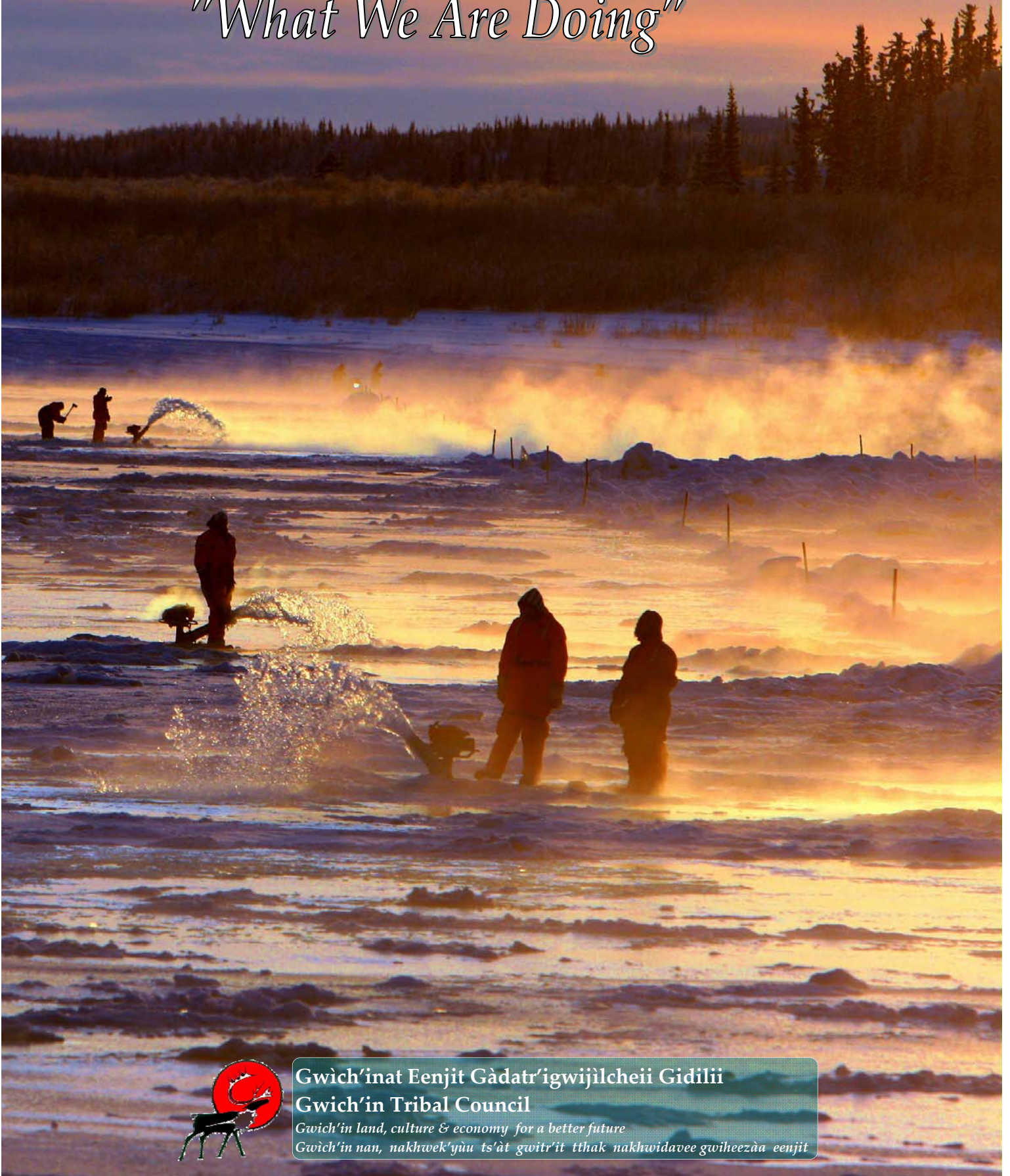


Dagwidi'ii

October - December 2008

"What We Are Doing"



Gwìch'inat Eenjit Gàdatr'igwìjlcheii Gidilii
Gwich'in Tribal Council

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

Gwich'in nan, nakhwek'yùu ts'àt gwitr'it tthak nakhwidavee gwiheezàa eenjit

‘Dagwidi’ii - What We Are Doing’

is a quarterly newsmagazine of the

GWICH’IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

1-3 Council Crescent

PO Box 1509 Inuvik NT X0E 0T0

Ph: 867-777-7900 Fx: 867-777-7919

Enrolment: Toll Free 1-866-414-4670

Website: www.gwichin.nt.ca

The Gwich’in Tribal Council is an Aboriginal organization that represents Gwich’in Beneficiaries in the Mackenzie-Delta of the Northwest Territories and across Canada. The objectives of the Council 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

President.....	RICHARD NERYSOO.....	777-7900
Vice-President.....	MARY ANN ROSS.....	777-7905
Director, Gwichya Gwich’in Council	PHILIP BLAKE	953-3201
Director, Gwichya Gwich’in Council	JENNY ANDRE	953-3201
Director, Tetlit Gwich’in Council.....	WILBERT FIRTH.....	952-2330
Director, Tetlit Gwich’in Council.....	GLEN ALEXIE	952-2330
Director, Ehdiitat Gwich’in Council.....	CHARLES FURLONG	978-2340
Director, Ehdiitat Gwich’in Council.....	JAMES EDWARDS	978-2340
Director, Nihtat Gwich’in Council.....	HERBERT BLAKE, JR.....	777-6650
Director, Nihtat Gwich’in Council.....	TOM WRIGHT	777-6650



