

**MINUTES OF THE
19TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL
AKLAVIK, NT.
AUGUST 7-10, 2002**

A. CALL TO ORDER/RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

At 11:15 a.m. Acting Chair George John asks Delegates to wait for the arrival of the Chiefs, Elders and GTC President, escorted by the RCMP.

GTC President Fred Carmichael takes the chair, and canvasses the delegations to establish quorum. Quorum being established, he formally calls the 19th *Annual General Assembly* of the Gwich'in Tribal Council to order.

1. OPENING PRAYER - ELDER

Mary Teya (Fort McPherson) leads the group in an opening prayer.

2. WELCOMING ADDRESSES

a) Gwich'in Tribal Council - President

Fred Carmichael welcomes Delegates, Alternates, Elders, youth, Chiefs and others to the *Assembly*, and urges all to show unity and mutual respect in their deliberations. He adds that he and his colleagues will endeavour to provide all of the answers that Delegates may seek, and thanks the organizers for their hard work preparing for the *Assembly*.

b) Ehdiiat Gwich'in Council - Chief

Chief Charles Furlong (Aklavik) welcomes all to the *Assembly* on behalf of Aklavik, the host community. He notes the presence of Chief Robert Hager from Mayo and his wife, adding that Chief Hager has worked with the Gwich'in on land use planning issues. The opening ceremony with the RCMP escort, he continues, was a statement of the special relationship that Aboriginals maintain with the Crown through treaties and, in the Gwich'in case, the Land Claim. The Elders who followed Fred Carmichael into the hall symbolized the special role that Elders play in this society. The youth who are here are the future, and are in some ways clay, to be molded by the decisions taken here. Leaders can only be as good as the people they represent. He hopes that deliberations can go ahead in a cooperative and commonsensical way, based upon the few simple principles that have served the Gwich'in well in the past. He thanks all community members who were involved in preparations for the *Assembly*, and reminds those present that this is the eve of the Pokiak River Festival, with many festive and entertaining activities planned. He urges all to enjoy Aklavik's hospitality throughout the proceedings.

B. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSONS

Be it Resolved that George John and Grace Blake be appointed as Chairpersons for the 19th Annual General Assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Moved by: Louisa Andre (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland (Aklavik)

Carried. (Resolution #01/2002)

George John assumes the chair.

Elizabeth Hansen (Inuvik) asks why there are no interpreters present. Not only is this service important to Elders, but the Gwich'in should take every opportunity to use their own language.

George John replies that the official interpreters will arrive later today. In the interim, Ruth Furlong and Louisa Andre will interpret.

C. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Agreement to declare any conflict as it arises.

D. WAIVER OF NOTICE

Agreement that, due notice having been given, no waiver is required.

E. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Be it Resolved that the agenda of the 19th Annual General Assembly be approved as presented.

Moved by: Mavis Clark (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Bernice Furlong (Aklavik)

Carried. (Resolution #02/2002)

1. SELECTION OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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

Moved by: Frank Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland (Aklavik)

Carried. (Resolution #03/2002)

F. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE 2001 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

George John directs the attention of the Delegates to the minutes of the 18th *Annual General Assembly*, at Tab 2 in the binder for the proceedings.

Be it Resolved that the minutes of the GTC 18th *Annual General Assembly*, of August 20-22, 2001 be approved.

Moved by: Frank Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland (Aklavik)

Carried. (Resolution #04/2002)

The *Assembly* breaks for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

The *Assembly* reconvenes at 1:00 p.m.

George John recognizes Sub-Chief Sharon Peter (Mayo); David Krutko (MLA, Mackenzie Delta); Norma Kassi (International Gwich'in Steering Committee); Fibbie Tatti (NWT Official Languages Commissioner); Margaret Begg (Yellowknife); Rosie Simon (Whitehorse); Karen Francis (Yellowknife); Mavis Stewart (Whitehorse); Daniel Charbonneau (Chief Self-government Negotiator, Government of Canada); Nadine Misgeld-Lennie (DIAND Funding Services); Gary Vanderhagen and Ian Hamilton (GNWT); Kenny Smith and Dorothy Serimon are among those present. He also reminds the group that there is a zero-tolerance policy in the building regarding smoking.

G. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

George John informs the group that Fred Carmichael's report will include an update on actions taken to implement last year's resolutions. Since item G generally consists of discussion of this matter, item G will be amalgamated with the President's report under item H.

H. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

1. President

President Fred Carmichael directs the Delegates to his report on pages 2-4 of this year's GTC Annual Report, which summarizes most of his activities over the past year. The theme of this year's Annual Report is education and training, to celebrate the educational accomplishments of Beneficiaries this year as well as to inspire younger Gwich'in to continue with their education and training.

As his report notes, there was a setback in the postponement of the signing ceremony of the Self-government Agreement-in-Principle, in response to legitimate concerns by the Chiefs regarding the role of Bands and the implications of the recent Amendments to the Indian Act. A process to address these concerns is now in place, and over the next few days the Chiefs will sit down with Bob Simpson and the federal negotiators. He hopes a rescheduled signing of the AIP can take place in the Fall.

President Carmichael summarizes the major items in his report, including the ongoing work on the Land Use Plan, and the GTC Board's allocation of the monies received following the successful settlement of the Sahtu resource royalties case. He adds that one highlight of the past year was the striking improvement in the fortunes of the Gwich'in Development Corporation, as spelled out in the GDC report in the Annual Report, and about which the *Assembly* will hear more from CEO Tom Connors and Chairman Ernest Firth later.

He observes that the GTC executive is aware of its responsibility to act upon *Assembly* resolutions. If Delegates turn to tab 3 of the *Assembly* binder, they will see a status report on the resolutions passed by last year's *Assembly*, which outlines the actions taken to implement each resolution. In a number of cases, these will be discussed separately during this year's *Assembly*. Geoff Wiest will report on the Bylaw revisions later. A consulting firm headed by James Ross conducted a review of the TI'oondih Healing Camp and TI'oondih Healing Society. Brian Penny, who was involved in that review, will report on it to the *Assembly*. As for social housing for minors, he is pleased to report that he has met with the Hon. Roger Allen, Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, and once the current review of seniors' needs is completed, this issue will receive appropriate study.

A study is already under way on water treatment, which was the subject of another resolution last year. A template for benefit agreements with companies doing work in the GSA is also under development. In accordance with direction given last year to review the workings of the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation investment fund, the GTC Board directed that the settlement funds received in 2002 be directed to another investment manager, RBC/Dominion Securities.

As for the change in title from “President” to “Grand Chief”, legal complications arise due in part to the retention of the title “Vice-President”. The GTC has received legal advice to the effect that the best solution is to use the form “President/Grand Chief”. Last year’s *Assembly* also called for measures to improve the availability of banking services in the GSA. In meetings with the GTC, officials of the Royal Bank have expressed an interest in establishing some facilities within the Settlement Area. Resolution #23 from last year called for development of a wide-ranging action plan to meet GTC objectives. Work on this file is ongoing, and the Aboriginal Summit will work with GTC staff and Executive to develop a plan.

In closing, he thanks the Executive and staff for their hard work over the year. He notes that Vice-President Wilbert Firth did much hard work on issues related to the lands portfolio, and Greg Cayen has brought the organization to the point where a Beneficiary can walk in to the office and quickly get a picture of GTC finances. Tom Williams will explain the administrative changes to GTC operations in a few moments.

George John thanks President Carmichael and opens the floor to questions.

Elizabeth Hansen points to last year’s resolution #21, which deals with both cross-cultural awareness workshops in the oil and gas industry and the establishment of banking services in the GSA communities. Given the different population mixes in each community and the other local variations, she would like to see each community having input on its own.

Fred Carmichael agrees that this is largely a community issue. Mary Anne Ross, who is here and has recently started with the GTC as Employment Liaison Officer, has relevant experience in these matters and will work to ensure the communities have input.

William Koe (Fort McPherson) points out that if the revised Bylaw #1 has yet to be registered with Industry Canada, then presumably the provisions of the old Bylaws still hold. One of those specifies two Vice-Presidents. What is the status of the Vice-Presidents today?

Fred Carmichael replies that Geoff Wiest’s update will deal with that question.

Elizabeth Hansen notes that with funding for two Vice-Presidents, and only one position existing under the arrangements, the salary for the other position would be reallocated. Where?

Fred Carmichael responds that since the Board is working under a budgetary framework that is five or six years old, with growing demands in many areas and a need for extra dollars, some of that money will be directed to meet staff positions and other needs. The Board will address specific questions of where the dollars are reallocated.

2. Vice-President

George John notes that Wilbert Firth is not available to present a report today.

3. Bylaw Revisions

George John informs the group that GTC legal counsel Geoff Wiest, of the law firm Gullberg, Wiest, MacPherson and Kay, will report on this item. In addition, he wishes to recognize Chief Abe Wilson (Fort McPherson), who has now arrived.

Geoff Wiest explains to the Delegates that the draft Bylaw at tab 4 in the binder for this *Assembly* implements last year's resolution #8. It contains nothing new. He recalls the process used last year, in which the Delegates went through the many changes proposed, picked the ones they thought could be dealt with at that time, and left the others to be addressed in a subsequent process of consultation and deliberation.

As for the Vice-Presidents, it is true that the shift to one Vice-President in last year's resolution has not yet taken effect, so there are technically still two positions. Yet with last year's *Assembly* having pronounced itself in favour of one Vice-President, there is little likelihood of anyone rushing to fill the other position.

He recommends adoption of a motion accepting the changes set out in tab 4.

Chief Charles Furlong reiterates that there will be opportunities for consultation on further changes, culminating in a Special Assembly, perhaps early next year. Following the adoption of last year's resolution, there were many questions that arose and had to be addressed. This prevented meeting the June deadline for the changes to take effect this year. Many GTC policies and structures are outdated, he suggests, and the organization must restructure to meet the new demands of the era of Self-government and new economic and social challenges. On that basis, the GTC Board recommends acceptance of the amendment to Bylaw #1.

Whereas the Delegates to the *18th Annual General Assembly* of the Gwich'in Tribal Council reviewed the Organization Review prepared by the Gwich'in Tribal Council Organizational Review Working Group and the "Summary of Changes made to Restated Bylaw No. 1" presented to the Assembly by its Legal Advisor, Geoffrey P. Wiest, of Gullberg, Wiest, MacPherson & Kay;

And whereas the Delegates to the *18th Annual General Assembly* agreed with certain of the proposed amendments to Restated Bylaw No. 1 and authorized a further draft of the said Bylaw to be prepared;

And whereas the Board of the Gwich'in Tribal Council has reviewed the said redraft of the Restated Bylaw No. 1 and has recommended that it be approved by the *19th Annual General Assembly*; therefore

Be it Resolved that the amended and restated Bylaw No. 1 be approved.

Moved by: Peter Ross (Tsiigehtchic)

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

Larry Firth (Fort McPherson) asks if the *Assembly* is prepared for a recorded vote, since this is a constitutional change.

Charles Furlong says he believes that a Bylaw change requires a two-thirds vote.

Geoff Wiest clarifies that a two-thirds majority is required, on a vote where at least three-quarters of all registered Delegates are present.

Chief James Firth (Inuvik) says that Inuvik went through the proposed changes, and he does not see its comments reflected in the Bylaw revisions. He thinks some of the changes do not reflect what was proposed before. As things stand, he would tend to vote against the motion. He wishes further clarification, particularly of what happened to the changes Inuvik forwarded. He also wishes an opportunity for the Delegations to caucus.

The *Assembly* pauses to caucus at 2:30 p.m.

The *Assembly* reconvenes at 3:00 p.m.

George John announces that the official interpreters, Emma Roberts and Bertha Francis, have arrived, and thanks their predecessors for their work in the interim. He also wishes to acknowledge the presence of the Inuvialuit Self-government negotiator, Vince Teddy. Now, Geoff Wiest will provide further clarification on the Bylaw revisions.

Geoff Wiest notes that last year's Minutes, at tab 2, pages 36-37, list the changes. He does not have the memorandum that was prepared, setting out all the proposed changes. It did list over 100, about half of which were accepted. The changes in Schedule A were also accepted. Is it the *Assembly's* will that he go through each change individually?

George John reiterates that this comes to well over 50 items.

Mavis Clark proposes circulating copies of the changes to all Delegates, along with new changes being worked upon, and returning to the matter tomorrow.

Geoff Wiest says it is fine with him if the memo can be copied and circulated. He reiterates that there are no new changes here, only items to implement the direction given in last year's resolution #8. The only additional thing they do is address the composition of Delegations. Item 11 from last year's memo, which, along with the other items from 1 to 12, created definitions, restructured Delegations, including creating the possibility of Delegates from outside the GSA. Everything else implements paragraph 1 in motion #8. He will try to get copies of the memo from last year to the Delegates, along with the actual changes. This will require that the Delegates cross-reference the old paragraphs and the new ones. If there is anything agreed to in last year's resolution with which the current *Assembly* disagrees, then the Delegates can carve it out.

George John recognizes Robert Charlie on a point of order.

Robert Charlie says that he was on the original Working Group established to review the Bylaw revisions. There are things here with which he does not believe he agreed last year. He would like the chance to review the document. Every year people make the point that the packages should be distributed two weeks before the *Assembly* but it doesn't happen. When dealing with lengthy documents like the Bylaw revisions, there is a clear need for an opportunity to conduct a thorough review in advance of any decision.

George John says that if the Delegates wish, he will accept direction to have the changes copied for overnight review.

James Andre (Fort McPherson) says it is not appropriate for Delegates to be presented with so much information and asked to approve the changes. He thinks a Special Assembly in January would be a more appropriate venue for this discussion.

Fred Carmichael points out that a resolution was passed a year ago. Is this year's *Assembly* really going to amend it or overturn it? There are serious issues here, of which the holding of elections is one. His term would normally expire in November, but last year's resolution provides for June elections. That provision has not yet been put in place, but it must be dealt with. It is not right to pass a resolution on this matter one year and then reverse it the next. The issues here have been kicked around for a number of years; last year's vote was to put in place a number of the major changes such as one Vice-President, four-year terms, and fixed election dates. He thinks these can be accepted here. He is concerned that we keep coming back to these matters.

James Firth says his concern is that Inuvik's proposed changes are not here, not with other elements of the resolution.

Fred Carmichael replies that the elections and related issues can surely be dealt with now, the other proposed changes to be discussed at a Special or a subsequent *Assembly*. There are a number of changes on which there is obviously broad agreement.

Charles Furlong observes that efforts to make structural changes to any organization become complicated at times. A motion was passed unanimously last year, and it is possible to proceed on that basis. There appear to be concerns related to Schedule A. Item 3 in last year's resolution # 8 specifies a process of consultation. His understanding is that adequate direction to move ahead with the Bylaw revisions already exists. Is that correct?

Geoff Wiest concurs that this is the case. Technically, the motion on the floor is not necessary, and the Executive was not required to bring the draft back before this year's *Assembly*. Last year's resolution provided the necessary authority for the redraft, its signature, and its filing with Industry Canada. The current motion is a matter of the President's and the Board's comfort level.

Charles Furlong asks if that means that the current motion technically does no more than direct a review of the existing recommendations, subsequent ones to be addressed during the consultation process leading to a Special Assembly.

Geoff Wiest confirms that is so, assuming that the Board does authorize and begin the consultation process leading up to such a Special Assembly.

Elizabeth Hansen points out that there are indications a Special Assembly would be too costly.

Robert Charlie says that he agrees there is sufficient direction here already. There is a need to carry out items 2 and 3 of last year's resolution #8, which can be done on the basis of that resolution.

Charles Snowshoe (Fort McPherson) says there is a need for more consultation and for understandable information on such matters. He worries that the GTC Board is involved in so many things, it doesn't have time to consult properly.

Frank Firth (Fort McPherson) recommends acting on the basis of last year's resolution.

Norman Snowshoe (Inuvik) asks who will conduct the community consultations. Will there be a workplan so that this can be done in a timely way?

Charles Furlong says that the consultation process will be as directed by the *Assembly*. The Board can move on it immediately. A committee can be formed to spend time on these proposals, with help from community Councils on the timeframe for consultation so as to guarantee maximum input at the grassroots. The Board can then schedule the Special Assembly, then recommend again that changes be registered for next June.

George John asks if the mover and seconder of the motion on the floor are willing to withdraw it.

Peter Ross and Robert Alexie, Sr. agree to this.

Withdrawn.

Charles Furlong says that in the interests of continuity there is one further item regarding this issue that should be dealt with, in the form of another motion.

Whereas the 18th Annual General Assembly granted approval for the Executive to act on the revisions to Bylaw No. 1 so that they can be registered by Industry Canada;

Whereas the Board of Directors passed motion 2002/#01 on July 29, 2002, to seek approval of the *Assembly* to resolve the issue of the Bylaw revisions and the election of the Executive;

Whereas the *Assembly* approves the extension of the terms for President and Vice-President until June, 2003;

And whereas an election will be called in the third week of June 2003 as per the Restated Bylaw No. 1, to fill the positions of President and one (1) Vice-President for a four (4) year term;

Therefore be it Resolved that the General Election, as stated in Bylaw No. 1, as presented and amended, take place the third week of June 2003.

Moved by: Mavis Clark (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Barry Greenland (Inuvik)

Carried. (Resolution #05/2002)

I. GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL UPDATES

George John notes that these updates will not necessarily be delivered in the order in which they appear on the agenda, but as the designated presenters are prepared to speak.

1. GTC Operations - Chief Operating Officer

George John recognizes that Tracy Campbell (Chief Negotiator, GNWT) and Cindy Allen (Assistant Negotiator) are present. He introduces Chief Operating Officer Tom Williams.

Tom Williams directs the group to his report on pages 5-6, covering his activities for the year, which he proceeds to summarize. He emphasizes the time he devoted to Human Resources matters, adding that more than 83% of GTC staff are Beneficiaries. The organization should take pride in this and work towards the ultimate goal of 100%.

Priorities for the coming months include dealing with the Request for Proposals sent out to computer companies for provision of comprehensive technical support to the GTC and its subsidiaries. Since the RFP went out, a number of proposals have been received and will be dealt with after the *Assembly*. The RFP for comprehensive legal services has gone out as well. Over the next year, he will emphasize initiatives such as reviews of each program area, to ensure that all are properly resourced, and meeting the professional development needs of GTC staff. He thanks the staff of the Council for easing the transition to his new position.

George John thanks Tom Williams for his report and opens the floor to questions.

Fred Andre (Tsiigehtchic) notes that at one point the GTC was talking about hiring a human resource person. Would that be Tom?

Tom Williams replies that some responsibilities in this field have devolved to Tammy Rogers, who has come on board as GTC Office Manager. A start in the HR field has been made with the recruitment of Mary Anne Ross as Employment Liaison Officer, working closely with the communities.

Elizabeth Hansen wonders if comprehensive legal services would not require an *Assembly* resolution, since it could entail considerable expenditure.

Tom Williams answers that what is involved is simply obtaining all legal services from one firm, rather than hiring several for different tasks.

Elizabeth Hansen asks if GTC staff will get increases in salaries for professional development.

Tom Williams explains that under the staff benefits package the GTC is considering, there would a salary range of pay for performance, with an annual review in which professional development would be one factor. Therefore, employees could receive salary increases for professional development in part.

2. Gwich'in Lands Administration

Grace Blake assumes the chair.

Lands Administration Manager Howard Townsend informs the group that the Lands Administration's operations over the past year are described in a portion of the Implementation report within this year's Annual Report, appearing on pages 20-21. He then proceeds to list the Administration's major projects throughout the year. He concludes that Edna Tobac, recently hired as Lands Officer, has since resigned to return to her home community outside the GSA.

Elizabeth Hansen says she is concerned about the apparent use of young people who are not particularly knowledgeable about the land as environmental monitors. She thinks it would make more sense to rely upon older individuals more familiar with the land.

Howard Townsend explains that the idea was not to send young people out alone, but to target those who might be interested in careers in this field and send them out with people who are more experienced. He certainly hopes to make use of RRC recommendations in the future selection of monitors.

George John returns to the chair, and acknowledges the presence of Bill Erasmus of the Assembly of First Nations.

Fred Andre wonders what activity is ongoing relating to the living conditions of the monitors in the field.

Howard Townsend answers that the Lands Administration reviewed lists of equipment and groceries and bought brand new equipment this year, generally at the high end of the spectrum, in addition to a new tent. Roughly \$10,000 was spent on equipment last year. As the Lands Administration discovers shortfalls in this area it attempts to address them.

