

# Dagwidi'ii

April - June 2008

"What We Are Doing"



Gwich'inat Eenjit Gàdatr'igwijiłcheii Gidilii  
Gwich'in Tribal Council

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

*Gwich'in nan, nakhwek'yuu ts'at gwitr'it tthak nakhwidavee gwiłheezàa eenjit*

## **'Dagwidi'ii - What We Are Doing'**

is a quarterly newsmagazine of the

**GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL**

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The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) is an Aboriginal organization that represents Gwich'in Beneficiaries in the Mackenzie-Delta of the Northwest Territories and across Canada. The objectives of the GTC are to:

- protect and preserve the rights, interest and benefits of the Gwich'in in reference to their use, ownership and management of lands, waters, and resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area;
- retain, preserve and enhance the traditional and cultural values, customs and language of the Gwich'in in a changing society;
- develop and promote economic, social, educational and cultural programs that will enable the Gwich'in to become self-sufficient and full participating members in a global society;
- uphold the rights, interest and benefits of the Gwich'in in reference to the *Constitution Act*, Treaty 11 and the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*; and
- receive, preserve and enhance the capital and the lands and other benefits transferred to the Gwich'in pursuant to the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* signed on April 22, 1992.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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A/Chief Financial Officer	Charlene Ross	777-7904

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AHRDA Coordinator	Diane Koe	952-2501
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Administrative Assistant	Gina Firth	777-7925
Communications Advisor	Lawrence Norbert	777-7923

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Director	Norm Snowshoe	777-7912
Lands Manager	Mardy Semmler	777-7913
LRI Advisor	Jozef Carnogursky	777-7914

## **GWICH'IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Manager	Wanda McDonald	777-7932
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## **REGIONAL WELLNESS**

Wellness Camp Executive Director	Jennifer Johnson	777-7934
Wellness Camp Maintenance Manager, Special Projects	Randy Niditchie Denise Kurszewski	777-7927

## **SELF-GOVERNMENT**

Director/Assistant Negotiator	Karen Snowshoe	777-7924
Regional Coordinator	Margaret Gordon	777-7941
Regional Coordinator	Mavis Clark	777-7942



## EXECUTIVE

On behalf of the Staff of the GTC we would like to welcome and congratulate Richard Nerysoo on his recent election as President and we also wish to congratulate Mary Ann Ross on her re-election as Vice President! The Executive also wishes to thank Barb Crawford for serving as the Chief Returning Officer and her elections staff that did a great job with the GTC Election. The GTC Staff also wishes to say good bye to Fred Carmichael, Past President and wish him all the best in his retirement. The Executive also hope all participants enjoy the summer and we look forward seeing all of you at the Annual Assembly which will be held in Fort McPherson on August 11-14, 2008.

### **GTC signs MOU with MGM for Exploration Rights**

Fred Carmichael, President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Henry Sykes, President of MGM Energy Corp. announced that they had recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU is the first step in building a relationship between the Gwich'in and MGM Energy. The MOU contemplates further agreements being required, these are still to be negotiated.

The Gwich'in has agreed to make 5 parcels of their private lands available to MGM Energy for geological and geophysical work. If that work demonstrates that the lands are prospective, then it is expected that seismic work will be done and ultimately wells will be drilled to prove up the resource.

Fred Carmichael stated "This is a true partnership; MGM Energy and the Gwich'in are committed to work together. It is expected that this work will create job opportunities for appropriately qualified Gwich'in or those who wish to be qualified". Henry Sykes stated that "MGM Energy looks forward to increasing its knowledge of and ability to work with

the Gwich'in as a result of this joint venture".

The Gwich'in does not give up or reduce any of their rights under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement. MGM Energy must negotiate benefits and access agreements and the Gwich'in will be entitled to royalties on any hydrocarbons produced from lands which their own.

### **Kodiak Energy**

During the winter of 2007/2008 a winter seismic program consisting of 46 km of seismic line was surveyed, prepared, drilled and recorded. The Project duration was February 1 to March 8, 2008. A total of 88 contract field employees were hired, resulting in 20,000 man-hours recorded, there was zero lost time incidents, 1 medical aid and 9 first aids, 9 spills were recorded during the project, all spills were properly cleaned up as per license and agreement requirements, reseeding was required on approximately 4 hectares in various locations, reseeding was completed on March 2008. Benefits accrued to the Gwich'in resulted in 5,280 man-hours and seven contracts were awarded to registered Gwich'in Businesses for an approximate value of \$815,000.

