

Dagwidi'ii

November - December 2006

"What We Are Doing"



Gwich'in Tribal Council

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

'Dagwidi'ii - What We Are Doing' is a newsletter of the:

GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Fred Carmichael	777-7900
Vice-President	Mary Ann Ross	777-7905
Director, Gwichya Gwich'in Council	Peter Ross	953-3201
Director, Gwichya Gwich'in Council	Phillip Blake	953-3201
Director, Tetlit Gwich'in Council	Johnny Kay	952-2330
Director, Tetlit Gwich'in Council	Eileen Koe	952-2330
Director, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council	Charles Furlong	978-2340
Director, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council	James Edwards	978-2340
Director, Nihtat Gwich'in Council	Richard Nerysoo	777-6650
Director, Nihtat Gwich'in Council	Tom Wright	777-6650

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Fred Carmichael	777-7900
Vice-President	Mary Ann Ross	777-7905
Chief Operating Officer	Tom Williams	777-7903
Chief Financial Officer	Greg Cayen	777-7904



CORPORATE SERVICES

CFO / Director	Greg Cayen	777-7904
Controller	Charlene Ross	777-7908
Office Manager	Vicki Alexie	952-2593
Senior Finance Officer	Norma Blake	952-2526
Finance Officer	Evelyn Bullock	777-7917
Finance Clerk	Deanna Smith	777-7951
Office Manager / Boards & Trust	Cheryl Wright	777-7916
Corporate Secretary	Millie Jansen	777-7900

BENEFICIARY SERVICES

Director	Tammy Rogers	777-7902
Regional Education Manager	Debbie English	777-7926
ASEP Coordinator	Margaret Thompson	952-2500
AHRDA Coordinator	Diane Koe	952-2501
E & T Programs Coordinator	Andrée Jove	777-7915
Employment Liaison Officer	Connie Stewart	777-7909
Communications Advisor	Lawrence Norbert	777-7923

LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION

Director	Norm Snowshoe	777-7912
Lands Manager	Mardy Semmler	777-7913
Lands & Resource Officer	Glen Alexie	777-7914
GIS Technician	vacant	777-7942
Environmental Impact Assessment	Kim Hawkins	777-7934
Administrative Assistant	Melma Greenland	777-7910

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Manager	Jake Heron	777-7932
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REGIONAL WELLNESS

Manager	Denise Kurszewski	777-7927
Elders & Youth Coordinator	Victor Stewart	952-2524
Regional FASD Coordinator	Tena Blake	952-2592
Regional Diabetes Coordinator	Shandel Furlong	978-2340

SELF-GOVERNMENT

Chief Negotiator	Charles Furlong	777-7915
Director	Karen Snowshoe	777-7924
Regional S/G Coordinator	Margaret Gordon	777-7941
Regional S/G Coordinator	Mavis Clark	777-7910



EXECUTIVE

Drin Gwiinzii! We hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's!

On December 5, 2006, President Carmichael and Tom Williams, Chief Operating Officer, attended an Aboriginal Leadership meeting with Premier Handley in Yellowknife to discuss how their respective organizations can work to move forward with devolution and resource revenue sharing agreements. The Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper, and DIAND Minister Jim Prentice have committed to "ensure northerners and Aboriginal People are the primary beneficiaries of the resource revenues derived from the development of northern resources". Leaders agreed that a devolution and resource revenue sharing agreement was important to the immediate needs of the Northwest Territories, as well as its long-term future. They agreed to work to com-

plete the negotiation of a devolution and resource revenue sharing agreement-in-principle by March 31, 2007.

On December 21, 2006, the GTC Board of Directors met in Inuvik and made a motion (#2006/70) to call a Special Assembly to discuss the Term Extension of the current Executive Members: President Fred Carmichael and Vice-President Mary Ann Ross. This motion was approved as result of a widely circulated petition presented to the GTC Board of Directors in November 2006 from beneficiaries requesting that consideration be given to extend the terms of the current Executive Members for one year. It was felt that an election in June 2007 was not in the best interest of the Gwich'in since there were a number outstanding issues to be dealt with by the current Executive and a change in leadership may not be a wise decision.

The Special Assembly will take place at Ingamo Hall in Inuvik on March 8, 2007. The travel days will be March 7th and 9th. At the conclusion of this meeting the Gwich'in Development Corporation will also provide an update on their activities. For more information please feel free to contact your Designated Gwich'in Offices in Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic or you can contact the GTC at (867) 777-7900.