Fred Andre says he heard that some monitors were not paid overtime. According to Tsiigehtchic's HR person there is a question of jurisdiction and of the legality of overtime not being paid.

Howard Townsend responds that the Lands Administration states upfront that overtime is carried over, and specifies the work week. He understands that everything is done legally.

Fred Carmichael observes that one recommendation recently made to the Lands Administration in selecting monitors was to leave the task to the RRCs, with the GLA providing the necessary training in each community, and doing the field work. Community input is needed.

Mavis Clark suggests turning the monitoring programs over to the RRCs.

Abe Wilson notes there are concerns about Land Use Planning applications coming out of Whitehorse, where the information is not received in a timely manner. He knows there is work being done in the Peel, with licenses issued outside what is designated as the Primary Use Area. There are real worries about the Peel River headwaters, and a strong statement from the *Assembly* on these issues and overlap agreement issues would be useful. He for one doesn't want to see a repetition of the Caribou River experience.

Howard Townsend says he has not received such an application but if a copy is forwarded to him he will definitely look into it.

Charles Snowshoe says the Peel River goes right into the Mackenzie, and the only way to do work there should be through the Land and Water Board. He would like to see a letter to the Yukon Government pointing out that the Gwich'in have a Claim that applies, and should receive notification of all activity in either the Primary or the Secondary Use Area. This is happening too often, and it is necessary to pressure Whitehorse or to take legal action.

Fred Carmichael points out that the GTC has sent a letter to the Yukon government, and several meetings have been held. In light of recent events, the Board will follow up with another letter.

Abe Wilson adds that a resolution has already been drafted on the Peel Watershed, and is being circulated.

James Andre (Fort McPherson) adds that Fort McPherson's RRC has done work on this issue, and would appreciate a strong statement of support. While the RRC sees no problem in dealing with the monitors, this is not their mandate. Moreover, the RRCs need more money in order to perform their role fully. As for the activity in the Peel Watershed area, the Tetlit Gwich'in have traditionally used much of that land. They are working closely with Mayo on these issues, and the Fort McPherson RRC has met with Mayo at its own expense. He wonders if it would be possible for them to secure representation on the Mayo Area Council.

Howard Townsend replies that he is not in a position to speak to the matter of representation on the Mayo Council, which lies outside Land Administration jurisdiction.

3. Education and Training

George John introduces Pat McKinnon, Manager of the GTC Education and Training Department.

Pat McKinnon directs the *Assembly* to the Education and Training report on pages 7-10 of the GTC Annual Report, which describes her department's activities over the last year in considerable detail. She explains that on taking up her position, she found many people were not informed on all of the programs the Education and Training Department offers. To remedy that situation, she made a point of visiting all the communities, meeting with each DGO, and explaining what programs exist and what funding is available. She adds that at last year's *Assembly*, there were concerns that Aklavik in particular did not have adequate access to funds. This year she consistently worked to ensure as much equality in distribution of funds as was possible. She notes the importance of the Education and Training Department's partnerships with others, its participation in the Regional Training Committee and receipt of funds under its AHRDSA agreement with the federal Government. All regional training is through various partnerships. While some training programs were run centrally in Inuvik, reflecting the fact that Aurora College's Aurora Campus is located there, all communities did benefit.

Elizabeth Hansen asks if wage subsidies qualify as education and training, and if they are not part of training programs whether they take funds from them.

Pat McKinnon replies that the GTC's AHRDSA agreement with the federal Government is within a mandate to help Aboriginals within the GSA get full-time employment. Wage subsidies are identified as one tool for reaching that objective. Many people get full-time work as a result of these subsidies, and that is the focus of the agreement.

Elizabeth Hansen asks if traditional skill development, in which young people are taken out on the land, is categorized as education and training.

Pat McKinnon says that while the education and training department does summer and other youth programs in the communities, she is not aware of funding having been offered for precisely that kind of activity. If a proposal for such a program were submitted to it, the Education and Training Department would do what it could.

William Koe points out that on page 64 of this year's Annual Report, funding for educational, social, and cultural activities is recorded as falling by more than \$200,000 from the previous year. Can Pat explain why?

Pat McKinnon replies that since this appears in the financial statements, Greg Cayen would be able to explain the change. She concludes that she is leaving the Education and Training Department for a position in the Self-government Office, but Margaret Thompson, who remains in the Education and Training office in Fort McPherson, can answer most questions pertaining to education and training programs.

Mabel Brown (Inuvik) says that she is going to school in New Brunswick, and had some difficulty in getting the information needed to access the scholarship fund. She thanks Neil Firth and Elizabeth Hansen for their help.

After discussion of various options, the Delegates agree to break for dinner and reconvene. The *Assembly* breaks at 5:30 p.m.

The *Assembly* reconvenes at 6:25 p.m., with Grace Blake in the chair.

4. Resource Management

Grace Blake introduces the GTC's Resource Manager/Planner, Norman Snowshoe

Norman Snowshoe summarizes the background behind the creation of his position, and shows a map of the GSA, surrounded by the land of other Claim groups, to illustrate the range of issues with which he has to deal. These run from contaminant studies, grizzly bear and forest management plans, to promotion of Dall's sheep sport hunting and outfitting, and dealing with overlap issues, YDAP, the NWT Species at Risk legislation and the Dempster Highway Regulations. He also consults with the RRCs on all resource management activities.

On many issues, he points out, he wishes for direction from the *Assembly*. One pressing concern at the moment is the Peel River Watershed Land Use Plan. A Land Use Commission for the Watershed is being established, with Fort McPherson potentially speaking for all Gwich'in. Direction on this would be appreciated.

Elizabeth Hansen observes that Norman Snowshoe's workload looks very heavy, and wonders what problems arise in coordinating the activities of all the RRCs.

Norman Snowshoe responds that his workload is heavy, and that while most of the organizations involved in resource management activities are willing to work together, there are a multitude of outside interests to deal with.

Elizabeth Hansen says that in listing his concerns, Norman mentioned site remediation. Where does this take place?

Norman Snowshoe says that the Caribou River is an example.

Chief James Firth recalls his own experience working with Norman Snowshoe in recent months on overlap issues. He wonders if it might be feasible to upgrade Norman's office, with some staff support. What kind of assistance would be helpful?

Norman Snowshoe recalls that Wilbert Firth was helpful on a number of issues, and having a working Vice-President active on lands and resource matters eased his burden somewhat.

Mary Teya (Fort McPherson) notes the widespread concerns, especially in regard to Yukon issues, about water potability. People often ask if the water is drinkable, and do not get answers.

Norman Snowshoe says he is not sure what studies have been done on the water, but fish studies show the fish are safe, with low contaminant levels.

James Andre points out that there a number of Yukon issues to be dealt with. The question of representation on Peel River Watershed deliberations inevitably arises. If Fort McPherson takes the three seats available and speaks for all Beneficiaries, on the basis of the Tetlit Gwich'in knowledge of the area, Norman is still there as the GTC representative. Clear direction here would be helpful.

Norman Snowshoe answers that he sees a need for direction not only regarding appointment to these three seats but across the broader spectrum of Yukon issues, since he receives correspondence on Yukon matters as they pertain to the Dempster Regulations, land use planning, and other concerns. He tries to coordinate action with Fort McPherson when these matters arise, but when he goes to Fort McPherson he is essentially told that they are Fort McPherson issues and the GTC has no jurisdiction. So he ends up in debates over who is responsible for what. This is why he proposes to refer people to the Board more often, since he is a staff person, and not elected. Letters about the Peel River Watershed sometimes go from the Tetlit Gwich'in, and sometimes from the GTC. The GTC has a mandate to represent all the GSA communities, but it is sometimes easier for the individual handling an issue for the GTC to work in conjunction with the community that is most affected. He would like to see a decision made as to who takes the lead and what approach to take. In such cases the lack of coordination makes everyone look bad. The *Assembly* needs to set direction.

James Andre says that the Tetlit Gwich'in experience using Yukon lands is a resource not only for Fort McPherson but for the benefit of all Gwich'in. Given their knowledge of the land, rivers, and so forth, the Tetlit Gwich'in should handle these matters, working with Norman Snowshoe. The Tetlit Gwich'in work with CPAWS on a number of these issues, and already have everything in place.

Abe Wilson suggests that with such big issues, it is not practical to say that Fort McPherson is taking everything over. Some issues entail dealing with federal negotiators, so the GTC must play the major role. The Tetlit Gwich'in can, of course, participate in several ways, including through the advisory role of Elders from Fort McPherson.

James Andre clarifies that he is not addressing YDAP, only the three seats on the Mayo District Land Use Planning Commission. Here, working with Norman Snowshoe, the Tetlit Gwich'in can handle things.

Norman Snowshoe remarks that one concern is the capacity of communities to begin working on some of the issues with which he is involved.

Grace Blake observes that Abe Wilson has indicated a willingness to address some of the concerns raised in the form of a motion.

Fred Carmichael reminds the *Assembly* that the GTC has a good team at work on these questions, including Norman Snowshoe and Johnny Edwards. Clearly, the Gwich'in should address these issues in a unified way. There seems to be a need to make clear who the designated spokesman is on these issues, and who is in charge. That should be Norman Snowshoe.

5. Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board

Land Use Planning Board Chair Bob Simpson reminds the *Assembly* that two years ago a Land Use Plan was approved and forwarded to the federal Government. Resolving problems relating to the Plan required several meetings with the Minister of DIAND. One problem was ensuring agreement between the Plan and the Canada Mining Regulations. The federal Government took the position that the Plan had to be consistent with the Mining Regulations, while the Land Use Planning Board argued that, on the contrary, the Mining Regulations had to be amended to be consistent with the Plan, since the GCLCA was paramount over any laws Canada might pass. At one point, Minister Nault threatened arbitration. The Land Use Planning Board offered no objection, confident that it was on solid legal ground. The Department of Justice conducted three legal reviews before concluding that the Land Use Planning Board was correct.

Changes to the Mining Regulations do not happen overnight. The federal Government will now have to engage in consultations, and withdraw land zones identified by the Land Use Planning Board as Conservation Zones for a five-year period. The Land Use Planning Board will be involved in consultations regarding changes affecting these areas, in a resource assessment process. There are additional changes to the Land Use Plan proposed by the federal and territorial Governments, which are technical and do not affect intent. The Board has completed its work on the Plan, and will visit the communities to go over all the changes before taking them to the GTC Board.

Robert Charlie points out that with Land Use Planning machinery being established in the Yukon, the Gwich'in need to be involved in order to ensure consistency of Plans between the GSA and elsewhere.

Bob Simpson replies that there are two areas of involvement here. One is appointment to the panel on the Peel River Watershed, the other is the broader Land Use Planning process. The GTC and Land Use Planning Board should use both to maximize Gwich'in participation in the planning process. He notes that Abe Wilson has asked him how long it is likely to take for the Plan to wend its way through the federal Government. While there is no further serious review, it is necessary to ensure that it does come to Minister Nault's attention so that he signs off on the Plan when he receives it.

Fred Carmichael adds that in conversations he has had with Minister Nault, the Minister has committed himself to signing the document upon receipt. He told Fred that if everything could not be settled within three months, he would intervene and the issue would be resolved at the leadership level.

The *Assembly* agrees to adjourn until the following morning.

Sarah MacLeod-Firth (Inuvik) leads the group in a closing prayer, and the *Assembly* adjourns at 7:20 p.m.

Grace Blake calls the *Assembly* to order at 9:05 a.m.

Catherine Semple (Aklavik) leads the group in an opening prayer.

6. Land Claim Implementation

Bob Simpson informs the *Assembly* that Implementation activities over the past year are discussed in the Implementation report on pages 16-21 of the Annual Report and in the short report at tab 10 of the *Assembly* binders. He proposes to speak primarily on ideas for negotiation of a new Implementation plan.

The previous plan was for the ten-year period expiring on December 22, 2002. A new plan, covering the subsequent five or ten years, must be negotiated with the federal and territorial Governments. Difficulties on this front have already emerged. Early last year the negotiations table was started, with himself, Implementation Negotiator Richard Nerysoo, and Implementation Coordinator Alex Benitah (who has recently departed) representing the GTC.

The first stage in the process was drafting terms of reference for the negotiations. The GTC's negotiators were able to report to the Board, in fairly short order, on the major issues remaining to be resolved. Approximately 25 issues were identified. The primary one is the provision of the financial resources necessary for Implementation.

The GTC's Implementation personnel conducted a technical review of the GCLCA, which is the origin of the obligations of all Parties, and identified steps to meet its objectives. They pressed the Government of Canada in particular regarding financial resources, since it was essential to know if these would be available. When this point was raised at a negotiating session, the federal Chief Negotiator said he had no financial mandate, and time would be needed to negotiate financial resources with the Treasury Board.

The GTC tried to work with the co-management Boards to determine their requirements, as well conducting an exhaustive review of community needs, then developing its own estimate of what was needed. This was tabled, and reviewed with the federal negotiators. Based on that submission, the federal negotiators worked with the Treasury Board, and have recently received instructions. While there is no written response yet, we do have indications of where the federal Government is prepared to negotiate and where it is not.

The federal Government has now set out standards for the operations and operating costs of some Boards. The GRRB, whose fundraising activities have been recognized by Ottawa, is likely to see its funding topped up. The Land Use Planning Board, which has consistently been underfunded, will have more money as well. Ottawa is prepared to fund some extension of the harvest study, but the wildlife studies fund has become controversial. The federal Government takes the view that its previous funding was a one-time payment, while the GTC differs. The GTC also costed out the accumulated shortfall for Implementation over the past decade, which the federal Government rejected. Efforts are under way to embed the principle of "no taxation" in the Claim itself. While the ruling in the Sahtu case is helpful, the process here will be very different.

The next negotiating session is in the third week of August, with more to come in September. He hopes to get some movement on the Implementation plan, since something has to be in place by December 22, and it will be necessary to run it by the Treasury Board, part of the normal process of obtaining such block funding.

He and Richard Nerysoo have not been pleased by these negotiations, with the federal Government's unresponsiveness on funding issues particularly disappointing. They had hoped, with an early start, to finish by June 30. Still, some outstanding issues were "knocked down" and on others it has been possible to at least achieve greater clarity. At the end of the day, there are likely to be at least half a dozen issues unresolved. At that point it will be necessary to consider other avenues. He knows that there is widespread dissatisfaction with progress to date under several parts of the Claim, such as economic measures. The GTC may have to resort to arbitration or turn to the courts in order to force the Government of Canada to live up to its obligations.

Elizabeth Hansen asks if the review of Implementation needs was just at the Board level, or if it included community consultation.

Bob Simpson replies that it was not difficult to determine these needs. The complaints about inadequate resources come in from the communities, the RRCs and the GTC itself. Those 10 years' worth of complaints were essentially brought to the negotiating table. Over the decade, for instance, little has been done on Yukon issues, and the RRCs have been over-consulted, without the capacity to deal with all the issues coming before them. The GTC hired an accountant to go over everything, see how much there was by way of internal obligations expended to meet Implementation responsibilities, and that was how the total of \$8 million was reached.

Elizabeth Hansen asks if the federal Government will have a fiduciary responsibility for education.

Bob Simpson notes that there was an Education and Training Fund in the first Implementation plan, which ran out in six years. Subsequent negotiations on this point proved difficult. Ottawa took the position that this was a one-time payment, after which its obligation had been fulfilled. The GTC contended that while the Implementation plan was for a ten-year period, the training obligation was an ongoing Constitutional obligation on the part of the federal Government. The federal Government is willing to look again at education and training, but wishes to tie it more closely to specified activities in the GCLCA rather than to more generalized educational objectives. It is not clear how much additional money this will mean.

Allen Firth (Inuvik) asks what will happen to current funding under the Implementation agreement now in effect.

Bob Simpson answers that the current funding will run out on December 22. Most Boards have received funding extensions to March 31. He prefers to avoid the negotiation of interim arrangements, since this relieves the pressure on the federal Government. Interim arrangements would roll over funds from one year to the next, but only at current levels, so the underlying problems would remain.

Allen Firth asks Bob Simpson to explain the federal Government's unwillingness to negotiate on internal organizational structure.

Bob Simpson says that when the GTC sets up a particular office or position the Government of Canada may not agree to fund it. It may agree to fund a more general activity or obligation, which is where the two parties often come together. For example, the federal Government's position on the Lands Administration is that it is a GTC internal responsibility, and has nothing to do with the federal Government. But the Lands Administration does carry out some activities which are specified in the GCLCA and therefore obligate Canada.

Elizabeth Hansen asks if agreeing to oil and gas development on Gwich'in lands would jeopardize any work on Implementation.

Bob Simpson doubts it would, since it would be a purely internal GTC decision on Gwich'in land, and clearly carved out. Opening up the lands means more activity and therefore increases the resources needed, strengthening the GTC case in negotiations. For example, the MVEIRB's original ten applications a year has probably tripled by now, conveying to Ottawa the message that these Boards must be fully resourced.

Norman Snowshoe points out that the federal Government is devolving a number of programs to the Yukon territorial Government, where the resources for many activities seem to be inadequate. Is Bob seeking funding where negotiations touch on Yukon and overlap issues?

Bob Simpson says this is part of the overall submission. YDAP in particular was targeted, and he also noted that devolution has not taken into account Tetlit Gwich'in rights under transboundary agreements. Yukon issues are not likely to be resolved under this process. He recommends setting aside the resources to mount a strategy in which legal action plays a larger role.

Norman Snowshoe asks when the Implementation deadline was.

Bob Simpson replies that it was June 30, but has now been extended to the end of September.

Norman Snowshoe asks if hiring a replacement for Alex Benitah as GCLCA Implementation Coordinator is going ahead.

Tom Williams notes that readvertising for a second round proved necessary. After the *Assembly*, the GTC will assemble a personnel committee to screen applications. He hopes to have someone in place by early September.

James Andre points out that there seems to be a long-term drift of functions from Fort McPherson to Inuvik. Does this reflect inadequate funding under Implementation?

Bob Simpson replies that he can't explain why all these decisions were made. The sums available under Implementation are not huge, compared to the costs of actually meeting all Implementation obligations. Most positions were established under program dollars or internal resources, with maybe a quarter of the funds coming from the federal Government.

James Andre adds that the original assumption was that Fort McPherson would be the centre of Claim activities; this was why other programs were consciously distributed to the other communities. Now everything seems to be moving to Inuvik, most recently the accounting department, and there are two GTC offices. Fort McPherson has lost many people who could have been useful in the community.

Fred Carmichael remarks that the GTC has had to deal with the fact that many activities are region-wide. The Board decided to have an office where much of this activity was, in the interests of efficiency. Given the limited resources the GTC has, and the many demands placed upon it, we must make each dollar go as far as possible. The IRC did the same thing, originally making its headquarters in Tuktoyaktuk, and finding over time that with Inuvik the regional centre, this wasn't workable. Key business and government contacts are in Inuvik. Not everything has been moved to Inuvik, and there are still three accounting personnel in Fort McPherson. Fiscal constraints often drive these decisions, and those who want the GTC to do more should give it more money.

James Andre says that the GTC is a government. He doesn't believe it needs to centralize functions. If industry wishes to deal with the Gwich'in, it should come to the people where they are.

Fred Carmichael replies that if the GTC wants to do business with people it must make them welcome. If the GTC is too awkward to work with, people will go and work with someone else. The people need every opportunity for economic advancement they can get, and that means the GTC must be accessible to those who want to do business with it.

7. Tl'oondih Healing Society

Tom Williams informs the *Assembly* that there are two questions to be dealt with here, the disposition of Tl'oondih Healing camp itself, and the broader matter of the roles of the GTC and the Tl'oondih Healing Society in delivering social programs. Keeping the camp open costs \$100,000 a year in upkeep, money that could be spent on other things. In the past year only three groups have used the camp. In order to secure future funding, the GTC has worked with the Tetlit Gwich'in on a proposal for multi-year funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. The intent is to extend the tenure of current staff and, after the transitional period, run a regional program from Tl'oondih. Counselors in each community would work as intake workers, and the proposal suggests conducting three or four programs at the facility each year on a regional basis. This would succeed the current three-year project which ended July 31. He believes there is a good chance of getting interim funding, in which surplus funds from other AHF programs will be used to carry the Tl'oondih staff until September. The deadline for the multi-year funding proposal is August 31, and a response should come by November.