Kodiak Energy Inc. advised the JMC that they propose to conduct a drilling program from the Winter 2008/2009 on the site EL-314 "Little Chicago". The proposed drilling program will include drilling 4 wells (2 shallow wells and 2 deep wells) they will require 30-35 days for each deep well and 10 days for each shallow well. Kodiak Energy Inc. advised that they wish to access the site using the Tsiigehtchic routing. This will involve some early work in November 2008 preparing an ice crossing on the Arctic Red River.

Kodiak Energy Inc. wishes to negotiate a new Access & Benefits Agreements for the proposed

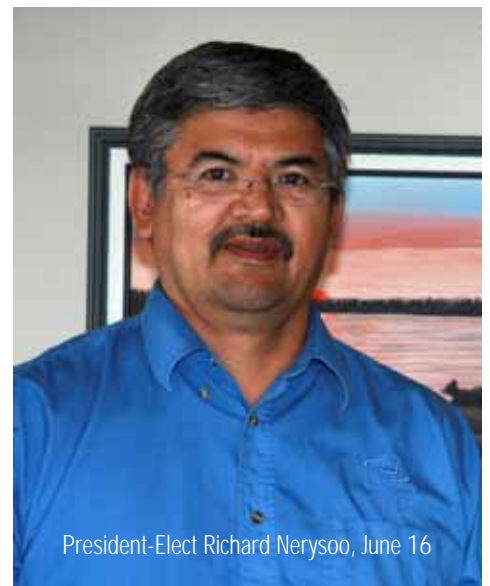
2008/2009 Winter Drilling Program. The parties all agreed to proceed on this basis. Kodiak Petroleum provided the JMC members with a proposed list of equipment and personnel (see attached) to review and provide feedback on. Kodiak Energy Inc. will be conducting a summer reconnaissance of the site, EL-314 and the Tsiigehtchic routing this will take place in July 2008.

### **Summer Students**

The Executive wishes to welcome our summer students:

- Sheena Campbell will be assisting the Executive and cataloguing all of our photos;
- Sheena Snowshoe will be working with our Education & Training Department, she will be assisting both the Land, Resources and Implementation department and the Wellness Department; and
- Jodie Snowshoe, she will be coordinating the Annual Assembly arrangement and working closely with the Assembly Coordinator in Fort McPherson.

It is great that we can offer employment to our summer students and provide them with some valuable work experience and expose to what the GTC does.



President-Elect Richard Nerysoo, June 16

## BENEFICIARY SERVICES

The Department of Beneficiary Services is responsible for providing support to Participants in the following areas, Education and Training, (AHRDA), Education Foundation, Human Resources, Career Development and Employment Services as well as Communications and the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program.

In this report of the newsletter I have summarized two of our program areas - the Education Foundation and the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program.

### Education Foundation - Student Applications

Below is a table containing information regarding the number of students who have been assisted by our programs through the Education Foundation for this fiscal year to date. Each newsletter I will report on the number of students funded and the amounts spend, they will continue to increase as we go thought our year.

As you can see we have many students accessing our programs and we are proud of the fact that we have so many Gwich'in accessing education opportunities.

### Gwich'in Education Foundation April 2008 – June 2008

Bursary Program	
91 Students	\$34,400.00
Tutoring	
1 Student	\$1,500.00
Professional Development	
7 Students	\$18,027.36
Training Allowances	
14 Students	\$13,657.00
Mobility	
0	0

Scholarships	
8 Students	\$8,000.00
Graduation Gifts - Post-Secondary	
31 Students	\$7,750.00
Graduation Gifts—High School	
2 Students	\$200.00

<b>TOTALS</b>	
<b>154 Students</b>	<b>\$83,534.36</b>

### Graduates

Each year the number of students graduating from different programs varies in number. This year we have record of 31 students graduating from post secondary education institutes. Each post secondary graduate who can show proof that they have graduated will receive a grad gift in the amount of \$250.00.

Our records also show that we have 33 participants graduating from High School. To be eligible for a grad gift you need to show proof that you have met the requirements in your province or territory to receive a grade 12 diploma. Once your final marks are receive and you have your diploma, you can contact Cheryl Wright in our office and she will issue a grad gift in the amount of \$100.00.

### Certification

Leadership	2
Early Childhood	2
Office Administration	6
Traditional Arts	1
PC Support Specialist	1
Architectural Technology	1
Legal Secretary	1
Chef	1
UCEP	4
Social Work Access	2
Trades Access	3
Nursing Access	2
Housing Maintenance	1

### Diploma

Management Studies	1
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### Degree

Bachelor of Psychology	1
Bachelor of Theology	1
Bachelor of Education	1

<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>31</u></b>
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### Scholarships

\$1,000.00 is awarded to students who maintained an 80% average in their courses for one full-year of study. Below is a table listing the students who received the scholarships, their program of study and their marks. Congratulations to all who have received scholarships, great job!