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Richard Nerysoo	777-7900
VICE-PRESIDENT	Mary Ann Ross	777-7905
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER	Melody Nice Paul	777-7903
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Charlene Ross.....	777-7904
Corporate Secretary.....	Millie Jansen	777-7900

CORPORATE SERVICES

Office Manager (Fort McPherson)	Vicki Alexie.....	952-2593
Senior Finance Officer	Norma Blake	952-2526
Senior Finance Officer	Angela Horbatch.....	777-7904
Financial Controller	Evelyn Bullock	777-7917
Finance Officer.....	Ruth Jerome	777-7951
Office Manager / Boards & Trust.....	Cheryl Wright.....	777-7916

GWICH'IN SERVICES

Director.....	Holly Norris	777-7926
Regional Manager, Education & Training	Ron Eldridge	777-7926
AHRDA Coordinator	Diane Koe.....	952-2501
Career Development Officer.....	Margaret Gordon.....	777-7909
Administrative Assistant.....	Gina Firth	777-7925
Communications Advisor	Lawrence Norbert	777-7923

LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION

Director.....	(vacant).....	777-7912
Manager, Gwich'in Lands Administration.....	Mardy Semmler.....	777-7913
Lands & Resources 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 Johnston.....	777-7934
Wellness Camp Maintainer	Tony Klengenberg.....	678-8191
Residential School Support Worker	Elsie Bodnar	777-7934
Acting Manager, Regional Wellness	Victor Stewart	952-2500
Manager, Special Projects.....	(vacant).....	777-7927

SELF-GOVERNMENT

Senior Negotiator	Joe Jack.....	777-7941
Director.....	(vacant).....	777-7924
Regional Coordinator.....	Mavis Clark.....	777-7942



EXECUTIVE

Since our last newsletter, our office has continued to experience challenges and opportunities both regionally as well as globally. However, the Executive remained committed to ensuring that we continue to demonstrate leadership in management and service delivery.

During this quarter, the Executive continued to monitor the impacts of global instability while investigating opportunities that ensure growth, prosperity and self-sustainability for years to come. In addition, our office is dedicated to maintaining and, where possible, strengthening relationships locally, regionally and nationally. Finally, the Executive continues to support ongoing capacity building within the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Monitoring the Global Financial Crisis

The Executive remain committed to closely monitoring our investments regularly. On October 7-8, the GTC Board of Directors met with investment managers (below, left) to discuss the impact of the global financial crisis on Gwich'in Settlement Corporation investments. Because of the global investment crisis the Executive anticipate a much smaller return on our investment during this quarter and potentially in the first quarter of 2009.

The global financial crisis is not only affecting investments: our office is also anticipating a slowdown in regional resource development and as a result, the Ex-

ecutive is investigating new opportunities such as infrastructure development.

Networking and Relationship Building

In an effort to foster new relationships and strengthen existing relations, President Richard Nerysoo attended several meetings during this period. On December 10 and 11, he met with leaders from the Land Claims Agreements Coalition (below, right) in Ottawa where issues of common interest such as Land Claim Implementation were discussed. Also in December, President Nerysoo met with leaderships from the Council of Yukon First Nation.

In addition to meeting with First Nation leadership President Nerysoo regularly meets with both Federal and Territorial representatives to discuss current and future priorities.

Programs and Service Delivery

The Executive would like to express their appreciation for the hard-working staff of the GTC. Over the past several months, the staff - under the direction of the Executive - have been committed to ensuring quality program and service delivery all while meeting contract compliance. Both staff and the Executive collaborate to scope out new program initiatives and opportunities beneficial to Gwich'in participants.

Photos by Melody Nice Paul



EXECUTIVE

Capacity-Building

The Executive remain committed to improving capacity both within the Gwich'in Tribal Council and among our communities. The objective of supporting this work is to encourage greater local involvement and decision-making responsibility with the four Designated Gwich'in Organizations (DGO's). During January to March, the GTC will be working closely with the DGOs to improve local delivery of service such as Social Emergency Assistance, and Bereavement and Wills. The Executive has also meet with Municipal and Territorial and Federal representatives to encourage greater communication and collaboration with the DGOs. The Executive have advised government officials to work with local communities when establishing priorities, monitoring and evaluating programs, service delivery, workplans and overall strategies.

Staffing

The Executive would also like to express their appreciation to Denise Kurszewski for her years of hard work and dedication in promoting wellness in the GSA. Although she is settling into her new work endeavours, we would like to express our gratitude to

Denise for continuing to work with the GTC Executive on the Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Fund project.

The Executive also wishes to acknowledge the wonderful work of Norm Snowshoe. His years of service have been greatly appreciated and the Executive support him in his educational endeavours and professional aspirations.

Debra English on education leave, she is attending the University of Alberta and is currently working on her Masters Degree in Native Studies.

