich'in heritage enrolled in the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*;
- who demonstrate outstanding career achievement or personal accomplishment; and
- of any age (youth achiever nominees must be 15-25 years of age).

All career areas are eligible for nomination and include, but are not limited to:

Gwich'in Culture

Language & Culture

Arts & Crafts

Education

Law and Justice

Athletics

Communications

Community & Public Service

Health & Social Services

Gwich'in Land

Trapping & Subsistence

Fisheries

Natural Resources

Gwich'in Economy

Business

Community Development

Gwich'in Lifetime Achievement

Gwich'in Future – Our Youth

The 2006 GAA recipients will be honoured at the GTC Annual General Assembly in Aklavik, August 15-17. The Youth recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship to further their education and/or career.

The deadline for nominations is 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 30, 2006. Forms or information can be obtained by calling Mary Ann Ross or Denise Kurszewski at the GTC, 867-777-7900.

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

Publisher: CanArctic Graphics

Please send your contributions or suggestions to the address above, right (↗).

Ph: 867-777-7923 Fx: 867-777-7919

E-mail: Inorbert@gwichin.nt.ca

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

The "Gee, Tea? See" Newsletter

PO Box 1509

Inuvik NT X0E 0T0 Canada

TO:

