



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **GTC Assembly Approves Capital Distribution to Elders**

INUVIK (September 28, 2009) – Richard Nerysoo, President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council confirmed today that the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) will begin issuing cheques on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 to Gwich'in Elders who are aged 70 years or older (as of September 30, 2009), the **remainder of payments** due to them under the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*. The payments were authorized by delegates at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual general assembly held in Inuvik, September 8-10, 2009.

Under the Agreement, Gwich'in Participants are entitled to receive \$2,608 (in 1991 dollars) which is being paid out over time and is scheduled to be paid out for all Gwich'in Participants by March, 2017.

*“There have been concerns expressed that our Elders are being adversely affected by not being entitled to fully access their Payment until March 2017,”* said President Nerysoo. *“After consulting with our financial and investment advisors, the GTC brought the motion to our Assembly to approve a one-time payment to Gwich'in Elders ensuring that they get access to the full value of their Payment in a timely manner so as to allow them to use the funds in the manner they desire.”*

Gwich'in participants who are between the ages of 65 and 69 at December 31, 2009, will also receive the remainder of their Payment due to them as a one-time capital payment, sometime in early January 2010.

Gwich'in Elders within the Gwich'in Settlement Area will be able to pick up their distribution cheques at the Designated Gwich'in Organization (DGO) offices in each of the Gwich'in communities of Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, Aklavik and Inuvik. Gwich'in Elders living outside the GSA will have their cheques mailed to their current addresses.

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