Welcome to:

- Holly Norris, Director, Gwich'in Services
- Ron Eldridge, Manager, Education and Training, Gwich'in Services
- Angela Horbatch, Senior Finance Officer, Corporate Services
- Jennifer Johnston, Executive Director, Wellness Camp
- Tony Klengenber, Maintainer, Wellness Camp
- Joe Jack, Senior Negotiator, Self-Government
- Victor Stewart, A/Manager, Regional Wellness (returning again!!!) :



NEW STAFF

Holly (far left); Ron (top left); Angela (bottom left); Tony (bottom); Jennifer (bottom right)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, November 19, 2008

Motion #4:11/08 BOD

WHEREAS the Land Claims Agreement Coalition has collaboratively worked to develop a new land claims implementation policy, with input from the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC); and

WHEREAS the purpose of this policy is to initiate a new Federal framework for implementing modern day treaties; and

WHEREAS the LCAC needs formal approval of the policy from all of its members, including GTC, in order to initiate discussions with Canada; and

WHEREAS the LCAC hopes the new policy will be accepted by Canada, so that Ministers, departments, and agencies will begin to work diligently with their aboriginal counterparts to achieve the objectives of modern treaties.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gwich'in Tribal Council approves the new Implementation policy as presented.

Moved by: Wilbert Firth
Seconded by: Charlie Furlong

Motion #5:11/08 BOD

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council approve signing of the amended agreement between the Gwich'in Tribal Council, K'Ahsho Got'ine Land Corporation and Kodiak Energy Inc.

Moved by: Charlie Furlong
Seconded by: Herbert Blake

Motion #6:11/08 BOD

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council support the ongoing discussions with MGM.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive be requested to provide updates and reports to the Board of Directors concerning these discussions.

Moved by: Wilbert Firth
Seconded by: Mary Ann Ross

Motion #7:11/08 BOD

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council develop a proposal to conduct workshops about water policies followed by a regional gathering afterwards to gather the advice from the workshops. The goal for the workshops is to have a clear articulation of policy for water quantity and quality issues.

Moved by: Charlie Furlong
Seconded by: Wilbert Firth

Motion #8:11/08 BOD

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council recommend that water not be used as a commodity;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this recommendation be reaffirmed at a water workshop to be sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council in the New Year.

Moved by: Wilbert Firth
Seconded by: Charlie Furlong

Motion #9:11/08

WHEREAS in the past the Government of the Northwest Territories has committed to the Gwich'in Tribal Council that one of their representatives will be appointed as chair of the Beaufort Delta Health & Social Services Authority;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council recommends that this issue be raised with the current Government and ask that they reaffirm their commitment.

Moved by: Wilbert Firth
Seconded by: Herbert Blake

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, November 19, 2008

Motion #9:11/08

WHEREAS in the past the Government of the Northwest Territories has committed to the Gwich'in Tribal Council that one of their representatives will be appointed as chair of the Beaufort Delta Health & Social Services Authority;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council recommends that this issue be raised with the current Government and ask that they reaffirm their commitment.

Moved by: Wilbert Firth
Seconded by: Herbert Blake

Motion #10/11:08 BOD

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council recommends that there be a review of the terms of the agreement for the Residential Schools funding in Inuvik to consider how best to provide services to Gwich'in participants in this region.

Moved by: Herbert Blake
Seconded by: Wilbert Firth

Motion #11:11/08 BOD

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is negotiating with the Inuvialuit to transfer land to them from within the Gwich'in Settlement Area;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council opposes any such transfer of land;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council recommends legal action if the Government of Canada continues with the transfer.

Moved by: Charlie Furlong
Seconded by: Wilbert Firth

Motion #12:11/08 BOD

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council approves the positions presented to Prime Minister Harper as set out in the presentation tabled.

Moved by: Philip Blake
Seconded by: Wilbert Firth

Early Notice to Gwich'in Participants (Beneficiaries)

The GTC will hold its 26th **annual general assembly** in Inuvik, **September 8-12, 2009**. Active Participants wanting to represent their Designated Gwich'in Organization (DGO) as delegates can contact their local DGO to find out when they will be selecting delegates.

GWICHYA GWICH'IN COUNCIL

PO Box 4
Tsiigehtchic NT XOE 0B0
Ph: 867-953-3201 Fx: 867-953-3302

EHDIIAT GWICH'IN COUNCIL

PO Box 118
Aklavik NT XOE 0A0
Ph: 867-978-2340 Fx: 867-978-2937

TETLIT GWICH'IN COUNCIL

PO Box 30
Fort McPherson NT XOE 0J0
Ph: 867-952-2330 Fx: 867-952-2212

NIHTAT GWICH'IN COUNCIL

PO Box 2570
Inuvik NT XOE 0T0
Ph: 867-777-6650 Fx: 867-777-6651

Further information will be available from the Nihtat Gwich'in Council Assembly Coordinator (once selected) or from the GTC Chief Operating Officer at 867-777-7903.