On January 19, 2007, we were pleased to learn that permits were approved for Kodiak Petroleum's Grandview 2D Seismic Program. The GTC negotiating team (Mary Ann Ross, Vice President; Chief Peter Ross; Tom Williams, Chief Operating Officer) successfully finalized an Access & Benefits Agreement and a Joint Management Agreement with the Xahweguweh/Yamoga Land Corporation, both which will form a working relationship with our southern neighbours in the spirit of cooperation on this project and future ones.



EXECUTIVE



Both parties also agreed to finalize the transboundary agreement as well as an Economic Corridor Agreement. The project will commence in the third week of January and is scheduled for completion by March 15, 2007. The project will provide both contracting opportunities and much-needed employment for our Gwich'in businesses and participants. Kodiak also agreed to make a contribution to the Gwich'in Education Foundation and to establish a Community Fund.

The GTC looks forward to working with Kodiak Petroleum and our neighbours in the Sahtu!

Finance Update

For the nine months ending December 31, 2006, the Gwich'in Settlement Corporation earned a rate of return of 8.5% on its investments. Positive returns were earned in Canadian Equities, International Equities and Canadian Bonds. Total investments in the

Gwich'in Settlement Corporation amounted to \$133,641,160. We are very pleased that we have now exceeded our investment target of \$132,000,000 earlier than the projected date of April 22, 2007.

The Gwich'in Children's Trust currently has investments of \$1,159,028. During 2006, a total of \$60,600 was paid out to beneficiaries turning 19 years of age. Also in 2006, the Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance Trust paid out \$167,078 to Gwich'in Harvesters.

As at December 31, 2006, the Gwich'in Development Corporation has investments of approximately \$24-million. Major investments in the Gwich'in Settlement Area include Inuvik Capital Suites, Inuvik Commercial Properties, Mackenzie Valley Construction, Gwich'in Helicopters and Camp MGK. The GDC has also diversified its holdings outside the GSA and currently holds investments in Discovery Air Inc. and New North Projects Ltd. In addition the Gwich'in own a significant commercial and industrial land assembly in Inuvik.

In the next few months we will be working on the annual reports for the Gwich'in

Tribal Council, Gwich'in Settlement Corporation and Gwich'in Development Corporation which will be presented at the annual general assembly. Copies of these reports will also be posted on the Gwich'in Tribal Council website.

The GTC has set up a planning committee to start preparations for this year's 15th Annual Gwich'in Day celebrations. This April 22nd is a very special day in Gwich'in History as it will be when the Gwich'in receive their last transfer payment from the Government of Canada for the land claim.

The Executive look forward to working on your behalf and hope to see you at the Special Assembly.

Mahsi Cho,
Fred, Mary Ann, Tom and Greg



LANDS, RESOURCES & IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation

In December, the Implementation Committee (IC) met in Ottawa to discuss the Economic Measures Chapter Review of the GCLCA. The IC is doing internal research on Federal Economic Development Policies that affect Gwich'in Economic Development as prescribed by the GCLCA. For more detailed information regarding the Implementation Committee, minutes are available at the GTC office.

The LRI staff, in coordination with the RRC's, were busy through December organizing the Annual Regional RRC Meeting. The Annual Regional RRC Meeting is held the second week of January each year.

Wildlife Management

The NWT *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) is out for Public Review. The SARA Working Group will reconvene to discuss the public comments received during this review process. This will lead to final submission to cabinet shortly thereafter.

Meetings continued to organize the Caribou Summit which will be held in Inuvik in January 2006. The GTC participated in the planning group to ensure that the Gwich'in will be represented at the Summit.

Land Management

The Lands Manager continues to review and comment on land use and water license applications from the Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB) and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB), including the Yukon Water Board.

During 2006, the GTC Land Administration issued 16 Land Use Authorizations for work on Gwich'in Private Lands. To date, the GTC Land Administration has received 3 Land Use Authorization applications for work on Gwich'in Private Lands within the NWT.

The Lands Manager and the Lands and Resources Officer had the opportunity to represent the GTC at the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) Annual Results Workshop in December 2006 at Victoria BC. The Lands Manager completed a power point presentation on the Martin House Water Sampling Program including a summary of the interviews completed by hunters and trappers that use the Martin House area.

