

Minutes of the
18th Annual General Assembly
of the Gwich'in Tribal Council
Inuvik, NT.
August 20-23, 2001

A. CALL TO ORDER/RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

After recitation of an opening prayer, GTC President Fred Carmichael recognizes quorum and calls the *18th Annual General Assembly* of the *Gwich'in Tribal Council* to order at 9 a.m.

He welcomes the Delegates, Alternates and guests, and indicates the importance of the occasion. At the *Annual Assembly*, he continues, the leadership of the *Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC)*, in accord with its mandate to work for the people, listens to them. He advises all present to express their concerns in a civil way, respectful of one another even when in strong disagreement. After all, he concludes, those present must work together despite their differences on particular issues.

Chief James B. Firth of the Nihtat Gwich'in Council, speaking for the host community, welcomes those from the other communities to Inuvik. He remarks that the *Assembly* is the principal opportunity for Gwich'in Beneficiaries to give direction to their elected leaders and emphasizes the need for unity. He also proposes mingling among delegations both at the table and more broadly throughout the *Assembly*.

B. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSONS

Be it Resolved that Fred Koe and David Krutko be appointed as Chairperson and Co-chairperson for the *18th Annual General Assembly* of the *Gwich'in Tribal Council*.

Moved by: Wilbert Firth (Vice-President)

Seconded by: Chief Peter Ross (Tsiigehtchic)

Carried. (Resolution #01/2001)

Fred Koe proceeds to explain the voting procedures for the *Assembly*, the requirements of quorum (6 Delegates from each community and an overall minimum of 30), the necessity for any Delegate to appoint an Alternate when leaving the conference site, the need for formal approval to extend the set times for each day's session and the requirement for a formal motion in order to discuss matters in camera.

C. DECLARATION OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST

David Krutko takes the Chair and asks if anyone present wishes to declare a conflict of interest. No conflict being announced, he proposes that any subsequent conflict be declared as it arises. Agreement.

D. WAIVER OF NOTICE

David Krutko informs the group that with 45 days' notice for the Agenda of the *Assembly* stipulated in the By-laws, a formal waiver of notice is required.

Be it Resolved that Waiver of Notice for the Agenda of the *18th Annual General Assembly* be approved.

Moved by: Frank Stewart (Inuvik)

Seconded by: Hazel Nerysoo (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution #02/2001)

E. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1. Selection of Resolutions Committee

Be it Resolved that Bob Simpson, Larry Firth, Agnes Smith and Greta Sittichinli be appointed to the Resolutions Committee.

Moved by: Elizabeth Hansen (Inuvik)

Seconded by: Maureen Clark (Tsiigehtchic)

Carried. (Resolution #03/2001)

Be it Resolved that the Agenda of the *18th Annual General Assembly* be approved.

Moved by: Maureen Clark

Seconded by: Robert Alexie, Sr. (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution #04/2001)

Mary Teya (Fort McPherson) expresses concern at the absence of interpreters from the *Assembly*, noting that interpreters have been present at past Assemblies and their presence has always been assumed.

President Fred Carmichael apologizes, explaining that the request for the services of an interpreter was made too late this year for them to be obtained. He suggests that anyone desiring an interpreter bring the request to the Chairman, and the *Assembly* organizers will provide one.

Chairman David Krutko adds that if an Elder requests an interpreter for the discussion of a particular matter, one will be supplied out of respect.

F. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 2000 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Delegates turn to the minutes of the previous *Assembly*, as included in their *Assembly* binders.

Mary Rose Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson) points out that on p. 8, the date given is December 31, 2001, rather than 2000. Agreement that this should be corrected.

Chairman David Krutko informs the group that the GTC's Legal Counsel informs him the statements in the minutes actually refer to the year ending December 31, 1999.

Be it Resolved that the minutes of the GTC 17th Annual General Assembly of November 15-18, 2000 be accepted.

Moved by: Chief Peter Ross

Seconded by: Agnes Smith (Tsiigehtchic)

Carried. (Resolution #05/2001)

G. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Elizabeth Hansen notes that similar motions are often passed year after year at successive *Assemblies*, as reflected in last year's minutes and those of earlier *Assemblies*, without any discernible action being taken to implement them. She wonders if there is a method of dealing with them to ensure follow-through.

President Fred Carmichael responds that the GTC Board and Executive are aware that this has been a problem in the past. Now, some of these resolutions are being acted on. He emphasizes the recent measures to restructure the Gwich'in Development Corporation (GDC), which will be discussed in greater detail later, as important examples.

Charles Snowshoe (Fort McPherson) suggests that the money allocated to education and training, an issue that appears on p. 9 of the minutes, is not sufficient. He asks if there is any prospect of increased funding.

Fred Carmichael replies that the present GTC budget is not enough to meet all of the funding requests, for education and training as for other purposes. The problem is an ongoing one.

Bob Simpson, Chief Negotiator with the Beaufort Delta Self-Government Negotiations Office, adds that the Claim Implementation negotiations commenced a month ago, and the Education and Training Fund was tabled as an issue to be discussed during the Implementation process. Getting money for the Education and Training Fund will be a crucial aspect of Implementation negotiations. He hopes for agreement by the end of this Fiscal Year. Money is also being sought for this purpose within the Self-Government Agreement.

Chairman David Krutko suggests this issue can be discussed at greater length when the Education and Training update is delivered, later in the *Assembly*. Agreement.

H. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

I. PRESIDENT

President Fred Carmichael directs the *Assembly* to his report, as printed on pp. 2-3 of the GTC Annual Report for 2000-2001, which the Delegates have before them. He proceeds to summarize his report, emphasizing the constraints imposed by the fiscal difficulties he inherited, forcing him to "say 'no' a lot." He notes that good work was done in building an economic base and in ensuring financial accountability, with the reduction in the deficit reflected in the

Financial Statements. He cites statements by the previous Administration at last year's *Assembly* on the need for more funds in order to meet the growing demands on the GTC, stating that this remains the case today.

He remarks on the progress made on such fronts as the reform of the GDC's operations and the development of a Management Committee for the GTC. The new Committee, he continues, brings together the Executive and the 4 Chiefs to manage the GTC in a less "top-down" manner. He concludes by expressing his regret that the challenges of his early months in office provided so few opportunities for him to visit the communities, pledging that this will change. Elizabeth Hansen notes that on issues of Implementation it would ease communication with the communities if there were names of people to whom one could turn for information.

Fred Carmichael responds that there is a Working Group including the 4 Chiefs, the Implementation Coordinator, and the Negotiators, to perform this function.

2. VICE-PRESIDENT

Vice-President Wilbert Firth recapitulates his report as it appears in the GTC Annual Report, emphasizing his work on the lands portfolio over the past year. He points to anticipated work on the Caribou River Site, staff changes over the past year and the forestry proposals successfully submitted to the First Nation Forestry Program. He concludes by recounting his work over the year on the text for the Overlap Agreement and the related work that remains to be done.

Robert Bourque (Inuvik) asks if a second Vice-President was appointed as an interim measure following the resignation of Vice-President James Wilson.

Fred Carmichael replies that the Board appointed Charles Furlong in that capacity, with James B. Firth to stand in when he is absent.

3. ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW; 4. BY-LAWS REVISIONS

The *Assembly* agrees to consider these two items together.

Fred Koe, replacing David Krutko as Chairman, directs the attention of the Delegates to the material on these items under tabs 3 and 4 of their binders.

Fred Carmichael invites Bob Simpson and the GTC's Legal Counsel, Geoff Wiest, to discuss these items.

Bob Simpson summarizes the Organizational Review process to date as well as his own recent involvement in it. He notes that with Self-Government on the horizon, the GTC is looking at a change in its own nature from a corporate to a governmental entity. Some of the changes proposed in the Organizational Review are designed to improve the efficiency of GTC operations in the short term. Others deal with more fundamental questions of governance. Some require direction and a decision from the *Assembly*, others should be the focus of further consultation and reflection before a decision is made.

The shift to a longer term for the President and the Vice-Presidents, if one or both of the latter are retained, would provide greater continuity in leadership. Greater transparency would result from the institution of a fixed election date and a strengthened role for the Chief Returning Officer. A single election every 3 or 4 years instead of

staggered elections would reduce costs, as would abolishing one or both of the Vice-Presidential positions. The move to a simple majority quorum in GTC Board meetings would ease decision-making, yet it would also be a departure from the “consensus” approach. A balance must be struck. The creation of an independent committee empowered to deal with conflicts of interest, including suspending or removing Directors, could solve significant problems but is also a transfer of power and accountability away from the elections themselves.

With an Agreement in Principle (AIP) on Self Government close, a Gwich’in constitution will have to be developed. This will require funding for training, workshops, fieldworkers and so on. It is also necessary to bring the Chiefs in on a day-by-day basis to a greater extent. The Designated Gwich’in Organizations (DGOs) were instituted for the Land Claim. It is the Chiefs and Band Councils who are still widely viewed as the community leaders, making them the logical vehicle for bringing community-level concerns to the GTC. Relations between the DGOs and the Chiefs and Councils need clarification. Funds from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs (DIAND) flow to the GTC largely through the Band Councils, so the actions of the Band Councils affect GTC finances and operations. This is another reason why it makes sense for the Chiefs to be brought in directly.

He concludes that the Organization Review changes should be seen not as a static process but as an evolving one. Governments, he notes, always look for new ways of doing things, and the GTC should do the same. Basic Gwich’in values must be embodied in documents like a Gwich’in constitution over the next few years, while the decision-making process evolves as the times change.

Geoff Wiest directs the group’s attention to the proposed By-law changes as included in the *Assembly* binders. These changes should not be seen as a final draft, he notes. They do present what is required to implement the motions passed at the previous *Assembly* and the recommendations in Bob Simpson’s memorandum. There are, he continues, issues on which direction from the *Assembly* is needed before further changes can be made. His memorandum to the GTC Board identifies only the changes to the By-laws as they now stand, relating to such matters as cleaning up the election process and removing redundant language. These changes are not controversial in themselves. The fundamental questions which need to be discussed before they can be included in a draft are the Executive’s term and the number of Vice-Presidents. The draft sets out a four-year term, with a single election, and refers to two Vice-Presidents. It also proposes a simple majority quorum. Yet these are all policy questions, on which the *Assembly* must make decisions.

Elizabeth Hansen points to the recommendation specifying that resolutions must be forwarded 14 days before the *Assembly*. Since many people are not thinking of the *Assembly* that far in advance, she thinks this is a poor idea.

Geoff Wiest responds that this is a policy issue, which the *Assembly* must decide. There is no “right” answer and different organizations take different approaches. The drafters originally thought that a 14-day deadline in the By-laws would allow for more accurate information to be distributed before each *Assembly*. Delegates would be forced to think about the issues and prepare resolutions before the *Assembly*, and would arrive better prepared. On the other hand, while the “major” issues tend to emerge well in advance, sometimes they can arise from the floor at the *Assembly*, in which case such a deadline is a hindrance.

Chief Abe Wilson (Fort McPherson) says that Fort McPherson has discussed the major changes and there is strong support for a four-year term for the President and no Vice-Presidents. There is interest in using hired managerial expertise to a greater degree.

Chief Peter Ross remarks that Tsiigehtchic also supports the four-year term, considering two years much too short

since it takes a year to master the workings of the organization. Eliminating the Vice-Presidential positions would cut costs, while the new management team including the Chiefs would strengthen the voice of each community within the GTC.

Maureen Clark says that workload is a factor as well. Reducing the numbers of the Executive increases the work for those remaining, so perhaps the Vice-Presidents should be retained.

Elizabeth Hansen suggests looking at the Deh Cho and Dogrib models, where the Grand Chief shares the workload with the management team and Executive Director.

Robert Charlie (Inuvik) proposes that the Directors assume more of the workload, observing that it's not clear that the Vice-Presidents are essential.

President Fred Carmichael responds that the question of the workload has been considered. Working more closely with the Chiefs will allow them to bear more of the load, and the Directors can do more too. Everyone is aware of the need to cut costs and the key is to make more efficient use of the people the organization already has, including staff in various departments.

Frank Firth (Fort McPherson) reiterates Fort McPherson's backing for the four-year term and abolishing the Vice-Presidents. He wonders if it would not make more sense to move step-by-step, modifying the structures and then changing the By-laws.

Bob Simpson notes that his greatest fear is that with so many changes, going through each one individually would be extremely time-consuming. That is why he proposes cleaning up the language first, in line with the lawyers' recommendations, then making the major substantive structural changes, and devising a process where the changes relating to long-term questions of governance can be debated at the community level.

Chief James B. Firth informs the *Assembly* that the August 14 GTC Board meeting passed a motion bringing these changes to the *Assembly* and supporting them. He observes that any change must have the support of the leadership. He concludes that with a four-year Presidential term, a mid-term review would be a possibility.

John Norbert (Tsiigehtchic) speaks in favour of a four-year Presidential term, with a one-year validation.

Maureen Clark proposes a four-year term with a two-year review by the GTC Board, which would then make a recommendation to a *Special Assembly*. Two years is too short a term. She also supports the 3rd week of June as a fixed election date.

Eliza Greenland (Aklavik) says that Aklavik is agreed on a four-year term and a fixed election date, but sees a need for one Vice-President so that there is a backup for the President.

Chairman Fred Koe informs the *Assembly* that the Resolutions Committee will prepare a resolution on these proposed changes overnight, which will serve as the focus for further discussion.

Harry Carmichael (Inuvik) asks if the legal implications of mid-term reviews for Executive members have been studied.

Geoff Wiest explains that the legal implications would depend on the drafting. Removing a President or Vice-President could be seen in some circumstances as termination of employment, so candidates for these positions would have to be informed there was a review which could end in either termination or continuation.