GTC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwich'in Tribal Council (Over-All) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Claim Settlement Fund • Gwich'in Settlement Corporation • Gwich'in Development Corporation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee (Chair) • <i>Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement</i> (CGLCA) Implementation; Trans-Boundary Issues; Yukon & Trans-Boundary Issues • <i>Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act</i> (YESSA) Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-Governmental Affairs • Economic Policy, Strategy & Planning • Gwich'in Self-Government Executive Committee (overall responsibility): strategic planning & guidance; major policy issues & concerns) <p style="text-align: center;">EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Pipeline Group • Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation • Gwich'in Council International (Senior Liaison Committee Member)
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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

• Senior administrative officer responsible for day-to-day administration of GTC

VICE-PRESIDENT

- Executive Committee (General Governance)
 - Finance Committee (Member)
- Self-Government Executive Committee (Chair): Liaises with Negotiator and Negotiations Team; Negotiations Management; Self-Government Activities
 - Lands & Resources
 - Health & Regional Wellness

EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute
- Gwich'in Council International
- Gwich'in Harvesters' Assistance Program (GHAP) Trust
 - Gwich'in Children's Trust
 - Gwich'in Education Trust

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

• Financial Operations

• Land Claim Settlement Fund

• Strategic Development & Outlook

SELF-GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Our self-government department has been going through a number of changes the last year, with the Government of Canada making cuts to all self-government negotiation programs within Canada, with our new Senior Negotiator, fewer staff in our Inuvik office, and no Community Coordinators in the four Gwich'in communities.

The GTC has lobbied the Federal Government with funding requests to negotiate a self-government agreement that would be in the best interests of the Gwich'in. In December 2008, President Richard Nerysoo and COO Melody Nice-Paul met with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to express our concerns regarding:

- negotiations funding;
- research personnel;
- professionals such as legal advisors;
- community coordinators for fieldwork and communications; and
- public education and awareness.

The GTC is still awaiting a response from DIAND.

Our department has met with other aboriginal groups that have already achieved their self-government agreements and we are learning from these groups and taking all this information and working with it. We are finding out what hasn't been working for them and seeing what direction we should take to ensure we don't have the same problems.

We have been taking a new step with negotiations and have set up a "Chiefs Side-Table". This side-table derived from the Government of Canada wanting to dissolve our four Chief and Band Council's. The Chiefs have been dealing with the Federal Government trying to protect the Treaty Issues and the Indian Act. Our Leaders want to make sure no programs and services that are related to both Treaty 11 and the Indian Act are not taken away from the people.

We still have our Main Table and it is the Gwich'in Negotiations Team who attends all negotiation sessions along with the Federal Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Our department will be working on a new workplan and this will be brought to the table for approval by all parties involved and submitted with our 2009/2010 proposal to DIAND.

Later we will add our scheduled activities to the website.

If you have any questions regarding Self-Government, call our office and speak with the Senior Negotiator, Joe Jack, or the Regional Coordinator, Mavis Clark, and we will do our best to explain what has been happening over the last three months.

You could also talk to your community Leaders DGO Presidents, Chiefs, Sub-Chiefs or your Elders Reps. If they can't help you, we will be available.

Gwich'in Negotiating Team

GTC staff

- Joe Jack, Senior Negotiator
- (vacant), Director
- Mavis Clark, Regional Coordinator

Gwichya Gwich'in Council

- Phillip Blake, President

Arctic Red River Indian Band

- Frederick Blake Jr., Chief
- Douglas Kendo, Acting Sub-Chief

Tetlit Gwich'in Council / Fort McPherson Indian Band

- Wilbert Firth, President/Chief

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council

- Charlie Furlong, President
- Eliza Greenland, Elders Representative

Aklavik Indian Band

- Chief Mildred Edwards

Nihtat Gwich'in Council / Inuvik Indian band

- Herbert Blake, Jr., President/Chief
- Diane Baxter, Sub-Chief



Diane Baxter (centre) and Chief Mildred Edwards (right) ponder the intricacies of Treaty 11, the Indian Act and Gwich'in self-government...

GWICH'IN SERVICES

Happy New year!! My name is Holly Norris. I am the new Director, Gwich'in Services effective November 2008. I was born and raised in Inuvik for the majority of my life and of Gwich'in ancestry. I am excited and very honored to now be a part of the Gwich'in Tribal Council professionally.

The department of Gwich'in Services has been very busy and had a few changes over the last three months.

First of all I would like to welcome our new Manager, Education and Training, Mr. Ron Eldridge. He has taken over this position from Debra English who is on education leave in Edmonton. On behalf of the GTC staff I would like to extend best wishes to her and her family. Good Luck Debra!! We are very proud of you.

Ron was raised in Inuvik and since joining us, has worked very hard at revitalizing our Education and Training department. I feel that his experience both as a teacher and student will enhance his ability to assist our participants to the best of his knowledge. I know he is very eager to learn and engage in promoting Education with our participants, which we must encourage with employment opportunities subsiding for the moment it is the time to enhance our skills. Please feel free to come in and meet him.

On that note, our Career Development Officer, Margaret Gordon has been very actively promoting employment training opportunities both locally and nationally. She has made the connections with our partners in the south and has established wonderful working relationships to which we are able to provide awesome training opportunities like never before. She also has numerous ideas to accommodate the need for trained individuals on a local level.

I, myself have been very busy traveling into each community meeting everyone which I anticipate to continue into the New Year. I believe that to really understand and meet the needs of our people is to continually make myself available in their community and listen to their needs. There are many program specific and general deadlines approaching please watch for notices or contact our department directly to make sure that these are met.

Please understand that we are in a somewhat of a transition period, with this comes fresh ideas and a new approach to certain services. The overall goal is to make our department very accessible to you, the participants. We are here for you!! Please, come in and meet us!! Best wishes to all for 2009!!!