Welcome to Melma Greenland as the casual LRI Administrative Assistant, replacing Mavis Clarke in the interim.

"Hi everyone, Just wanted to say goodbye before I go! It was great meeting and working with you all in whatever capacity I did so, and I hope our paths will cross again someday! Happy New Year and take care.

Cheers, Tracy"



BENEFICIARY SERVICES

Education Foundation Policy Changes

In the fall of 2004, the Education and Training Fund was moved to Inuvik to be administered through our Human Resource Office (now called Beneficiary Services). Since then, a number of changes have been identified to ensure the program is run efficiently and that staff are able to interpret the policy as intended when it was written:

Format

- a. Change of name to 'Education Foundation', the legal entity name.
- b. Applications reviewed by the Education and Training Committee for approval.
- c. Re-format identical information for each program.

Prioritization

As a result of the increased number of applicants accessing our funding, we have to set criteria and guidelines to work within our budget constraints. The following are the proposed changes to the Education Foundation Policy for prioritization (previously, funding was allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis):



Bursaries

Priority consideration established as follows:

- a. Master / Doctorate Programs
- b. Degree Programs (4th year, 3rd year, 2nd year, 1st year)
- c. Diploma Programs (2nd year, 1st Year)
- d. Certification/Trades Programs (4th year, 3rd year, 2nd year, 1st year)
- e. Certificate Programs
- f. University College Access Program and Developmental Studies
- g. Students continuing existing programs
- h. New Applicants.

Scholarships

Priority consideration established as follows:

- a. Master / Doctorate Programs – \$1,000
- b. Degree Programs (4th year, 3rd year, 2nd year, 1st year) – \$1,000
- c. Diploma Programs (2nd year, 1st Year) – \$1,000
- d. Certificate Programs – \$1,000



BENEFICIARY SERVICES

Graduation Gifts

Priority consideration established as follows (limits have been changed to the following):

- a. Master / Doctorate Programs – \$250
- b. Degree Programs – \$250
- c. Diploma Programs – \$250
- d. Trade Certification – \$250
- e. Certificate Programs – \$250
- f. High school Graduation – \$100

note ** High school graduates will have to show proof that

they have met the requirements to graduate before they receive a gift. Proof will be a copy of their diploma or certificate of graduation.

Payback of Training Funds / Ineligibility

Any student in default will now go on a default list and will not be able to access funding from any of the GTC Education Programs until the debt is paid back in full or arrangements have been made to pay back the funds.

All changes that are have been made should help us over the next year to be able to fund as many students as possible. **The changes are effective January 01, 2007.** If you would like more information regarding our programs please visit our website at www.gwichin.nt.ca or call our office at (867)777-7925.

Reminder, our deadlines remain the same

- Spring-Summer Semesters – March 15
- Fall Semester – July 15
- Winter Semester – November 15



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



A second business development workshop with Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited is going to be held in Fort McPherson on January 30th 2006 at the Peel River Inn (Coop) starting at 9:00 AM. Many of the same participants from Imperial Oil and Gwich'in Tribal Council's office will be in attendance. These workshops are an integral part of the implementation activities related to GTC's Access and Benefits Agreement signed with Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited.

Recently the GTC signed a Joint Management Agreement with the K'asho Got'ine Council. One of the first exploration activities to be impacted by the agreement is Kodiak Petroleum ULC's winter 2007 Grandview 2D seismic program.

According to its publication, "Kodiak Petroleum ULC

(Alberta, Canada), a subsidiary of Kodiak Energy Inc. (Delaware, USA), is proposing to conduct a two-dimensional

(2D) seismic program on Exploration License (EL) 413. EL 413 is located in the Grandview area of the Northwest Territories. It straddles the Sahtu (K'asho Got'ine District) and Gwich'in Settlement Areas of the Northwest Territories on the western side of the Mackenzie River."

Subsequently, a joint management committee made up of representatives from K'asho Got'ine District and GTC has been formed to manage the project. Registered Gwich'in businesses under GTC's Business Policy were invited to participate in some of the proposed work through GTC's business development office.

Kodiak gave everyone a very tight timeline to respond to from the time the invitations were received by GTC and faxes were sent out. Direction was given to the potential par-

ticipants to submit their responses to the two prime contractors in Norman Wells.