The GTC also hired James Ross and Company to devise recommendations on how to deal with the issue of the Healing Society's operations and the delivery of social programs. The GTC presumably would still play some role, but that might change to an administrative one, with an emphasis on obtaining stable funding. Community input has emphasized the desirability of running the programs at the community level. Brian Penny was involved in the review commissioned by the GTC and will speak on this question. Several resolutions will then be brought to the floor. This issue has been around for several years, and financially a decision must be taken.

Brian Penny says that he was surprised to find how much agreement there was in his conversations with community leaders and members about what to do.

The facility itself was completed in 1995, and cost the GTC some \$2.5 million. Annual maintenance costs come to \$100,000, with some \$25,000 in insurance alone. The lodge is on Settlement land, so selling the land is not an option. Running the facility as a resort would require an investment of \$500,000. The GTC has no mandate for commercial development, and, moreover, wishes to spend less on TI'oondih, not more. Either moving the camp to 8 Mile or replacing it at that site would cost \$1.2 million, so neither of those is an appealing option. The Tetlit Gwich'in are the most frequent users of the facility, and seem to have ideas as to how to increase use and occupancy. Fort McPherson is the only Gwich'in community close enough to the camp to make regular use of it. His recommendation is to sell the camp to the Tetlit Gwich'in for \$1. If it turns a profit, the GTC would be entitled to a share.

Whereas it is the mandate of the Gwich'in Tribal Council to manage its funds in a manner that supports the ongoing development of Gwich'in people and culture; and

Whereas the investment in facilities at TI'oondih has not generated a return on investment and has cost the GTC approximately \$100,000 per annum since 1995; and

Whereas it is not an acceptable use of GTC funds to move the facility or to invest additional funds in the facility to earn a financial return; and

Whereas the Tetlit Gwich'in Council has expressed an interest in acquiring these facilities for one dollar; and

Whereas it is in the best interests of the membership to dispose of this property so it can be used by the Tetlit Gwich'in Council;

Therefore be it Resolved that the GTC offer to sell the assets located at TI'oondih to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council for the sum of one dollar on or before January 31, 2003.

Be it Further Resolved that the GTC include as conditions to this sale measures to recover funds as they may become available from any subsequent sale of these assets or from profitable business associated with the use of these facilities.

Moved by: William Koe (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter Ross (Tsiigehtchic)

Carried. (Resolution #06/2002)

Brian Penny says that the GTC is the sole member of the Tl'ondih Healing Society. As of July 31, the Society has wrapped up most of its programs. A past motion directed assignment of social programs to the community level. Some, such as Aboriginal Head Start, already function at the community level. In his consultations with the Chiefs and other community leaders he found a consensus that social problems and programs are community business, and this is an area where the GTC has no mandate, funding or staff. He recommends transferring Aboriginal Head Start to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council, since the program serves only the parents of Fort McPherson. The Tl'ondih Healing Society should be maintained as a charitable organization, since oil and gas companies are interested in meeting their social responsibilities but like the tax break. The Society would be removed from program design and delivery. The GTC has agreed to support the Tetlit Gwich'in in a joint proposal for a multi-year regional program. Since each community has its own distinct mix of problems and ways of dealing with them, he recommends that the GTC support development of proposals addressing the needs of all four communities, and coordinate support to these programs.

Whereas the Gwich'in acknowledge the exclusive jurisdiction of each community regarding social programs, an area in which the GTC has no mandate; and

Whereas the Tl'ondih Healing Society has no regional programs;

Be it Resolved that the Tl'ondih Healing Society transfer its contract to deliver Aboriginal Head Start to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council.

Be it Further Resolved that the Tl'ondih Healing Society operate as a charitable organization to raise funds for delivery of social programs.

Moved by: Barry Greenland (Inuvik)

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

Mavis Clark asks how much funding the Society has for the communities.

Tom Williams responds that the previous funding was \$330,000 from the AHF, which was used to hire counselors in all the communities. He hopes that funding will continue at that level. But this will be dealt with in a separate motion; this one pertains only to the Head Start program.

Mavis Clark asks why other communities were not included in the Head Start program.

Tom Williams says it was set up in Fort McPherson explicitly as a pilot program.

Charles Furlong observes that it is certainly the case that no two communities are exactly alike, and their approaches to social problems will inevitably differ. The failure or success of regional institutions in dealing with such problems depends on funding from Ottawa or Yellowknife or from the communities. Having to raise money all the time makes it harder to succeed in actually delivering the programs. Sometimes Aboriginal regional organizations take on responsibilities without full knowledge.

There are national programs to which the Gwich'in should have priority access. It is the responsibility of Aboriginal governments to obtain the funds to benefit the people they represent. While there is a need for collective support in lobbying efforts, all of the communities need access to the program dollars. He is not now in a position to support transfer of the Head Start program, and would rather see the program delivered in all four communities. The challenge is for the communities to develop and argue for their own proposals. It is necessary to bypass the middleman and bring the programs from the government down to the community level.

Elizabeth Hansen points out that the Yukon has many social programs not available in the NWT. There is even a directory of them, which is something it would be nice to have here. She does not understand why the Head Start program is under TI'oonidih's auspices, given how young the children in the program are. She wonders if the schools give the children the education they need. She thinks the children would learn better if they were taught traditional life skills.

Barry Greenland says that for some time he has been dealing with this problem. He has served as a Director of the Healing Society and has worked with people since the meeting in Whitehorse years ago that started TI'oonidih. He does not think it matters a great deal exactly where the Head Start program is located since it does help children who need it. The children who gain are Beneficiaries, and the Claim is here for the future generations. It is time to think in terms of the interests of these generations. Everyone talks about the young people, and he would like to see support for programs that help the young. Helping one program does not take anything from another community. Inuvik has its Gwich'in camp, for children from SAMS schools. The Inuvik Native Band will continue to support this project.

Peter Ross points out that the leadership has worked on a number of these issues for years, and always runs into stumbling blocks. Tsiigehtchic has problems arising from the year-to-year funding of the mental health worker position. Nine months into the year the occupant will go after something else. He and David Krutko met with Health Minister Miltenberger to seek multi-year funding arrangements. A worker in Tsiigehtchic was transferred to Fort Good Hope, and the community will now be served by someone new in Fort McPherson. The community does as much as it can without adequate resources. All four communities should support one another's efforts in this sphere.

Mavis Clark asks how much money is in the Head Start program.

Tom Williams says that under the current agreement there is \$180,000. Funds came from Health Canada, and delivery has been approved for the next three years.

Mavis Clark says there are no programs for children in Tsiigehtchic. If we are accessing funds for one community, we should do so for them all. Even \$40,000 would help Tsiigehtchic a lot. The Head Start money should be divided among all four communities. If a pilot project is approved, there should be one in each community.

Tom Williams responds that the Head Start program was initiated as a pilot project in Fort McPherson. In future negotiations with Health Canada, the GTC should certainly seek funding for all the communities.

Hazel Nerysoo (Fort McPherson) explains that at one point Tl'ooondih had three programs, for youth, for adults, and a daycare program. The Head Start application was to cut daycare costs. When those funds came in, the Healing Camp couldn't use them, but the community could.

Charles Furlong says opposition to this motion does not mean opposition to the program. It is important to make the intent clear in these motions. We do not want to see the federal and territorial Governments interpreting resolutions as they wish. He does not want bureaucrats arguing against Head Start programs elsewhere on the grounds that the *Assembly* assigned the program to Fort McPherson.

Charles Snowshoe says funds for social programs are needed, and the thing to do is put pressure on governments.

Grace Blake reminds the group that the motion on the floor is to transfer the Head Start program to the Tetlit Gwich'in.

Peter Ross suggests that the motion should be withdrawn or amended in light of the many questions.

Barry Greenland says that as mover he is willing to amend the resolution so that it is clear that it is only the existing Health Canada contract to deliver Head Start that is transferred, so that any others can be negotiated separately.

Robert Alexie, Sr., declares that, as seconder, he can accept this.

Peter Ross says he wishes to talk with the rest of the Tsiigehtchic Delegation to see if this is acceptable to them.

Mavis Clark says she is still opposed. Tsiigehtchic applied for Head Start funding, and was refused on the grounds that the program had been assigned to Fort McPherson. As things stand, her community cannot apply for any Head Start funding. She wants this year's funding for Head Start distributed among all four communities. The larger communities always manage to access the funds first, with little left for the smaller ones. Moreover, when the smaller communities do participate they end up being tied when someone else has applied on their behalf first. In such cases, you have no choice but to go with that organization, whether you want to or not.

Abe Wilson agrees that the GTC should help all the communities in lobbying efforts, but advises Delegates to look at the motion as written.

At 11:30 a.m., the *Assembly* breaks in order to caucus.

The *Assembly* reconvenes at 11:55 a.m.

Barry Greenland declares that he is withdrawing his motion.

Robert Alexie, Sr., states that, as seconder, he will agree to this.

Grace Blake thanks Tom Williams and Brian Penny. She acknowledges the presence of Todd Burlingame (MVEIRB Chair), Bertha Rabesca (MVEIRB) and Bridgette Larocque. She adds that Norma Kassi, of the International Gwich'in Steering Committee, is here. She has been active in efforts to prevent oil and gas exploration in the Porcupine Caribou calving grounds in ANWR. While she does not appear on the formal agenda, she will make a few remarks while the Delegates have lunch.

The *Assembly* breaks for lunch at 12 p.m.

Norma Kassi says that despite the recent victory in the Senate, the current U.S. Administration is strongly in favor of opening up ANWR to oil and gas exploration. This is an election year in the U.S., and efforts to educate both candidates and voters on the issue must continue.

The efforts of the Gwich'in on this front have put them on the international stage. People like Kenny Smith and Elaine Alexie have emerged from the ranks of Gwich'in youth and become professional lobbyists. She warns again the Gwich'in being pitted against each other, and calls for caution in decisions regarding oil and gas activity. The people should make it clear that development activity with which they are involved is not within the lands the caribou use to breed. She is particularly concerned about the government allowing development on Crown lands near Eagle Plains, where people did not speak up.

On August 21, the Walk to Washington will begin in Seattle. Speakers are needed, as are Elders. The goal is to ensure a large group enters Washington around November 15, near election day. Financial and other support would be appreciated. She also wishes to see a reception in Ottawa as well.

She has recently been working with CPAWS on Peel River Watershed issues. In June alone, 50 new claims were staked along the Watershed, and the number continues to grow. Aboriginals should be sitting down with government and industry, saying with one voice that this is a sacred site. If they do so, the public will listen and governments will hear.

The caribou, she adds, are in drastic decline. The burning of hydrocarbons causes climate changes, with the trend towards warmer Winters and cooler Summers. This affects the availability of traditional foods. The effects are felt in the Yukon too. While jobs are certainly important, "the land is our life". The Gwich'in representatives in Washington feel pressured, and would like to see more of their leaders.

Grace Blake suggests a resolution on the issue can be brought forward.

Charles Furlong thanks Norma Kassi, says this issue is a priority, and adds he will do his best to walk into Washington with her.

The *Assembly* formally resumes at 1:05 p.m.

8. Self-government Negotiations Office

Bob Simpson informs the *Assembly* that there is an extensive Self-government report on pages 11-15 of the Annual Report. He then recapitulates the negotiating process to date, reiterating the reasons for the postponement of the AIP signing. Chapter 27 of the AIP, he observes, indicated that the subjects of concern were matters for further negotiation. He is pleased to report that a workplan to deal with these concerns has been drawn up, and a working group including federal and territorial negotiators has been established. A proposal to DIAND will seek funding to carry out the necessary research and analysis and develop positions on these issues.

As part of the process of reaching a Final Agreement, planning with communities will discuss the ways in which the powers and authority relating to Self-government will be assumed. A constitution would ensure that the Gwich'in would not need to seek the approval of others when changing their own laws, as was required in the case of the Bylaw revisions discussed yesterday. A constitution allows you to take responsibility for making your own laws.

The financial aspect will be crucial. Formal powers are meaningless without the resources to exercise them. As negotiators, he and his colleagues have been clear that the financial resources must be there or we will not be able to reach a Final Agreement. They have also made the point that the new governmental institutions must have own-source revenues in order to achieve long-term self-sufficiency as opposed to continued dependence on government.

A taxation working group is studying the abilities of the new institutions to levy taxes and collect them directly, since many revenues are now collected directly by the GNWT. New revenue sources such as resource revenue sharing are also under consideration. Last May the Self-government Office concluded a Memorandum of Intent with the federal Government to look at the transfer of responsibilities and powers to territorial and Aboriginal governments. He hopes to see things come together over the next 2-3 years.

Bob Simpson introduces his colleagues, Gwich'in negotiator Lawrence Norbert and Inuvialuit negotiator Vince Teddy. He points out that as negotiations enter a new stage, community engagement becomes more vital than ever, to provide input on constitutions, plans, and budgetary needs. The fieldworker program has been reinforced, and he hopes to fill a full-time position in each community to deal with the develop of plans and constitutions. The Self-government Office will also undertake workshops, starting in September with those on constitutions. Subsequent workshops will deal with planning and organizational structures and finances. There will be a total of 24 workshops, which he plans to have organized and delivered by the end of March. Finally, there will a regional workshop on each topic.

He and his colleagues have worked closely with various government agencies to examine capacity-building and coordinating activities, as well as training as required to assume Self-government responsibilities. This is unusual, since most Self-government agreements don't discuss such preparations until the Final Agreement is concluded.

Grace Blake opens the floor to questions.

Mavis Clark suggests it would be desirable to have fieldworkers make postings specifying what training would be required in the community.

Bob Simpson responds that while there are some jobs for which we can start posting, the Self-government Office prefers to conduct assessments of each community's existing human resources and look at the existing organizational structure in order to determine what kinds of positions could be useful in a given community. Such information would make clear what skills and training are needed. The Self-government Office is prepared to begin such assessments this year.

Elizabeth Hansen asks what kind of figure might be obtained under resource revenue sharing.

Bob Simpson explains that this is "a moving target". These revenues take the form of a percentage of all the revenues from a given resource. In Southern jurisdictions, those revenues were transferred to the Provinces. This only happened to the Yukon this year, and hasn't happened in the NWT. The Self-government Office is looking at this to ensure that not all of the revenues go to Ottawa. The GTC now gets a very small percentage, of about \$800,000 a year. A significant problem is that the more money you collect in resource revenues, the less the federal Government will provide in transfers. The way the GNWT formula funding works, for each dollar the GNWT collects, the Government of Canada subtracts 80 cents in transfer funds. As resource development accelerates, the amount of resource revenues will rise.

Norman Snowshoe asks if each community will be expected to develop its own budget or if the Self-government Office will develop them.

Bob Simpson explains that the Office will work with communities. It has technical resources like planners, developers, and accountants, who can help restructure organizations and prepare estimates, but with community input to ensure the communities are reasonably happy with what is put forward at the negotiating table.

Norman Snowshoe asks how many positions will be provided for in each community. Each community has its own issues to deal with in addition to Self-government, and community capacity must be augmented.

Bob Simpson says that two full-time positions will be established in each of eight communities. There are already fieldworkers in each community, accountable to the community's organizations. The SGO has increased fieldworkers' salaries and benefits, and made them full-time in each community. This takes 55% of the negotiating budget. Of the funds accessed for new positions, 100% goes to the communities. SGO staff are also available to consult and hold workshops. He is attempting to get funding from the GNWT, which has direct responsibility to help municipalities, especially for capacity development. The aim is to get more positions into the communities.

Norman Snowshoe asks if there have been any initiatives to identify community needs.

Bob Simpson reiterates that HR assessments are being undertaken, in conjunction with other training partners. This will determine what skills are there now, what will be needed under Self-government and hence what must be provided. It will take 2-3 years to complete this process. Some obvious needs such as accounting skills have been identified.

Herbert Blake asks what will be covered in the field of health.

Bob Simpson replies that health is a sensitive area in negotiations. The Gwich'in will have power over overall program delivery, which will include all health services provided in the region now. It will be necessary to negotiate directly with the federal Government for the transfer of programs such as glasses, dental care, and medical transportation. One problem is the risk involved in taking over insured services.

Mavis Clark asks if the SGO is negotiating for Métis to get 100% benefits under Blue Cross, rather than 80%.

Bob Simpson answers that is outside the scope of negotiations. It will be possible to negotiate transfer of the program to a Gwich'in government. Negotiators can ask for 100% and see what is offered. Of course, there would always be the option of topping it up as the budget allowed.

Ian McLeod (Aklavik) asks if under program transfer employees will remain PSAC members. He does not want to see a situation where salaries are cut and the union dropped, as happened in Hay River. This is one reason he has always been skeptical of Self-government.

Bob Simpson says that is certainly not anyone's objective. It is for everyone's benefit to obtain as much money as possible. He expects that future governments will have to offer comparable salary and benefit packages. Job descriptions might change. Current staff members should have input on shaping the programs and bureaucracies under the new governments.

Johnny Charlie (Fort McPherson) asks if people now working in forestry will be included.

Bob Simpson says that some positions will be transferred, but not all. A lot that relates to wildlife, for instance, is already dealt with by the Claim. So far, he is focusing on social services and education. These are the areas that the communities seem to see as priorities now, where they want more control.

James Wilson (Fort McPherson) suggests that some communities are better prepared for Self-government than others. He is involved in housing in Fort McPherson, and is not sure the community can take it on.

Bob Simpson responds that in some communities the work will largely be done under one administration. Tsiigehtchic is one example, Holman another. In housing, he anticipates less of a transition than in other fields. He and his colleagues will spend time in the communities on planning, and asking people when they would wish to take on particular responsibilities.

Elizabeth Hansen asks what happens if one community does not “sign up” in the end. One land claim group has treaties, the other does not. How will this affect Self-government as a whole?

Bob Simpson replies that in the end it is the people as individuals who will approve an agreement or not. While the SGO wishes that the communities develop constitutions, he expects opportunities for consultation to see if this is what people really want. The 1998 *Assembly* gave him a mandate which specified that a Chiefs’ committee would work on some of these issues. It never materialized. As negotiators, he and his colleagues take the position that they will not touch the Land Claim or any treaties, although they are looking at purely administrative transfers of treaty-related programs, giving the people affected more political input. This allows political as well as administrative control, which is as far as the current negotiations extend. If people wish programs to be recognized as treaty benefits, obligating Ottawa forever, they should note that Ottawa says it will recognize by policy but not by treaty. While he disagrees, that’s the federal Government’s position.

Vince Teddy adds that as far as ratification goes, the process for approval of any Final Agreement remains to be negotiated. But the Gwich’in will be responsible for their own rights and benefits, the Inuvialuit for theirs. Neither can interfere with those of the other.

Fred Andre asks how the AIP will affect resource management and any overlap agreements that exist.

Bob Simpson says that Gwich’in lawmaking authority pertaining to their own lands remains to be negotiated. This is primarily a matter of enforcement authority, rather than substance, which is dealt with in the Claim. For example, the process for fining and ticketing offenders would be covered.

Grace Blake thanks Bob Simpson and his colleagues. She then acknowledges the presence of the Hon. Roger Allen and the Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew. While Ethel Blondin-Andrew appears later on the agenda, she will make her presentation now.

N. Government and Industry

a. Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Minister of State for Children and Youth

The Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew informs the *Assembly* her annual medical checkup, scheduled tomorrow, prevents her from appearing here on that date. But she will visit the Delta area again soon.

She notes that she has heard many community-level concerns about resource development in the Mackenzie Valley. There is interest in a projected pipeline, but so far no official application. When an application comes in, the people will know about it. The federal Government, she observes, has to remain neutral in the question of which potential route is chosen, leaving that to the producers.

Ottawa is reviewing Aboriginal training, since the current five-year program ends in 2004. Other training funds go to the Provinces and Territories, only Aboriginals get such funding directly from the Government of Canada. The federal Government wishes to be in a position to renew the current program when it expires.

The North is now in a boom cycle, she continues, and the federal Government wishes to ensure that nobody is left out. She sees the need for appropriate partnerships with those affected. This is the right time to identify the capacity needs of the North. One study shows more jobs will be available than the existing labour force will be able to fill. A large investment in infrastructure will be necessary, and the negative effects of economic development will have to be faced. The review and assessment of megaprojects like the proposed pipeline will require Aboriginal participation. While the Government of Canada has not always done everything right in the past, it is now setting a template for others to follow. Never before have multinational companies had to deal with Aboriginal and treaty rights groups as they do now. The federal Government has an inherent right policy.