The Negotiators

Rick Salter, legal advisor (left), Chief Sonny Blake, Dougals Kendo and Art Pape, legal advisor (far right) take a break during a negotiations strategy session

(inset) catching up on the Gwich'in land claim agreement



Photos (pages 9 and 10) by Mavis Clark, Self-Government

LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation

The GTC participated in the annual December meetings and discussed the ongoing implementation of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* (GCLCA). The highlighted topics of discussion were the GCLCA CD-ROM, Board Funding and the Yukon implementation issues. The CD-ROM is near completion and will be translated into the Gwich'in language prior to its release.

Each year one or more of the GCLCA co-management boards requires additional funds to carry out their task as identified by the GCLCA. The IC allocates funds to accommodate these requests. Over the years the GTC has tabled the position that it requires additional fiscal resources in order to participate in the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act* (YESAA) process. These funds were not identified in the GCLCA implementation process and are required by the GTC to have meaningful participation in Yukon Land Management. As the result of the lobbying efforts by the GTC there is a Treasury Board submission for additional funds to cover the costs for the GTC's participation in the YESAA process.

Wildlife Management

The GTC continues to participate in the development of the Dall's sheep Management Plan, the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy, and the

Gwich'in Forest Management Plan. The GTC will also be participating in the process to amend the NWT *Wildlife Act*.

The Dall's Sheep Management Plan is now ready for public consultation. Members from the working group will be touring the communities and presenting the draft plan during the next few weeks.

The Harvest Management Plan (HMP) for the Porcupine Caribou Herd in Canada is now out for public engagement. Members of the working group have been touring the user communities in order to receive feedback on this important initiative. The working group is scheduled to meet in Inuvik in November. The working group will then revise the HMP based on feedback received and also determine the next steps that the working group will take.

The Gwich'in Forest Management Plan is also ready for public consultation. Members from the working group, which consists of representatives from the GTC, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (GRRB) and Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) will be presenting the Forest Management Plan to the communities in the next few weeks.

The GTC will be participating in the NWT *Wildlife Act* amendments scheduled to begin early in 2009. Jozef Carnogursky, along with legal counsel will be representing the GTC on this file.

If there are any questions with regard to resource management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, contact Jozef Carnogursky at the GTC.

Where's the calf?



LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION

Lands Administration

The GTC Land Administration has finalized the new Fee Schedule which will be in effect from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Ongoing activities on private lands include quarry authorizations at Midway Lake and Frog Creek, residential lease authorizations, commercial lease authorizations and research authorizations. The GTC Land Administration also continues 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 notifications from Government who do not formally require an authorization.

The GTC Land Administration continues to represent the GTC on steering committees and working groups, including the Northern Contaminants Program – Regional Contaminants Committee, the Protected Area Strategy Working Group, the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) Working Group, the Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Committee (CEAM), the Yukon Environmental and Socio Economic Assessment Board 5 Year Review Working Group, the North Yukon Regional Planning Commission and the Peel River Watershed Planning Committee.

The NWT CIMP Audit Committee has been reconvened and approved the 2010 NWT Environ-

mental Audit Terms of Reference. This audit is a requirement of the MVRMA and is recommended every five years, with the previous environmental audit being completed in 2005. The upcoming NWT Environmental audit will be the 2nd audit since the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act came into effect in 2000. An independent contractor will be hired by INAC to complete the NWT Environmental Audit and tour the NWT Communities in the near future to get feedback on environmental management and regulatory processes in the NWT.

Water and water quality is a very important resource to the residents of the Gwich'in Settlement Region and the NWT. The GNWT is in the process of developing a NWT Water Management Strategy and the GTC will be monitoring and participating in the development of this strategy.

The Peel River Water Quality Program has been completed with water and sediment sampling of the Peel River being done between 2002 and 2007. A public presentation was completed in Fort McPherson in December 2008 to present the results of the sampling program. Quarterly water samples will continue to be taken upstream of Fort McPherson and sediment samples will be collected every five years.

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.



GWICH'IN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Good day to all our readers. The following is a brief overview of on-going initiatives from the Business Development Department.

- **Kodiak Energy Inc.** - No planned activity for the 2009 winter drilling season. The Amended Access Agreement, Joint Management Committee Agreement and the Amended Joint Benefits Agreement should be finalized by January 31, 2009.
- **MGM Energy/GTC (MOU)** – A recent meeting held the first week of January confirmed that any preliminary ground studies to be conducted by MGM Energy have been postponed. Both company's planned activities have been impacted by the recent announcement of the completion of the Joint Review Panel report December 2009 and the increased difficulty to raise capital in the financial markets.
- **Gwich'in Business Development Strategic Plan** – Final draft is awaiting GTC Board of Directors approval prior to being posted on the website.
- **GNWT MOU negotiations** – awaiting confirmation of joint meeting to review the options available to both parties and proceed forward.

Building Gwich'in Business Capacity Initiatives:

We are anticipating to finalize the Northern Development Training package developed by Imperial Oil, MGP office by March 31, 2009. Upon finalization of the training packages, my office will be contacting Gwich'in Business owners or others interested in participating to identify suitable dates for delivery.

Additional upcoming scheduled events include:

- Product Development Workshop – Inuvik – January 27 & 28, 2009 offered by Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI). Information has been distributed via email.
- One-day Tourism Business Training Session – Inuvik – January 29, 2009 offered by Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI). Information has been distributed via email.
- End of February 2009 – One-day information sessions to be provided on the NWT Arts Branding Logo Program – dates will be confirmed and more than likely will be offered in the communities of Fort McPherson, Aklavik and Inuvik.
- Arctic Gas Symposium, March 3 & 4, Calgary, Alberta
- Health & Safety Manual Development and Drug

and Alcohol Policy Development sessions will be scheduled before the end of March. An instructor will be contracted to travel to the communities and work directly with the business owners. If you are interested in participating please contact my office.