The GTC business development office main role in the process was to serve as the coordinating office for distributing the Kodiak introduction letter and related questionnaire. Particularly emphasis was placed upon ensuring the potential interested parties got their submissions into the prime contractors by December 15, 2006. At the same time, GTC's employment liaison officer submitted many resumes of people who were known to be on GTC's employment database and who were last known to be seeking employment. Consequently, through the Joint Management Committee's involvement, Gwich'in businesses and persons will have been contacted by the prime contractors to commence either a contract or employment.

While it's a small project this winter, it's expected that next year's project will be somewhat larger than this year's program. For those businesses and people obtaining contracts and work respectively, the exploration activity is welcome news.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

To the Gwich'in businesses that participated in the evaluation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the NWT and GTC conducted by members of *Kisquard* on behalf of GTC: thanks for your cooperation.

Plans are underfoot to meet with the Government of the NWT on a government-to-government basis that will most likely in-

clude the findings of the evaluation. GTC's business development manager would be more than pleased to meet with Gwich'in businesses on a one-on-one basis to discuss the MOU in more depth and discuss a strategy for obtaining a greater share of the Government of the NWT's contract work within the GSA. Call (867) 777-7932 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

The business development section is completing a information systems assessment of its data base activities, especially the functionality and

relevance of the existing data base and its generation of timely information for external users. This is especially important to the maintenance and operation of the Gwich'in Business registry.



The registry serves as mechanism to advise external users which Gwich'in businesses are registered under its' Business Policy.

As mentioned in earlier newsletter editions, registering your businesses is a very important step for Gwich'in businesses wanting to be considered for work within the Gwich'in Settlement Area, especially with the Mackenzie Gas Project. One of the mechanisms used to communicate with external users is the Gwich'in website, where businesses registered under

the Gwich'in business policy is made accessible to external website browsers. Unfortunately, the website has had to undergo some technical changes which have resulted in the business registry information becoming out of date. The business development section's efforts in completing the information systems assessment is meant to address more effectively updating and maintenance of its' information data base.

Just before Christmas, each Gwich'in registered businesses was sent a letter requesting their business sent back a respond to GTC's request for the business's contact information it had on file. More specifically GTC wanted confirmation that contact information was as accurate and current as possible. In cases where the information was incorrect, they were asked to provide the correct or additional information. To date, the Business Development section has received approximately half of the requests sent out before Christmas. It's looking for the remaining half.

REGIONAL WELLNESS

Happy New Year! We hope that this is a happy and healthy year for everyone! Since the last report, the new employees, Tena and Shandel, have been working hard planning for the prospective projects and have each made community visits, Victor has also been working hard planning for the youth conference to be held in Fort McPherson in March. I have also been in discussion on various health issues with the Beaufort Delta Regional Health and Social Services Authority (BDRHSSA), community members, IRC, Interagency and other organizations and departments.

ADDICTIONS CONFERENCE

The Wellness Office at GTC is also involved with BDRHSSA and IRC in planning the Addictions Conference which was supposed to take place in December. The conference is now scheduled for March 5-9, 2007. This conference is targeting Community Wellness Workers, Mental Health & Addictions Counselors, Social Workers, Community Health Representatives, Doctors and other front line workers. We also are encouraging interested community people to attend.

PRE-SCHOOLERS DENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

We have had discussions with ECE and other agencies regarding the Pre-Schoolers Dental Health Initiative. We are aware that often children lose their teeth too early due to decay. It is very important to take care of your children's teeth from a young age. Baby teeth are important for nutrition: without teeth, children are not able to chew well, especially the healthy foods such as meat, apples and carrots. If too many teeth are lost at once, it may effect how the adult teeth come in. They are also important for speech development and self-esteem.

Before a child can brush, a clean wet face cloth can be used to clean teeth by rubbing the cloth along the teeth. Brushing at night is crucial: saliva can sit in the mouth all night and combined with any sugar eaten throughout the day, could be decaying your child's teeth. Another way to show your love is to brush or to help brush your children's teeth regularly!

If you require any assistance or have questions please feel free to call me at 777-7927 or send an email to: dkurszewski@gwichin.nt.ca. If I cannot help you, I will try to find someone who can.

Mahsi Cho.