George Niditchie, Jr. (Tsiigehtchic) contends that the prospect of a mid-term dismissal would discourage potential candidates, while actual removal would make the organization look bad. The GTC has monthly Board meetings, giving the Directors, as representatives of the communities, ample opportunity to review the conduct of the President and Vice-President and to deal with any instances of nonperformance. He sees no need for a public review process.

David Krutko, replacing Fred Koe in the Chair, observes that the draft under consideration has a section on removal and compensation.

Robert Bourque asks what would happen in the event of removal.

Geoff Wiest responds that since Executive members are employees of the GTC, they are subject to the requirement of notice of termination or payment in lieu of notice.

I. GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL UPDATES

I. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Education and Training Manager Pat McKinnon directs the *Assembly* to her report as printed in the GTC Annual Report. With reference to this report, she proceeds to summarize the programs administered by the Education and Training Department as well as its activities over the past year.

Elizabeth Hansen notes that judging by the printed report some communities have more programs than others. Is this a function of greater population?

Pat McKinnon replies that community awareness of the various Education and Training programs hasn't always been great, so she's made a point of travelling to each community to provide information and encourage the development of proposals.

In response to concerns from the floor that Aklavik in particular has missed out on training opportunities, she notes that she has worked to get proposals from Aklavik, and has talked with Chief Charles Furlong about several programs. She will ensure any proposals get considered.

Martina Tetlich (Fort McPherson) asks what the Education and Training Department does to help students going to college or university who are refused funding under Student Financial Assistance (SFA).

Pat McKinnon responds that many Education and Training activities are funded by the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy Agreement (AHRDSA). AHRDSA funds cannot be used to sponsor college and university students. The only monies that can be used to help them are those in the Education and Training Trust Fund. When students are denied funding under SFA, the Education and Training Department takes their cases to the Training Committee, where they are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

President Fred Carmichael thanks Pat McKinnon and the Education and Training Department for their work, and observes that among the success stories in this field is the recent rig floorhand training program at Aurora College, which had graduates from Fort McPherson.

2. SELF-GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS OFFICE

Chief Negotiator Bob Simpson informs the *Assembly* that over the last 3-4 months community reviews of Self-Government, each lasting two or three days, have taken place in the communities, each one devoted to reviewing the AIP. The session in Aklavik just concluded. He directs Delegates to the Self-Government Report in the GTC Annual Report for a summary of work done over the year.

Almost all of the AIP is now in hand, Bob Simpson continues, with resolution of the outstanding items likely within the next month, and the AIP itself going before the GTC Board in September or October. There may well be a signing ceremony before the end of the year. He finds many people in the communities see the process as overwhelming, which he takes as indicative of a fear of change, pointing to the need for more education about Self-Government. While Self-Government is change, it also puts more power in the hands of Gwich'in people. The pre-Implementation process exists to help communities prepare for the transition, and one issue that must be raised is a Gwich'in constitution. Workshops and courses will come and a constitution policy will be developed. There are several major items that must be negotiated before a Final Agreement.

One of these is an Implementation Plan. It isn't necessary to take on all the various powers at once. The Gwich'in can set their own pace and assume the various powers as they see fit. Discussions on the Implementation Plan have already begun.

Financial agreements must also be negotiated, dealing with the transfer of existing government funding and the Gwich'in's own sources of revenue. The latter are vital in order to reduce dependence on government. Bob Simpson anticipates a further three or four years on these negotiations.

Chief Peter Ross asks if justice and policing have been dealt with.

Bob Simpson responds that this has always been a difficult aspect of every Self-Government negotiation. He thinks it is unlikely that the federal government can be brought to adopt a more forthcoming attitude, but hopes to meet soon with senior Department of Justice officials to see what can be done. Negotiators have established a Special review of Justice to take place seven years after the Final Agreement. This means nothing is set in stone and these matters can be revisited.

Peter Ross notes that the RCMP detachment in Fort McPherson is supposed to service Tsiigehtchic as well, but tends to respond only when someone is injured or dies.

Chairman David Krutko remarks that approximately \$25 million dollars is spent on policing in the NWT. Policing should certainly be covered in Self-Government negotiations, indeed you can't have full Self-Government without the justice function. He promises to raise the matter with the Premier soon.

Bob Simpson says the negotiators hope to get a system analogous to those that prevail in the South, where Aboriginal groups have private policing capabilities on their own lands under agreements with the Federal and Provincial Governments. Every jurisdiction in Canada other than the NWT has a Police Act, he adds. A Police Act is necessary

to govern police conduct, and might also open up Federal funds for policing. A regional police force is not far-fetched, judging by Southern precedents.

Archie Norbert (Tsiigehtchic) says the next generation of leaders must be brought along and he sees no evidence that young people are being prepared to eventually assume leadership roles.

Bob Simpson replies that he finds interest among young people during workshops and presentations in schools. A start has been made in developing a curriculum on Land Claims and Self-Government. He has also reached an informal agreement with Aurora College to redesign the Community Development Program. He would like to see this program delivered at the community level. Development of the skills needed to make Self-Government work will determine its success as an experiment.

Elizabeth Hansen says there are not enough funds for social programs, at a time when alcohol and drug problems are increasing.

Bob Simpson says that when approval of the AIP is obtained, he hopes to obtain some program funding to deal with such problems. Existing programs can also be redesigned for greater effectiveness.

3. LAND CLAIM IMPLEMENTATION

GCLCA Implementation Coordinator Alex Benitah summarizes his responsibilities and work since assuming his current position. He emphasizes the time he has devoted to Cumulative Impact Monitoring, Devolution and the Yukon Development Assessment Process (YDAP). He also points out in June of 2001 the GTC entered negotiations to prepare a new Implementation Plan for the next 10 years. This will highlight the roles and responsibilities of all the organizations involved as well as dealing with funding questions. The negotiating team consists of himself, Richard Nerysoo and Bob Simpson.

As for obtaining the Federal Government's signature on the Land Use Plan, Fred Carmichael will be meeting with DIAND Minister Robert Nault soon. Either agreement will be reached or the GTC will proceed to an arbitration board or to court.

On the Devolution process, the GTC's point of view hasn't been heard, and the organization is resolved to hold Ottawa responsible for its obligations until the GTC has approved their transfer. The safeguarding of Tetlit Gwich'in lands under YDAP remains a struggle.

Chief Abe Wilson of Fort McPherson says that since 1992 negotiations with the Yukon Government have failed to produce anything solid regarding such matters as YDAP and Devolution.

Alex Benitah agrees it has been hard to make progress on this issue.

Chairman David Krutko suggests a motion on this matter from the resolutions Committee.

4. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resource Manager/Planner Norman Snowshoe reports on his work, stressing his involvement with traditional food and contaminants; the fish, muskrat and bear studies; the Caribou River cleanup; his participation in an

advisory group to aid the development of the new NWT Wildlife Act ; the amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act; the Dempster Highway negotiations; the Protected Areas Strategy; the Forest Management Plan; and the development of a new Renewable Resource Council (RRC) manual.

5. GWICH'IN LANDS ADMINISTRATION

Gwich'in Lands Administration Manager Howard Townsend summarizes his work over the past year. He notes the organizational changes over the year and the development of the filing system as well as the training of eight more students as Environmental Monitors.

Discussion follows of the Yukon Government's actions in calling for nominations in the Eagle Plains and other areas within the Primary and Secondary Use Areas.

Chief Abe Wilson states that with the Yukon Government issuing such calls for nominations the GTC must respond in a serious fashion. The Yukon Government only recently set up its Land Use Planning Commission, and so far it has not engaged in consultation with the Gwich'in.

Howard Townsend responds that the Lands Administration has sought participation in the land use planning process. This has included telling DIAND that nominations can go ahead provided that the Land Use Plan is adhered to. The Yukon Government does make referrals to the Lands Administration, whose comments are forwarded but to no apparent effect.

President Fred Carmichael adds that the GTC has discussed this process with the Federal Government and is pressing for the right to nominate a member to the Yukon Development Board when it deals with Gwich'in lands. The GTC position is that its agreement (the GCLCA) is with Ottawa, not Whitehorse, and it must receive satisfaction on all outstanding matters before transfer of powers.

Grace Blake (Tsiigehtchic) states there is a clear need for a protocol defining Gwich'in participation when input is requested regarding potential development on Gwich'in lands. Perhaps the GTC could prepare a manual for all to follow. She adds that more research has been done in some areas than in others, and the time allowed to do necessary research prior to development on Gwich'in lands isn't always adequate.

6. GWICH'IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTE

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) Acting Executive Director Grace Blake briefly summarizes the projects in which the GSCI was involved over the past year, many of them described in more detail in the GSCI report in the GTC Annual report.

She describes the work done on the Elders' biography project; the caribou clothing project at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC; the Tsiigehtchic history book and the ethnobotany book.

She adds that the Language Committee meets regularly, holding its meetings in the Gwich'in language. There is now a language staff in place as well.

She is the Acting E.D. and the hiring of a permanent E.D. is in the works. Input from the *Assembly* would be welcome on the question of whether the GSCI should expand its role to include a greater emphasis on social

issues. The GSCI's need to raise the funds for its own work has resulted in its operations in the social area being less developed than they should be. The GSCI is currently organized as a society rather than a recognized Department of the GTC. It is necessary to define what it does and to clarify its relations with the GTC.

Elizabeth Hansen observes that funding for language plan activities is tight. She wonders how one might access funds to teach the language within one's own band.

Grace Blake responds that the GSCI has no such funds of its own to distribute. Nor is there a clear structure and policy to promote the teaching of the language. At the moment it is largely left to the schools, while it should belong to the community as a whole.

Agreement that promoting the revival of the Gwich'in language should be a high priority.

Chief James Firth suggests it is time to reassess the GSCI's mandate and its By-laws. Instead of each community acting individually with limited resources to promote the language and culture, a coordinated approach would be preferable.

Grace Blake proposes that the District Education Authorities should be working with the schools to promote the language. The GSCI itself has no formalized relationship with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. William Firth, the GSCI's Language Manager, is exploring the possibility of evening classes in Gwich'in. She wonders if, in the Self-Government negotiations, it might be possible to secure recognition of Gwich'in as a national language.

7. TL'OONDIH HEALING SOCIETY

Chief Abe Wilson informs the group that the TI'oondih Healing Society has its Annual General Meeting tomorrow. TI'oondih's relative unprofitability has been a cause for concern for several years now. Fort McPherson is willing to take over the camp if it can run it profitably. First, however, a business plan must be developed. The GTC Board has given its blessing. There will be a motion dealing with TI'oondih at this *Assembly*.

Barry Greenland (Inuvik) says there is a consensus among the GTC Board that TI'oondih should be turned over to Fort McPherson. He, David Krutko and Justice and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Jim Antoine have discussed using the camp as a "justice facility", perhaps to treat young offenders who are now sent down South in most cases.

Fred Koe, replacing David Krutko in the Chair, notes that following tomorrow's Annual General Meeting and subsequent discussion, a motion will be brought forward.

8. ENROLMENT BOARD

Enrolment Board Chair Barb Crawford updates the *Assembly* on the Enrollment Board's recent operations. She states that the Enrolment Coordinator, Sheila Vittrekwa, is leaving at the end of August. The Board representatives from Aklavik and Tsiigehtchic are departing soon as well. The Board operates on a budget of \$50,000 a year, with meetings every three or four months and the position of Coordinator a half-time one. It is not unusual for the Board to hear of a problem soon after a meeting, with no means of taking action until it meets again.

It is increasingly hard for the Board to function in such straitened circumstances, and little genealogical work has

been done recently. Additional funding is a necessity, and the Board itself favors relocation to Inuvik. Arranging for photo identification, lamination and so on for the production of Enrolment cards is time-consuming and inconvenient given the Board's present location in Fort McPherson. There have been instances where individuals have had to postpone their travel plans outside the GSA as a result. Not only is Inuvik a more central location, but relocation there would allow the Board to meet its staffing needs through sharing GTC personnel. The position of Enrolment Coordinator could be combined with a part-time GTC position. This would make it easier to keep address lists up-to-date, which has been a problem. An annual pay-out to Beneficiaries would provide an additional incentive for people to keep the Board current on their whereabouts. Timely appointment of community representatives and funding for more frequent meetings would also help the Board to do its job.

After some discussion of the merits of continuing through the evening, the *Assembly* agrees to adjourn until the following morning. Mary Teya leads the group in a closing prayer.

After recognition of quorum by Chairman Fred Koe, Catherine Mitchell (Inuvik) leads the *Assembly* in an opening prayer.

J. REVIEW AND APPROVE 2000-2001 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I. REVIEW

GTC Acting Chief Financial Officer Dave Little introduces John Stelter, Senior Principal, and Catherine West, Senior Manager, both of KPMG Canada, the firm that conducted this year's audit for the GTC. They will assist him in reviewing the financial data for 2000-2001.

John Stelter explains the nature of the audit function, and discusses KPMG's focus on assessing the key business processes and how well they are managed. He directs the *Assembly* to the Auditors' report to the Members on p. 53 of the GTC's Annual Report for 2000-2001, stating that in KPMG's opinion the GTC's consolidated financial statements are fair.

Catherine West indicates that the consolidated statement of financial position on p. 54 of the Annual Report illustrates the financial position as of March 31, 2001, showing cash on hand as confirmed by the CIBC, receivables with various funding agencies, assets and liabilities.

Dave Little explains that the consolidated statement of financial activities on p. 55 of the Annual Report shows how the organization reached its March 31 position. He points out that total revenue increased in the last year, largely as a result of contribution agreements. This was one-time aid to offset the projected deficit. He also points to the investment income of approximately \$6 million.

Spending, he adds, increased from the previous year. Core expenditures fell slightly, as a result of fourth-quarter cutbacks. Program spending and contributions to organizations rose.