She praises the progress toward Self-government, noting that all can be proud of the work done on reaching agreements with government and industry to produce truly self-governing communities. Later in the year the National Roundtable on Aboriginal Skills will deal with improvements to Aboriginal participation in the labour market.

The federal Government's agenda is a busy one, including issues such as implementation of the Kyoto Accords, the Romanow Report on the future of health care, and same-sex marriage, an issue likely to rival capital punishment and abortion in the emotional nature of the surrounding debate. As for the infrastructure program, Finance Minister Manley is nearing the end of the process where program rules are developed. The surplus is some 30% lower than originally expected, and this will have an impact, given the many infrastructure needs in the country.

Grace Blake thanks the Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew for her remarks.

Charles Furlong reiterates those thanks and makes a presentation to the Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew.

At 2:40 p.m., the *Assembly* breaks for refreshments.

The *Assembly* reconvenes at 3:00 p.m.

George John assumes the chair.

J. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2001-2002 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS-CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, KPMG

George John introduces the GTC's CFO, Greg Cayen, and John Stelter, Senior Principal with KPMG.

Greg Cayen says he is pleased to be able to present a positive financial picture of this Fiscal Year. Material on GTC finances can be found in this year's Annual Report, starting on page 41 with the GDC report. He briefly summarizes the GDC's achievements to date, thanking all involved for their efforts to put the Corporation on a sound footing.

On pages 44-45, Delegates will find the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation's report. By the end of March, the GSC fund had a market value of slightly more than \$70 million. He adds that TAL, CIBC Mellon and RBC/Dominion Securities are here to report on the fund's progress, and good results were obtained over the last year despite uncertainties in the market. In addition, Towers Perrin, as the GSC's investment advisor, has reviewed the fund's performance. Management's discussion and analysis appear on pages 48-49 of the Annual Report. The charts on those pages illustrate the composition by investment type of Settlement fund investments, and GTC program expenditure over the Fiscal Year. The consolidated financial statements themselves begin on page 51 of the Annual Report. He is happy to report that he has visited each of the Gwich'in communities, to present and explain the statements as well as to answer any questions Beneficiaries might have.

The Settlement fund is largely invested in marketable securities, with a conservative portfolio of holdings. The return over the year was a healthy one. The GDC doubled both its revenue and operating income, with a modest net loss resulting from the impairment in value of Klondike River Lodge. The GTC had an overall operating surplus of \$1.1 million, and a consolidated surplus of \$10.1 million. As the *Assembly* directed last year, the GTC has met with RBC/Dominion Securities, with the aim of hiring the firm as a second fund manager. The firm is represented here today by Rick Hardy. On page 50, Delegates will find the Strategic Direction and Outlook, as well as a breakdown of the allocation of the \$8,000 received from the Government of Canada under the Sahtu royalty settlement. In the weeks ahead he, Fred Carmichael, and Tom Williams will visit the communities to explain the present situation and get input on future directions.

John Stelter explains his responsibilities as auditor, adding that KPMG issues separate auditors' reports on all GTC subsidiaries including the GDC, Settlement Corporation, GSCI, Harvesters' Trust, Enrolment Board, and Tl'oondih Healing Society. KPMG offers an unqualified audit, the auditors' report available on page 54 of the Annual Report. He notes that under the new financial team in place the quality of financial information has improved, with greater timeliness in reporting.

Elizabeth Hansen notes that the Strategic Direction and Outlook proposes a review of all GTC programs. When problems are found, how will they be dealt with, in cases where staff are involved?

Greg Cayen clarifies that his intention is to review all programs. An interim review of the Harvesters' Assistance Trust has already been completed, and forwarded to the RRCs for their comments. The policy is intended as something positive, to ensure that services are provided to Beneficiaries as efficiently as possible.

Elizabeth Hansen says that communities often experience problems when students return home but do not find jobs or housing. There is some summer student funding, but students often find themselves returning without the extra funds they need. She wonders if there is money set aside to deal with the problem. We promote education but seem to neglect summer student needs.

Charles Furlong says that he sits on the Finance Committee, and is pleased to see such a positive financial picture and a balanced budget, both for the first time in many years. The GTC did set aside money for education under the Sahtu settlement, and is trying to develop programs. Now the GTC has a mechanism to approach governments and partner with others on a “matching fund” basis. He expects to see major steps forward in dealing with issues such as the one described, over the next six months or so.

Larry Firth observes that as the fund grows, the GTC needs to be careful in its investment policy, especially in light of market uncertainties. It is more critical than ever that there are qualified people on the Audit and Investment Committees.

Greg Cayen replies that one solid achievement of the past decade has been getting good professional advisors in the financial field. All of the firms the GTC uses are reliable. TAL meets with the Finance Committee every year, and Greg meets with them monthly. The financial information is now distributed immediately, which is the best watchdog. Having good people on the Committee and the information accessible to all are both important. The GSC has a separate Board of Directors, which includes Fred Carmichael and a member from each DGO, in addition to one outside member (a position currently vacant). The checks and balances required to guarantee accountability are there.

Larry Firth adds that it is a good thing that all communities are represented on the GSC’s Board.

Be it Resolved that the Gwich’in Tribal Council Consolidated Financial Statements for year ending March 31, 2002 be approved as presented.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Greta Sittichinli (Inuvik)

Carried. (Resolution #07/2002)

Greg Cayen informs the *Assembly* that there is a further matter to deal with, the appointment of a second money manager. He has worked with Rick Hardy and Geoff Wiest on a change to Bylaw No. 3 that is required before the GTC can enter into an agreement with another money manager.

Geoff Wiest points out that Bylaw No. 3 was adopted in order to establish what the GTC could do with funds received from the federal Government under the GCLCA. The intent was to ensure that while the interest on the fund could be spent, the capital was preserved. Therefore the Board was prohibited from spending capital.

The GSC has its own Bylaw No. 3, which establishes GSC principles in these matters. The GTC can change GSC Bylaws, as the ultimate authority over the GSC. A draft of changes to Bylaw No. 3 has been distributed. When the GSC's Bylaw No. 3 was put in place, a similar GTC resolution came before the *Assembly*. That remains in place.

This amendment to Bylaw No. 3 is necessary because the Bank's legal department concluded its language was so strict as to obligate the Bank to guarantee that there was no risk to the investment, obviously something no financial institution could ever do.

When the Bylaw was drafted, the underlying principle was ensuring that the principal was set aside, not dealing with a situation like the choice of another money manager. The proposed changes are technical and pertain to the wording, not the underlying principle. The provision that capital be set aside is reworded to make the intent clear. While we expect a high standard, we cannot expect perfection. The amended Bylaw makes plain that capital cannot be spent once invested, only the interest, as permitted. That was the original intent.

George John notes that a draft is being circulated to Delegates just prior to a vote. He hopes this does not recur.

Greg Cayen says there will be no repetition. The matter arises today only because of a review by two lawyers, who recommend the amendment. The changes are technical, but if they are not made the organization will not be able to execute the money management agreement with the new fund manager.

Be it Resolved that Bylaw No. 3 of the Gwich'in Tribal Council be amended in the following manner:

1. Paragraph 2.1 be amended by deleting the words "Capital Transfers" appearing in the first line and replacing them with "The Capital";
2. Paragraph 2.1 be amended by adding the following sentence at the end of said paragraph: "In furtherance of this objective the Capital shall be invested in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Land Claim, as amended from time to time".
3. Paragraph 2.5 be amended by deleting the sentence "As a result, the Capital of the Fund resulting from each installment of Capital Transfers is intended to remain intact at all times and the Settlement Corporation shall ensure that it maintains its tax exempt status in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Land Claim", and substituting the following: "The Fund shall be invested without undue risk of loss or impairment and with a reasonable expectation of fair return or appreciation given the nature of the investment. The Settlement Corporation shall ensure that it maintains its tax exempt status in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Land Claim Agreement".

Moved by: James Firth (Inuvik)

Seconded by: Charles Furlong (Aklavik)

Carried. (Resolution #08/2002)

K. GWICH'IN SETTLEMENT CORPORATION

1. Towers Perrin

Ron Abraham of Towers Perrin introduces himself, explaining that he works with Peter Hallett, who has attended previous Assemblies but is unable to be here today. He describes Towers Perrin's responsibilities as investment advisor to the GSC, to monitor the GSC's performance to ensure that investment and performance guidelines are met. He then directs the attention of Delegates to the Investment Consultant's Report at tab 12 of the *Assembly* binder. They will see that over the past year the fund achieved a Return on Investment of 6.4% for the year ended March 31, which exceeds the policy benchmark and the performance of the median fund, but is below the minimum rate of return requirement. Over the previous five-year period, the fund has exceeded the benchmark and roughly matched the median fund as well as exceeding the minimum rate of return.

He observes that one way TAL was able to secure a reasonably good return was shifting back and forth among stocks and bonds, since in circumstances where the one does poorly the other is likely to do well. TAL did well with both Canadian stocks and Canadian bonds, which compensated for a weaker performance in U.S. stocks.

Larry Firth says market instability is a concern.

Ron Abraham replies that when the Investment Committee set the GSC's investment policy it did so with the long term in mind. The fund performed reasonably well in light of the market concerns of the past year. Both inflation and interest rates were low. The markets did overreact to the U.S. accounting scandals, and there was a widespread belief that they pointed to problems more widespread than is the case. Many companies are now issuing supplementary statements which are dispelling doubts. Underlying market expectations are good.

Mavis Clark asks what the future contributions consist of.

Ron Abraham explains that these are the capital payments expected over the coming years until the process is complete.

Mavis Clark asks if this money is invested, or if the Board or the *Assembly* gets to decide.

Ron Abraham says that these capital payments come from the government of Canada and are allocated directly to the investment fund.

2. TAL Institutional Investments

Deborah Lewis of TAL introduces herself, and directs Delegates to the TAL report at tab 13 of the *Assembly* binders, which provides a detailed picture of last year's performance. She notes that the current benchmark provides for investment of 35% of the GSC portfolio in Canadian stocks. In actuality, 36.6% of the portfolio is in Canadian stocks, reflecting the greater strength of these equities and the consequent greater weighting in this area following the events of September 11, 2001. TAL still looks on equity markets favourably and anticipates continued strong returns, though not quite as strong as in the immediate past. The portfolio is worth approximately \$70,000,000 and enjoys continued growth.

Allan Firth asks Deborah Lewis to specify some of the companies in which the GSC has stock.

Deborah Lewis replies that TAL reports on a monthly basis to the Investment Committee, and lists all the companies in the portfolio at any given time. These would include companies such as Magna and Bombardier, and a number of forest, mineral and technology companies. Detailed information is in the monthly information supplied to the Investment Committee.

3. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Barb Deslauriers introduces herself and explains that she has recently been transferred to the CIBC's Inuvik branch from her previous posting in Drumheller. She describes the renovations to the branch now under way, which will include the addition of two ATMs on August 28. She notes that the CIBC hopes to deal with staffing problems better, and to continue its partnership with the community.

William Koe asks when banking facilities will be available in the smaller GSA communities.

Barb Deslauriers says she does not know if this has been studied, but will enquire and report back.

William Koe says that he heard the same thing last year.

Elizabeth Hansen says that many people, particularly Elders, find dealing with the CIBC Inuvik branch frustrating. It is hard to get answers on the telephone, or to obtain extension numbers, and there are long lineups. Given a choice, she would deal with another bank.

Barb Deslauriers replies that there are only two telephone lines into the branch, which complicates things. Direct extension numbers are available, and she is happy to provide hers. There is a banking station where the elderly can sit down and do their banking business. The addition of two more ATMs should reduce the lineups. Her colleague, Andrew Campbell, who is here with her, and has been Acting Manager, stayed beyond normal hours with his staff at one point, in order to help Elders. This was an expedient at one point but isn't a permanent solution.

Sarah McLeod-Firth says that the branch hours are too short, especially for people coming in from other communities. People find the bank is closed when they arrive, and end up cashing their cheques elsewhere for a hefty fee.

Barb Deslauriers says CIBC is looking at extending its hours to 4 or 5 p.m.

Sarah McLeod-Firth asks if anything can be done about young people on credit card binges.

Barb Deslauriers advises coming to her directly with such concerns.

Robert Alexie, Sr. says he hears many comments to the effect that an ATM is needed in Fort McPherson. In the past, Elders have found the service at the Inuvik branch frustrating, especially when trying to do business by telephone.

Barb Deslauriers replies that she cannot comment on the quality of service prior to her arrival. As for an ATM in Fort McPherson, all she can do is raise the issue with CIBC's head office. Messages left for her on her answering machine will be returned in a timely manner.

Mavis Clark says that CIBC Inuvik has a policy of not accepting faxed instructions signed by an account holder unless specific arrangements for doing so have been made beforehand.

Barb Deslauriers explains that this is a privacy issue, and the procedures CIBC follows regarding faxed transactions are mandated by the federal Government.

Mavis Clark asks what benefits CIBC offers Gwich'in Beneficiaries.

Barb Deslauriers says there is a package of benefits that CIBC forwarded to the GTC some time ago.

James Andre says that he has seen no improvement in the service CIBC provides over 40 years, despite the fact that the bank has all the GTC money. He has seen branches of other banks in communities smaller than Fort McPherson.

Barb Deslauriers reiterates that she cannot comment on CIBC's past performance. She is trying to improve service and staffing levels. She suggests that after three months of her efforts, anyone who remains unhappy should come and see her with suggestions. This is the only way to change things.

Peter Ross asks if CIBC is thinking of adding more tellers. He adds that smaller clients have found it difficult to borrow funds to start businesses.

Barb Deslauriers responds that she does not know if the renovations to the branch will include an extension that could accommodate more tellers. Her policy is to try to be reasonable when it comes to borrowing.

4. RBC/Dominion Securities

Kerry Hardy of RBC/Dominion Securities thanks the *Assembly* for its invitation, and introduces Ron Stevenson of his office. He adds that the mandate given to RBC/Dominion Securities is as a second investment manager under last year's resolution. He represents RBC Investments, not the Royal Bank as such, but as Vice-President he wishes to speak on behalf of the Royal Bank as well. The Royal Bank is excited to be working with the GTC, and is looking at a business plan for a branch in Inuvik, perhaps beginning with an agency relationship that would later become a full-grown branch. This would give CIBC some competition.

He notes that RBC/Dominion Securities is the largest investment firm in Canada, with more than 70 analysts. Its strategy for investments involves a decisionmaking process in which representatives of four separate disciplines participate, and try to agree on investments. His firm tries to become involved in the community, and not just have a banking connection with the GTC. He has dealt with many groups similar to the GTC. He notes that the GTC has many checks and balances built into its investment process. A Gwich'in Banking Policy document is being circulated, and he hopes this will answer many of the questions that Beneficiaries might have.

L. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Be it Resolved that the firm KPMG be appointed as the Gwich'in Tribal Council auditors for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: William Koe (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution #09/2002)

M. GWICH'IN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Tom Connors, the GDC's President and CEO, thanks all present for their support, and Directs the attention of Delegates to the GDC reports in the Annual Report and available separately, which describe in some detail the GDC's operations over the previous year. He summarizes these, noting that losses have been stopped and earnings stabilized, with an operating profit and assets now over \$20 million.

He notes that GDC Civil Construction, formerly Tetlit Zheh Trucking, performed well over the past year, with 50% of its work obtained by competitive bidding. The company worked on Inuvialuit land for the first time, employed 90 employees and paid out \$1.5 million in wages.

The GDC's real estate arm, Gwich'in Properties, is redeploying its assets, selling properties it owns in Aklavik and Fort McPherson. The GDC's purchase of the Mack Travel, RWED, and Semmler buildings in Inuvik is the largest one-time acquisition in the corporation's history.

The GDC also owns the BDC building in Yellowknife. Following the division of the assets of Nihjaa Properties, the GDC owns two of the old company's buildings in a partnership with Tundra Enterprises. The new venture, GDC-Tundra Properties, made \$44,000 by June 30. The GDC's construction arm, GSA Construction, will focus on large construction contracts, and is currently in negotiations for the construction of the new Aurora College facility in Inuvik. Camp MGK, in which the GDC has a 25% stake, generated \$236,000 in profits over its first six months of operations, and the GDC should recoup its investment by the end of the year. In the Fall, the GDC will conduct a strategic review to determine future directions. Options to pursue include building the trucking and properties subsidiaries, growing outside the GSA, and diversifying exposure. It also makes sense to go after opportunities in gravel and the projected pipeline. The long-term goal is being in a position to sustainably issue dividends by 2007.

Ernest Firth, Chairman of the GDC Board of Directors, congratulates the GDC on the wisdom of its decision to separate its political and business arms, which has allowed the GDC to flourish as it has. He also notes the role of Carl Chala, Vice-President, Business Development, whose position is financed by government funding, and who has been helpful in securing grants and other monies to help the GDC progress.

He lists the members of the Board of Directors, and says he understands that a definition of a "Gwich'in business" is being developed, and that these businesses will be registered with the GDC so that it can subcontract to them or refer others to them. Another first for the GDC will be a shareholders' meeting, which will allow detailed review of the present situation and of accomplishments to date.

George John asks when the shareholders' meeting will take place.

Ernest Firth replies it will be in late September, probably the last week.

George John informs the group that Beneficiaries with questions can ask them at that meeting.

Larry Firth asks if the GTC is the sole shareholder.

Tom Connors confirms that is the case. Since the GTC is owned by the Beneficiaries, all Beneficiaries are welcome to attend and ask questions.

Larry Firth asks if the GDC will issue shares to Beneficiaries.

Tom Connors responds that can be looked at in the long term, but not right away. Lawyers have advised against taking that step now.

Elizabeth Hansen says she understands that Jim McDonald, a GDC Board member, is a partner with the GDC in another capacity. And the GDC recently bought property from Jim Robertson, another Board member. Are these not conflicts of interest?

Tom Connors replies that Jim McDonald might have to recuse himself when the Board discusses matters relating to camp MGK, in which he has a share. Jim Robertson did not attend Board meetings or take part in discussions until after the completion of the transaction to which he was a party.

The GDC is aware of such potential conflicts of interest, and does act accordingly.

Elizabeth Hansen asks if staff are growing in line with the acquisition of more properties.

Ernest Firth replies that additional staff will be hired to maintain these properties as needed. This is a startup phase now, with new demands on staff, but things will settle down.

Johnny Charlie says he is aware of a GDC-owned house with only one exit.

Tom Connors replies that all GDC-owned properties were built to code when they were constructed. If there are now fire or safety hazards in any of the buildings, they will be addressed.

James Andre asks what is happening to the crates of contaminants removed from the Caribou River project.

Tom Connors explains that the GDC gets \$2,000 to remove each crate from Shell and DIAND. It would cost \$10,000 apiece to have them trucked out. Instead, we have them trucked out on each backhaul, which takes time.

James Andre adds that some Elders are concerned about this, believing the material is a cause of cancer. He gathers that trucking companies have refused to remove any more crates at the \$2,000 rate.

Tom Connors says that nobody has refused to take the crates away. Obviously, driving an empty truck is unprofitable. The only circumstances under which these cargoes have been passed over is when a more profitable backhaul arose. In the end, Shell and DIAND are responsible for the removal, and are accountable for it.

James Andre adds that crates sat where they are for six months.

Tom Connors responds that the GDC only has so much influence. He hopes that the material can be removed soon. If need be, the GDC will throw the matter into GTC hands to secure political support for a timely removal.

N. GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY

a. DIAND - Stephen Van Dine

Stephen Van Dine introduces himself and explains that he is present at the request of Bob Overvold, who was unable to attend. He notes that the information packages on the new First nations' governance legislation are being distributed, and these should answer many questions.

Bill C-61 deals with significant omissions in the current Indian Act, which did not postulate communities making many of their own decisions. This Act had only limited application in the NWT, dealing as it does mainly with Crown Reserve Lands, of which there is only such reserve in the NWT, south of Yellowknife.

Last Fall a meeting held in Fort McPherson allowed the Chiefs to meet with Minister Nault and express their concerns about the current initiative. In the consultation process, DIAND heard from many First Nations communities who sought a legislative tool that would allow them to run their own affairs in areas such as finances and elections. The decisions of the current Indian Act and the litigation surrounding it led the Ministry to conclude that it was preferable to issue stand-alone legislation rather than a number of Amendments to the Act.