REGIONAL WELLNESS

ELDER & YOUTH – Victor Stewart, Coordinator

On February 23 – 26, I will be hosting a Regional Youth Conference in Fort McPherson. This conference has been in the works since July and is the result of many letter writing, phone calls and e-mails. The conference will be on a workshop format, with daily sessions that include Empowerment & Leadership, Cultural Awareness & Healing, Education and Career, Business Development, and Suicide Prevention, to name a few. Four-and-a-half days of learning and fun will be shared by 60–70 youth from the four communities and Yellowknife.

I continue to make periodic visits to the communities to update everyone on issues from residential school to elders' and youth programs that are available from various organizations and government. I am still trying to set up Youth Councils in Aklavik and Inuvik and I am pleased to say the Youth Councils in McPherson and Tsiigehtchic are up and running, although communication is not as strong as could be.

Residential school advance payments for the Elders is an on-going struggle for

some, as government officials try to locate lost records of school attendance. However, I continue to make follow-up calls to the office in Vancouver and try to assure the Elders that eventually they will see payments.

I have also been involved in trying to secure funding for various youth workshops and conference.

FASD – Tena Blake, Regional Coordinator

Happy New Year to all, I hope your holiday season was an enjoyable one surrounded by those you love.

I continue to do research on FASD that will be shared with the communities. I held information sessions in the four communities: “thank you” to those who came out and attended. I am now working on a parenting workshop that will be held before the end of March.

My office hours are 1:00–5:00 pm, Monday to Thursday. Call me at 952–2528 and or email me at tena_blake@gov.tetlitzheh.ca.

DIABETES – Shandel Furlong, Regional Coordinator

Drin Gwinzii! This year I have two different projects in

place to present to all interested Gwich'in beneficiaries: “Preventing Diabetes by Cooking Healthy” and “Supporting Each Other”.

The first project – the Community Kitchen Project – will take place in February 2007. It will be held to help families and caregivers to provide the proper diet for diabetics. The project will be held in all four communities. We hope you come out to share your ideas and thoughts with each other!

Secondly, I will be hosting a Support Group to help each other with questions or concerns you may have regarding diabetes. This will give everyone an opportunity to share their experiences as to how diabetes affects your spirit, body & mind.

DIABETIC COOKBOOK

We need recipes from you or any other thoughts or ideas you have to share.



GWICH'IN SOCIAL & CULTURAL INSTITUTE - Sharon Snowshoe, Executive Director

The GSCI bids farewell and good wishes to Kristi Benson who will be leaving her position as Researcher as of January 5, 2007. Starting in the New Year, Kristi will be working with the Aurora Research Institute. Kristi will continue to work on GSCI initiatives at the ARI and may be reached at (867) 777-3298 Ext. 30. Ingrid Kritsch, Research Director, is expected to return to work sometime in January 2007.

PROJECT UPDATES

Pokiak and Knute Lang Territorial Historic Sites Nomination Project, Aklavik

This project is in progress. A meeting held with the Community Steering Committee in Aklavik selected two sites and the nomination forms are being completed. Kristi Benson started writing up the nomination form; there is lots of information on Knute Lang but not much on Pokiak so interviews may have to be done to gather the information needed to complete the form. If you have pictures or more information about either site, please contact Kristi or Alestine before the end of February 2007.

Vik'ooyendik Territorial Historic Site Nomination Project, Tsiigehtchic

A meeting held with the Community Steering Committee in Tsiigehtchic provided information for this project. Alestine Andre is currently completing the nomination form for the Vik'ooyendik site. Another meeting will be held with the Community Steering Committee to review and change the draft nomination form as needed before it is finalized. Interviews may take place after this meeting.

Arctic Red River Headwaters Project Phase III: Heritage Resources and Traditional Use

Numerous detailed funding proposals were prepared for submission to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Protected Areas Strategy, and Polar Continental Shelf Project to carry out archaeological survey work in the Arctic Red River Headwaters area in the summer of 2007. Kristi Benson has been working with Alestine Andre on this project and interviews are planned with Gwich'in Elders about environmental topics such wildlife, plants, fish, seasonality,



climate change, and other biophysical topics. An Elders' visit to the site is also planned at which time Elders will be interviewed about their recollections and stories.