Clinton Saddington	92.0%
Architectural Technology	
Ben Wright	92.6%
Bachelor of Theology	
Michelle Cardwell	91.7%
Bachelor of Psychology	
Ruth Ann Blake	85%
Masters of Social Work	
Rose Ann Stewart	80.5%
Mabel Brown	86.7%
Agnes Francis	88.4%
Indigenous Wellness & Addiction Prevention	
Sheena Snowshoe	80.9%
Office Administration	

### Student Handbook

Debra English, Manager of Education and Training is working on developing a student handbook, which will outline all our programs that we offer, where to seek more information and a summary of the types of financial support that is available. Once this handbook is published it will be available on our website.

## BENEFICIARY SERVICES

If you would like more information about any of the programs above please consult our website at [www.gwichin.nt.ca](http://www.gwichin.nt.ca) or call our Beneficiary Service Office at 1-866-414-4670.

### Comments from Students

“Cheryl:

*I have funding for next year! As promised I am sending you the notification.*

*Thank you VERY much for the grad gift. I spent part of it getting my certificate professionally framed and the rest I am socking away for next year for any incidentals that come up when I'm at school.....AMAZING.....*

*Mahsi Cho!!!!*

*Mary-Anne Hoggarth”*

“Hi Cheryl,

*I just wanted to send this email as I wanted to express my sincere appreciation to your department for the great work and support that you provide to us students. As a student, I am extremely grateful for the support that I have received from the GTC in the past year, as the assistance has helped to decrease financial stresses that I have endured. I have found you to be very efficient when it comes to processing payments. It is through support such as the GTC, that I continue to strive towards academic success in my studies. Thank you and keep up the great work that your department does in promoting and supporting beneficiaries to pursue their education.*

*Sincerely,  
Ruth Anne Blake”*

### Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Program.

The Spring allocation of the Harvesters Assistance Program has been completed for this season. Below is a summary of the funds that have been allocated and the funds that have been spent.

The Fall/Winter season will be opening August 15<sup>th</sup> and Closing August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Participants interested in applying for funds under this program must meet the eligibility requirement as defined by being a “low income participant”. “Low-income participant” is defined as those participants whose household income is \$52,000.00 or less.



Mr. and Mrs. William and Bella Charlie receiving the traditional Hughie Blake rice shower in Tetlit Zeh, April 12th.

## LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION

### Implementation

The GTC continues to cooperatively work with the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Implementation of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* (GCLCA).

The highlight of recent developments is the finalization of the 2003-20012 Implementation Plan. This plan will assist in developing and maintaining current programs initiated under the GCLCA.

The IC is monitoring the recent reviews of the Senate Committee and DIAND on Land Claim Implementation. The Government of Canada has developed a plan of action to deal with the most recent reviews. These reviews have focused on the Implementation of Land Claims by DIAND. The Senate Committee report based on their review have confirmed the Land Claims Groups position that DIAND does not have the ability to implement Land Claims and that a Federal Land Claim Policy is required to properly implement the Land Claim Agreements.

### Wildlife Management

The GTC continues to participate in the development of the Dall Sheep Management Plan, the Yukon Wildlife Act, and the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy.

The Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy is in the final draft stage. This final draft will be presented to the communities in the

Gwich'in Settlement Area this summer for review and comments. Members from the harvest management plan working group will be touring all user communities in the NWT and the Yukon looking for feedback on this plan.

The Dall Sheep Management Plan is also ready for public consultation. The Working Group will present it to the communities for review and comments. Representatives from the GTC and ENR will be touring the communities in the GSA this summer with a public consultation deadline of September 15, 2008.

### Land Administration

The GTC Land Administration has finalized the new 2008/2009 Fee Schedule which will be in effect from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. The GTC Land Administration has processed eight land use authorizations during the first six months of this year: 5 Quarry Authorizations, 3 for Frog Creek, 1 for Midway Lake and 1 for Willow River and 3 Research Authorizations, 1 mineral exploration grab sampling program in the Arctic Red River headwaters, 1 in the Cardinal Lakes area and 1 for the Tree River area. The GTC Land Administration continue to review and comment on land use and water license applications from the Gwich'in Land and Water Board and the Yukon Environmental and Socio Economic Assessment Board and the Yukon Water Board. Other projects within the GSA are temporary access notifica-

tions from Government who do not formally require an authorization.