While Bill C-61 deals with shortcomings in the Act relating to governance issues, DIAND has been careful not to transfer any part of the Indian Act dealing with trust or fiduciary responsibilities. The federal Government made a firm commitment not to alter these.

The Bill has a Preamble, setting out its underlying intent. The core principles are tools of good governance derived from values of representative democracy, transparency, and accountability. These tools have not been available to First Nations under the Indian Act, and DIAND wishes to provide them through enabling legislation.

Pending negotiation of Self-government, these tools will be put in place. The intention is not to pre-judge the outcome of any Self-government negotiations. The legislation will not interfere with the implementation of the inherent right policy and is not designed as another forum for dealing with Self-government, only to fill the gaps in the old legislation. When the Minister indicated that he wanted to proceed by enabling legislation, DIAND decided to do so by creating categories in which communities could create their own rules. Each group must approve the changes that will apply to it. One gap in the current Act is the absence of a forum for redress if a problem arises. This Bill allows for the creation of an independent body for redressing such issues.

The Bill also deals with the powers of Band Councils. One matter that has been brought to the Ministry's attention is that the Act is silent on matters relating to the legal capacity of Band Councils. In some cases, this has prevented Bands from entering into legal agreements with third parties, given the unclear nature of their legal capacity. As a result, DIAND would have to co-sign agreements, even for relatively minor undertakings. Bill C-61 will create greater clarity in this area.

Section 34 gives the Minister discretion to waive the Bill's application for groups close to the completion of a Self-government agreement. This is time-limited, so when groups are sufficiently close to an agreement, they can seek a waiver.

Many First Nations groups are familiarizing themselves with the Bill's provisions over the Summer. When tabling the Bill, the Minister referred it to a Legislative Standing Committee right away, which is something of an innovation. This gives the committee more leeway to alter the Bill once it embarks on consultative hearings across the country.

Mary Kendi says grace as the *Assembly* breaks for dinner at 5:00 p.m.

The *Assembly* reconvenes at 6:15 p.m.

George John announces that the Chair of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Nellie Cournoyea, is scheduled to appear under item N. (c), but is unable to be here. He reads aloud a letter from her regretting that circumstances prevent her from appearing as scheduled, but reiterating her commitment to cooperation between the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit on issues affecting both groups, such as Self-government.

b. G.N.W.T. - Hon. Stephen Kakfwi; Hon. Jim Antoine; Hon. Roger Allen

The Hon. Roger Allen thanks the *Assembly* for its invitation. He regrets that the Hon. Jim Antoine is unable to be here today, and Premier Kakfwi, while unable to be here today, will attend on Saturday.

He proceeds to summarize his activities over the previous year, in the Justice, Housing, Youth, and Homelessness portfolios. He notes that the high cost of housing in the far North remains a concern. Indeed, he and the GTC deal with many of the same problems on this front. One promising initiative which the NWT Housing Corporation has taken in the smaller communities is a shift from a year-to-year rental policy to a flat rate scale. Under the year-to-year system, many people cannot afford to go to work since they can lose as much as 50% of the income they earn. Putting in a flat rate removes that disincentive.

One challenge to face is the proposed policy change in harmonizing public housing and income support, which he and colleagues in the GNWT consider the best way to approach things. He is always happy to listen to the concerns of the *Assembly*. Indeed he recalls that several years ago he and his colleagues approached it for direction on social policy. He is pleased to see a homegrown Chair here today, his old friend George John. He will be pleased to answer any questions.

George John opens the floor to questions. There being none, he thanks the Hon. Roger Allen for his remarks.

Mary Teya leads the *Assembly* in a closing prayer.

The *Assembly* adjourns at 7:00 p.m.

Following recitation of an opening prayer, George John calls the *Assembly* to order at 9:15 a.m.

d. Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Todd Burlingame, MVEIRB Chair, introduces himself and his colleague Bertha Rabesca, a Board member representing the Dogrib. He adds that Charlie Snowshoe ably represents the Gwich'in on the MVEIRB.

A version of MVEIRB report for this year is on pages 36-40 of this year's Annual Report, and describes Board activities in some detail. He explains that the Board is independent of government, with a mandate to represent the interests of all Mackenzie Valley residents. It reviews development proposals and makes recommendations to the relevant Ministers, calling up projects either on its own authority or in response to requests by others.

The MVEIRB is already engaged in preparatory work for a projected pipeline, and circulated a Cooperation Plan at the recent Inuvik Petroleum Show. This Plan is designed to clarify the process. Given the need for a "made in the North" process, there will be full consideration of potential impacts, with traditional knowledge used in assessing proposals. He has had a chance to review the impressive traditional knowledge work done by the Gwich'in and available at the GRRB office in Inuvik.

Bertha Rabesca adds that pipeline impact assessment will include cultural and community impact. The MVEIRB has identified this as a theme to emphasize this year, since stepped-up development affects the ways people live.

Elizabeth Hansen asks how the MVEIRB relates to other organizations in assessments dealing with climate change, and what its plans are to secure funding for future activities in various regions.

Todd Burlingame replies that the Cooperation Plan addresses funding issues. The MVEIRB makes use of information gathered by those studying climate change in the field and participates in organizations like the NWT Climate Change Society.

Charles Snowshoe adds that protecting the Mackenzie Valley requires attention to developments in and around it. He urges anyone who learns of problematic activity to alert the MVEIRB. The Peel River, he notes, runs right into the Mackenzie Valley.

Larry Firth notes that the MVEIRB has several staff people. What are the qualifications of the Traditional Knowledge Coordinator and the other employees? He sees potential career opportunities here for some younger Gwich'in, in time.

Todd Burlingame replies that the Environmental Assessment Officers have backgrounds in environmental engineering, or environmental sciences. The Traditional Knowledge Coordinator has a background in traditional knowledge as well as management. He will forward job descriptions for these positions, which will illustrate the qualifications needed to pursue such careers.

James Andre asks what jurisdiction the MVEIRB has around the Peel or the Blackstone.

Todd Burlingame replies that activity upstream can trigger an MVEIRB assessment. But the MVEIRB must be informed of such activity, and development in a given jurisdiction does not always reach the MVEIRB's table. The MVEIRB has not had any assessment referred to it by the GLWB. When a referral is made, the MVEIRB has the ability to step in.

Bertha Rabesca adds that the Board's jurisdiction here is spelled out in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. The MVEIRB has developed relationships with Boards in other jurisdictions and shares information with them on issues where there is a potential transboundary impact. The MVEIRB's relevant mandate in this field is ensuring that developments in other jurisdictions do not adversely affect the Mackenzie Valley.

James Andre says he is concerned about a coal mining application that might have an adverse impact on Peel River waters.

Todd Burlingame responds that Charlie Snowshoe raised this matter at the last MVEIRB meeting. The Board will monitor the issue, and if such an application comes forward and goes to a review, will try to participate.

Rick Wilson (Fort McPherson) asks how seriously government Departments take MVEIRB recommendations.

Todd Burlingame acknowledges that the MVEIRB has made recommendations which have not been accepted by government. As the regulations now stand, the DIAND Minister is the final authority.

e. Devlan Exploration Inc.

No presentation.

f. Western Geco

No presentation.

g. Northern Contaminants Program - Michele Culhane, DIAND

Michele Culhane introduces herself and thanks Norman Snowshoe and Johnny Edwards for arranging for her to appear at the *Assembly*.

She explains her work on the Northern Contaminants Program, which was created as a partnership among four federal Government Departments in response to concerns about the levels of contaminants found in wildlife and marine mammals in the North.

The Program measures contaminants levels in the environment and in wildlife and assesses their environmental impact, with the aim of using these results to persuade the countries producing these contaminants to stop doing so.

Communicating these results is an important part of the Program, which includes community tours to inform people about contaminants levels. Johnny Edwards, in his capacity as GTC Contaminants Coordinator, brings this material into the GSA communities.

This year the Northern Contaminants Program produced a report summarizing the last five years of research, the Canadian Contaminants Assessment Report. Johnny Edwards will ensure that this report is accessible to interested Beneficiaries. There is also an NWT body, the Environmental Contaminants Committee, whose report is available. Johnny Edwards is the GTC representative on this body, a position Norman Snowshoe has occupied in the past, while Carole Mills is Chair and Chris Paci of the Dene Nation is Co-Chair.

She is now trying to obtain the funding to renew the Program for another five years, and would welcome the GTC's support.

The conclusion dictated by the Program's research to date is that traditional foods are safe to eat. While there are small contaminants levels, traditional foods remain safer than almost all store-bought foods.

Norman Snowshoe adds that the contaminants issue arose in 1999, with people concerned about contaminants entering the food chain. Until sufficient media attention was generated, people were largely left to deal with it on their own. The Northern Contaminants Program provides a means of investigating contaminant levels, and has supported a number of checking and sampling projects. The surveys of muskrat, beaver, and other wildlife have revealed very low levels of contaminants, below Health Canada guidelines.

Fanny Greenland (Aklavik) remarks that many Beneficiaries are concerned about contaminants and believe they are related to an increasing incidence of cancer.

George John notes that there is nobody here from Health Canada today to address such concerns.

Sigmore Furlong (Aklavik) says that health should be a concern. In recent years, most Elders who have died have been afflicted with cancer. More checkups might catch the illness at an earlier stage in some cases. He is also concerned that medical conditions are not explained to Elders in ways that they can understand, and would like to see more use of translators in this context.

Michele Culhane notes that there is a new Environmental Health Officer in Inuvik, Chris Beveridge, who is anxious to work with everyone on environmental health issues. There is also a recently launched program, led by the Inuvik Regional Contaminants Coordinator, to monitor lakes and the runoff from the Inuvik landfill for contaminants.

Elizabeth Hansen says that in Inuvik there is concern that the Gwich'in Representative on the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board is not reporting to people. There is little we can do since the position is filled by Ministerial appointment. Perhaps there is a better way of choosing the Health Rep.

George John points out that Michele Culhane is only here to address certain issues, and this would not appear to be one of them.

Hazel Nerysoo (Fort McPherson) points out that Annie Smith, who represents the Gwich'in on the IRHSSB, did report to the last GTC Board of Directors meeting and plans to make community visits. The meetings of the IRHSSB are open to the public, and she believes the next one is on September 12.

Barry Greenland says that at one of the Nihtat Gwich'in Council's monthly meetings a few months back, questions arose about the old dump site on Navy Road, where the old Navy base was once located. He sent a letter to DIAND about the matter, and was told by DIAND staff that the enquiry had been forwarded to Carole Mills. When Claim-related bodies write to DIAND, they should get a timely response rather than be told who the letter has been forwarded to. He would like to know what progress has been made on this issue.

Norman Snowshoe says that one problem with the Caribou River site cleanup was that enquiries went out to different departments. DIAND's waste management program does site remediation work. If the matter is brought to his office, he will look into it upon his return.

Mavis Clark asks Michele Culhane if her Department is involved in recycling programs in the GSA.

Michele Culhane responds that there is a recycling coordinator in Inuvik, but as far as she is aware funding for the position comes from the municipal rather than the federal Government.

O. ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS

a. Nacho Nyak dun (Mayo)

Chief Robert Hager from Mayo thanks the *Assembly* for its invitation. He recalls his organization's experience in the Land Claim process and praises the mutual support of Aboriginal organizations throughout that process. He reiterates that all have the same goal.

In Mayo, he initially thought that the conclusion of a Self-government agreement ended the necessity of dealing with DIAND. The federal and territorial Governments would have to deal with his people on a government-to-government basis. His people now have their own Constitution, which expels the Indian Act from their affairs. They must be consulted on any development activity, before a single shovel is put in the ground.

It will take a great deal of effort to make Self-government work, he continues. The federal and territorial Governments now disagree with each other as to who is responsible for delivering particular programs, and Ottawa is very reluctant to provide new monies. He is intent on securing money for health, education, and other programs, and on ensuring that the federal Government gives his people what it has promised them. While he is certainly in favour of economic development, he also favors taking care of the land. Under Self-government, if something goes wrong it is “our own fault”, and the people cannot blame others. This is where leadership and organization are needed. Aboriginal groups must work out benefit agreements with oil and gas companies to ensure that development takes place on acceptable terms, and that they get their share of the gains it brings.

Charles Furlong thanks Chief Hager for his remarks and makes a presentation to him.

James Firth adds that it is good to have allies in the Yukon like Chief Hager. The Gwich'in and others must do the work required on their side, too.

b. Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

No presentation.

c. Dene Nation

Grand Chief Bill Erasmus expresses his pleasure that people are using their own language at this *Assembly*. He introduces Chris Paci, the head of the Dene Nation Environmental Department. The Dene Nation staff consists of fewer than fifteen people, and he wishes to keep the staff small so that communities and Bands run their own affairs. The Dene Nation's role is a coordinating one. Its offices include archives and a Health Department. About two years ago Charles Furlong suggested hiring someone to work on legislative developments such as the firearms registry. The position of Parliamentary Legislative Assistant is designed to keep people informed on developments in federal and territorial processes and to help governments to function.

At the recent Dene Nation Assembly in Fort Simpson, a package of constitutional changes was approved, and is now with the lawyers. Peter Ross and his Delegates played a significant role in this process of constitutional modernization, making their own preferences very clear. The Gwich'in Delegation was not a large one, since the Assembly conflicted with the Gwich'in Gathering at Old Crow.

Membership was the subject of extensive discussion. The previous Constitution had two pages dealing with membership, where the new one has a single Article specifying that each region or group will decide its own membership. This should reduce the disagreements over membership considerably.

The Assembly also looked at leadership, where it saw a need to get Elders more involved. The Dene Nation has now established an Elders Council with five members, one from each region. The Gwich'in must choose an Elder who will work with the Dene Nation at the territorial level, as well as designate an Elder to work with the Dene Cultural Institute.

The leadership has been redefined, indeed doubled. The leadership no longer consists just of the Chiefs. Each Chief will be accompanied by an Elder at leadership meetings, who will have a vote. The executive of five Vice-Chiefs will each need an Elder as well, so Elders are now involved at every level.

The traditional names for each region will be included in the Constitution as well as the English name, encouraging use of the indigenous language in each region..

Some constitutional matters remain to be clarified, such as the roles of the National Chief and National Office, but these will evolve. The national institutions are there to lobby and facilitate, to support the local leadership rather than detract from it. He wishes to emphasize this point, since some may feel that the Dene Nation is trying to speak on everyone's behalf, which is not the case.

Before the constitutional changes were made, some members were uncomfortable doing so until the membership issue had been clarified. The Assembly passed a motion stating that those who left the Dene Nation, whatever their reasons, are now welcome back as full members. That had a visible impact, and the Assembly then moved to accept the changes to the Constitution. At the end of the Assembly, Peter Ross indicated that the Gwich'in would like to host the next Assembly, and a motion to that effect was passed unanimously. He has now received a note from the four Chiefs informing him that they have agreed to host the 33rd Dene National Assembly in Aklavik. Once the Gwich'in meet and set dates, his office will be happy to begin on the organizational tasks.

He adds that over the years the Assembly of First Nations has evolved as well, and he has served as National Chief and Vice-Chief. It is worth discussing whether one person should occupy both posts. The Dene Nation office also functions as the regional office for the AFN. He would like to see greater coordination with groups like the Gwich'in regarding problems in Implementation; there are ways to exert pressure on the Government of Canada, and the AFN is happy to help.

In addition, work with leaders in Alaska and the Yukon has led to formation of the Arctic-Athabaskan Council, which means that the Gwich'in now have another voice on the international scene in addition to the Gwich'in Steering Committee. Ed Scholz, Grand Chief from the Yukon, has the head office, and he hopes to see a regional office set up in Yellowknife.

Grand Chief Bill Erasmus adds that he will attend the Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, which is a follow-up to the Earth Summit in Rio ten years ago. He would be interested in bringing a representative of Gwich'in youth, who would be able to help him bring Gwich'in concerns on to the international stage.

At a recent Elders' gathering in Tulita-Fort Norman, between 60 and 70 participants agreed on the need for an annual Elders' gathering rotating among the regions each March. They have approached the Dene Nation to set up a foundation to raise money for Elders and youth to work together on issues affecting both.

As for the governance file, addressed yesterday by Stephen Van Dine, he can confirm that his staff have looked at it over the last year and a half or so. They find that the Indian Act does affect Aboriginals in the North. It will not suffice to say that we are not affected because we live in the North or because we belong to a group that does not have a treaty. To all intents and purposes, many of us are registered as Status Indians. We need to study the new legislation, see what it means, and propose changes where they are necessary. Some reject the process, but those who will be affected must find ways of having input and working together to ensure that no rights are jeopardized by the new legislation.

Grace Blake thanks Grand Chief Bill Erasmus for his presentation.

Charles Furlong expresses his gratitude to Grand Chief Bill Erasmus as well, and makes a presentation to him.

Robert Charlie says that before the *Assembly* breaks for lunch, he wishes to make a presentation on behalf of Joe Tetlich, Chair of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. Each year the Board presents a conservation award, and this year the Board wishes to reward Kenny Smith and Bobbi Jo Greenland for their hard work protecting ANWR.

Kenny Smith expresses his gratitude to the Board, and encourages people to go South to help educate both the public and Congress in the U.S. on this issue, but cautions that it is not an easy life.

Bobbi Jo Greenland thanks the Board for the award, and reiterates that the protection of ANWR and the Caribou is an issue of great importance. She adds that for some years there have been two vacancies on the Gwich'in Steering Committee. She would like to see the *Assembly* fill these seats or give the GTC Board a deadline for doing so.

At 12:15 p.m. the *Assembly* breaks for lunch, Liz Crawford (Aklavik) saying grace.

At 1:15 p.m. the *Assembly* reconvenes.

P. Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

GSCI Executive Director Leslie McCartney informs the *Assembly* that the GSCI report for this year is on pages 22-24 of the GTC Annual Report. Today, she will make a PowerPoint presentation, focusing on the GTC's Strategic Analysis and Five-Year Business Plan. William George Firth, GSCI Language Manager, will help with the language component of the presentation.

She recapitulates the GSCI's history to date and the nature of its mandate. The GSCI has 8 permanent staff and has employed more than 100 on a project-to-project basis. It has initiated more than 30 projects and oversees the Language Centre. The current five-year plan follows the pattern set by previous five-year plans prepared in 1992 and 1996.

The current plan builds on work done by Bill Davidson of RT & Associates, who spoke with 76 individuals in an extensive process of community consultation. The plan proposes continued work on documentation and preservation of heritage resources, with social programs turned over to the communities. Language strategies and materials, the coordination of language-related activities, capacity-building, increased community involvement and greater visibility were all identified as priorities.

The GTC Board has approved in principle the GSCI Traditional Knowledge policy.

Over the next five years key activities will include the development of archives and a library; digitizing A/V tapes; immersion camps; an Elders' academy or council; website design; and a video of the clothing project. Funding issues will loom large as well.

A new Board will prove necessary since the current one consists largely of Elders. Other projects of importance include a GIS needs assessment; the Elders' biographies book; the Tsiigehtchic history book; planning and design of a new building; and the evaluation of school language programs. Partnering with others will help make the results of GSCI research available to a wider public.

William George Firth points to the need for action to prevent further erosion of the language. Gwich'in is the most endangered of the NWT Dene languages. According to a 1998 GNWT study, slightly more than 10% of the Gwich'in population can speak it, fewer than 10% use it as their mother tongue, and far fewer speak it regularly in the home.

Leslie McCartney points out that activities to preserve the language should include language camps in all seasons, not only during the summer. Children learn the language and the culture together. There is a need for language training for parents as well, and age-specific language training materials for grades k-12. Language curricula can be developed in conjunction with the BDEC and IRC. Pre-school and adult curricula, the preparation of a draft language policy, development and implementation of on-the-land immersion programs are elements of a future language program. She proposes to measure and evaluate effectiveness as these efforts go ahead, and self-correct as needed.

This will all require an increase in staff from 8 to 14, with a heritage policy analyst; language initiatives coordinator; social policy analyst; archivist trainee; finance clerk; and GIS technician.

Questions regarding the required additional infrastructure must be answered. Office space in Yellowknife must be considered, as well as temperature control for preservation of materials in the Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson offices. A new building and new equipment will be necessary, but where?