Gwich'in Language Dictionary, Sixth Edition

The Gwich'in Language Dictionary workshops have started. A three-day workshop was held in Fort McPherson from November 28 to 30, 2006 with about 10-15 participants who translated 430 Gwich'in terms. The next three-day workshop was held in Inuvik from December 6 to 8, 2006 where an additional 10 words were verified. Mary Clark, Linguist Trainee, has been entering the verified words into the Gwich'in Language Dictionary database. There was no youth involvement in Inuvik. William Firth, Language Centre Manager, would like to involve youth in this project so they can learn the language and take over the project in the future. There are youth coming out of school that can do this type of work.

GS&CI: 867-952-2524



Gwich'in Writers' Classes

Language Specialist, Ms. Leeann Hinton with UCLA Berkeley, was unfortunately not able to come to Fort McPherson to carry out the Mentor-Apprentice Program this year. In its place, a Gwich'in writers' class will take place in each community starting mid-January. The Gwich'in Language Centre is finding that many people are interested in reading, writing and speaking the Gwich'in language and they hope these classes will assist them. A great turn out is anticipated when the classes begin. If you are interested, feel free to call and provide your comments and suggestions to the Gwich'in Language Centre office in Fort McPherson at (867) 952-2377.

Gwich'in Elders Biographies

The Gwich'in Language Centre are currently speaking with Gwich'in Elders in each community and recording their life histories for future references. They have about five

prominent Elders in each community they would like to interview. The life stories of other Elders will be completed as time allows. This is an ongoing project. The information in their database is very useful and the staff would like to thank the Elders who have given their time and patience to assist them on this project. **Hain' choo nakhwagwich'in kat!**

Gwich'in Repatriating Skills Project

Natasha Lyons, Ph.D. student, who has recently completed an artifact project with the Inuvialuit, is willing to work with GSCI on a repatriating project. The proposed project will work with Gwich'in Elders on the repatriation of traditional skills, such as rabbit skin weaving, with funding from the Canada Council of Learning.

Gwich'in Place Names and GIS

The GSCI has finalized the Aklavik place names with the Community Steering Committee in Aklavik. Tracy Creighton, GIS technician for GTC, completed this work on the GIS database and updated and placed the place names in their correct spots. William Firth at the Gwich'in Language

Centre provided the phonetic spelling of the Gwich'in place names that was recorded at the Aklavik Place Names Verification workshop in November 2006.

Queries from Gwich'in

(1) A request was made from Aklavik asking GSCI to provide a write up on the traditional clothing that is displayed in their community. This summary could be attached on the display case that includes the names of the seamstresses from each of the communities who were involved with making the traditional caribou skin clothing.

(2) A request from Noel Andre in Tsiigehtchic about holding Gwich'in language classes. He is concerned that we talk about losing our language yet we do nothing about it. Also we need more people in our community who could write our Gwich'in language. He said a variety of teaching and learning methods could be applied such as listening to COPE tapes, have suppers with Elders where only the Gwich'in language is spoken, walking around town to identify Gwich'in words along the way (house, trail, dogs, spruce trees, people, etc.) and so on.

GTC STAFF DEVELOPMENT



On December 1st, GTC staff took the afternoon off for a few team building activities including tea boiling, snowhouse building, and wood packing to name a few (kind of like a warm-up for the carnival season!).

Tom's team won in the tea-boiling but lost in the tug-of-war (despite unsubstantiated reports of attempted rigging). Fred won in the all-you-can-eat event....

Mahsi to our camp hosts, Fred Jerome and Vincent Firth, and to our casual, Ruth Wright.



ANNUAL CAPITAL DISTRIBUTION



⇐ First, the elves made a list at the GTC office and checked it twice...

...then, Santa made a delivery: in this case, to Sub-Chief Eileen Koe, Tetlit Gwich'in Council. ⇒



In some cases, he found out who was naughty...



SILENT AUCTION

On December 20th, GTC staff held a silent auction and raised over \$800, amidst strategizing, checking and re-checking bids and some rough play (in the end, Evelyn cleaned up). The Gwich'in Development Corporation kindly topped this up to \$1000 and a cheque was presented to the Family Counseling Centre. We received the following card signed by their staff:

"Dear Friends,

Denise delivered your very generous donation of \$1,000 to us on December 21st. Thank you so much – thank you for your heart. We have decided to buy a stove, pots and pans and kitchen utensils and a hallway mirror with this money – the purchases will benefit our clients and the community as we cook for a variety of functions throughout the year. They will also benefit the staff that do not live near the FCC and who wish to cook lunch at the Center. So, we are ordering today from Sears. Once these purchases have arrived, we will contact you and invite you to an Open House at the FCC – we will bake for you in our new stove.