Some discussion of the workings of the Land Claim Settlement Fund follows. Dave Little explains that every April 22, \$7 million of the \$9 million payment made by DIAND goes into the Fund. The value of the Fund varies over time, reflecting the movement of the stock market and the shifting value of the Fund's assets.

John Stelter remarks that the Fund's value is therefore \$7 million greater than is reflected in the figures for March 31. The market value of its holdings is roughly \$69 million, compared to the previous year's \$62 million. The value of some holdings declined in the last year. Stock market fluctuations mean there are earnings this year but they are not great. The value of the portfolio following this contribution is shown on p. 49 of the Annual Report, in the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation report.

Robert Bourque asks why expenditures on training rose so dramatically in 2001, as reflected in the figures on p. 61 of the Annual Report.

Dave Little answers that an agreement with Human Resources Development Canada providing a training grant for a full year took effect on March 31, 2001, while the same spending ran for only part of the previous year. The expenditure has been allocated accordingly in the statements.

Elizabeth Hansen asks why the figures for Elders/Youth Funding show such a marked decline from 2000 to 2001.

Dave Little explains that in 2001 these payments are included in the contributions to the DGOs.

Maureen Clark asks what the \$500 item for 2001 consisted of.

Dave Little responds that it was a payment to an individual.

Maureen Clark says that in her view such funding should be for activities, not grants to individuals. Archie Norbert explains that the payment was to help a 16-year old mother in Tsiigehtchic who had no other source of help at the time. The matter was discussed at an Elders' Committee meeting before the donation was made. Insisting on repayment, he contends, would be wrong.

Some discussion of the "contingencies" follows. Dave Little explains that these arise out of two wrongful dismissal cases involving the GTC. The outcome of neither case is clear, so these are contingent rather than actual liabilities, and should not appear as liabilities in the statements.

Robert Bourque suggests that the Settlement Fund does not appear to be doing well, based on Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements, on p. 80 of the Annual Report, where the market value of the investments is less than cost.

John Stelter responds that in fact the assets of the Fund increased from slightly under \$48 million to slightly more than \$60 million, consisting of a \$7 million contribution and \$5 million in realized earnings. There was not a loss.

Some discussion as to whether the financial information could be presented in a more accessible manner. Dave Little and John Stelter note that to some extent the statements are complex because the organization is complex. Eliza Greenland (Aklavik) suggests that perhaps the statements could be sent out to the communities a month in advance of each *Assembly*, giving people more of an opportunity to digest them.

Dave Little responds that this might indeed be helpful and expresses his support for any measures that would help communicate the financial information to Beneficiaries.

Be it Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2001 be approved as presented.

Moved by: Chief Abe Wilson

Seconded by: Chief Peter Ross

Carried. (Motion #06/2001)

2. SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING REQUEST

President Fred Carmichael informs the *Assembly* that at present all indications are for a substantial deficit this year. Measures to offset the anticipated deficit might include tapping the Royalty Fund and implementing those By-law changes that would cut costs. At the moment the organization spends approximately \$75,000 annually on elections. Doing away with one or both Vice-Presidential positions would reduce this. Such reductions would lower the risk of having to dip into the Settlement Fund to finance current operations.

K. GWICH'IN SETTLEMENT CORPORATION

1. CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

Ernie Carmichael of CIBC thanks the *Assembly* for the GTC's business. He says that the organization's portfolio has done well despite market volatility. TAL Institutional Management, he asserts, has done a good job. He observes that dividing the GTC's portfolio into two smaller funds, as some have suggested, would cause a significant increase in management fees.

Grace Blake suggests the CIBC should be concerned about the benefits that go to the Gwich'in from their tie with the CIBC. Many Beneficiaries would like to get personal loans. She would like to see how the CIBC proposes to help the Gwich'in benefit from the current oil and gas boom.

Ernie Carmichael replies that the Gwich'in have the benefit of a dual relationship with the people who manage their money and the only bank in town. He adds that he has worked to open up communications so that Beneficiaries having problems getting a loan, for example, as a result of poor credit histories, can get a second chance. He has intervened in a number of such cases, and in nine out of ten has helped make money available. The Gwich'in, he notes, have leverage with the CIBC as a result of their relationship. Presumably the GTC will continue to need to borrow, to access credit to build infrastructure. He invites Gwich'in to work for the bank. Given the high turnover at the Inuvik branch, this would be helpful.

Grace Blake suggests advertising vacancies in the communities, where there is also a need for better banking services.

Ernie Carmichael responds that at present the important goal is getting the Inuvik branch up to speed, before trying to do more in the communities. He recently gave the GTC a summary of the benefits the CIBC has passed on to the Gwich'in as a function of the relationship they have. He would be glad to distribute copies of this in the communities.

2. TAL INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT

Deborah Lewis, Vice-President, Client Services of TAL Institutional Management, summarizes TAL's history and structure as a firm that is 65% owned by CIBC but operates independently, specializing entirely in investment management for institutional clients.

She directs the attention of the Delegates to the TAL report that has been distributed to them. The Gwich'in Settlement Corporation (GSC) portfolio, she goes on, has performed well in difficult times. TAL measures itself against various industry benchmarks in the return it secures for its clients on their investments. The performance benchmark for TAL in the composition of the GSC portfolio is 35% Canadian equities; 25% U.S. equities; 35% Canadian bonds; 5% cash and equivalents.

As of June 30, TAL has provided the GSC with a return on its total portfolio of .16%, compared to an industry benchmark of -9.15. Over the past 2 years, the return has been 6.47%, against a 2.57% industry benchmark, and over the last 4 it has been 9.05% against the benchmark of 6.91%. The June 2001 market value of the portfolio was \$68,521,959, with an unrealized gain of \$5,584,655 after withdrawals of \$5,914,450. From March to March, as well, the portfolio has gained. The performance of the portfolio since June of the previous year has been affected by falling interest rates, making borrowing cheaper and decreasing the return on bonds.

In response to the ups and downs of the markets, TAL has modified the asset mix, increasing cash holdings in response to market uncertainty, reducing holdings in Canadian and Provincial in favor of municipal and corporate bonds.

In the coming year, TAL anticipates economic recovery to get under way in both the U.S. and Canada, with low inflation. This will benefit both the bond markets and the Settlement Corporation portfolio. U.S. profits and earnings should also grow, at a moderate, sustainable single-digit pace.

Some discussion follows, with expressions of concern at the relatively low return in the past year. Deborah Lewis responds that this must be set in context. The portfolio lost nothing and managed a nominal gain in negative markets. In an economic downturn TAL's goal is to keep the value of the portfolio intact and make gains where they can be made.

Hazel Nerysoo asks how frequently TAL reports to the GSC.

Deborah Lewis answers that TAL provides quarterly reports in addition to a monthly statement. These go to the Investment Committee.

George Niditchie, Jr. says the report is confusing. He would like to see an independent review of current investments.

Chairman Fred Koe notes that Towers Perrin, the GTC's investment adviser, has been hired to do precisely that.

Vice-President Wilbert Firth adds that the GTC is actively considering diversifying its investment holdings and shifting some of its assets to a second investment manager.

Discussion concerning TAL's remuneration follows. Deborah Lewis explains that TAL's management fees on the assets it manages are charged quarterly to the Settlement Corporation and calculated monthly. TAL follows the practice of "down-rating", whereby the larger the assets under management the lower the fee. As for concerns that the Fund only broke even with a purely nominal gain this year, the return of over 9% over the last four years shows that TAL is meeting the objectives specified by the GTC.

3. TOWERS PERRIN

Peter Hallett of Towers Perrin introduces himself and explains that Towers Perrin acts as the GTC's investment advisor as provided for by By-law 18. Towers Perrin evaluates the asset mix chosen by the fund managers and measures the managers' performance against standard industry benchmarks. He notes that when the Settlement Fund's investments were all in bonds, with a fixed rate of return, the rate did not meet the long-term objectives set for the Fund. The shift to a mix of stocks and bonds reflected a recognition that stocks tend to outperform bonds over the long term, the short-term ups and downs of the stock market notwithstanding.

Peter Hallett suggests that in evaluating TAL's performance, the focus should be on the long run rather than on the last year. He adds that in assessing the steps TAL took to protect GSC investments in a difficult time, one measure used by Towers Perrin is comparison with similar portfolios managed by others. In their sample, the worst performer had a return of -27%, the best 5%. In this context, the Settlement Corporation portfolio performed relatively well, indicating that TAL made the appropriate decisions in its selection of securities to protect the portfolio's value. Adding less in stocks than the investment policy allowed was, by and large, prudent, and reflected the greater riskiness of stocks over bonds.

Elizabeth Hansen says she was under the impression the mix between stocks and bonds was supposed to be 50-50%, not 60-40%.

Peter Hallett responds that the shift to greater holdings of equities was recommended by Towers Perrin and approved by the Finance Committee.

Maureen Clark says investments in the U.S. could be seen as problematic given the importance of the Porcupine Caribou Herd issue.

Wilbert Firth suggests that petroleum investments may also be undesirable given the Caribou River cleanup situation, and “ethical investing” is an aspect of investment policy to consider. He adds that the volatility of certain stocks, particularly tech stocks, is also something to take into account. He reiterates there will be a motion coming forward on diversification.

Peter Hallett answers that “socially responsible investing” is important to some organizations. It does, however, entail trade-offs, and the constraints imposed by such a policy can hamper the return. This is ultimately a political decision, which the organization itself must make.

He believes that investing in mutual funds would improve the structure of the Fund. Investing in a “pool fund”, an option open only to large funds like that of the Settlement Corporation, allows fund managers to diversify holdings across a wider spectrum of companies than it would be feasible to invest in individually. This can also be more affordable, requiring less buying and selling of holdings. He notes that a recent Discussion Paper prepared by Towers Perrin for the organization noted that once a fund reaches a certain size, it ceases to be desirable to have the entire portfolio in the hands of one investment manager. Reliance on several managers can spread risk more effectively and take advantage of the specialized expertise of different managers.

Agnes Mitchell (Tsiighehtchic) asks if the Settlement Fund is taxed.

Peter Hallett replies that it is not taxed now, but will become taxable in 2007 when the last Capital Transfer Payment is made. As long as a certain percentage is actually paid out, it will be tax-exempt.

L. GWICH'IN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Tom Connors, Chief Executive Officer of the Gwich'in Development Corporation (GDC) recapitulates the GDC report as presented on pp. 46-47 of the GTC Annual Report, which presents the corporation's activities and financial situation through the first half of 2001. He describes the recent measures to implement the direction from past Assemblies to separate business from politics in the GDC's operations, referring to the By-law changes prepared by Geoff Wiest. He explains the workings of the new GDC Board structure, with a nine-member Board whose members are chosen for their business experience and acumen.

In his subsequent PowerPoint presentation, Tom Connors outlines his growth strategy for the GDC from this point on. He points to the emphasis on organic growth, building on existing core competencies and forming partnerships with companies whose competencies and resources are complementary to those of the GDC and its subsidiaries. He cites the partnership with Ketz and the formation of GSA (Gwich'in Settlement Area) Trucking as illustrative of this approach. A larger role in infrastructure development, and securing the dominant role in the Edmonton-Inuvik transportation route are other major objectives.

He proposes to set a Return on Investment (ROI) criterion of 12%, which should provide a better return than the Settlement Fund investments. In the context of the regional economy, the GDC hopes to operate largely as a general contractor and project manager, subcontracting work to community-based businesses where it can.

He envisions a “Gwich’in Group of Companies” consisting primarily of joint ventures with companies that provide a good corporate fit with the GDC. He distributes a press release announcing agreement with Ensign Resource Service Group on a joint venture.

The new company, Gwich’in Ensign Oilfield Services (GEOS), will be owned 51% by the GDC, 49% by Ensign and will provide drilling and other oilfield services in the GSA. He introduces Gary Bennett of Ensign, who provides a brief outline of the history, range of services and equipment of Ensign.

Ensign is a Calgary-based oilfield services contractor with more than 100 rigs and which is in the top 5 companies in Canada in its rig capacity. Ensign will locate and purchase a rig for GEOS operations as well as providing the necessary training.

Johnny Charlie (Fort McPherson) asks if, given the poor performance of Klondike River Lodge (KRL), as reflected in its most recent figures, selling the facility might not be the best course of action.

Tom Connors replies that in light of KRL’s recent losses, it could not be sold for much. Locating and hiring reliable live-in management to whom the facility could be leased would at least generate a rent.

George Niditchie, Jr. is concerned that in light of the forthcoming vote in the U.S. Senate dealing with oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) the press release announcing the joint venture with Ensign is ill-timed and would provide ammunition to the oil companies who want to drill in ANWR. While the separation of business from politics in GDC activities is a healthy development, the ANWR issue is a pressing concern at the moment.

President Fred Carmichael observes that with oil and gas activity going on around the Gwich’in, it is important that they be in a position to exercise some control over the process. A 51% ownership in a drilling concern provides that as well as strengthening the economic base and creating jobs.

Hazel Nerysoo asks if there were discussions with other potential partners before the deal with Ensign was reached.

Tom Connors replies that there were, and during the discussions with various companies it became clear that Ensign was the best fit.

Some discussion of the environmental implications follows. Tom Connors observes that if environmental and social problems are to be dealt with, an economic base must be established first in order to generate the money required. It is up to the GTC itself to be environmentally responsible.

Agnes Mitchell acknowledges that the young are likely to benefit, but wonders about some of the other Beneficiaries. She is not sure that much of the relevant information on this and other decisions is available to those in the communities, or that many of the Elders or Youth were involved in the decision.

President Fred Carmichael replies that GTC Board meetings are open, and provide a chance for Youth, Elders and

others to be heard. The Directors are responsible for reporting back to their respective communities. He adds that in the near future there will be a newsletter to keep people better informed.

Grace Blake emphasizes the need to take into account the fragility of the environment.

Gary Bennett says that he and his company are very much aware that they are the guests here.