Historically, the GSCI has largely operated from its Tsiigehtchic base, but there is little office space there. Fort McPherson, of course, has the largest Gwich'in population. Nobody has yet suggested Aklavik. Inuvik has the advantages of proximity to resources, but centralization does not build pride in the smaller communities.

Finances must be taken into account. GSCI expenses for FY 1994-5 were \$272,000, and have more than doubled since then. Less than half of GSCI core funding now comes from the GTC, GNWT and BDEC. Half the core funding and all project funding have to be raised. By 2006, projections are for spending of \$1.4 million and revenues of \$1.2 million. The language and culture fund created from the Sahtu royalty settlement will help, but it is only the annual interest that is available. Moreover, it is nowhere made clear that these funds go specifically to the GSCI. Will the interest on the fund go exclusively to the Institute? More core and project funding is needed, and increased revenues from publications. Partnerships with other organizations to work on related projects can help too. The GSCI lacks the resources to meet its mandate, and if resources are not substantially increased responsibilities will have to be cut back. The five-year plan prepared by RT & Associates assumes the availability of increased funds. The GSCI approved the plan in principle at the last Board meeting, but needs the support of the *Assembly*.

Bertha Francis speaks of her involvement as a GSCI Board member, and reads aloud a draft motion on this issue.

Whereas the *18th Annual General Assembly* granted approval for the GTC Board of Directors to invest the Sahtu Royalty Funds and to develop a strategic investment plan; and

Whereas the GTC Finance Committee presented a strategic investment plan for the Sahtu Royalty Funds to the GTC Board of Directors, and this was approved (Motion #17/02) on March 18, 2002, in a motion which included establishment of a \$1 million dollar fund for Culture and Language; and

Whereas the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute was established by the Gwich'in Tribal Council to preserve and promote the Gwich'in Culture and Language, as a charitable organization for taxation and donation purposes;

Be it Resolved that the Culture and Language Fund established under the Sahtu Royalties be designated to help support the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and that the interest from this fund be made available exclusively for the use of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute;

Be it Further Resolved that the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, with the support of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, use their best efforts to have this \$1 million fund matched with government funds.

Moved by: Bertha Francis (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Sarah MacLeod-Firth (Inuvik)

Questions from the floor arise as to whether the motion can be distributed to the Delegates before a vote is taken.

Grace Blake replies that motions have been brought to the floor before with only one copy.

Ian McLeod says that he never sees any GSCI presence in Aklavik. Unless he has assurances this will be rectified he will not support the motion.

William George Firth acknowledges that this is a concern. He would like to see a group in each community working on the language plan. This would include Aklavik. Until recently he had two people from Aklavik on the Language Advisory Committee. He wants to see one of the projected immersion camps in Aklavik, or at least have a group in each community to work on a language camp.

Leslie McCartney says she is aware of at least one study and one oral history that were done in Aklavik, and a draft book was completed this month. She intends to see GSCI work on display in all four communities, and will discuss this with the Band Office.

Larry Firth expresses his concern about the way in which this motion was brought forward. He would like to hear from the GTC on the creation of this trust fund.

Tom Williams explains that when the Finance Committee made its recommendations on allocation of the Sahtu funds, it saw a need for social and cultural programming. The GSCI simply wishes to clarify that it has exclusive access to the interest on the fund, while the principal grows. The interest would ease the budgetary constraints on GSCI operations.

Robert Charlie says that when the GTC Board allocated these funds, it also sought a workplan for each fund, in part to lever funds from the federal and territorial Governments. He would like to see a discussion of these workplans before there is any spending. He suggests deferring this motion until tomorrow, so that Delegates at least have the opportunity to discuss it in caucus. Once again, a motion dealing with expenditures has been brought forward without time for adequate review.

Grace Blake suggests there should be two motions, one dealing with acceptance of the five-year plan, the other dealing with the spending of the interest on the Culture and Language Fund. Perhaps the present motion should be deferred.

Mavis Clark requests an estimate of the annual interest the fund would generate. Elders die every day, and it is worth spending money to get information from them while they are still here. Getting more money from contribution agreements with other agencies would ease the GSCI's fiscal difficulties, and the GTC's help would be appreciated.

James Firth says that some weeks back Leslie McCartney made a presentation on the five-year plan to the GTC Board, when it met in Fort McPherson. He believes everyone here supports the GSCI and he would be happy to see a motion supporting the five-year plan. He sits on the Finance Committee, and would like to see it address issues of leveraging funds from other sources. The interest on the Culture and Language Fund would be \$50-60,000, assuming a 5-6% interest rate.

This could be increased through leveraging other funds. He sees no great problem here, but people need to do their homework.

Grace Blake asks if the mover and seconder will agree to defer the motion. Both agree.

Deferred.

Barry Greenland commends William George Firth and Bertha Francis for using the language, and says he appreciates the hard work done by the GSCI. He has one particular concern about the organization's expenditure, which he raised in Fort McPherson two years ago. The GSCI's Research Director, Ingrid Kritsch, works out of her home in Yellowknife. He would like to see her located in the GSA. He has seen no benefits from the present arrangement, and thinks it would be preferable that she work from offices in the GSA. The GTC does not allow Beneficiaries to work from their homes or outside the GSA, and the same rules should apply to other employees. Will this arrangement continue? He wishes an answer today or at least by the end of the *Assembly*. As a Beneficiary, he is against such an expenditure.

Leslie McCartney replies that for the last two years there has been a budget item for office space in Yellowknife, but the funds have never been available, and rents there are high and rising. It was impossible to rent such space this year. Funding another office from core funding obviously takes money away from other purposes. Ingrid Kritsch's presence in Yellowknife allows her to stay in close contact with the GNWT and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. This is why the GSCI gets a lot of the money it has.

Barry Greenland says that the GTC criticizes staff when they use GTC vehicles for their own purposes. Ingrid Kritsch is a GSCI employee, and would be more beneficially employed in the Tsiigehtchic office.

Elizabeth Hansen suggests that it is unfair to discuss staff by name in this forum. Such discussions of personnel issues should be *in camera*. The organization needs people who are willing to work with it wherever they may be located. There are questions of etiquette here too.

Fred Carmichael says that he has looked into this issue and met with Ingrid Kritsch. There is not a lot of accommodation in Tsiigehtchic, and it would be hard for the GTC to find and keep such employees if it were to treat her in this way. He has seen some of the work the GSCI does in Yellowknife and believes the organization is actually saving money by having Ingrid Kritsch work from her home. If people wish to get her an office or move her up here, then they must provide the resources needed to do that. He believes we would jeopardize her continued employment with the GSCI by forcing her out of her house. Is it really anyone's wish that nobody work for the GTC and its subsidiaries except within the GSA? The GTC is trying to find a solution to the problem, but it will not be easy.

Leslie McCartney adds that in the years that Ingrid Kritsch has worked for the GSCI she has never asked the GSCI to pay rent despite the genuine inconvenience to her caused by having the GSCI office in her home. Until this year she paid for the telephone line and internet connection. The GSCI never paid for any of her equipment until this year, when Leslie insisted that the GSCI buy her a proper desk given her problems with tendonitis.

Bertha Francis remarks that Ingrid Kritsch has used her own equipment on GSCI projects and trips. The GSCI staff help the youth by taking them on the land and giving them inspiration for possible careers. If Ingrid Kritsch had to relocate to the GSA, sending her to Yellowknife to conduct business requiring meetings there would prove costly.

Louisa Andre adds that those who work for the GSCI in the language field generally work from their homes. She would also like to see proper accommodation for the GSCI's executive Director in Tsiigehtchic.

Grace Blake reminds the Delegates that they have the right to interject with points of order if they believe that particular remarks are inappropriate. Personal matters should not be discussed at this forum.

R. PRESENTATIONS BY ELDERS AND YOUTH

Grace Blake introduces Frank Firth and Sigmore Furlong, who will make a flipchart presentation reflecting the results of a meeting yesterday.

Frank Firth adds that yesterday the Elders and youth delegates met, in order to improve communication between the two groups and discuss issues of common concern. He was pleased to note that Ethel Blondin-Andrew was in attendance.

Sigmore Furlong says that the health system was a major cause of concern to participants. When Elders go south for checkups, they normally come back with bad news. Nurses should be able to diagnose them sooner, and too often Elders are lost to cancer. The best possible health care should be available to Elders.

In addition, youth facilities and activities need more support. The youth centre in Fort McPherson was shut down because the Hamlet concluded it stood little chance of passing a safety inspection. Too often young people do not get needed support from their families and communities, and turn to alcohol. In his own community he sees young people spending the money from summer employment on alcohol. Programs like the Junior Rangers deserve support, and he would like to see a youth representative on the GTC Board, with a vote and honorarium. The youth will ultimately provide the leaders, and it makes sense to take them along to meetings.

Frank Firth says that Elders' concerns include the proposed housing development in Inuvik's Happy Valley Campground. There is concern that Elders' wishes are not being respected in this case, where cost should not be an excuse and "our Elders deserve what they want". In addition, the Elders' home in Fort McPherson is cold and uncomfortable. For years, the community has sought a facility similar to the one in Aklavik. Too often the Elders are sent away for long-term care in Aklavik or Inuvik, while it would be better to have a facility that would allow them to remain in Fort McPherson. Home care should be more widely available as well. He would like to see a book project in which Elders and youth worked together collecting stories and pictures.

Sigmore Furlong adds that youth are concerned that the Inuvik youth centre is in a bad location, in close proximity to three bars. It should be relocated to a more appropriate site. There is also concern that Tsiigehtchic has no Education Authority or School Board, which makes it difficult to arrange trips and activities.

Frank Firth warns of the negative effects of the proposed pipeline, which may include alcohol and drugs, people having more money than they can handle, family breakdown and child neglect. Translators are needed at all meetings and gatherings. The question should not have to be raised at the start of a meeting, the need should be assumed. He recalls the two-day meeting on Self-government issues with Lawrence Norbert and a group of about 30 Elders. This was a productive meeting, and the translators played a significant role in its success.

Sigmore Furlong says that Elders are in favour of on-the-land programs, but would prefer that they be longer. He very much appreciated the willingness of Ethel Blondin-Andrew and Bill Erasmus to answer questions. More frequent visits by them and others in similar positions would be welcome. Elders and youth recognized the need to support one another and to improve communications. They can teach and learn from each other but need the support of the leadership and the community as a whole.

Larry Firth reminds the *Assembly* that the Resolutions Committee will be accepting draft resolutions until the end of today's session. It will then convene as a committee and will distribute copies of the resolutions tomorrow.

Lillian Wright (Inuvik) informs the *Assembly* that a recent concern in Inuvik has been the employment of strippers at Frosty's, a local bar. Following a public forum on the issue in May, a group named Steppingstones to the Future was formed. It has reached agreement with the management of Frosty's that if 51% of the residents express their opposition to the availability of this form of entertainment, it will no longer be provided. The group plans a supper in Inuvik, with a veteran of that industry as guest speaker, to discuss its ill effects. It is necessary to disseminate information on the harm such entertainment causes, since doing nothing would be taken as indicating approval.

Shawna Nerysoo (Fort McPherson) points out that in other organizations Elders and youth have formal representation. She would like to see this principle extended to representation on the GTC Board.

Q. COMMUNITY REPORTS

Agreement that the report from each community's Gwich'in Council will be followed by that community's Renewable Resource Council, as opposed to proceeding through all the Gwich'in Council reports and then those from all the RRCs.

Peter Ross informs the group that one of the Gwichya Gwich'in Council concerns, support for youth, will be addressed in a forthcoming motion. He reiterates that the lack of adequate facilities for youth hampers many activities the community would like to undertake. The lack of a coach is one problem, but Tsiigehtchic will get two "Beavers" from Ontario this year, one of whom will act as a coach.

Lack of sufficient housing stock remains a problem, although he had a useful meeting with the Hon. Roger Allen touching on housing issues. He also met with Michael Miltenberger to push for multi-year funding for the community's mental health worker. The Council encourages training, among the young in particular, and he hopes to see a heavy equipment program in Tsiigehtchic sometime in September. He lists the changes to Council staff described in the Gwichya Gwich'in Council report in the GTC Annual Report, and observes that the need for resource people in the community itself is a pressing reality. Six people from the community participated in the Caribou River cleanup. The renegotiation of the ferry contract is coming up soon.

Mavis Clark notes that the Tsiigehtchic RRC is newly elected, and has done a lot of "brainstorming" on possible activities over the next two years. The Council needs to acquire a secretary and an administrative officer, since the Coordinator now has no time for fundraising and program development given the pressure of administrative routine. Projects on the RRC's agenda include finding traditional trails; involving youth in on-the-land activities; obtaining funds for snowshoe-building programs and fur workshops. The community has a sawmill that has sat idle for two years, and it would be good to see it in operation again, to build up a stockpile of lumber among other things. She would also like to see construction of an office plan that would include a facility for preparing and storing caribou meat. This would ensure there was healthy food available for Elders throughout the year. She concludes that RRCs should be left to run their own monitoring programs.

Charles Furlong says that in his first two years as Chief in Aklavik he had to focus his efforts on reorganizing the Band Council. Now he is able to concentrate on economic development, long an area of special interest for him. Industry will be coming into the area in a big way over the next few years, and the communities need to look closely at the opportunities available to them. They must also think strategically in deciding what kinds of businesses to go into. He has tried to work with the other communities and with the GTC in this area. He and James Firth of Inuvik saw a number of opportunities and formed the Nehtr'uh Development Group as a joint venture. Now, Peter Ross and Abe Wilson have joined them, and the group has launched a project with a large environmental group. The agenda for the next year will consist of promoting Self-government and economic development. He is glad to report that after ten years of effort, the first load of gravel has been laid on the Willow Road Trail. The project is creating jobs locally and will finish this Winter.

During the last election he decided to introduce something new, and added the election of Elder and youth representatives, with full voting rights. He adds that if we are serious about preparing the youth for future responsibility, we need to put them in positions of authority. When he became Chief the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council could not afford to hire a secretary. Staff have been added and trained, and this year the Council was among the first to submit its fully audited statements. As for the recent concerns over Self-government, he and his fellow Chiefs were motivated by a desire to preserve treaty rights. He is glad that they raised the right questions. Yesterday afternoon the Chiefs agreed with the federal and territorial Governments on a workplan to deal with these issues. He hopes that in 6-8 weeks, the AIP can be signed. With the Chiefs on side and key points clarified, the agreement will be a stronger one.

Fanny Greenland says that the Aklavik RRC has distributed a written report to the *Assembly*, and she has nothing to add to it.

Grace Blake interrupts the proceedings to read a note from George John, who has had to leave for medical attention available only in Inuvik. In his absence she will preside as sole Chair. No doubt all here wish him well.

Abe Wilson summarizes the activities of the Tetlit Gwich'in Council over the previous year, adding that the Council elected last September began its tenure with a retreat at Rock River to set priorities for the following three years. One major accomplishment was the separation of business from politics in the operations of the Rat River Development Corporation. This allowed a reduction in workload for the Council, and the Development Corporation has identified a number of promising business opportunities in Fort McPherson. Fort McPherson's youth centre was closed as a potential fire hazard some months ago, and the Council has a proposal for a new facility in the works. The Tetlit Gwich'in Council developed the Family Healing program and is working on plans for TI'oondih Healing Camp, so the outlook is positive for both economic development and social issues.

Charles Snowshoe says that a handout available at the *Assembly* describes the work of the Tetlit RRC, focusing on the Peel River Watershed concerns and other issues.

James Firth informs the *Assembly* that the Nihtat Gwich'in Council undertook an extensive reorganization of its own structure last year. It has a new HR Manual, an elections Bylaw with clear roles and responsibilities, and both a Finance Committee and a Personnel Committee. The Inuvik Native Band and Nihtat Gwich'in Council have a single monthly meeting, along with the RRC, Elders and youth. Inuvik is a tax-based community, and this dictates an emphasis on business opportunities. The Nihtat Gwich'in Council sees opportunities coming with the return of oil and gas activity, and wants to make economic progress without abandoning traditional values. It seeks partnerships with others, and hopes to generate business opportunities, not just employment. It is moving ahead with development of its own housing project in the hinterlands, making use of some of the programs available under the NWT Housing Corporation.

About five years ago the Council took over the Rachel Reindeer Camp and reopened it for on-the-land programs. He would like to see more sharing of information among the communities and the GTC. Since Inuvik is a regional centre, almost everyone comes through, and the community tries to help others. In the era of oil and gas development, the only way to get ahead is for all to work together. He sits on the Finance Committee, which frequently hears from people asking about payouts. Yesterday the GDC gave a very positive report. 2007 is not that far away, and people need to understand where the money is going. Within the next four years the GTC needs to come up with ways for everyone to benefit. While the separation of business from politics has produced benefits, there are times when political intervention is needed, with the political leadership going to Yellowknife to get a point across.

Harry Carmichael summarizes the work of the Nihtat Renewable Resource Council over the year, with its emphasis on oil and gas-related activity. He notes that the Sahtu royalty has led to the creation of trust funds for both Education and Training and Culture and Language, but both need cash injections now. Programs for youth and Elders are needed as well. His RRC would like to see reports from the Land and Water Board, which has not reported at the *Assembly* the last two years.

Margaret Begg informs the *Assembly* that she and Karen Francis are glad to be here as observers from Yellowknife. She would like to see a small office in Yellowknife to keep Beneficiaries there informed; it might also help with the problem of office space for the GSCI in Yellowknife. Is there any funding available for this? She is aware of a Beneficiary who would be willing to be seconded from DIAND in order to get an office in Yellowknife started. She gathers that GTC employees need special permission to work outside the GSA, but not everyone is lucky enough to be able to work where they come from. If the GTC supports Beneficiaries outside the GSA, they will be happy to support the GTC.

Rose Simon says that she is glad to be here as an observer from Whitehorse. There is little activity among Beneficiaries in Whitehorse, and they hear little from the GTC. An office in Whitehorse would be useful.

Fred Carmichael responds that he and the GTC will take these comments under consideration. As a candidate, he did advocate a meaningful role for Beneficiaries in Yellowknife and Whitehorse, and the concerns of these Beneficiaries are certainly legitimate. It is difficult for the Board to do much in this area without *Assembly* approval.

Charles Furlong informs the *Assembly* that for about a year and a half, the GTC and the four Chiefs have been at work on the economic chapter of the Claim, where little was happening. Too often, contracts went to southern businesses and non-Gwich'in in Inuvik, so the GTC initiated negotiations with the GNWT on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a "guiding light" for interpreting the economic chapter regarding contracts in the GSA. For the last month and a half, he has been engaged in negotiations with Yellowknife, with successive drafts going back and forth. A week ago the GTC submitted a final draft with its comments, and he has just received word from the GNWT that Cabinet has approved it. This is a major step forward for the Gwich'in.

Agnes Jones says that as a Beneficiary living outside the GSA, she is glad to get what news she can about GTC activities. She is concerned that her son-in-law, who is non-Gwich'in, is having trouble getting work because of his status. She is sure that many Beneficiaries married to non-Gwich'in are in the same boat, and she would like to see something done for them.

Norma Kassi reiterates that there are two vacancies from the NWT on the Gwich'in Steering Committee. For years, the late Johnny Charlie and Alestine Andre sat on the Committee. Normally, the Chiefs make recommendations to fill vacancies. Sometimes the Committee has trouble reaching quorum, so nominees are clearly needed. She believes that Bobbi Jo Greenland has some names of possible candidates. With the caribou issue so important now, there will be a lot of work for the Committee to do in the next few years.

Fred Carmichael responds that the Board will deal with this at its next meeting. If he can have a list of people willing to undertake the required travel, the Board can act quickly.

Jane Charlie (Fort McPherson) reiterates the community concerns about the Caribou River and the rising incidence of cancer.

Fred Carmichael replies that the GTC is working hard to see what is behind these illnesses. The GTC has had to deal with the Caribou River issue for some years now, but the site has finally been cleaned up. The GTC will demand regular water testing. He has personal experience with cancer, and knows the toll such illness takes. He wishes to give credit to the previous Administration for its work on this issue as well.

Ruth Carroll (Inuvik) wishes to thank the people, particularly those of Fort McPherson, for their sympathy and support through recent personal trials.

Catherine Mitchell (Inuvik) leads the *Assembly* in a closing prayer.

The *Assembly* adjourns at 5:15 p.m.

Following an opening prayer led by Renie Stewart, the *Assembly* reconvenes at 9:00 a.m.

T. RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions Committee distributes copies of the resolutions submitted to it by the close of the previous day's proceedings.

U. Approve Assembly Motions and Resolutions

Whereas monitoring of activities and development on Gwich'in Settlement Lands is carried out by the Gwich'in Lands Administration; and

Whereas inspection of public lands is carried out by DIAND and the Land and Water Board and other regulatory agencies and departments;

Therefore Be it Resolved that monitoring functions and programs be transferred to the Renewable Resource Councils;

Be it Further Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council approach government departments and agencies and Land Claim co-management Boards with a view to transfer responsibilities to the Renewable Resource Councils to monitor activities and developments within the Gwich'in Settlement Region;

Be it Further Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council seek and provide financial resources to the Renewable Resource Councils so they have the capacity to carry out their responsibilities.

Moved by: Eliza Greenland (Aklavik)

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

Harry Carmichael observes that it is not clear from the motion what is meant by "monitoring".

William Koe adds that the term "programs" is not clear either.

Grace Blake says that the motion is a response to the previous discussion of environmental monitoring and the desire for greater community input.

Robert Charlie recalls that the GTC Board recently discussed the role of the Lands Administration, including concerns about the selection and training of monitors. He is concerned that the motion would seem to take away some of the responsibilities of government agencies in this area. There is a reference in the final paragraph to "financial resources", a matter which Bob Simpson is addressing in the Implementation negotiations. Much of the work directed by the motion is already under way. What is needed is a plan for the Land Administration's broader mandate.

Charles Furlong points out that the GTC Board is responsible for seeing that Claim Implementation is carried out. Bypassing the Board, as this motion does, would set a dangerous precedent. The RRCs are appointed at the community level, under the authority of each DGO. Bypassing the GTC Board is bypassing the management structure, and would create problems down the road. The appropriate course is to direct the GTC to restructure the GLA so that it is more useful to the communities. The GTC should be asked to provide the required tools and staffing, and do a long-term projection of what resources are needed, perhaps in the form of a five-year plan for the RRCs and co-management Boards.

Mavis Clark says this has been sought in the form of a motion since the GTC seems reluctant to make the transfer. She thinks the RRCs are capable of doing this work, with less reliance on the GTC, and the GLA there to assist the communities as needed.

Robert Charlie says that the GTC should be given the time to review the various departments and agencies, and come up with a plan specifying which responsibilities would be transferred, working with the communities. He would prefer to see this motion withdrawn.

Fred Andre says the authority of the RRCs is at issue. Monitors supposedly have the authority to shut down operations. He wonders if this will mean more red tape, with the monitors having to go through the RRCs to shut down problematic activities.

Fred Carmichael says he has already instructed the GLA Manager to begin consulting with the RRCs, to go through them for recommendations of people who know the land, and for the GLA to train them, with the objective of creating a pool of trained monitors. The GTC already has the authority to do so.

Grace Blake says one suggestion she has received is to amend the motion so that “monitoring” is defined more clearly as “wildlife and environmental monitoring” and the GTC is directed to examine methods of transfer.

Harry Carmichael says that on page 62 of the Claim, (12.8.40) one can already see a call for involving the RRCs as much as possible.

Grace Blake points out that this provision refers only to harvesting and wildlife studies.

Larry Firth notes that the intent here is to get the RRCs more involved. That is being addressed already by the GTC. It will take time to review the matter properly and to secure appropriate funding anyway. He too favours withdrawal of the motion.

Mavis Clark says she wants to see a vote. Passing this motion would put the *Assembly* on record. It would be up to each RRC to seek responsibility for monitoring within its own jurisdiction if it wanted to. She does not think the monitoring program is working efficiently as it is. Turning the program over to the RRCs would help people develop skills that could be useful to them in pursuing remunerative careers in the environmental sciences. If the RRCs are to exercise responsibility, they should be able to choose the people to do this.

Grace Blake reminds the *Assembly* that Fred Carmichael has already made clear that the GTC Board is committed to doing something about this problem. She asks if the mover and seconder will agree to the withdrawal of their motion.

Eliza Greenland says that if the GTC is agreeable to working with the RRCs on the matter as soon as possible she will withdraw the motion.

Robert Alexie, Sr. says he believes that there is a lack of interest in the monitoring positions. These must be advertised and explained so that young people are brought in to the process. Building up a pool of trained monitors is vital, and more information should go out to the communities. That said, he will agree to withdrawal of the motion.

Withdrawn.

Whereas industry's employment and human resources offices, and education and training departments and agencies are located in Inuvik; and

Whereas partnerships with employment, and education and training agencies and departments are essential to meet Gwich'in training and education needs;

Be it Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council relocate the Education and Training Office to Inuvik to foster partnerships and make the best use of training and education funding with industry, and employment, education and training agencies and departments.

Moved by: Mavis Clark (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Fred Andre (Tsiigehtchic)

Abe Wilson asks if the intent is to move the entire Department.

Mavis Clark says she is on the Education and Training Committee, and knows that the outgoing Manager found working from Fort McPherson costly and difficult. Travel costs would be much lower if the office were in Inuvik, and more people would have direct access to it.

Fred Andre adds that aside from the costs savings, Aurora College is in Inuvik and it makes sense for the Education and Training Office to be near it.

William Koe suggests it makes sense to leave the office in Fort McPherson. If it is moved, there would be virtually no programs not based in Inuvik. Why not just shift everything there?

Fred Andre replies that relocating the office is not the same thing as relocating an actual training program. Most of the training is in Inuvik already.

Charles Furlong says it is a bad idea to make decisions to satisfy one employee. Once a motion like this is passed, it can't be changed until the next *Assembly*. This restricts the Board's freedom of action. He would prefer to look at the various trust funds and see how funds to augment them could be leveraged. Given the new interest in oil and gas resources in the Delta, governments will need to build infrastructure anyway. If the Education and Training office in Fort McPherson does not have as much money as it needs, the GTC Board can direct leveraged funds to it. The Board can act to meet various needs in accordance with the strategic plan it will develop. He would rather the people allowed the Board to develop the tools to deliver needed programs than tie the Board's hands with such motions.

Mavis Clark says the intent is not to take anything away from Fort McPherson, but the Education and Training office is there to serve all Beneficiaries. The Manager is leaving, and there is only one applicant for the position. There are other potential candidates who would apply if the position were in Inuvik, but won't if it is in Fort McPherson. While Pat McKinnon did a lot to get information out to all the communities, being based in Fort McPherson made her job harder.

Larry Firth expresses concern at motions purporting to cost or save money without any supporting documentation. It short-circuits proper procedure when a motion is brought directly before the *Assembly*, rather than going to a GTC Board vote first, with the Board then bringing its recommendation to the *Assembly*.

Elizabeth Hansen observes that Inuvik has backed relocation, having seen the frustration that students experience under the present arrangement. There are also problems like lack of housing for education personnel in Fort McPherson.

Eliza Greenland says if people knew this motion was coming to the floor, they should have asked Pat McKinnon to discuss it when she was here. The discussion has gone on for some time, and the arguments are now familiar. There are many other motions to deal with.

Mavis Clark says that Pat McKinnon moved over to Self-government because she wished to relocate to Inuvik. Her previous position would have been easier if she had been there.

Robert Charlie says he also sits on the Education and Training Committee, and is aware of Pat McKinnon's frustrations. He is aware of the arguments for relocation, and notes that it is sometimes more productive to talk to an education official face-to-face in Inuvik rather than on the telephone from Fort McPherson. Yet people should recognize that we already have the budget for 2002-03, and relocating a position in mid-year could push the organization into deficit. In addition, there is no proper cost analysis behind this motion. The GTC should have the opportunity to examine the economics of moving the position.

Fred Carmichael remarks that it is difficult for the GTC to deal with such issues, given the demand for education. The organization advertised for a replacement for Pat McKinnon, but it is difficult to get people, even Beneficiaries, if you tell them where they have to live. They will simply decline offers of employment. We need to attract good people, but in this case we only had one applicant. He would like to see the GTC Board directed to deal with the matter. All communities are represented there, so the Board will not let anything improper happen. The Board will relocate the office if it is convinced that careful analysis shows money will be saved as a result.

The Board should be given the authority to settle this. The intention is not to build an empire in Inuvik but to provide the people with the best service possible, in light of the collective nature of the Claim.

Grace Blake wonders if an amendment to the motion, directing the Board to study relocation and then decide, would be acceptable to the mover and seconder. When a deadlock is reached on a motion, it makes sense to consider an amendment that might create consensus.

The mover of the motion rejects the idea of such an amendment.

Abe Wilson agrees that such motions should not come to the floor without supporting cost analysis. Sometimes a motion is brought forward quite casually, and down the road it turns out to cost a lot. The motions he brought here went through Fort McPherson's Community Assembly, ensuring that they were thought through. Moreover, the Bylaws specify Fort McPherson the GTC's headquarters. We need to ask which is the headquarters in reality now, Fort McPherson or Inuvik. Relocations of departments or offices should not go ahead without a cost analysis first. He too favours letting the GTC Board review the question.

Defeated.

Whereas the Gwich'in own land and have Aboriginal Rights in the Yukon; and

Whereas any development proposal or application in the Peel River Watershed may affect Gwich'in Rights or use of water and lands; and

Whereas the responsibilities for land use permits and land authorizations have been transferred to the Yukon Territorial Government, and that Government is not consulting with the Gwich'in on land and water use in the Peel River Watershed;

Be it Therefore Resolved that any land authorization, permit, or license within the Peel River Watershed be forwarded to the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Tetlit Gwich'in Council to allow for full consultation with the Gwich'in;

Be it Further Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council take action to ensure that the Transboundary Agreement is implemented.

Moved by: Abe Wilson (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: William Koe (Fort McPherson)

Robert Charlie observes that people always talk about the collective nature of the Claim, but this motion deals with information going to only one of the community Councils. He proposes an amendment whereby the words "...be forwarded to the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Tetlit Gwich'in Council..." in the fourth paragraph would be replaced by "...forwarded to the Gwich'in Tribal Council and all Gwich'in Councils...". He adds that James Firth and Norman Snowshoe have already been directed to

deal with some of these issues, and trusts that work will be allowed to go ahead.

Abe Wilson says that, as mover, he accepts the proposed amendment. He also adds a further amendment, changing the word “may” in the second paragraph to “shall”.

William Koe says that as seconder, he accepts these amendments.

Charles Furlong says that this motion is coming to the floor only because the Yukon Government has made clear that it does not regard the Claim as a legally binding document, and can get away with only lip service to the need for consultation. The *Assembly* should direct the federal Government to enforce the Claim, since it is one of the Government’s laws.

Carried. (Resolution #10/2002)

Grace Blake informs the *Assembly* that the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, who was unable to be here earlier, is present now. He would like to make a few informal remarks.

Premier Kakfwi thanks the *Assembly* for its invitation, and promises to return to the Delta area for a more extended visit in a few weeks. He wishes to clarify his remarks to the recent Dene Nation Assembly in Fort Simpson some weeks ago, since he believes some reports of them gave a misleading impression. It was not his intention to say that anyone is unwelcome in the NWT. He does think that the projected pipeline, and the influx of oil and gas activity have implications for the population of the NWT, especially Yellowknife. He wishes to provide reassurance that the population would not increase dramatically. While some people will be moving up, we do need to think about the size of our communities. He does not think we will or should see Yellowknife become the size of Calgary or Edmonton, and those who prefer to live in such large cities have the option of moving south to do so. He does propose to ensure that those who live here exercise some control over the pace of change and the degree of growth.

There is another year left in the life of the current Legislature, and his Government will continue to undertake new initiatives to improve life in the communities. The Government has an economic agenda that includes looking at the diamond mines and the proposed pipeline, as well as a social agenda. There are social problems that accompany economic development and we need the tools to deal with them. The Government is preparing an action plan to deal with social issues, and Health Minister Miltenberger is in charge of it. In the Delta, he notes, the proposals for public and Aboriginal governments will require funds to provide appropriate training and implementation. He is convinced that if the federal and territorial Governments do not assure communities that the social problems will be dealt with, support for development might well fade. He has known that for about two years, and has said it on a number of recent occasions. His government will do what it can with the time it has. In a couple of weeks he will visit Fort McPherson and perhaps Inuvik. If the Chiefs would like him to visit their communities, he will try to arrange something.

Charles Furlong thanks the Hon. Stephen Kakfwi for his remarks and makes a presentation to him.

Whereas there are important issues to deal with in the Yukon Territory; and

Whereas the Tetlit Gwich'in Council is concerned with and would like to address these issues; and

Whereas the Tetlit Gwich'in Council would like to work jointly with the Mayo District Renewable Resource Council;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council nominate, as recommended by the Tetlit Gwich'in Council, and Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, three (3) members for appointment to the Mayo District Renewable Resource Council.

Moved by: Rick Wilson (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Melba Mitchell (Aklavik)

Robert Charlie says this has already been addressed in the Claim, in the context of Transboundary issues (specifically, in Chapter 12, article 14.2.2, page 55). He proposes withdrawal of the motion.

James Andre concurs that the motion should be withdrawn.

Both mover and seconder agree to withdrawal of the motion.

Withdrawn.

Whereas the GTC receives or applies for Aboriginal Headstart and Aboriginal Healing Foundation funds, and these funds have not been allocated to all GSA communities;

Be it Therefore Resolved the GTC divide funding from the Aboriginal Headstart program and Aboriginal Healing foundation equally among the four GSA communities.

Moved by: Mavis Clark (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Peter Ross (Tsiigehtchic)

Mavis Clark wishes to amend the motion such that the words "Aboriginal Headstart and Aboriginal Healing Foundation funds" in the first paragraph are replaced by "Aboriginal Headstart, Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and Crime Prevention funds", and the words "from the Aboriginal Headstart program and Aboriginal Healing Foundation" in the second paragraph are replaced by "from the Aboriginal Headstart program, Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and Crime Prevention program".

Peter Ross says that, as seconder, he will agree to the amendment.

Fred Andre suggests that equal distribution of funds among all communities would not provide sufficient help where there are many children, as in Inuvik.

Elizabeth Hansen asks if the GTC can allocate the funds as the *Assembly* directs. It is her understanding that the terms of reference for the Aboriginal Headstart program specify that certified staff, and a qualified language instructor are in the facility. Not all communities would qualify. When the program was established in Fort McPherson, the staff had to be sent to Edmonton for training first. She recalls an attempt to start a similar program in Ingamo Hall in Inuvik, which failed when it became clear the hall was not the proper kind of facility.

Hazel Nerysoo reiterates the history of the Headstart program, pointing out that there are many requirements that have to be met. The contribution agreement specifies that the program is through the GTC and located in Fort McPherson. The current AHF program ended in July. Not all communities have hired the counselors required under the program. Crime Prevention is also a pilot project restricted to Fort McPherson.

Tom Williams points out that the Headstart program receives funds from Health Canada. While such a program may well be needed in each community, the contribution agreement with Health Canada states it must be located in Fort McPherson. The GTC is involved in the AHF program through TI'oon dih, and there is a joint proposal in the works with a counselor in each community so that all would benefit. The proposal makes clear that this would be a regional program. The GTC probably cannot reallocate the funds where a contribution agreement has already been signed. Perhaps the motion could be amended to direct the GTC to petition the funding agencies to seek funds for the other communities. This should have a good chance of success, since the Crime Prevention program is working well in Fort McPherson, and has been favourably evaluated. At some point the pilot project should end and something larger come into being.

Bob Simpson reads out a draft amendment, whereby the second paragraph reads "Be it Therefore Resolved that the GTC petition the funding agencies to expand the Aboriginal Headstart, Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and Crime Prevention programs to all the GSA communities".

The mover and seconder accept the amendment.

Carried. (Resolution #11/2002)

Whereas the GTC subsidizes staff accommodation for many of its employees;

Be it Resolved that the Assembly recommend that Gwich'in Properties Ltd. start construction within the next six months of a staff house in Tsiigehtchic for the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute's Executive Director.

Moved by: Louisa Andre (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Sarah McLeod-Firth (Inuvik)

Ian McLeod says he is against the motion, since nobody built a house for him when he worked for the Gwich'in in Inuvik.

Charles Furlong says that while he can see the point behind the motion, it might make more sense for the community to work with the GDC to build housing in Tsiigehtchic and lease it back to the GSCI. Building housing in the community makes sense as an economic development measure.

Peter Ross says that a shortage of staff housing is a constant challenge in Tsiigehtchic. The GTC is not visible there, but the GSCI is. If the GTC will not support the community in this case, perhaps it could turn the property over to the community, which would make use of it. The GTC has been aware of this particular problem for some time; he wonders if the GTC just wants the GSCI to move to Inuvik. Perhaps construction of the house can be approached as a joint venture. He believes that as Self-government comes, there may be an increased need for staff housing anyway.

William George Firth adds that people would like to work in Tsiigehtchic but are deterred by the lack of staff housing. Lack of sufficient housing seems to be a problem in all the communities except Inuvik. The problem should be solved; moreover, building housing creates jobs. The GSCI wishes to expand, but if it is to do so, its staff housing needs have to be met.

Robert Charlie says he agrees with Charles Furlong that this is a community issue and it is up to the community to work with the GDC to deal with it. He is in general agreement with Peter Ross on transferring land back to the communities, and the GTC has approved the start of this process. There was a recent log house construction project in Tsiigehtchic, and perhaps more can be done in this vein. This could reduce construction costs.

Fred Carmichael confirms that the land transfer process is under way. Yet he cautions against getting into GDC business. The *Assembly* should not pass motions giving direction to Gwich'in Properties, a GDC subsidiary. The GDC is now clearly separate from the GTC. He is willing to raise the matter with the GDC and he understands the problem that Peter Ross has raised.

Peter Ross replies that he is aware of the municipal lands transfer. In this case, we are dealing with private property which the GTC purchased in Tsiigehtchic five or six years ago. He will talk to Gwich'in Properties about this issue.

Defeated.

William George Firth raises a point of order. He notes that the seconder of the motion voted against it. He wonders if this is permissible under the rules of parliamentary procedure.

Grace Blake replies that there is no rule preventing the seconder of a motion from changing his mind about it during the discussion, and then voting against it.

Whereas there are twelve (12) Elders in Tsiigehtchic who need accommodation;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the GTC and the MLA for Mackenzie Delta help Tsiigehtchic obtain an Elders' facility within the next year.

Moved by: Charles Furlong (Aklavik)

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland (Aklavik)

Grace Blake suggests amending the motion such that the MLA for Mackenzie Delta is named. The second paragraph of the motion would read "Be it Therefore Resolved that the GTC and the MLA for Mackenzie Delta, David Krutko, help Tsiigehtchic obtain an Elders' facility within the next year".

The mover and seconder agree to the amendment.

William Koe says he was under the impression a building for Elders had recently been installed in Tsiigehtchic.

Peter Ross explains that the new building is a four-plex, not a facility with an in-house care capacity, which is what this motion directs.

Barry Greenland asks if the units recently built belong to the Housing Association.

Peter Ross confirms that they do.

Carried. (Resolution #12/2002)

The *Assembly* pauses to make a presentation to President Fred Carmichael.

The *Assembly* then breaks for lunch at 12:00 noon, Larry Firth saying grace.

The *Assembly* reconvenes at 1:00 p.m.

Whereas the *18th Annual Assembly* granted approval for the GTC Board of Directors to invest the Sahtu Royalty Funds and to develop a strategic investment plan; and

Whereas the GTC Finance Committee presented a strategic investment plan for the Sahtu Royalty Funds to the GTC Board of Directors and this was approved (Motion #17/02) on March 18, 2002, in a motion which included establishment of a \$1 million fund for Culture and Language; and

Whereas the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute was established by the Gwich'in Tribal Council to preserve and promote the Gwich'in Culture and Language as a charitable organization for taxation and donation purposes;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Culture and Language Fund established under the Sahtu Royalties be designated to help support the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and that the interest from this fund be made available exclusively for the use of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute;

Be it Further Resolved that the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, with the support of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, use their best efforts to have this \$1 million fund matched with government funds.

Moved by: Bertha Francis (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Sarah McLeod-Firth (Inuvik)

Withdrawn.

Whereas the Canadian Gun Control Legislation is being enforced and causing fear and anxiety among Gwich'in who have trouble going through the bureaucracy involved in compliance with no help from the Firearms Center other than by telephone;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the GTC take a lead role in helping Gwich'in to achieve compliance with the legislation.