General Topic:

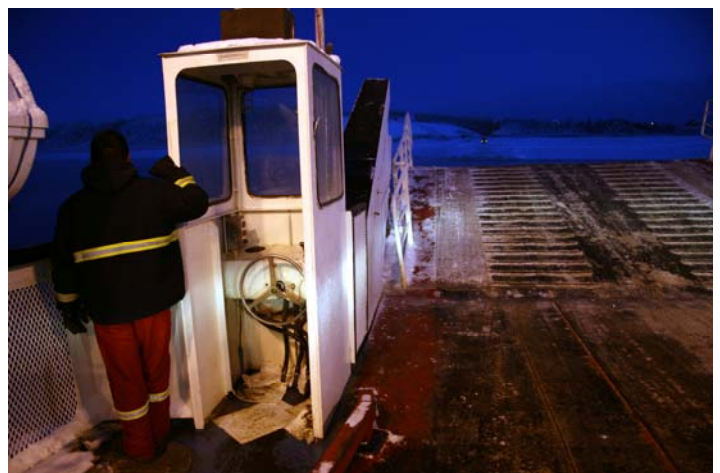
Based on a recent article from the Globe and Mail national newspaper, the following key characteristics assisted the five top-ranked companies to obtain their ranking in the fifth annual ranking of the Best Small and Medium Employers in Canada.

- **Encouragement**
- **Communication/Teamwork** – A company's owner/president meets weekly with each department's employee's over coffee to review progress and discuss what is working and not working.
- **Empowerment** – Independent thinking is encouraged and flexible work hours.
- **An open-door policy**
- **Being part of a family** – achieved through social events held throughout the year.

Check this list against your management style and see if these key characteristics have helped your company be successful.

If you have other topics for discussion and would like to share with our readers, please contact me via email at wmcaldon@gwichin.nt.ca or visit our website at www.gwichin.biz.

“Our continued success “Gwich'in Business” will be determined by your participation and input into our business initiatives which will help develop our approach to a long term future economic success within the GSA and beyond globally. Communication is a dual process”



GWICH'IN SOCIAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTE

GSCI 15th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

I would like to commend the Nihtat Gwich'in Council for hosting an open house on December 17, 2008 in Inuvik and serving traditional foods in honour of celebrating GSCI's 15th Anniversary Celebration. The Gwich'in Teaching and Language Centre hosted a singing contest in Fort McPherson and we would like to thank Mary Teya, the only entry for the contest for taking the time and making the effort to compose a song in the language. The GSCI placed an advertisement in *News North* to thank all the organizations that have supported and worked with us over the past 15 years to accomplish our goals. Mahsi' Choo! to the communities of Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic for your support and assistance over the years on our projects.

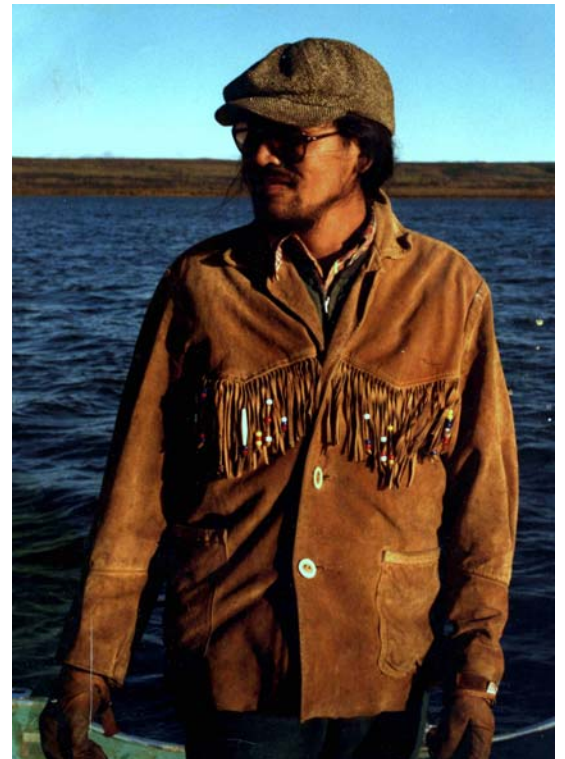
Access Database Training - In late September, Alestine Andre and Ingrid Kritsch attended a one-day training session at Tamarack Computers in Yellowknife in the database program called Access. This database program will replace the FileMaker Pro program GSCI has used to date for the place names and other data. The second part of the workshop will take place in mid-January 2009.

HERITAGE PROJECTS

- **CBC Radio Legacy Project** - The GSCI - in partnership with CBC-North Radio - is recording Gwich'in legends and elders' stories for the CBC Radio Legacy Project with the goal of producing radio dramas for broadcast in 2009. In early July, Alestine Andre and Leah Shaw recorded elders in the communities of Inuvik, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson. Script meetings and auditions for radio drama actors will take place at the CBC studios in Inuvik from late January to mid-February.
- **James Jerome Photo Collection Project** - GSCI has agreed to assist the NWT Archives with identifying people, places and activities recorded in photos taken by the late James Jerome, an accomplished amateur photographer, in the 1970s. Two workshops were held with Elders in Tsiigehtchic, December 16-17 and in Fort McPherson, December 18, to help with these identifications.
- **Historic Places Initiatives (HPI) Projects** - A community steering committee meeting took place in Fort McPherson on December 19 to determine the boundary for the Nataiinlaii site. The Nataiinlaii Site was nominated by the Teet'it Gwich'in as an NWT Historic Site in 2005 but the boundary for the site was not defined at the time that the nomination form was submitted.