Tom Connors says most of the companies that want to do business in the GSA are grateful for the privilege of doing so and are willing to act responsibly.

Anna May McLeod (Tsiigehtchic) says that in her experience the oil and gas companies are not respectful of the Gwich'in culture. She believes their employees should be required to attend workshops on cross-cultural understanding.

President Fred Carmichael states that the GTC monitors what happens on Gwich'in lands through the land and Water Board. Cross-cultural training should certainly be considered.

Maureen Clark contends that it should be mandatory, in the interests of preserving the native identity and the dignity of the land.

Chairman Fred Koe suggests this would be a good basis for a motion.

Grace Blake raises the question of whether profits from GDC enterprises can be redirected to non-profits in the interest of reducing taxes.

Tom Connors replies that he's in favor of any measures that would reduce taxes, but that it is up to the GTC to determine what is done with the profits from GDC activities.

Dave Little adds that profits are normally taxable and it is hard to make them non-taxable.

Grace Blake says dealing with social problems is at least as important as generating more employment opportunities. Having too much money can do harm every bit as much as having too little. The GTC should look at the ethics of how it proposes to do business and spell them out.

George Niditchie, Jr. emphasizes the need for communication in these matters when they come up. He suggests the joint venture with Ensign should have been raised for general discussion earlier. While there is talk of consultation, the decision has already been made.

Martina Tetlich suggests that when decisions affecting the Beneficiaries' money are made they should be consulted. She believes that future joint ventures should be brought to the communities so that all concerned have an opportunity to speak to them.

President Fred Carmichael observes that the direction from last year's *Assembly* was to separate business from politics and to make money for the Beneficiaries. Requiring that every prospective joint venture be brought before the *Assembly* would amount to shutting down the GDC. People in the communities can relay their concerns to the GTC Board through their community representatives and organizations. Drilling won't be allowed where it shouldn't

be done. The need is for striking the right balance between economic development and social and cultural needs. The people must also have faith and trust in their elected leaders, who are hired to walk that narrow line.

M. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

President Fred Carmichael recommends that the *Assembly* appoint KPMG as the GTC auditors for the new fiscal year.

Be it Resolved that the firm KPMG be appointed as the Gwich'in Tribal Council auditors for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002.

Moved by: Robert Bourque

Seconded by: Agnes Mitchell

Carried (Motion #07/2001)

Following a closing prayer by Grace Blake, the *Assembly* adjourns until the following day.

After recognition of quorum by Chairman David Krutko, Bertha Francis (Inuvik) leads the *Assembly* in an opening prayer.

N. ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS

I. VUNTUT GWICH'IN FIRST NATION (OLD CROW)

Chief Joe Linklater of the Vuntut Gwich'in congratulates the GTC on its accomplishments over the last decade, describes his own visits to various Aboriginal groups going through similar developments and emphasizes the need for representatives of the Gwich'in nation as a whole to meet regularly.

He identifies cooperation with other organizations as key to what he has been able to accomplish in the Yukon, and as useful on a broader scale. All Gwich'in, and others who are involved, should work together on issues affecting them all, such as devolution, ANWR, land use planning and hunting and trapping.

On the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, he notes that when the U.S. Senate reconvenes in September, a close vote is likely. The Vuntut Gwich'in are spending between \$100,000 and \$200,000 a year to protect these grounds, which is a lot of money. Yet the issue is central to the culture and way of life of the Gwich'in. There is an impending media blitz to inform both the Senate and the American public about what is at stake. The Bush Administration has made the opening up of these lands to development a high priority. A summit of all user communities of the Porcupine Caribou would provide an opportunity to adopt a proactive stance rather than waiting on events. The communities should form strong alliances with one another, a tactic which has worked well in the Yukon.

2. TRO'ONDEK HWECH'IN (DAWSON)

No presentation.

3. NA CHO NYAK DUN FIRST NATION (MAYO)

No presentation.

4. PORCUPINE CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

Board Chairman Joe Tetlichy briefly recounts the Board's origins in the concerns that arose over the Dempster going through the Herd's habitat, and its subsequent development. Studies on the health of the Herd have been performed to illuminate the causes of its declining numbers. Recent years have seen hard times for the Herd, with some 50,000 calves lost last year because of unusually deep snow and the long migration. This year has not been as bad, although numbers continue to fall by 4-5% annually.

The Board has had several recent successes, including the resolution of issues relating to the Dempster promoted by the user communities. Past hunting practices on the Dempster have been unhealthy, and there is a clear need to act responsibly and reconcile the recognized Aboriginal right to hunt with the health of the Herd. The regulations are in effect for a three-year trial period, of which this is the third year. The Tr'ondek Hwech'in have strongly asserted the right to hunt. They also want the claim groups to look at the problems together. A summit would help clarify things.

He reiterates the importance of the lobbying effort in Washington. The August vote on the Bush energy plan was a narrow one, passing by only twenty votes in the House of Representatives. Advocates of opening ANWR up to development, he argues, wrongly infer from the continued health of the Central Herd near Prudhoe Bay that the danger to the Porcupine Caribou is small. The analogy is false because the Porcupine Caribou have no alternative calving grounds, while the Central Herd does.

The defection of Senator Jeffords has shifted control of the Senate to the Democrats, which might affect the outcome. September will be crucial, with the first vote likely in mid-month. The *Assembly* can help, by sending representation to Washington to help with the lobbying. Chief James Firth of Inuvik and Vice-President Wilbert Firth have already helped out in that capacity. He would like to see President Fred Carmichael down there if possible.

Joe Tetlichi adds that he was surprised by yesterday's press release. The Gwich'in have a great environment but if the wealth of nature is sold in deals with oil and gas companies, the land will be lost for future generations. The Gwich'in will still need the Porcupine Caribou in years to come.

President Fred Carmichael offers to do what he can to help in this effort.

Discussion follows, with agreement on the need for unity in protecting the Porcupine Caribou and for an appropriate motion.

5. ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

No presentation.

6. DENE NATION

No presentation.

7. DEH CHO FIRST NATIONS

No presentation.

8. SAHTU SECRETARIAT INCORPORATED

No presentation.

9. INUVIALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION

Chairman David Krutko announces that the Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nellie Cournoyea, was present on the previous day, when her presentation was originally scheduled. She is not present at the moment but will return for the presentation by the Aboriginal Pipeline Group.

10. YUKON COUNCIL OF FIRST NATIONS

No presentation.

O. COMMUNITY REPORTS

1. GWICH'IN COUNCILS

Barry Greenland of the Nihtat Gwich'in Council recapitulates the Council's activities over the past year, as presented in its report in the GTC Annual Report.

Melba Mitchell (Aklavik) expresses her disappointment that the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council did not prepare a report for inclusion in the GTC Annual Report. There is no report out yet and the Aklavik Chief is not present in person at the moment. She suggests this exemplifies a larger problem with lack of communication in Aklavik. The DGO does not distribute information or financial statements to Beneficiaries. She warns that people are changing their status as a result, and rarely bother going to the Band Office. She would appreciate help from the *Assembly* in this matter.

Eliza Greenland adds that there have been no Youth and Elders meetings in Aklavik yet this year and no sign of the funding. She would like an explanation and wonders if the funding could be provided directly rather than through the DGOs.

Chief Abe Wilson summarizes the Tetlit Gwich'in Council report as it appears in the GTC Annual Report, emphasizing the need to address the many social problems in the community and to provide programs to help the local youth. He adds that if the TI'oondih Healing Camp is transferred to Fort McPherson it will be run within the social envelope.

Chief Peter Ross summarizes the Gwichya Gwich'in Council report as it is presented in the Annual Report. He informs the *Assembly* that the suicide of a resident cast a shadow over Tsiigehtchic this past year, a tragedy he believes could have been prevented had the RCMP called first thing on the morning in question. He stresses the continuing problem with foul-smelling and dirty water and the need for funding from the GNWT to cover the charcoal water filters that would remove many impurities.

2. RENEWABLE RESOURCE COUNCILS

Chairman David Krutko observes that the reports from the RRCs are included in the Annual Report, where they may be consulted by those seeking more information on RRC activities.

President Fred Carmichael reminds the *Assembly* that the new RRC manual is now available. He thanks all involved in the project for their hard work.

Norman Snowshoe adds that the manual is designed to provide guidelines for the operations of the RRCs in all the communities, and should make resource management in the GSA easier.

P. PRESENTATIONS FROM ELDERS

Rose Clark (Tsiigehtchic) speaks of the importance of listening to the community Elders. She adds that a problem of some concern in her community is the insufficient availability of nursing services. She believes a four-year term for the Executive is too long and will lead to burnout among those elected. A Vice-President is necessary to help the President.

Neil Colin (Fort McPherson) warns of the ignorance about the North in the United States, where many of the large oil companies come from. He believes the Gwich'in must work together to inform one another of the oil and gas activity. He informs the *Assembly* of a Native Communications Society project in which Elders are interviewed. In Inuvik now, some interviews are being done in the Anglican Church. He is happy to be involved in the translation, and is pleased to see the language slowly coming back.

Archie Norbert suggests more funding should be devoted to training and educating Beneficiaries. He sees too many non-Beneficiaries staffing the organization. It is important to send the right message to the young people about the value of education.

The Tl'oondih Healing Camp should be used for the treatment of people with drug problems in the communities.

Frank Stewart would like to see meetings of Elders from all the communities, perhaps four times a year, once in each community.

John Norbert suggests that oil and gas development should not be viewed in a purely negative light. It does create needed opportunities for the young. And he has seen evidence that it need not harm wildlife, in his experience with pipeline construction.

After taking over from David Krutko as Chairman, Fred Koe informs the group that there are still many items to deal with. He wonders if a fourth day should be added.

After discussion, agreement to continue the *Assembly* into a fourth day if needed.

Eliza Greenland proposes giving the youth who are present an opportunity to express themselves. General agreement.

Maureen Clark describes the activities of the youth in her community. She adds that the youth share a budget with the Elders, and more meetings with them would be good.

Greta Sittichinli says that the Inuvik Band is focusing its efforts among the youth on those aged twelve to sixteen, since the older youth are less responsive. She and Barry Greenland work with the youth, and they have been helpful in selling bingo cards, putting on bake sales and other fundraising efforts.

Sigmore Furlong (Aklavik) speaks of the importance and the helpfulness of Elders, adding that since they will not be here too much longer young people should try to learn from them and help them today.

Hazel Nerysoo says the youth want more support from the leadership. She describes local efforts in Fort McPherson to raise funds to provide youth with opportunities to travel outside the GSA, including trips to Yellowknife and Edmonton by a local hockey team.

Barry Greenland says he can understand the concerns of the young people, and knows how difficult it can be to get involved, recalling his own early efforts to get involved at the age of thirteen. While leadership is hard, and entails criticism, here the young people have the land to return to, unlike urban youth. Young people should get involved, because there are important problems to solve.

Q. OTHER BUSINESS

1. POLITICAL DIRECTION - "STANDING UP AND BEING COUNTED"

2. ECONOMIC DIRECTION - "INVESTING IN..."

3. SOCIAL DIRECTION - "TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES"

Agreement that these three should be discussed as a combined item, while discussion of the Royalties Settlement Strategy, which will be *in camera*, should be on the final day of the *Assembly*, following voting on resolutions dealing with other matters.

President Fred Carmichael opens the discussion by speaking of the need for self-sufficiency and less reliance on government. The Gwich'in people are now being listened to, and the Chiefs are now part of the GTC Management Team. Things are starting to turn around, but the GTC must do more to save money. The projected deficit for this year is \$500,000. While the programs the people call for are needed, the funds to pay for them have to be found somewhere. This is why control of economic development is important; it can provide the money needed for true self-sufficiency. Self-Government will help if it includes a share in resource royalties. If money isn't part of it, then the Gwich'in will never achieve self-sufficiency. Unity is essential and "unity starts at home."

Chief James B. Firth welcomes the cooperation between the GTC and the Band Councils under the new Administration, with the Bands no longer on the outside. Cooperation between the Bands and the GTC is important because the Bands take their direction from the people. The Bands too find that money is a constant problem, with many demands placed on them. He hopes a forthcoming session with Minister Nault in September or October will prove productive.

Vice-President Wilbert Firth speaks in favor of cooperation, citing what was achieved with the Yukon Gwich'in in the Transboundary Agreement. The GTC needs to get involved in the YDAP process and meet its responsibilities. He recalls that one of former Vice-President James Wilson's concerns was amending Chapter 7. Implementation must progress, he suggests, so that the next 10 years are less hard than the last 10.

Chief Abe Wilson also speaks favorably of the Management Committee and the new role for the Chiefs. In his view, the GTC can present its position more credibly and gain more in negotiations when standing with the Chiefs.

Chief Peter Ross praises the joint efforts of the GTC President and the Chiefs over the last 10 months. He adds that reorganization of the GTC was very much needed, and in the new spirit of unity much has been accomplished. While many Delegates are displeased by, for example, past actions by Devlan or Shell, these companies now work on Gwich'in land only on terms set by the Gwich'in. Accommodation with these companies on acceptable terms is the way to meet the needs of the communities, the Elders and others. The young, who want opportunity, must be listened to as well.

Chief Charles Furlong (Aklavik) says that the GTC leadership needs a mandate in order to act with the confidence that the people are behind it. He observes that Self-Government will provide the Gwich'in with the tools to make their own laws, the opportunity to access resource royalties and the power to make other governments recognize the GTC as an equal.

Direction is needed on all three aspects of the GTC's activities: political; economic; social. The GTC should form effective partnerships with the Government of Canada and the GNWT. The current oil and gas exploration brings opportunities in its wake, with governments now interested in listening to the concerns the Gwich'in wish to raise. The GTC mandate must specify that the wealth generated by this development be shared so that the communities benefit. The social agenda must be taken into account before development starts rather than after the fact. Industry and government can be persuaded to invest, and the Land Claim is a tool to ensure that social development is not neglected. Given the frequency with which representatives of government and industry come calling, the Gwich'in must send, in a unified manner, the message that they are open for business provided that social development is taken care of.