Moved by: Ian McLeod (Aklavik)

Seconded by: Melba Mitchell (Aklavik)

Carried. (Resolution #13/2002)

Whereas the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) is in its tenth year, and the final year of its second phase of research (1998-2003) on contaminants in the Northern environment; and

Whereas the relationship between the Gwich'in people and our environment and the traditional food we eat is linked to our culture and way of life;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council fully supports the renewal of the NCP for a third phase of research (2003-2008) and will continue to participate in the NWT Environmental Contaminants Committee to ensure all contaminant concerns in the NWT and the Gwich'in Settlement Area are adequately addressed.

Moved by: Charles Snowshoe (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Melba Mitchell (Aklavik)

Carried. (Resolution #14/2002)

Grace Blake informs the *Assembly* that President Carmichael has suggested that the remaining eight motions be voted upon in a block vote. All are motions of support or of study.

Larry Firth adds that none of these motions proposes expenditures. Voting upon them as a block would save time, of which there is little left today.

Be it Resolved that the remaining motions be consolidated and voted upon as a unit.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution #15/2002)

Whereas Fort McPherson has, over the years, attempted to establish facilities for recreational and other programs for the youth of the community; and

Whereas the facilities established are unsafe or have not adequately served the youth;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council support the efforts of the Tetlit Gwich'in Council to establish a youth centre in Fort McPherson.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution # 16-A/2002)

Whereas the Elders of Fort McPherson are in need of a long-term care facility;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council urge the GNWT, using the programs of the NWT Housing Corporation, to develop a long-term care facility in Fort McPherson.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution #16-B/2002)

Whereas tourism studies have identified the economic potential of big game harvesting/sport hunting in the Gwich'in Settlement Area; and

Whereas wildlife studies have shown that the Dall's sheep and moose populations can sustain commercial harvesting by the Gwich'in;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council approve commercial harvesting of Dall's sheep and moose within the Gwich'in Settlement Area by Gwich'in sport hunting outfitters.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution # 16-C/2002)

Whereas the Community Mental Health Worker Program was established five years ago with contributions from the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board, Beaufort-Delta Education Council, and the GNWT; and

Whereas the Mental Health Program funds have not been secured as an A-base program for multi-year funding;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council urge the GNWT to secure permanently based multi-year funding for the Mental Health Worker Program.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution # 16-D/2002)

Whereas one of the Gwich'in Tribal Council objectives is to “retain, preserve and enhance the traditional and cultural values, customs and languages of the Gwich'in in a changing society”; and

Whereas the genealogical book entitled “Jijuu, Who are my Grandparents? Where are they from?” furthers these objectives;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council seek funding for a second and subsequent printings of this book, for distribution within the four Gwich'in communities and to Beneficiaries outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution # 16-E/2002)

Whereas the youth are the future of the Gwich'in, and will ultimately supply the leadership to implement the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, and any future Self-government Agreement; and

Whereas Gwich'in youth desire a voice within the Gwich'in Tribal Council, for addressing their concerns;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council examine changes to the Bylaws to establish a permanent position of youth representative on the GTC Board of Directors, with voting privileges.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution # 16-F/2002)

Whereas there is a need to educate and train Gwich'in youth to assume leadership roles in the future;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council develop a leadership program to assist Gwich'in youth in developing the necessary skills to occupy positions as leaders and resource people in the future.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution # 16-G/2002)

Whereas there is a substantial number of Gwich'in Beneficiaries living outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area in order to pursue employment and educational opportunities, and who wish to be more involved in Gwich'in Tribal Council business;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the GTC consider changes to the Bylaws to allow a minimum of two (2) Delegates each from Whitehorse and Yellowknife to each *Annual General Assembly*, as well as the establishment of offices in each of these communities.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

Carried. (Resolution # 16-H/2002)

Grace Blake gives the floor to Abe Wilson, who is about to depart with most of the Delegation from Fort McPherson.

Abe Wilson expresses his gratitude to Premier Kakfwi for his offer of air transport to Fort McPherson, where he and other members of his Delegation are going to attend a funeral. He thanks Aklavik for its hospitality, and adds that in his view this was a productive *Assembly*.

Hazel Nerysoo expresses her own gratitude to the Premier for his kind gesture.

Charles Furlong makes presentations to Abe Wilson, Hazel Nerysoo, and David Krutko.

S. Other Business

a. Political Direction

b. Economic Direction

c. Social Direction

Grace Blake informs the *Assembly* that Charles Furlong will make a few remarks on each of these topics in a single presentation. Others will then be welcome to offer their own comments or questions.

Charles Furlong observes that the political, economic and social direction for the GTC have been the three main topics at this *Assembly*, recurring in different contexts as various particular items were discussed.

He reminds all present that the GTC in its present form was designed to negotiate the Land Claim. The Claim includes an obligation on the part of the federal Government to negotiate Self-government, which is rooted in the people's inherent right. Self-government will confer lawmaking authority, and will highlight the inherent right. In conjunction with the GCLCA, Self-government will allow the Gwich'in to survive as Gwich'in. Having these principles "in our back pocket" obligates governments to take the Gwich'in into account.

The pressing political need now is to restructure the GTC, whose original structure is outdated, for recognition as a government. The current constitutional changes provide a base from which to begin that restructuring and to pursue recognition as a Gwich'in government. It is important that the communities set the direction, so that this is not a top-down process. As soon as possible, the leadership and the people in each community must begin discussions on what form of Gwich'in government to create. This would seem to be the political direction to follow between now and the next *Assembly*. In addition, the GTC should pursue the goal of government-to-government partnerships. Bob Simpson's consultations on Self-government will be part of this process of following the political direction.

Separating politics from business in the operations of the GDC was a milestone, but economic development has a significant political dimension. Building a strong economic base is important, and Chapter 10 of the Claim provides an opportunity to impose conditions on access to Gwich'in lands. The GTC is working in that direction, but has had trouble getting other parties to the Claim to recognize their obligations under Chapter 10. About a year ago the GTC Board gave him a mandate to negotiate an MOU that would supersede the differing Departmental interpretations of that Chapter. His negotiations with Deputy Minister Bob McLeod, culminating in the Cabinet's acceptance of the most recent draft, represents progress. But that is only one Chapter.

The return of oil and gas activity, and the prospect of a natural gas pipeline create new opportunities. But the Gwich'in cannot follow the example set 25 years ago, and say "No", since in that case a pipeline will take another route. Still, the Claim sets out the kind of conditions the Gwich'in can impose. It will be necessary to think strategically and to be strong in upholding those conditions. Of course, economic development encompasses a wide range of activities besides oil and gas. Across that spectrum, the Gwich'in must set conditions on outside investment, with Aboriginal control and ownership sufficient to provide the comfort level sought in each community.

He recalls that a year ago he told the Minister of DIAND and the Premier that work on the "social agenda" had to keep pace with the economic steps forward. There have been many meetings with officials since, but fulfilling this agenda is not just a responsibility of the federal or territorial Government or the GTC. It is a responsibility of all participants, including industry, which must leave behind not just problems but money to help solve them. The GTC must form the necessary partnerships with government and industry before economic activity gets under way, since they are more easily obtained beforehand than after the fact. He concludes that the GTC is on the right track politically, has some of the required economic infrastructure in place but must do more to develop it, while socially it still has a big job ahead. Acting on these issues is the mandate the GTC leadership will take with it from this *Assembly*, and he assures everyone that it will try.

Grace Blake opens the floor to questions or comments.

There being none, President Carmichael announces that he and Peter Ross have a special presentation to make to Hyacinthe Andre, former Chief from Tsiigehtchic.

President Carmichael and Chief Ross make this presentation to Hyacinthe Andre, who acknowledges the gesture.

Charles Snowshoe says that he has concerns, as well as a written statement, about the presence of observers from Yellowknife and Whitehorse, specifically the question of whether they can receive honoraria.

Fred Carmichael responds that the question at issue is not really one of honoraria, but of the principle and the precedent set in having observers here. He concedes that he overstepped his authority in issuing the initial invitation. The Board subsequently accepted his action but expressed concerns about the principle of representation from outside the GSA. The GTC only pays honoraria to Delegates who sit around the table. The presence of observers was no more than a first step. He told the Beneficiaries of Yellowknife and Whitehorse to find a few people to come here, who could present their case. Non-Delegates cannot be paid without direction from either the Board or the *Assembly*. The Board will take direction on that point, if anyone has concerns.

V. Location of Next Assembly

Peter Ross informs the *Assembly* that, following the traditional rotation among the communities, next year it will be Tsiigehtchic's turn.

Be it Resolved that the 20th Annual General Assembly of the Gwich'in Tribal Council be held in the community of Tsiigehtchic, NWT.

Moved by: Peter Ross (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Charles Furlong (Aklavik)

Carried. (Resolution # 17/2002)

The Chiefs and their representatives express their gratitude to the organizers, staff, co-Chairs, volunteers and the community of Aklavik for all their hard work on this *Assembly*.

Charles Snowshoe says that he was pleased to see the GTC Board communicating with the people. He was particularly impressed by the good will and absence of acrimony that characterized this year's deliberations. Indeed, he thinks this is the best *Assembly* he has ever attended.

Elizabeth Hansen adds that she thinks it significant that this year the youth were at the table, speaking to everyone else.

In closing the proceedings, Fred Carmichael wishes to thank the Board for its support and hard work over the year. He then makes presentations to the remaining members of the Board.

He notes that he has received much direction from the people over the course of the last four days. The format of this year's *Assembly* was different from that used in past years. This year he and the other members of the Executive sat back and listened to the Delegates, who had more of an opportunity to speak, trying only to respond to particular questions that were asked of them. The modified format seems to have worked well, but he would like the Delegates to go back to their communities and let him know what they think of it. The key decisions taken over the last few days, on the Bylaw revisions, election process, Tl'oondih Healing Camp, and diversification of investments, will allow the GTC to better serve all Beneficiaries. Everyone was heard from, including the Elders and youth.

The direction given here will be part of the framework for developing a strategic plan for the GTC over the next year. The GTC will seek community input, with the final document coming before next year's *Assembly*. He notes the wide range of concerns that people raised, from YDAP, the Peel River Watershed, the Caribou River, and the needs of the GSCI, down to the house with one door. All will be addressed, and he wants all Beneficiaries to know that they need not wait until the next *Assembly* to bring their concerns to him. He will continue to have an open-door policy. He too wishes to thank all who were involved in this year's *Assembly* for making it such a success. He thanks all for their continued support of his leadership, as shown by the extension of his term to June of 2003. He remains committed to work towards Self-government and self-sufficiency for the benefit of all Gwich'in.

W. Adjournment

Be it Resolved that the 19th *Annual General Assembly* of the Gwich'in Tribal Council adjourn.

Moved by: Melba Mitchell (Aklavik)

Seconded by: Barry Greenland (Inuvik)

Carried. (Resolution #18/2002)

Following a closing prayer led by Grace Blake, the *Assembly* adjourns at 3:30 p.m.

**APPENDIX:
RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 19TH GWICH'IN TRIBAL
COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

RESOLUTION # 01/2002:

Be it Resolved that George John and Grace Blake be appointed as Chairpersons for the *19th Annual General Assembly* of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Moved by: Louisa Andre (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland (Aklavik)

RESOLUTION # 02/2002:

Be it Resolved that the agenda of the *19th Annual General Assembly* be approved as presented.

Moved by: Mavis Clark (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Bernice Furlong (Aklavik)

RESOLUTION # 03/2002:

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

Moved by: Frank Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland (Aklavik)

RESOLUTION # 04/2002:

Be it Resolved that the minutes of the GTC 18th *Annual General Assembly*, of August 20-22, 2001 be approved.

Moved by: Frank Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland (Aklavik)

RESOLUTION # 05/2002:

Whereas the 18th *Annual General Assembly* granted approval for the Executive to act on the revisions to Bylaw No. 1 so that they can be registered by Industry Canada;

Whereas the Board of Directors passed motion 2002 / #01 on July 29, 2002, to seek approval of the *Assembly* to resolve the issue of the Bylaw revisions and the election of the Executive;

Whereas the *Assembly* approves the extension of the terms for President and Vice-President until June, 2003;

And whereas an election will be called in the third week of June 2003 as per the Restated Bylaw No. 1, to fill the positions of President and one (1) Vice-President for a four (4) year term;

Therefore be it Resolved that the General Election, as stated in Bylaw No. 1, as presented and amended, take place the third week of June 2003.

Moved by: Mavis Clark (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Barry Greenland (Inuvik)

RESOLUTION # 06/2002:

Whereas it is the mandate of the Gwich'in Tribal Council to manage its funds in a manner that supports the ongoing development of Gwich'in people and culture; and

Whereas the investment in facilities at TI'oondih has not generated a return on investment and has cost the GTC approximately \$100,000 per annum since 1995; and

Whereas it is not an acceptable use of GTC funds to move the facility or to invest additional funds in the facility to earn a financial return; and

Whereas the Tetlit Gwich'in Council has expressed an interest in acquiring these facilities for one dollar; and

Whereas it is in the best interests of the membership to dispose of this property so it can be used by the Tetlit Gwich'in Council;

Therefore be it Resolved that the GTC offer to sell the assets located at TI'oondih to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council for the sum of one dollar on or before January 31, 2003;

Be it Further Resolved that the GTC include as conditions to this sale measures to recover funds as they may become available from any subsequent sale of these assets or from profitable business associated with the use of these facilities.

Moved by: William Koe (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter Ross (Tsiigehtchic)

RESOLUTION # 07/2002:

Be it Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2002 be approved as presented.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Greta Sittichinli (Inuvik)

RESOLUTION # 08/2002:

Be it Resolved that Bylaw No. 3 of the Gwich'in Tribal Council be amended in the following manner:

1. Paragraph 2.1 be amended by deleting the words "Capital Transfers" appearing in the first line, and replacing them with "The Capital";
2. Paragraph 2.1 be amended by adding the following sentence at the end of said paragraph: "In furtherance of this objective the Capital shall be invested in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Land Claim, as amended from time to time".
3. Paragraph 2.5 be amended by deleting the sentence "As a result, the Capital of the Fund resulting from each installment of Capital Transfers is intended to remain intact at all times and the Settlement Corporation shall ensure that it maintains its tax exempt status in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Land Claim", and substituting the following: "The Fund shall be invested without undue risk of loss or impairment and with a reasonable expectation of fair return or appreciation given the nature of the investment. The Settlement Corporation shall ensure that it maintains its tax exempt status in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Land Claim Agreement".

Moved by: James Firth (Inuvik)

Seconded by: Charles Furlong (Aklavik)

RESOLUTION # 09/2002:

Be it Resolved that the firm KPMG be appointed as the Gwich'in Tribal Council auditors for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: William Koe (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 10/2002:

Whereas the Gwich'in own land and have Aboriginal Rights in the Yukon; and

Whereas any development proposal or application in the Peel River Watershed shall affect Gwich'in Rights or use of water and lands; and

Whereas the responsibilities for land use permits and land authorizations have been transferred to the Yukon Territorial Government, and that Government is not consulting with the Gwich'in on land and water use in the Peel River Watershed;

Be it Therefore Resolved that any land authorization, permit, or license within the Peel River Watershed be forwarded to the Gwich'in Tribal Council and all Gwich'in Councils to allow for full consultation with the Gwich'in;

Be it Further Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council take action to ensure that the Transboundary Agreement is implemented.

Moved by: Abe Wilson (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: William Koe (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 11/2002:

Whereas the GTC receives or applies for Aboriginal Headstart, Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and Crime Prevention funds;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the GTC petition the funding agencies to expand the Aboriginal Headstart, Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and Crime Prevention programs to all the GSA communities.

Moved by: Mavis Clark (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Peter Ross (Tsiigehtchic)

RESOLUTION # 12/2002:

Whereas there are twelve (12) Elders in Tsiigehtchic who need accommodation;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the GTC and the MLA for Mackenzie Delta, David Krutko, help Tsiigehtchic obtain an Elders' facility within the next year.

Moved by: Charles Furlong (Aklavik)

Seconded by: Eliza Greenland (Aklavik)

RESOLUTION # 13/2002:

Whereas the Canadian Gun Control Legislation is being enforced and causing fear and anxiety among Gwich'in who have trouble going through the bureaucracy involved in compliance with no help from the Firearms Center other than by telephone;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the GTC take a lead role in helping Gwich'in to achieve compliance with the legislation.

Moved by: Ian McLeod (Aklavik)

Seconded by: Melba Mitchell (Aklavik)

RESOLUTION # 14/2002:

Whereas the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) is in its tenth year, and the final year of its second phase of research (1998-2003) on contaminants in the Northern environment; and

Whereas the relationship between the Gwich'in people and our environment and the traditional food we eat is linked to our culture and way of life;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council fully supports the renewal of the NCP for a third phase of research (2003-2008) and will continue to participate in the NWT Environmental Contaminants Committee to ensure all contaminant concerns in the NWT and the Gwich'in Settlement Area are adequately addressed.

Moved by: Charles Snowshoe (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Melba Mitchell (Aklavik)

RESOLUTION # 15/2002:

Be it Resolved that the remaining motions be consolidated and voted upon as a unit.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 16-A/2002:

Whereas Fort McPherson has, over the years, attempted to establish facilities for recreational and other programs for the youth of the community; and

Whereas the facilities established are unsafe or have not adequately served the youth;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council support the efforts of the Tetlit Gwich'in Council to establish a youth centre in Fort McPherson.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 16-B/2002:

Whereas the Elders of Fort McPherson are in need of a long-term care facility;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council urge the GNWT, using the programs of the NWT Housing Corporation, to develop a long-term care facility in Fort McPherson.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 16-C/2002:

Whereas tourism studies have identified the economic potential of big game harvesting/sport hunting in the Gwich'in Settlement Area; and

Whereas wildlife studies have shown that the Dall's sheep and moose populations can sustain commercial harvesting by the Gwich'in;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council approve commercial harvesting of Dall's sheep and moose within the Gwich'in Settlement Area by Gwich'in sport hunting outfitters.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 16-D/2002:

Whereas the Community Mental Health Worker Program was established five years ago with contributions from the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board, Beaufort-Delta Education Council, and the GNWT; and

Whereas the Mental Health Program funds have not been secured as an A-base program for multi-year funding;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council urge the GNWT to secure permanently based multi-year funding for the Mental Health Worker Program.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 16-E/2002:

Whereas one of the Gwich'in Tribal Council objectives is to "retain, preserve and enhance the traditional and cultural values, customs and languages of the Gwich'in in a changing society"; and

Whereas the genealogical book entitled "Jijuu, Who are my Grandparents? Where are they from?" furthers these objectives;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council seek funding for a second and subsequent printing of this book, for distribution within the four Gwich'in communities and to Beneficiaries outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 16-F/2002:

Whereas the youth are the future of the Gwich'in, and will ultimately supply the leadership to implement the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, and any future Self-government Agreement; and

Whereas Gwich'in youth desire a voice within the Gwich'in Tribal Council for addressing their concerns;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council examine changes to the Bylaws to establish a permanent position of youth representative on the GTC Board of Directors, with voting privileges.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 16-G/2002:

Whereas there is a need to educate and train Gwich'in youth to assume leadership roles in the future;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Gwich'in Tribal Council develop a leadership program to assist Gwich'in youth in developing the necessary skills to occupy positions as leaders and resource people in the future.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 16-H/2002:

Whereas there is a substantial number of Gwich'in Beneficiaries living outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area in order to pursue employment and educational opportunities, and who wish to be more involved in Gwich'in Tribal Council business;

Be it Therefore Resolved that the GTC consider changes to the Bylaws to allow a minimum of two (2) Delegates each from Whitehorse and Yellowknife to each *Annual General Assembly*, as well as the establishment of offices in each of these communities.

Moved by: Larry Firth (Fort McPherson)

Seconded by: Peter James Vittrekwa (Fort McPherson)

RESOLUTION # 17/2002:

Be it Resolved that the *20th Annual General Assembly* of the Gwich'in Tribal Council be held in the community of Tsiigehtchic, NWT.

Moved by: Peter Ross (Tsiigehtchic)

Seconded by: Charles Furlong (Aklavik)

RESOLUTION # 18/2002:

Be it Resolved that the *19th Annual General Assembly* of the Gwich'in Tribal Council adjourn.

Moved by: Melba Mitchell (Aklavik)

Seconded by: Barry Greenland (Inuvik)