James
"JJ"
Jerome



Photos courtesy of
The Norbert Boys

GWICH'IN SOCIAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTE

GWICH'IN LANGUAGE CENTRE

Gwich'in Language Plan - The current language activities include (1) the Gwich'in Language Dictionary and (2) the Gwich'in Elders' Bibliography Project.

The Gwich'in Language Dictionary - The focus has shifted on this project so that Eleanor Mitchell-Firth will undertake the Gwich'in Topical Dictionary. Eleanor has worked previously as the Language Centre Coordinator for the Gwich'in Language Centre in the early 1990s. With her assistance, the Gwich'in Topical Dictionary will be published by the end of this fiscal year, March 2009. Chris Harvey, Linguist with the Indigenous Languages Institute, is presently assisting us with the dictionary format.

The Gwich'in Elders' Bibliography Project - With much documented knowledge, stories and legends filed away at the Gwich'in Language Centre from Gwich'in elders since 1970, it is necessary to dedicate a book to

the memory of our Elders and include their life history. Margaret Thompson has been hired to take on this project to write their stories that can be used as an educational tool within the communities and the education system.

Second Language Curriculum-The second Language Curriculum continues to be piloted in the Beaufort Delta schools. Edward Wright was successful in obtaining funding to hire an Elder under the Targetted Initiative for Older Worker Program to assist the Gwich'in Instructors in the schools with this initiative. The Beaufort-Delta Education Council has hired Elizabeth Hansen as a Language and Cultural Instructor until June 2009. She will assist with the completion of the Gwich'in portion of the second language curriculum and assist the Gwich'in Language Instructors with implementing the curriculum in partnership with Gwich'in Teaching and Language Centre. Elizabeth Hansen can be contacted at 867-777-7107 or at her office on 30 Tuma Drive in Inuvik.



Beaufort Delta Educator Program

Aurora College - along with its partners in training - Beaufort Delta Education Council, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and GNWT Education, Culture & Employment are eager to announce the delivery of the Beaufort Delta Educator Programs.

Over a five-year period, the region will host a Community Educator Preparation Program (CEPP), Teacher Education (TEP), and Aboriginal Language Cultural Instructor (ALCIP) Access programs, then will follow up with the full TEP and ALCIP diploma programs.

These programs will take place September 2009 to June 2013 (ALCIP) or June 2014 (TEP). Courses will be delivered full-time, September through June of each year, in Inuvik. Upon successful completion of their program, students will be eligible for either an Aboriginal Language & Cultural Instructor Diploma, or the Teacher Education Diploma. The opportunity then exists for the TEP students to complete one more year of study at Thebacha campus in Fort Smith for a Bachelor of Education Degree.

For more information, please contact the Aurora Campus Registrar at 777-7806, or toll free 1-866-287-2655 ex. 7806 or by email at ampicek@auroracollege.nt.ca. For assistance in completing application forms, please contact your Career Development Officer, or make an appointment with Janelle Frost at 777-7808.

Meeting with Whitehorse Gwich'in, October 2008



Joe Tetlichie
"Does the line start here?"