Hazel Nerysoo informs the group of her experiences examining social problems in the Health and Social Services Forum. There are many problems out there, including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, the legacy of sexual abuse from the residential school system, suicide and inadequate housing. The people must "take ownership" of these problems themselves, since government won't do what is needed.

Past President Richard Nerysoo (Inuvik) points out that while the organization's leaders have their faults, the people must stand behind them when they stand up on their behalf, regardless of personal disagreements on this or that issue.

The work done by the GDC is vital but the leadership must also back the efforts of private businesses owned by Beneficiaries. A Gwich'in Business Association might be useful. It could maintain a list of Gwich'in-owned businesses as well as aid in the making of economic and business policy. He agrees that the community should take responsibility for social problems, but when dealing with business should identify those community agencies and organizations that deal with each problem. The companies could use and pay for their services to deal with social issues.

While the *Assembly* gives direction to the leaders, the people must also rely upon their good judgment and ability to take community concerns into account. While there are different views of the solution to every problem, the question to ask is "Is this good for all?"

Despite the fact that President Fred Carmichael defeated him in the last election, he supports him and the Chiefs unconditionally. He concludes that the Gwich'in cannot condemn one another around the conference table here and leave the *Assembly* as a united nation. He asks nothing more than the opportunity to give advice as a Beneficiary to his leaders, and thanks the Executive for its work on the By-laws and in community consultation.

Robert Bourque says the key to accountability is information, and it is time to get the leadership to provide the information the people need. He was happy with much of what was in the report by Tom Connors since for so long the people were shut out of what was happening in their business arm.

Melba Mitchell reiterates that there are serious social problems in the communities, and suggests the Executive visit more often to listen to the people. Those who make this point, she says, are not making trouble, they have a right to be heard.

Maureen Clark says that the heart of the people is the land, and their right to it must be maintained. Many people, including some of the young, are interested in going back to the land. There should be outfitting businesses in every community and eco-tourism should be promoted. The social impact of oil and gas development in her life has been disastrous. She laments the loss of self-sufficiency and of the Gwich'in culture, worrying that the people are dying spiritually. Criticism is healthy, and should not give offense, she concludes.

Chairman Fred Koe asks President Fred Carmichael to comment on what has been said.

Fred Carmichael reminds the *Assembly* that he sought his current position in order to “give something back”, to help the people who, over the years, had helped him in his endeavours. He is pleased to see evidence of genuine unity at this *Assembly*, with people putting forward their concerns in a spirit of solidarity and not in a mean-spirited or divisive way.

He thanks Richard Nerysoo for his expression of support, and remarks that it is healthy for those in positions of leadership to know that they must do the jobs they’re elected to do or be held accountable.

He will continue to represent the interests and concerns of the people in his dealings with the oil and gas industry. Maureen Clark should be commended for raising eco-tourism, which is important. He has been involved in eco-tourism himself, and Tom Connors is looking into its potential. The land must be respected, the Land Claim must be respected and the people must be respected. Most of those in the oil and gas industry do respect them, and you no longer see the scars on the Earth that could be seen a few decades ago. Great progress has been made.

In the Shell project in Tsiigehtchic, \$30,000 was donated by the industry to meet the needs of the people. There was no requirement that the oil companies help, but they listened and heard the needs of the people. By being united, the Gwich’in have ensured that industry, government and others all listen to them.

5. GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY

A) INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

(I) BOB OVERHOLD, REGIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL

No presentation.

B) GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

(I) HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI, PREMIER OF THE NWT

Chairman Fred Koe notes that Premier Kakfwi was unable to be present this afternoon. Since the Commissioner of the NWT, the Hon. Glenna Hansen, is present he invites her to make a few remarks.

Glenna Hansen speaks of the need for the people to feel that they are in control of their own destinies and advises them to stand behind their leaders.

(II) HON. JOE HANDLEY, MINISTER OF FINANCE

Chairman Fred Koe notes that the Hon. Joe Handley is present, and that he is accompanied by the Hon. Roger Allen, Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Minister Responsible for Youth and Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, and by the Hon. Vince Steen, Minister of Transportation.

The Hon. Joe Handley notes that he is also accompanied by Jim Robertson, Deputy Minister of Finance. He then speaks of the need for economic self-sufficiency, without which political Self-Government is meaningless. With devolution, the shift of more resource revenues to Yellowknife rather than Ottawa becomes vital.

Minister Handley refers to his meetings with David Krutko and Charles Furlong, which touched on Gwich'in needs in the context of economic development. A coordinating committee headed by the Deputy Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development will play an important role in economic development issues. Minister Handley intends to ensure that the Gwich'in get their fair share of business in the GSA and seeks a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect. He has also increased business loans, to a ceiling of \$1 million.

Jim Robertson talks about potential developments in hydroelectric power, directing the attention of Delegates to the handout on hydro power now being circulated for details. He lists the benefits of hydro power, including its renewable nature, the fact that it flows through every region and the limited environmental impact of development. Hydro power can largely replace diesel fuel, and its development could guarantee the NWT's economic self-sufficiency. There is a large and growing demand for electricity in Canada, reflected in projects like the new Peace River dam. Development will only proceed after extensive consultation but could generate a great deal of money for social programs and other spending to benefit the population.

The Hon. Roger Allen informs the *Assembly* of his efforts to identify and promote cheaper construction methods and to encourage greater self-sufficiency and independence at the community level. MACA, he adds, is also engaged in capacity-building and the development of greater local independence in its operations, under his direction. In his capacity as Minister Responsible for Youth, he concludes, he is emphasizing the creation of opportunities for youth to return to the traditional cultural context.

Chief James B. Firth observes that the Land Claim requires the GTC to work with the GNWT in order to ensure that economic benefits flow to the people. A Working Group on capital projects in the GSA will ensure that in both negotiated contracts and bidding this happens. A realistic goal is for 60% of the work to go to Gwich'in companies. In negotiated contracts with Northern suppliers, there are the BIP guidelines on Northern products to be taken into account.

Chief Peter Ross reiterates the need for a solution to Tsiigehtchic's water problem, adding that in the long run illness will cost the GNWT more than water filtration.

Roger Allen expresses his optimism that a solution can be found and encourages the *Assembly* to pass a motion on the subject, following which the GNWT will make finding a solution a priority.

The Hon. Vince Steen summarizes the proposed Highway Investment Strategy and the temporary highway charge.

Elizabeth Hansen expresses her concern that housing remains in short supply and rents are not controlled. The youth in particular face very high rents. The cost of living will become even more of a burden with a five or six cents a pound highway charge for a four or five-year period. She thinks it is unfair.

The Hon. Vince Steen responds that the question is how else the Dempster can be funded. The studies on the costs will continue until 2002.

The Hon. Joe Handley adds that as the GNWT implements its Highway Investment Strategy it is also looking at

social support to help people. One possibility is raising the Northern Allowance. He is also looking at a made-in-the-North personal income tax and negotiating an arrangement with the Federal Government to keep more resource revenues in the NWT.

Fred Carmichael raises the question of extending the Dempster from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk, wondering what negotiations the GNWT might enter into with the Gwich'in or the Inuvialuit.

Vince Steen answers that the Federal Government has agreed to fund the environmental and engineering consultation process. The course of future negotiations would depend on how much of the route was on Gwich'in and how much on Inuvialuit land.

Following a closing prayer, the *Assembly* adjourns until the following morning.

Following recognition of quorum by Chairman David Krutko, John Norbert leads the *Assembly* in an opening prayer.

Further discussion on the Highway Investment Strategy follows, with Robert Charlie suggesting caution unless there is a similar commitment on continued maintenance on the Yukon side. Robert Bourque remarks that prices are increasing under the current oil and gas boom even without the highway surcharge. Will the GNWT consider subsidizing food prices under the tax?

Joe Handley explains that measures to produce greater revenues also produce costs, hence the dilemma. Income support levels are on the rise and the GNWT is looking at a range of initiatives to offset higher living costs. The highways are part of the infrastructure that bolsters economic activity, but maintaining that infrastructure costs money. Public hearings in Inuvik were another opportunity for discussion of the proposal and explanation of how it works.

William Koe refers to the high water costs in Fort McPherson. The Housing Association won't pick up all these costs and the consumer is paying more. Frank Firth adds that when prices rose last year they were attributed to the breakdown in the system and the need for repairs. The Senior Administrative Officer told people the prices would go down once the fiscal situation had improved for the GNWT. Yet people are still paying high prices and must boil and filter the water. The improved service promised months ago has yet to materialize.

The Hon. Roger Allen responds that he hopes the work in Fort McPherson will be completed in October. The costs will be shared among the consumer, the Department and the Housing Corporation. Meetings to reach a solution are continuing. The water rates rose at a time when the deficit was a serious problem, but should be sustainable at the current level.

Mary Teya describes problems with the home renovations done under the Seniors' Housing Program, suggesting that the \$15,000 available was inadequate and that windows and doors, which should have been the top priority, were neglected. Bertha Francis adds that homes that have been renovated several times remain cold and drafty. Many people can't afford to pay for needed renovations themselves. People in rental housing lose pride as well.

Roger Allen responds that the Seniors' Housing Repair Program is under review, and the NWT Housing Corporation is trying to encourage greater energy-efficiency. The use of wood stoves affects energy and insurance costs, and people must realize it. Graduated rent increases for public housing tenants will ensure that increases in rent reflect increases in income, so that tenants don't lose all they earn once they find work. Where possible, he is promoting alternatives to new construction. Self-building is desirable in some circumstances as well. He cites the recent log house construction projects as success stories. Home ownership confers independence and saves on the costs to the community. He reminds the *Assembly* that the Housing Corporation is a granting agency, not a construction company. In some communities it gives grants in kind to complete work. The Corporation is pleased to back communities in their efforts to encourage home ownership.

Anna May McLeod points out that power rates are rising.

The Hon. Joe Handley explains that power rate increases reflect rising fuel costs. The GNWT does monitor NWT Power's rates. It is also looking at alternative power sources, including hydro.

C) LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER OF THE NWT

(I) FIBBIE TATTI, LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER

Languages Commissioner Fibbie Tatti explains the workings of the Official Languages Act and its unique role in protecting Aboriginal languages. She adds that the system in the NWT works because her office operates at arm's length from the Legislature. It has the power to bring recommendations from the people directly to the Legislature. The Special Committee that was recently established under the Act to study language issues will meet with each language group. She urges the GTC to think about its goals in language matters for the next five to ten years. While there are obstacles to be overcome if the Gwich'in language is to occupy a central place in the culture of coming generations, Elders and others have done much to preserve it.

D) ABORIGINAL PIPELINE GROUP

E) MACKENZIE DELTA PRODUCERS' GROUP

Agreement that these two presentations should be made jointly.

Nellie Cournoyea, Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, recalls that the Inuvialuit Land Claim was settled back in 1984. It is not always easy to get Governments to recognize that there is a Claim, but you can get it recognized when you do business. She adds that the IRC works closely with the Gwich'in when they face similar problems. The Gwich'in and Inuvialuit organizations have the same overall structure and many of the same priorities. It is important for both groups to know what is in their respective land claims and why. The two land claim groups are working together on Self-Government now, and she hopes that the Aboriginal Pipeline Working Group will be yet another venue in which they can continue to cooperate. The two organizations share information and documents to avoid duplication of effort, and she works with Fred Carmichael. Since the two groups must live together, they should also work together.

President Fred Carmichael voices his agreement.

Wilf Blonde, Executive Director of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, and Randy Ottenbreit of the Mackenzie Valley Producers' Group address the *Assembly*. Randy Ottenbreit explains the origins of the Producers' Group, whose members (Esso; Conoco; Shell Canada; Exxon Mobil) are pooling their resources for activity that would not be possible for them to undertake individually.

He and Wilf Blonde then make a PowerPoint presentation showing the projected course, workings and benefits of the proposed Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline. The pipeline would service the rapidly growing market for natural gas in the South, and the various Aboriginal groups involved would have 1/3 ownership. They direct Delegates to the hard copies of the presentation that are available. They emphasize that a major component of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the Producers' Group and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group is the Benefits Protocol, which deals with access, employment and other issues to ensure that Aboriginals gain from the proposed project. The MOU is, however, an agreement to work together during the planning stage. It is not a decision to actually construct a pipeline.

Rose Clark asks if the pipeline would be aboveground or below.

Randy Ottenbreit answers that for all but a few areas in the far North the route is underground.

Elizabeth Hansen notes that the project was set back by the recent refusal of the Deh Cho area to participate, and wonders what the environmental impact may be in terms of global warming and how it will be monitored.

Randy Ottenbreit replies that natural gas use reduces the generation of emissions.

Wilf Blonde concedes that the Deh Cho decision was a setback.

Robert Bourque wonders how lakes and rivers will be taken into account where they run across the proposed route.

Randy Ottenbreit explains that the pipeline could run in a trench inside the lake or river, or it could be dug underneath so that there would be no impact. The choice of method in each case would depend upon the site.

In response to requests from the floor, Randy Ottenbreit agrees to have a model of the pipeline prepared for the community consultations to come.

F) ARCTIC RESOURCES COMPANY LTD.

Bruce Hall of Arctic Resources addresses the group, informing it that his company is not part of the Producers' Group and has withdrawn from the project. Any proposed natural gas pipeline will need the support of a company like his, he states. Arctic Resources has 100% Aboriginal ownership and does not regard 1/3 Aboriginal ownership of a pipeline as sufficient. It holds itself out as another option for pipeline construction and, while not here to make a formal presentation, would be happy to come into the Gwich'in communities to do so.