Mahsi Cho!

Blanche, Alvin, Annie, Olivia"



STAFF & CHILDREN'S PARTY



There was even time for some Indian Bingo – oops, Aboriginal Game of Chance!



THE REVEREND GEORGINA BALDWIN



On December 28th, a special service was held in Inuvik to celebrate the ordination of The Reverend Georgina Baldwin (née Greenland) to the Diaconate of the Anglican Church of Canada. The Greenland Family then put up a feast and old-time dance to celebrate her sacrifice, hard work and achievement.



Seen Around Fort McPherson...



Photos courtesy of Chief Johnny Kay

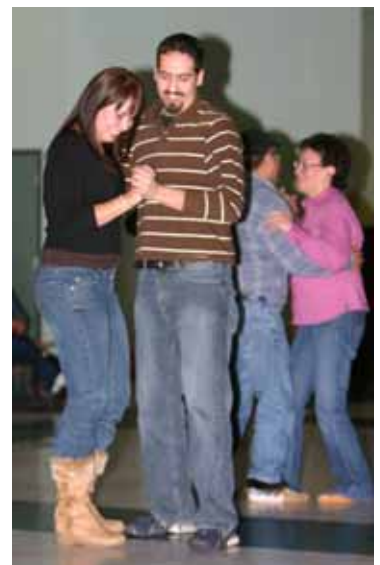
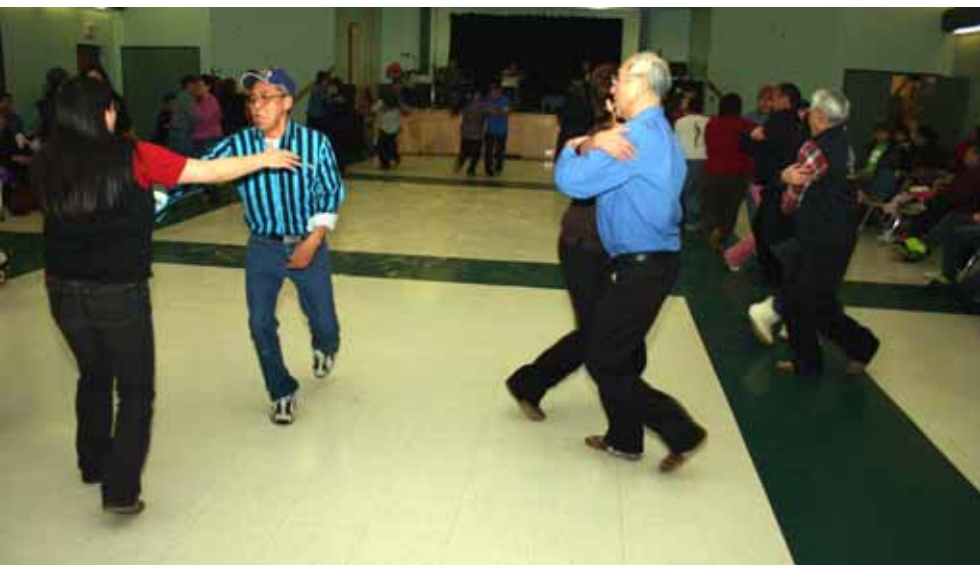
CKLB's newest DJ



Photo courtesy of William Greenland



Steppin' Out at the Inuvik Community Christmas Feast and Dance



Christmas is...





NOTICE of SPECIAL ASSEMBLY



Gwich'in Tribal Council

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

**Thursday, March 8, 2007
Ingamo Hall, Inuvik NT
Travel Days: March 7 and 9**

ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS WANTING TO REPRESENT THEIR DESIGNATED GWICH'IN ORGANIZATION (DGO) AS DELEGATES CAN CONTACT THEIR LOCAL DGO TO FIND OUT WHEN THEY WILL BE SELECTING DELEGATES:

GWICHYA GWICH'IN COUNCIL

PO Box 4

Tsiigehtchic NT X0E 0B0

PH: (867) 953-3201

FX: (867) 953-3302

TETLIT GWICH'IN COUNCIL

PO Box 30

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**Gwich'in Development Corporation
Annual Shareholders Meeting
to follow the Special Assembly**



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

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