Greg Snowshoe and son, Jayrin



V-P Ross and President Nerysoo



Martha Snowshoe



Katherine Charlie

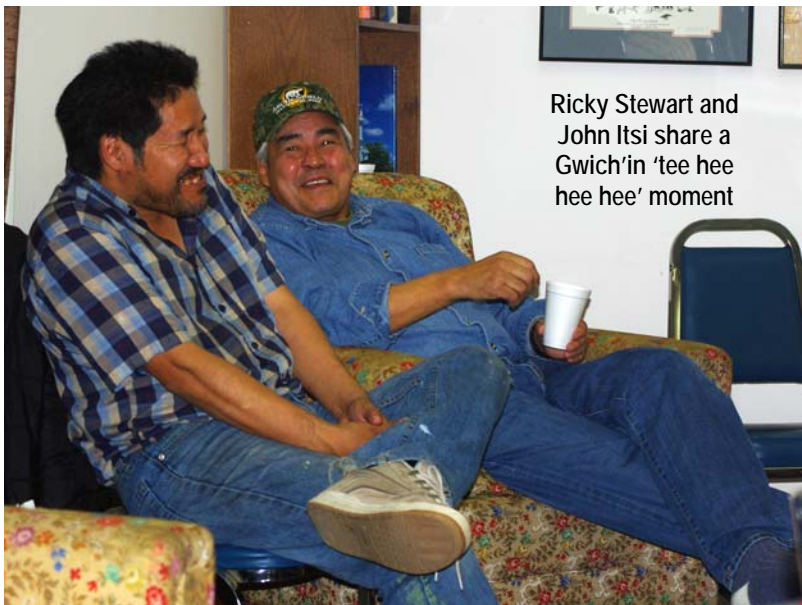
Photos by Norm Snowshoe, LRI



Robert Koe, Robert Greenland, Bella K. Marten



Gordan Clark, Diana Koe (GTC Fort McPherson), Sarah Teya, Sarah Nerysoo



Ricky Stewart and John Itsi share a Gwich'in 'tee hee hee hee' moment



Cheryl Wright and Isabelle McDonald



Chrissie McDonald and Rosie Simon



Mavis Stewart



Mary Decker

Meeting with Yellowknife Gwich'in, November 2008

The Izhii K'aaiikit Tat Gwich'in met with GTC staff members Joe Jack and Melody Nice Paul, and Tetlit Gwich'in Councillors Edward Wright and Eleanor Firth plus TGC staff Anita Koe. A feast and dance was held afterwards with door prizes donated by Cheryl Voytilla (bags and embroidered wall hangings) and a 50/50 draw. The IKTG would like to thank all the cooks, those who helped with set-up and clean-up, and to William Greenland for the PA system and the entertainment during the dance.

- Roger Fraser, President, IKTG



Tetlit Gwich'in Councillor Eleanor Firth and Sub-Chief Edward Wright, TGC Community Coordinator Anita Koe

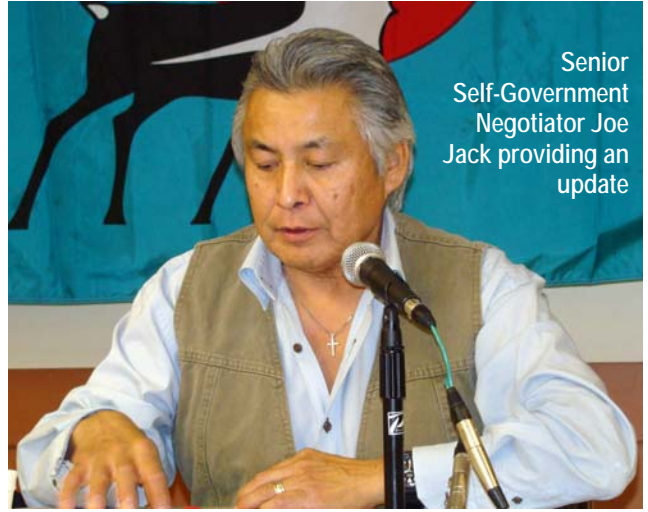
Photos courtesy of Edward Wright, GSCI



William G 'pointing' to his next dance partner



Sgt-Major Fraser enlisting all IKTG members



Senior Self-Government Negotiator Joe Jack providing an update



Shirley Cook, Bella Husky, Alice Charlie, Edna Paul (Krutko), Chris Hagen, Cheryl Voytilla, Walter Harry

Leon Husky and Shirley Niditchie jigging up a storm whilst Emily Harris (far right) looks for William G



'Jijoo' William Greenland and Lloyd Thrasher

'Jijoo' Annie Rose MacNab and grandson, Lydell



Jonathan Andre - Gwich'in Amateur Boxer



Son of James & May Andre of Tetlit Zehh (Fort McPherson), grandson of Tony & Caroline Andre of Tsiigehtchic and John & Rachel Robert of Tetlit Zehh, Jonathan is an inspiration to anyone who wants to leave a life of booze and drugs.



Only a year after taking up the gloves, he won a gold medal in the Alberta provincial championships in December and will be heading to the nationals in Quebec in January 2009.

Photos courtesy of Jonathan Andre, Edmonton AB



GWICH'IN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2008



Each year, the Gwich'in Tribal Council – in partnership with the Gwich'in Development Corporation – honours and recognizes those Beneficiaries who have demonstrated *excellence, leadership or exceptional dedication to service* in ways that bring credit to the Gwich'in Nation.



Dene Nation photo

This year's recipients include:

- Mary Kendi for Lifetime Achievement (top left with Chief Herbert Blake, Jr, Nihtat Gwich'in Council);
 - Wally Firth for Lifetime Achievement (top right)
 - Charlie Snowshoe for Land & Environment (left);
 - Grace Blake for Gwich'in Culture (right);
 - Sarah Jerome for Education (bottom left);
 - William Greenland for Communications & Culture (bottom centre); and
- Stephan Nerysoo for Youth Achievement (bottom right).



Photo courtesy of LeeAnn Nerysoo

Christmas Dinner for Long Term Care residents, Inuvik General Hospital



Linda MacDonald, Nurse Educator, and Elders Annie Norbert (Tsiigehtchic) and Bella Arey (Inuvik) decide who's going to skin the 'Christmas penguin'...



LTC Activity Coordinator Annie Aleekuk fashions a little 'Christmas stocking' for the paparazzi and Tetlit Zeh Elder Sarah Ann Martin



Angie Phenix, OT, and resident Pierre Benoit, Tsiigehtchic, dream of a white Christmas...



• (left centre) Andrea Greenland-Jerome, Kitchen Assistant, Chef Robyn Franco, and Julia Rivard, RN, serve residents 'roast Penguin'
• (right centre) Moses Gordon, HandiVan Driver, hums 'Silent Night' to his granddaughter, Tyra



Lori Greenland, Assistant Manager Support Services, 'cha-chings' away...



'Doctor' Louie Goose sings 'Forty Aches' while Inuvik Elder Catherine Mitchell (far left) sings along...



Aklavik Elder Arthur McLeod

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Please send your suggestions, comments or
photographs to our address or e-mail:

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