The GTC Land Administration continued to represent the GTC at different workshops and working groups and steering committees. Staff attended an Overland Access Workshop looking into the development of guidelines for seismic land use in the Beaufort Delta Region, the Science in the Changing North Environmental Monitoring at the Community Level Conference and sat in on teleconference meetings for the Northern Contaminants Program – NWT Regional Contaminants Committee. Staff also presented ongoing project information to the newly elected GTC President and returning Vice President. Staff will continue to work towards updating all information for the annual report and putting together the LRI presentation for the annual assembly to be held in Fort McPherson in August.

The GTC Land Administration staff continues to monitor the Peel River Water Sampling Program. A public meeting is being scheduled for July in Fort McPherson to discuss the Peel River Sampling Program. Andrea Czarnecki (INAC) and Dr. Andre Corriveau (GNWT) will be in attendance to explain the results and to answer any questions related to the Peel River Sampling Program.

For information with regard to any of the projects currently being managed and administered by the GTC Land Administration, please contact Mardy Semmler, Lands Manager at the GTC Office in Inuvik.



## REGIONAL WELLNESS

In June, I coordinated the First workshop dedicated to Residential School Survivors and their children and grandchildren at the Wellness Camp located 15 km. south of Inuvik. This 5 day workshop focused on the legacy of the Residential School system and its effect on the intergenerational survivors. The workshop was done in part in response to resolution # 12/2007 from last year's assembly as well as in keeping with our partnership with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Health Canada. 17 elders and youth participated, facilitated by Psychologist Nirrie Kistna and Lloyd Robertson and Elders Ross Cadotte and Sherry Keepness; in addition to the facilitators, we had our own elders and support workers on hand to ensure that everyone involved were safe and had emotional support if required. The workshop was successful because 2 cultures came together to confront and overcome common issues from the past. It has been suggested that an ongoing effort be taken to continue this workshop as a follow-up in the future. These workshops will be open to any and all Residential School Survivors and their families.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is charged with the task of assisting Canadians to know and understand the truth of our Indian

Residential School legacy and of promoting reconciliation through new relationships fixed in mutual recognition and respect. The Commission is in the early stages of its mandate. The Commissioners are committed to listening, to the stories and other histories of the Indian Residential School experience and legacy. I invited the TRC support team to tour the communities on June 26th and 27th to provide information about the commission and its mandate. Mental and health support services must be delivered by wellness workers in each community to help people deal and prepare for a multitude of emotional problems that could occur along with our current addictions, and substance abuse problems.

GTC and IRC has partnered with Health Canada to meet the objectives of the Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program (RHSP). The project delivers healing and treatment services in two Gwich'in, four Inuvialuit, and two mixed communities (Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tsiigehtchic, Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour, and Ulukhaktok). These healing and treatment services will encompass the professional counseling and traditional cultural support programs specified under the RHSP, and will be coordinated by a Resolu-

tion Health Support Worker; in our region, Jeffery Amos. As former Residential School Survivors along with your families you are entitled to counseling from a professional and an elder of your choice, you are also entitled to take this counseling where you feel safe be it in your home town or down south.

I will be resigning from my position as of Monday June 30th in order to spend more time with family; so at the end of the day I am obliged for helping one person who have also done their own work to live a healthier life style and to take back their own identity; we are also grateful for the help of the working groups from the communities who has helped the process along and with the support from all of the agencies who have engaged themselves in the role of advocates in the issues that affects our communities and our people. The best we can do is provide you with information and the resources that are available to help you along in your healing journey, where we are not qualified to and pray that you will take it upon yourselves to receive this help gratefully.

Victor 'Silalee' Stewart



## SELF-GOVERNMENT

As summer approaches we are getting ready for the Annual Gwich'in Assembly which will be held in August. Each year before the Assembly the team visits the communities to give updates on what Self Government is doing and what is planned for the coming year. We will also visit Yellowknife and Whitehorse where majority of our participants are. Expect to see us in the communities in July and we would like to see as much Gwich'in participants as possible. The information we have to pass on is important and all participants should have a say on what they would like to see in their new government.

### Negotiations

A Negotiation Session was held in Inuvik from May 21 – 23rd with: Federal Team - Senior Negotiator Gary Vanderhaden; Assistant Negotiator Christine Kallikragasc  
GNWT Team - Senior Negotiator Ian McCrae, Assistant Negotiator Grant Gowans, and Erin Delaney.  
GTC team - Chief Negotiator Charlie Furlong, Assistant Negotiator Karen Snowshoe, Chief Wilbert Firth, Chief Frederick Blake Jr., Chief Richard Nerysoo, Regional Coordinators Margaret Gordon and Mavis Clark.