Robert Charlie, in his capacity as Chairman of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, informs the *Assembly* that copies of the GRRB's new book, "More Gwich'in Words About the Land" are now being distributed to Delegates. He acknowledges the contributions of many Gwich'in Elders and announces that the GRRB will meet in Fort McPherson on September 17, with the official book launch on the 18th.

G) CHEVRON RESOURCES

No presentation.

H) SHELL CANADA

No presentation.

I)DEVLAN EXPLORATION

Don Ashton and Mark Algar of Devlan, with their colleague Cindy Rutherford of Genesis, distribute a map showing Devlan's program of activity, access road and construction. They point to their construction of 161 km. of access road and last year's total expenditure of \$12 million, of which 57% went to Gwich'in businesses and remained in the community. As for the Paragraph 17 lands, over \$100,000 in compensation went to the GTC.

This year, the change in ownership of Devlan's partner, Genesis, has delayed the commencement of activity. Survey results should be available in two to three weeks, putting Devlan in a difficult situation regarding any drilling this year. The company prefers not to rush into things as it did last year. They will look at the time-line and decide if they will drill this year. It's impossible to be definitive now since the science is not yet complete.

Maureen Clark states that last year Devlan came in at the last minute, with unhappy results. Promises of environmental sensitivity were made but not honoured. There was damage to the land with increased landslides.

Elizabeth Hansen asks what Devlan would do differently.

Mark Algar responds that the company would like to start several months earlier. Last year the property was acquired only in late September. Devlan had three separate exploration licenses and had to drill on the land covered by each license or the land would revert to the Crown. The licenses will last for the next four years, allowing more time for consultation from now on.

Don Ashton adds that Devlan's work last year was all done as stipulated by DIAND, who checked the land afterwards. There were no complaints at the time, and only one location was problematic. Devlan has since done erosion control and would appreciate any suggestions as to how it could do a better job.

Chief James Firth observes that this incident shows the need for a one-stop shop, in which anyone wanting to do business in the area would go to the GTC, which would direct them to local suppliers. To do business in the GSA, a company would have to go to this one-stop shop. A resolution to this effect is being prepared.

Don Ashton says if there were a one-stop shop where companies could go and be directed to qualified businesses with competitive prices it would make his job much easier.

Grace Blake remarks that business works differently in the North, with different issues that require attention, like the social impact and disturbance of the land. It is important to take a proactive approach so nothing like this happens again.

Fred Carmichael observes that the legacy from last year's activity shows how important it is to know what's in the Claim. Everyone must know how important it is to go through the Land and Water Board and go into the communities when development is in the works. If there are special areas people don't want used, they must tell the GTC. There are Gwich'in monitors, land use professionals and others. Last year things went too fast, and lessons have been learned. Both industry and the GTC want to do things right. There is much to be said for the one-stop shop idea; in future, companies would come to the GTC for the access permit, and then go to the GDC to negotiate the terms under which they can work on Gwich'in land.

Rose Clark points out that last year many Gwich'in were initially happy to see the camp making work for local people. Unfortunately, some who went to work in the camp were mistreated, and she doesn't want to see that happen again.

Don Ashton replies that if he'd known people were being mistreated in the camp he'd have stopped it. Such behaviour harms the workplace, which is a mix of cultures. He is a Metis himself and won't tolerate bigotry.

Robert Alexie, Sr., emphasizes the need to step up the monitoring and the training of monitors in the communities.

The camps should be alcohol-free, with strict rules laid down and enforced.

Don Ashton adds that it is Devlan's policy and the policy of every other oil and gas company that he knows of, that the work camps be alcohol-free. Regrettably, these policies aren't always vigorously enforced. If need be, he'll search people's baggage when they arrive in order to keep alcohol out. He was aware of only two incidents last year, and he addressed them both.

Fred Carmichael concludes that these incidents confirm the need for cross-cultural training and for drug and alcohol training by industry. The GTC's own Lands Office is training young people as monitors.

J) ANDERSON EXPLORATION

No presentation, since there is no representative of Anderson Exploration present.

The Chair notes that although no formal presentation is scheduled, Barry Arbour of the Royal Bank would like to speak briefly to the *Assembly*.

Barry Arbour introduces himself and explains that for the past year or so the Royal Bank/Dominion Securities and the GTC have talked about the GTC forming a relationship with an alternative bank, in such areas as management of investments and opening a branch here. The rationale for two portfolio managers is the same as for having two banks in Inuvik: competition is good for everyone. Royal Bank of Canada/Dominion Securities has its own style. It looks for good value in companies and invests in them; it didn't invest in Nortel, for example, because it didn't see the value it looks for. Unlike TAL, it invests in high-value companies whether they are indexed or not. It also brings diversity of research through its partnerships with Lehman Brothers, Bear Sterns and Credit Suisse First Boston. The principal advantage in acquiring a second portfolio manager is that all your eggs are no longer in one basket. One risk is that the client simply compares the two portfolio managers in the return they are securing at the moment, forcing them both to maximize short-term returns without sufficient attention to the long run. There would be years when RBC/Dominion Securities would outperform the other manager, and years when it would be outperformed. What matters in the long run is the benefits from diversification.

He adds that there is a service component as well. He has found many Aboriginals lack the training to deal with banks and are intimidated by them. He proposes that RBC go into the communities with workshops and presentations to local youth on dealing with financial institutions. Financial sponsorships are good, but writing a cheque isn't the same thing as a partnership. Good corporate citizenship would also include helping and encouraging Beneficiaries who might be interested in careers with financial institutions.

Charles Furlong reiterates that the Finance Committee has met periodically with RBC/Dominion Securities during the last year. The investment process is in mid-term now, and the GSC investment funds have grown significantly in the past five years. It is not uncommon at such a stage to diversify investment management. There will be a Resolution from the floor calling for research into various investment possibilities.

6. APPROVE ASSEMBLY MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Fred Koe informs Delegates that the Resolutions Committee has compiled the Resolutions, which are now being handed out.

Whereas the Delegates to the 18th Annual General Assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council have reviewed the Organization Review prepared by the Gwich'in Tribal Council Working Group, the paper presented by Bob Simpson and the 'Summary of Changes made to Restated By-law No. 1' presented to the Assembly by its Legal Advisor, Geoffrey P. Wiest, of Gulberg, Wiest, MacPherson and Kay; and

Whereas the Delegates to the Assembly agree with certain of the proposed amendments to Restated By-law No. 1;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The following amendments be accepted:

(a) the term of office of the Executive shall be four (4) years;

(b) the staggered elections process where elections are held each year is removed and replaced with an elections process where all Executive positions are elected at the same time at the conclusion of the term of office of the Executive;

(c) the date for all elections shall be set at the third week of June in the year an election is scheduled to take place;

(d) the By-law shall be changed to implement the recommendations to give more authority to the Chief Returning Officer;

(e) there shall be one (1) Vice-President.

The changes to each section of By-law No. 1 required to implement these proposals shall be made and the President is hereby authorized to execute the amended By-law and submit same to the Corporations Directorate, Industry Canada for filing.

2. The technical changes proposed by the Organizational Review Working Group outlined in the attached Schedule "A" are accepted. The changes to each section of By-law No. 1 required to implement these proposals shall be made and the President is hereby authorized to execute the amended By-law and submit same to the Corporations Directorate, Industry Canada for filing.

3. The balance of the proposals and recommendations first presented to the 17th Annual Assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council held in Fort McPherson and again at the 18th Annual Assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council in Inuvik are deferred and are to be dealt with by another process involving community consultations as determined by the Board of Directors of the Tribal Council.

SCHEDULE "A"

The following are the paragraph numbers in the Summary of Changes made in the By-law No. 1 of the Gwich'in Tribal Council prepared by Geoffrey P. Wiest and accepted by the 18th Annual Assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council:

1 to 12, 16, 18, 20 to 25, 29, 32, 34, 35, 39, 49 to 60, 64, 65, 67 to 74, 76 to 78, 80, 82 to 88, 91 to 102.

Moved by: Robert Charlie

Seconded by: Peter Ross

Discussion of the Resolution commences, with Delegates debating whether to keep one Vice-President or have none.

Maureen Clark proposes retention of one Vice-President in order to lighten the President's burdens. Melba Mitchell says that the savings from dispensing with both Vice-Presidents won't materialize. The GTC will have to hire salaried staff to do what the Vice-Presidents do now. Willy Simon favors retaining one Vice-President, pointing out that almost all organizations of comparable size have a Vice-President. Many people have concerns they would like to take to the President, who has too many demands on his time to meet with them all. A Vice-President would have fewer demands on his time and be more accessible to people with concerns. The Chiefs are busy as it is and can't take over all the Vice-Presidential responsibilities.

Robert Charlie responds that the new Management Committee is in place, and will do more. The savings from doing away with both Vice-Presidential positions will be real and substantial. There are already staff in place to assist the President and to run programs. Originally, the Vice-Presidential positions carried no salary. New initiatives to improve efficiency and communications are coming along. As for the notion that the Chiefs are too busy at home, Charlie Furlong filled in when Fred Carmichael was away and the arrangement worked fine. Barry Greenland adds that the IRC has no Vice-President, just the Chairman and staff.

Archie Norbert sees a need for more communication between the President and the Chiefs. This is a function the Vice-President could perform. Maureen Clark suggests the Vice-President's role is analogous to that of the Sub-Chief in a Band Council. Just as the Chief needs a Sub-Chief, the President needs a Vice-President. Eliminating just one Vice-Presidential position would save half of what is now spent on the Vice-Presidents. If the aim is to save money, the full *Assemblies* could be held biannually, with a *Special Assembly* in between.

Wilbert Firth says that his former fellow Vice-President, James Wilson, resigned in disappointment at the job the GTC's management was doing and the lack of adequate follow-through when he made recommendations. It is unwise to expect the Chiefs to do everything that the Vice-Presidents used to do. The Chiefs are too busy now to take on these responsibilities, with many issues to deal with in their own communities. He has no problem on a personal level since his term will be up in a year, but if the purpose is to save money he wants to see numbers.

Hazel Nersyoo suggests that since the proponents of doing away with both positions and those of retaining one seem deadlocked, perhaps the Delegations should caucus. This is agreeable to the *Assembly*, which breaks for the Delegates to caucus by community.

Once the *Assembly* reconvenes as a whole, Chairman Fred Koe proceeds to poll the Delegations.

Chief Peter Ross says that Tsiigehtchic believes one Vice-President should be retained, and that the communities should be informed of the allocation of portfolios among Executive members.

Chief Abe Wilson says that Fort McPherson sees no reason for having any Vice-Presidents.

Chief James Firth says Inuvik also believes there is no need for any Vice-Presidents. He adds that the GTC in its current form was set up to negotiate the Land Claim. Now that the organization is in the Implementation phase, things are different. It makes more sense for the President and the Chiefs to work closely together.

Chief Charles Furlong says Aklavik wishes to keep one Vice-President, and favors relocating his office to Inuvik for closer cooperation between President and Vice-President.

Fred Koe reminds the *Assembly* that if the Resolution prepared by the Resolutions Committee fails, the organization will be left with the status quo on all these matters.

Bob Simpson adds that a By-law change requires the support of 2/3 of the Delegates. If that doesn't happen the GTC will be left with provision for two Vice-Presidents, which nobody seems to want. Those who want no Vice-Presidents should consider that if agreement cannot be reached on this point the entire motion will fail.

Chief James Firth announces that Inuvik is willing to accept a single Vice-President in the interest of an acceptable compromise, provided that the Vice-President relocates to Inuvik, and that the allocation of portfolios is assessed, with compensation if needed.

Chief Abe Wilson announces that Fort McPherson is also willing to go along with one Vice-President.

Question is called.

Carried unanimously. (Motion #08/2001)

Whereas the Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing amendments to the NWT Wildlife Act; and

Whereas a proposed amendment would change the residency requirements for hunting to six (6) months from the current two (2) years; and

Whereas the change in residency will impact Gwich'in abilities to harvest wildlife;

Be it Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual Assembly does not support the proposed Wildlife Act amendment;

Be it Further Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council Executive and Board of Directors lobby Legislative Assembly members to oppose residency amendments.

Moved by: Harry Carmichael

Seconded by: Maureen Clark

Chief Charles Furlong observes that the proposed amendment has already passed First and Second Reading. The amendment would clearly contradict the Land Claim and Wildlife Agreement and affects Gwich'in rights.

Archie Norbert asks if the proposed amendment would apply to everyone in the NWT or only to non-Gwich'in.

David Krutko, replacing Fred Koe as Chairman, explains that Beneficiaries would not be affected. All Treaty Indians would be exempt.

Johnny Charlie points out that there are different licenses for non-resident hunters. You could hunt in the GSA if you'd been a resident for less than 2 years, but couldn't ship fur or meat outside.

Chief Charles Furlong explains that a review of the Wildlife Act is under way to ensure that it is consistent with the Land Claim. The Gwich'in have a Treaty right to live off the land anyway. Charles Dent introduced the proposed measure as a Private Member's Bill. It was designed to accommodate members of the Armed Forces and RCMP who are stationed in the NWT for less than two years and would like to hunt. But it would affect Gwich'in rights and the GTC should send a message to Yellowknife voicing opposition to any attempt to infringe on Aboriginal rights or the principles of the Land Claim. He recalls that when the Gun Law was passed it aroused opposition, but it came forth too late.

Question called.