The session was successful with a draft work plan established for the next two years and scheduling meetings for the next three months. A side table was established for the Chiefs to focus on Treaty and Indian Act issues.

The Negotiation Sessions are usually three days in total. Two days will be set aside for regular negotiations and one day for the side table to deal with Chief's (Band) issues. Our next Session will be held in Inuvik July 25th, 26th, and 27th at which time we will be requesting all community reps attend future Sessions.

Each Community will have their Chief, a Community Rep, an Elders Rep and the Community Coordinator attending these Negotiation Sessions.

We will be holding future Sessions in the four Communities so participants can attend and listen in and see and hear first hand for themselves how the Sessions are held.

### Community Activities

Activities in the communities have been quiet for the past six months or so. As of now there are no coordinators in the communities, but that will change soon as we do our annual visits to give updates. In our visit we will give presentations on where the community constitutions stand and will finalize that by bringing the document to the Chief and Council for approval. Once approved by the community they will be sent to the Lawyer for proper wording but not to lose the content of the document.

Once we have staff in the communities they will be going door to door again with new information that you will have to make a decision on. Your decisions are important at this time as we want to make sure that we are getting all your comments back to make Self Government your own. The next documents to come out are the government structures and the Gwich'in Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As always we will make sure that we simplify these documents so that you understand them.

### Communications

Margaret Gordon has been working on a Traditional Governance booklet. The book is almost complete and we hope to have copies for the Annual Gwich'in Assembly to be held in August. This book is made up of all the interviews that were done with elders telling us stories of how they lived a long time ago. Margaret did not want all these interviews to go to gather dust so she has been transcribing the stories and adding pic-

tures. We are very excited about the book and can't wait to see the finished product.

Margaret has also worked on a Gwich'in Timeline. She is making some additions and will have this printed and distributed to the schools and Designated Gwich'in Organizations. The timeline is very impressive and has a lot of good information and accomplishments.

### Our negotiation team:

- Charlie Furlong, Chief Negotiator, [Charlie\\_furlong @ airware.ca](mailto:Charlie_furlong@airware.ca)
- Karen Snowshoe, Assistant Negotiator/Director, [ksnowshoe @ gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:ksnowshoe@gwichin.nt.ca), 777-7924
- Margaret Gordon, Regional Coordinator (Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, Communications), [mgordon @ gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:mgordon@gwichin.nt.ca), 777-7941
- Mavis Clark, Regional Coordinator (Aklavik, Inuvik, Administration & Logistics), [mclark @ gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:mclark@gwichin.nt.ca), 777-7942
- Chiefs from the four communities
- Community and elder representatives

The self government team will be busy for the next two years, working closely with the communities and getting some decisions on how we want to see our new government. We can't stress enough how important these decision are, so we hope that you will make sure to attend our meetings when they are held in your community.

Check out the website: [www.gwichin.nt.ca](http://www.gwichin.nt.ca) and go to the Self Government page for updates, photos and you can also view our Traditional Governance video.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make this process a lot easier and to make it more understandable.

Mahsi Cho!!



Every year during Muskrat Jamboree, Inuvik Elder Elizabeth Firth (above left) and her family pitch up their tent a short distance from the main Jamboree activities and cook up a storm of traditional foods for friends, family and visitors.



The kids have a great time sliding and cooking marshmallows (left) while son, Vincent (top right), keeps the home fries burning. Others (bottom right) have a great view of the dog and ski-doo drag races.



Mahsi, Elizabeth, for keeping the Gwich'in hospitality alive and well.





A community feast and dance was held in Inuvik on April 5th to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Edward and Jean Lenie (right), respected Elders of the Mackenzie Delta region. Congratulatory toasts, gifts and cake were the order of the day and everyone had so much fun, even Gwich'in Elder Eunice Mitchell (bottom right) had to phone home in order to stay out late!





# Gwich'in Day 2008





Ahhhh...  
spring!!



On June 25th, the Gwich'in Tribal Council held a community feast to honour the years of dedicated service to the Gwich'in Nation by retiring President Fred Carmichael.

Gifts, tributes and words of gratitude came from the Premier of the NWT, Inuvik MLA's, Town of Inuvik, the IRC and Inuvik Community Corporation and many community people. The Aklavik Youth Dancers rounded off the day's events MC'd by Barry Greenland.

'Mahsi' to all those who helped and cooked for Fred!





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is a quarterly magazine of GTC activities  
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Please send your suggestions, comments or  
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TO:

# MOTHER NATURE DOIN' HER THING