Carried unanimously. (Motion #09/2001)

Whereas *the Gwich'in of northeast Alaska and northwest Canada rely on the Porcupine Caribou Herd to meet the nutritional, cultural and spiritual needs of our communities, much as our ancestors have for thousands of years before us; and*

Whereas *the Gwich'in have the right to continue our way of life on our traditional lands, to practice our culture, and to meet the nutritional needs of our people; and these rights are recognized in the International Covenant on Human Rights, which reads in part:*

“In no case may a people be deprived of their own means of subsistence...”; and

Whereas *the health and the productivity of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, their availability to our communities, and the very future of our people are endangered by proposed oil development in the Caribou calving grounds in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska; and*

Whereas *the Gwich'in Tribal Council provides financial support to help in the lobbying and public awareness efforts to help protect the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and*

Whereas *the Gwich'in Nation Beneficiaries have stated in the past that the Porcupine Caribou Herd is a vital component of our cultural and spiritual way of life;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council provide financial and political support to the organizations involve to help protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and that this action be taken immediately.*

Moved by: William Koe

Seconded by: Elizabeth Hansen

William Koe reiterates that this is an important issue, adding that the Gwich'in now have young people travelling in the U.S., who will be in Washington in September. The *Assembly* should express its support for their efforts.

Question called.

Carried. (Motion #10/2001)

Whereas *the Gwich'in Tribal Council is the owner of the TI'oondih Healing Camp that provides healing services to Beneficiaries; and*

Whereas *the communities want to take over control of social programs;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council with the Tetlit Gwich'in Council develop a marketing strategy for the utilization of the Healing Camp and a financial plan to ensure the Healing Camp operations are viable and self-sustaining.*

Moved by: Chief Abe Wilson

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland

Chief Abe Wilson reminds the *Assembly* that last year a Working Group was established to develop a business plan for the healing camp. This was not done.

Fort McPherson's Community Assembly decided in favour of looking at transfer of the camp. Perhaps the community can run the camp successfully. Over the next couple of months, plans will be developed.

Elizabeth Hansen points out that in the compilation of Resolutions from the Resolutions Committee, the one on this point bears the heading "Transfer of TI'oondih". This could be taken to mean that adopting the Resolution would turn the camp over to Fort McPherson. She thinks "Marketing Strategy" would be a more appropriate heading, in light of the actions the Resolution puts forth.

Chief Abe Wilson responds that there is talk of shifting social programs to the DGOs in the interest of increased community control. Fort McPherson thinks it might be able to make TI'oondih a profitable venture.

Maureen Clark reminds the group that TI'oondih has consumed a lot of money. It is a GTC asset but has never made any money for the organization. Turning it over to one community would amount to saying that the money invested had been wasted. On the other hand, the question remains of what potential TI'oondih might have for social programs. Perhaps there should be a stipulation in any successful transfer arrangement that profits would revert to the GTC. The camp would become a long-term investment in Fort McPherson.

Bob Simpson explains that the intent of the drafters of the Resolution is to consider transfer, but to develop a marketing strategy and financial plan beforehand. Part of the financial plan will be an evaluation of the camp as a GTC asset. The Resolution does not transfer TI'oondih in itself, it authorizes development of the marketing strategy and the financial plan. There could be a subsequent decision to transfer the camp, but the GTC and Tetlit Gwich'in need to study it first. A separate *Assembly* Motion might be necessary to transfer the camp in any case.

Chief Peter Ross points out that at present the camp costs the GTC \$100,000 a year to manage it. The money could be better used, perhaps by the GSCI. This Resolution would still leave the GTC, not one community, as the camp's owner.

Question is called.

Carried. (Motion #11/2001)

Whereas *the Government of the Northwest Territories eligibility requirements do not allow for persons in need who are minors to obtain income support or social housing; and*

Whereas *these policies do not provide the necessary assistance to minors who are living independently from their parents;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council approach the Government of the Northwest Territories to allow for minors who need assistance to obtain income support and social housing.*

Moved by: Chief Peter Ross

Seconded by: Frank Stewart

Chief Peter Ross reminds the *Assembly* that in Tsiigehtchic a single parent who was ineligible for these benefits had to rely upon assistance from the local community. The GNWT should change its policies so that similarly situated minors would not have to depend upon their neighbours.

Maureen Clark thinks that perhaps these benefits should be made available specifically to minors with children if they are receiving instruction in the skills needed to look after their children. Given the many children who are born with Fetal Alcohol Symptom, for example, there is a clear need for such education.

Question called.

Carried. (Motion #12/2001)

Whereas *the Gwich'in residents of Tsiigehtchic pay for the consumption of water they receive from the municipal government; and*

Whereas *the Government of the Northwest Territories wants the Tsiigehtchic Charter Community Government to pay for any improvements to the quality of the water; and*

Whereas *the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement provides for the maintenance of the quantity and quality of water;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council request that the Government of the Northwest Territories pay for the costs of water treatment.*

Moved by: Vice-President Wilbert Firth

Seconded by: Chief Peter Ross

Carried. (Motion #13/2001)

Whereas *the Gwich'in need higher levels of education to implement land claims and Self-Government and manage their own businesses and economic development;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council create an education and training trust fund from the Sahtu Royalties to improve the levels of education of Gwich'in;*

Be it Further Resolved *that the Governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories be requested to match the Gwich'in Tribal Council contribution to the education and training trust fund.*

Whereas *the objectives of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) are:*

- To co-ordinate and facilitate research, planning, development, delivery and evaluation of any policy or program concerned with education of the Gwich'in people or any social or cultural initiative affecting or involving Gwich'in people;
- To represent the collective views of member organizations on matters pertaining to the education, training, culture and social well-being of the Gwich'in people;
- To develop and implement education and training programs for delivery to the Gwich'in people;
- To develop, facilitate and promote Gwich'in cultural and spiritual activities including the Gwich'in language;
- To assist Gwich'in individuals to continue the process of lifelong learning;
- To assist communities in overcoming any general social and health problems they identify;
- To benefit Elders;
- To assume other responsibilities from time to time as determined by the member organizations; and
- To do all things necessary to conclude and implement the foregoing objects; and

Whereas *the Gwich'in Tribal Council created the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and appoints the GSCI Board of Directors to meet the GSCI objectives; and*

Whereas *the GSCI has not received the authority or adequate funding to implement the objectives; and*

Whereas *the Gwich'in Tribal Council implements initiatives and created other institutions or processes to meet objectives similar to those of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute; and*

Whereas *the existing fragmentation of Gwich'in resources among various Gwich'in institutions that are directed to improve the social, cultural and educational needs of the Gwich'in is not efficient or cost-effective;*

Be it Resolved that the GSCI work with the communities to develop a social plan that identifies activities that will develop and promote the social, cultural and educational objectives of the Gwich'in and;

- Reviews the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute's objectives, authority and resources in relation to other initiatives and Gwich'in institutions;
- Effectively meets the social and cultural needs of the Gwich'in;
- Strengthens the relationships among Gwich'in institutions that will meet the social and cultural needs of the Gwich'in.

Be it Further Resolved that adequate funding from the Sahtu Royalty be provided to the GSCI to implement initiatives to meet its renewed mandate and objectives as determined by the social plan.

Chairman Fred Koe informs the *Assembly* that since these Resolutions include requests for funds from the Sahtu Royalty settlement, consideration of them should be deferred until the *in camera* session dealing with the Sahtu Royalty. During that session, if the *Assembly* wishes, they may be discussed. Agreement.

Motion Deferred.

Whereas *the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, between Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of Canada and the Gwich'in as represented by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, was signed on April 22, 1992; and Appendix C of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement provides for a Yukon Transboundary Agreement which defines interests of the Tetlit Gwich'in in the Fort McPherson Group Trapping Area (Primary Use Area) and in the area adjacent thereto; and*

Whereas *the Government of Canada, Government of the Yukon, and the Council of Yukon First Nations have been involved in a process of developing new Yukon environmental assessment laws, which would implement the Development Assessment Process described in Chapter 12 of the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement; and*

Whereas *the Governments of Canada and the Yukon shall consult with the Gwich'in Tribal Council during the drafting of any development assessment legislation which is to affect the primary use area; and*

Whereas *all rights exercisable by a Designated Gwich'in Organization and all obligations to which a Designated Gwich'in Organization is subject shall be assigned by the Gwich'in Tribal Council prior to the date of settlement legislation to one or more Designated Gwich'in Organizations. Such rights and obligations may be reassigned by the Gwich'in Tribal Council from time to time provided that such reassignments shall not adversely affect the exercise of rights or the performance of obligations in the Land Claim Agreement;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council transfer the authority for negotiating the rights of Tetlit Gwich'in with regards to the Yukon Development Assessment Process to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council.*

Moved by: Chief Abe Wilson

Seconded by: Charles Snowshoe

Whereas *the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, between Her Majesty the Queen in the Right of Canada and the Gwich'in as represented by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, was signed on April 22, 1992; and Appendix C of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement provides for a Yukon Transboundary Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada and the Gwich'in Tribal Council, which defines interests of the Tetlit Gwich'in in the Fort McPherson Group Trapping Area and in the area adjacent thereto; and*

Whereas *the Accord on Devolution was signed between the Government of Canada, the Yukon Territorial Government and the Council of Yukon First Nations in 1997, establishing a process for transferring the Federal Northern Affairs Program and authorities to the Yukon Territorial Government; and*

Whereas *all rights exercisable by a Designated Gwich'in Organization and all obligations to which a Designated Gwich'in Organization is subject shall be assigned by the Gwich'in Tribal Council prior to the date of settlement legislation to one or more Designated Gwich'in Organizations. Such rights and obligations may be reassigned by the Gwich'in Tribal Council from time to time provided that such reassignments shall not adversely affect the exercise of rights or the performance of obligations contemplated in this agreement;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council transfer the authority for negotiating the rights of Tetlit Gwich'in with regards to the Yukon Devolution Transfer Agreement to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council.*

Moved by: Chief Abe Wilson

Seconded by: Charles Snowshoe

Chief Abe Wilson reiterates the frustrating and unproductive nature of negotiations with the Yukon Government in the absence of Gwich'in representation on the Yukon Development Assessment Board, and the need to push these issues.

Chief Charles Furlong suggests that these Resolutions as written would seem to contradict the collective nature of the Claim. The GTC Executive and Board have the responsibility for ensuring that the rights of all Beneficiaries are protected, an agreement to which everyone agreed. All were represented in this way during the negotiation of the Transboundary Agreement and the process for reaching an understanding on the Aklavik Lands. Since the right is collective and the Claim is collective, he would like a legal opinion on whether the *Assembly* can rightfully do what is proposed in these Resolutions.

Bob Simpson observes that Geoff Wiest has now left. Nonetheless, the Resolutions confer only the authority to negotiate. Some of the language may be superfluous in light of the Self-Government process. Transfer from the GTC to the community level would not affect the rights themselves, which would remain the same.

Chief Peter Ross says that he too thinks these Resolutions may conflict with the collective nature of the Claim.

Chief Abe Wilson agrees to withdraw the Resolutions for now, but will raise some of these matters at the next GTC Board meeting. Since some would like a legal opinion first, he is willing to wait for now. The seconder, Charles Snowshoe, agrees.

Both motions withdrawn.

Whereas *the Yukon Government has issued a Call for Nominations in the Primary and Secondary Use Areas of the Yukon Transboundary Agreement without proper consultations with the Gwich'in Tribal Council;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council take the necessary measures to ensure that the Council is properly consulted by the Yukon Territorial Government prior to lands being opened for development within the Primary or Secondary Use Areas.*

Be it Further Resolved *that all Calls for Nominations include provisions for industry to consult with a view to developing benefit agreements with the Gwich'in Tribal Council in a manner similar to those allowed for Yukon First Nations.*

Moved by: William Koe

Seconded by: Frank Stewart

William Koe reiterates that this Resolution is intended to help prevent oil and gas development in areas where it is not desirable.

Question is called.

Carried. (Motion #14/2001)

***Whereas** the Gwich'in are concerned with the oil and gas development within the region and would like to have information on the involvement of the Gwich'in institutions in that development so that they may be prepared and make proper decisions.*

***Be it Resolved** that the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors and executive provide information to the Beneficiaries on the activities of the Council in relation to oil and gas development in the Beaufort-Delta Region.*

Moved by: Sigmore Furlong

Seconded by: William Koe

Sigmore Furlong says the Resolution will ensure that Beneficiaries have the information they need and are entitled to regarding the activities of their own institutions in oil and gas development.

Question is called.

Carried. (Motion #15/2001)

***Whereas** the investment advisor Towers Perrin, through its representative Peter Hallett, has suggested that it would be appropriate at this time to conduct a review of the management structure of the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation investment fund as part of the normal and regular due diligence that the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation should conduct from time to time;*

***Be it Resolved** that the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Tribal Council are hereby directed to conduct a review of the management structure of the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation investment fund and to make whatever changes may be required as a result of that review and as required by the investment policies of the fund.*

Moved by: Chief James B. Firth

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland

Question is called.

Carried. (Motion #16/2001)

Whereas Aurora College will be constructing a new campus facility within the next year; and

Whereas the plans for the new campus facility do not include residences for students other than existing inadequate family accommodations;

Be it Resolved that the Government of the Northwest Territories and Aurora College find the resources to meet the accommodation needs of students who attend Aurora Campus programs.

Moved by: Chief James B. Firth

Seconded by: William Koe

Question is called.

Carried. (Motion #17/2001)

Whereas the rental rates of Tl'oondih Healing Camp are too high and have limited Gwich'in communities and other agencies from using the facilities;

Be it Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors review the rental rates for the facilities;

Be it Further Resolved that during this review the current rates be suspended and rental rates be negotiated between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the user.

Agreement that this matter should be deferred during the development of the Financial Plan and Marketing Strategy for the camp.

Withdrawn.

Whereas there is a need for addiction counselors' services because of the increase in economic and employment opportunities and business ventures; and

Whereas there is a lack of funding to hire and train addiction counselors;

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Annual General Assembly recommend that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Development Corporation look at adequate funding for the communities to hire and train addiction counselors.*

Be it Further Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council, in negotiations with oil and gas companies operating within the Gwich'in Settlement Region, include financial support from those companies to support the hiring and training of addiction counselors.*

Moved by: Anna Mae McLeod

Seconded by: Melba Mitchell

Question is called.

Carried. (Motion #18/2001)

Whereas *the Gwich'in Tribal Council has governmental authority and responsibilities and delivers government programs and services; and*

Whereas *the Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the Gwich'in Tribal Council as a government and the Government of Canada recognizes Bands and the Gwich'in Tribal Council as governments;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and associated institutions be fully recognized by the Government of Canada and Government of the Northwest Territories as a government for the purposes of enjoying the same benefits and tax exemptions as other existing governments.*

Moved by: Barry Greenland

Seconded by: Abe Wilson

Chief Charles Furlong says this Resolution is to provide recognition so that the GTC can enjoy the benefits from the Sahtu Royalty settlement on a tax-exempt basis.

Grace Blake wonders if the Resolution is necessary. Many Beneficiaries believed that when the Claim was signed the GTC thereby acquired governmental status.

Ernest Firth (Fort McPherson) seeks a clarification of what government status entails in this context.

Chief Charles Furlong replies that it would mean the monies received by the GTC under the Sahtu Royalty settlement, estimated at \$9 million and which would otherwise be taxable, would become tax-exempt.

Question is called.

Carried. (Motion #19/2001)

Whereas *the Gwich'in Enrolment Board is a necessity to enroll Beneficiaries and maintain an enrolment registry pursuant to the provisions of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement; and*

Whereas *the present location of Fort McPherson is not the most cost-effective or work-effective place for enrolment purposes because it is not a regional center; and*

Whereas *there is a need to update the database to the year 2001; and*

Whereas *the Board's budget of \$50,000 is not adequate to maintain the Enrolment Board's operations or allow for the Board to meet regularly;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council relocate the office to Inuvik to improve access and ensure the work is more cost-effective and that each community appoint its representative to the Board.*

Be it Further Resolved *that additional funding be made available to meet the needs of the Board's operations.*

Moved by: Elizabeth Hansen

Abe Wilson says that from what he's heard the Board is fine as is.

Elizabeth Hansen replies that was not her impression upon hearing the Board's report the other day.

William Koe says that the Board is located in Fort McPherson for a reason. Every community was originally entitled to a program and was given one when the GTC was created. Fort McPherson was given the Enrolment Board. Since only a half-time position is involved this is not a big issue.

Steven Charlie (Fort McPherson) points out that there has already been a Direction that the Vice-President relocate to Inuvik. If anything, there is a need for relocation of operations from Inuvik to Fort McPherson.

Barry Greenland says the GTC has moved to study the differences in cost between Inuvik and Fort McPherson in operations. There is already a Motion in place to look at these numbers.

Grace Blake recalls that when the Enrolment Board was created everyone assumed that after 5 years the initial Enrolment would be complete and the Board's role would diminish. There was not much discussion of its having any long-term role.

Elizabeth Hansen agrees to withdraw the Resolution since there is already a Motion in place.

Withdrawn.

Whereas the Gwich'in have always used the term "Chief" to identify and address their leaders; and

Whereas the Gwich'in Tribal Council incorporation documents and By-laws identify the titles of the Council leadership; and

Whereas our present leaders of the four Gwich'in communities still use the title of "Chief";

Be it Resolved that we change the title of the President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council to "Grand Chief" in order to clearly identify to others the leader of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

The changes to each section of By-law No. 1 required to implement these proposals shall be made and the President is hereby authorized to execute the amended By-law and submit same to the Corporations Directorate, Industry Canada for filing.

Moved by: William Koe

Seconded by: Maureen Clark

Robert Bourque says that calling the GTC leader "Chief" goes against the culture of Métis Beneficiaries like himself.

Grace Blake suggests including a change in the Vice-President's title to "Vice-Chief".

Maureen Clark believes this should be "Sub-Grand Chief" instead.

Chief Peter Ross points out that the Resolution would require amending a By-law. Perhaps the Executive should put it on the agenda for next year.

David Krutko observes that the By-law change would have to be registered before it would take effect.

Ernest Firth reminds the *Assembly* that the Claim started as a Métis claim. He finds it ludicrous that this measure has come to the floor without any prior consultation with Métis who are part of the Claim. The DGOs were originally headed by Presidents, along the Métis model, not Band Chiefs.

William Koe says the change might strengthen the GTC in negotiating with others.

Lawrence Norbert (Inuvik) reminds the *Assembly* that back in 1988 the talk was of a land claim settlement for all Gwich'in, with no differentiation between Métis and Status Indian. He asks what message it sends if the Gwich'in can live with the Inuvialuit but not with one another.

Maureen Clark sees the step as positive. She has a Métis background but resides here, surrounded by those of full Aboriginal descent. Passing the Resolution would show the Gwich'in are more united than ever.

Chief Charles Furlong recalls that in the early stages of negotiating the Claim none of the Gwich'in anticipated future problems of self-definition. The Gwich'in were defined as Beneficiaries, not as Status or non-Status. No By-law recognizes you as Métis or Status Indian. All are part of the Land Claim and there is no distinction, so nobody's standing as a Beneficiary will be affected.

Elizabeth Hansen adds that the title "Grand Chief" is used by other Aboriginal organizations, including the *Assembly* of First Nations, without any offense meant or taken.

Ernest Firth says there are also the legal implications to consider. The proposal should have been brought to the communities, and should now be tabled.

Frank Firth says it is nothing more than a name change and should be voted on now.

The question is called, with calls for a recorded vote.

Carried. (Motion #20/2001)

RECORDED VOTE:

IN FAVOUR 48

OPPOSED 4

ABSTENTIONS 3

Chairman Fred Koe informs the *Assembly* that more than 3/4 of the Delegates voted for the Resolution, more than the 70% needed for notice.

Whereas the oil and gas industry has returned to the Beaufort-Delta Region; and

Whereas there are social problems affecting our people as a result of development; and

Whereas there is a need for cross-cultural training; and

Whereas there are no banking facilities available to smaller communities to allow for improved management of monies earned from employment with industry;

Be it Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council request that the oil and gas industry conduct cross-cultural awareness workshops for southern staff;

Be it Further Resolved that the GNWT provide more programs and services to deal with the social issues resulting from development, and banking services be established in Gwich'in communities to provide improved access and money management by employees of industry.

Moved by: Hazel Nerysoo

Seconded by: Grace Blake

Chief James Firth points out that if the motion dealing with the one-stop shop is passed, much of what is contained in the present Resolution will be included, including the approach to be adopted in dealing with banks and banking services.

Anna May McLeod says there is enough in this motion that is not duplicated that it should be approved and its particular provisions reflected in the proceedings of this *Assembly*.

The question is called.

Carried. (Motion #21/2001)

Whereas *the Government of the Northwest Territories has proposed a new Highway Investment Strategy to improve the NWT Highways; and*

Whereas *the Dempster Highway is an essential economic link to connect the communities of Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik and is in need of improvement and the undertaking of a cost analysis of establishing a link to Aklavik;*

Be it Resolved *that the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Gwichya Gwich'in Council, Tetlit Gwich'in Council, Nihtat Gwich'in Council and Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council support the Government of the Northwest Territories initiative of the Highway Investment Strategy.*

Moved by: Chief Charles Furlong

Seconded by: Frank Firth

The question is called.

Carried. (Motion #22/2001)

Whereas *the current leadership of the Gwich'in Tribal Council are restructuring the goals and objectives of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and its subsidiary institutions; and*

Whereas *the leadership feel that this is necessary to build a one-window approach that will provide for maximum input by the communities; and*

Whereas *the leadership feel that a new vision statement and mandate is needed to guide them in providing leadership to meet the demands and concerns of the communities; and*

Whereas *the leadership feel that the three areas of political, economic and social development must highlight economics, training, tradition and cultural development;*

Be it Resolved *that the Assembly endorse in confidence the Gwich'in leadership;*

Be it Further Resolved *that the Gwich'in leadership "Be aware, be prepared and be progressive" in its move to provide a better tomorrow for all Gwich'in;*

Be it Further Resolved *that the Executive and Board of Directors develop an action plan to address the political, economic and social development of the Gwich'in to meet the goals and objectives of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and its subsidiary institutions.*

Moved by: Chief Charles Furlong

Seconded by: Maureen Clark

The question is called.

Carried. (Motion #23/2001)

Whereas *the Assembly wishes to ensure that Gwich'in businesses receive all support, and benefit from government and resource development contracts; and*

Whereas *the Assembly wishes to promote and encourage private Gwich'in business development and growth as an important part of its economic strategy and policy; and*

Whereas *many private Gwich'in businesses have been established to take advantage of the economic opportunities within the Gwich'in Settlement Region and outside the Gwich'in Settlement Region; and*

Whereas *the Gwich'in Tribal Council is developing an economic policy that will promote and encourage economic and business development;*

Be it Resolved *that the Assembly recommend the following:*

1. That the economic policy encourage and promote private Gwich'in business development;
2. That the economic policy treat all Gwich'in businesses fairly and equally;
3. That all Gwich'in businesses be given equal consideration for all contracts within the Gwich'in Settlement Region where such Gwich'in businesses are capable of carrying out the work cost-effectively, and where doing so ensures the employment and training of Gwich'in and the use and promotion of existing Gwich'in businesses.

Be it Further Resolved *that the Assembly recommend that the leadership of the Gwich'in Tribal Council establish a Gwich'in Business Association that would be consulted on matters related to economic policy and direction.*

Moved by: Richard Wilson (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Willie Simon

Chief Charles Furlong says that the previous Motion provides for a process the economic component of which will deal with these matters.

Chief James Firth responds that the intent is to aid Gwich'in businesses. The GTC Board recently passed a similar motion. The GTC, the GDC and the communities have tried to work on these issues recently. In November there was an economic development workshop in Inuvik, which gave a clear direction. The elements of this direction were the development of a definition of a "Gwich'in business" as well as a business policy. The GTC Board has approved the creation of an "A-list" of businesses with which companies coming in would be asked to deal when purchasing goods and services. An inventory of available services and operating businesses is needed first. He points to the recent Devlan experience as an example of Gwich'in in business bidding against each other. The November workshop was the first stage of a process dealing with economic development, and work is now being done on the second stage.

Calls from the floor for withdrawal of the Resolution.

Richard Wilson says it is hard for an individual to get the money for a business, and many things are easier for the Development Corporations. He wants to see the process go ahead, and will not withdraw his Resolution.

Grace Blake adds that it is important to support entrepreneurs. The Gwich'in must establish themselves economically in order to benefit from the current activity. One concern in the Devlan example was that the local Development Corporation took all of the business, leaving nothing for anyone else. Some sort of work plan is needed.

Chief Charles Furlong says that everything related to Gwich'in business can be covered by the economic strategy proposed in the previous Motion. It is undesirable to complicate matters by passing another Resolution that's not really necessary. There has already been a Motion to put private business on an equal footing through the one-window approach.

President Fred Carmichael reminds the *Assembly* that this issue affects the interests of all Beneficiaries. The GTC is working hard to build up an economic base. Beneficiaries have a Gwich'in business association in the form of the GDC. The important thing now is to work together, as both James Firth and Charles Furlong have emphasized. A structure is needed, but the previous motion provides the necessary direction. When the GDC is making money and dividends can be paid, then all benefit. He recommends withdrawal of the present Resolution.

Richard Wilson declines once again to withdraw the Resolution.

The question is called.

Defeated.

Be it Resolved that the *Assembly* move into in camera session.

Moved by: Robert Bourque

Seconded by: Maureen Clark

Motion to go *in camera* being non-debatable, the question is called.

Carried. (Motion #24/2001)

The *Assembly* moves into *in camera* session at approximately 7 p.m.

The *Assembly* reconvenes in open session at approximately 9 p.m.

Whereas the Delegates of the 18th Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual General Assembly have reviewed and discussed the Sahtu Royalty payment and have identified their needs;

Be it Resolved that the 18th Annual General Assembly direct the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors to invest the Sahtu Royalty Funds and to develop a strategic investment plan to meet the above needs; and

Be it Further Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council Board of Directors approach the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories to develop partnerships in the delivery of programs and services and any further directions from the community leadership.

Moved by: Chief James B. Firth

Seconded by: Robert Bourque

Chairman Fred Koe rules that since the motion was developed during the *in camera* session, it is in order despite not having been submitted to the *Assembly* earlier.

The question is called.

Carried. (Motion #25/2001)

Chairman Fred Koe explains that since the Resolutions on the education and training trust fund and the review of the GSCI mandate and objectives deal with matters that were discussed during the *in camera* session which resulted in the previous Motion, these Resolutions are now to be regarded as withdrawn. Agreement.

R. LOCATION OF NEXT ASSEMBLY

Chief Charles Furlong says that according to the rotation of the *Assembly* among the Gwich'in communities, it will be Aklavik's turn.

Be it Resolved that the 19th Annual General Assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council be held in Aklavik.

Moved by: Phillip Ross

Seconded by: Steven Charlie

The question is called.

Carried. (Motion #26/2001)

Chairman David Krutko proposes that translators from the Region be present at the next *Assembly*. It is regrettable that Elders might not be able to follow the proceedings in their own language.

Co-Chairman Fred Koe thanks the *Assembly* organizers and all those who assisted them for their hard work.

President Fred Carmichael reiterates those thanks and adds his thanks to the Delegates for their hard work and their presentation of differing opinions in a manner that was consistently civil and respectful.

S. ADJOURNMENT

Be it Resolved that the 18th *Annual General Assembly* of the Gwich'in Tribal Council is hereby adjourned.

Moved by: Robert Alexie, Sr.

Seconded by: Frank Stewart

The question is called.

Carried. (Motion #27/2001)

Following a closing prayer by Grace Blake, the Delegates depart.