



Gwich'in Tribal Council

MEDIA RELEASE

GWICH'IN EXTEND TERMS OF THEIR EXECUTIVE

(Inuvik, March 8, 2007) In an overwhelming vote, delegates at the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) Special Assembly passed a special resolution extending the terms of their President and Vice-President for an additional year.

With the unanimous vote, delegates gave the mandate for Fred Carmichael and Mary Ann Ross respectively to continue their executive duties and responsibilities in resolving several important issues in order for the Gwich'in to move towards the goal of self-sufficiency.

The outstanding issues include:

- continuity in leadership and a solid working relationship with the Federal and Territorial governments;
- continuity of leadership to ensure that the GTC is fully prepared for the commencement of a proposed Mackenzie Gas Project;
- continued political support in preparing a Regional Investment Plan that will establish community and regional priorities of the GTC share of a \$500-million Socio-Economic Impact Fund;
- continued political partnership with the GNWT and other Aboriginal governments in establishing a process to negotiate a fair and equitable resource-revenue sharing and devolution agreement;
- continuity of leadership within the Gwich'in Development Corporation in making it a profitable and strong economic organization;
- continuity in leadership to implement a GTC Strategic Plan that will ensure all Gwich'in entities are fully resourced and the capacity needs are met as the Gwich'in move towards self-sufficiency;
- continuity of leadership in implementing the changes of By-Law #3 (increase in funding to Gwich'in organizations and Beneficiaries and protection of the Gwich'in Settlement Fund for future generations) and ensuring that the Gwich'in organizations are prepared to assume this added responsibility; and
- continuity in leadership in moving forward the self-government file.

“We thank the delegates for their resounding support in helping us move these important issues forward until our new terms end in June 2008” said President Carmichael and Vice-President Ross. “These are critical times, especially with the end of payments from the Federal government under our land claim agreement, plus the anticipated development of a Mackenzie Gas Project.”

As the result of a widely-circulated petition presented to the GTC Board of Directors in November 2006, a Board motion (#2006/70) was passed in December 2006 to call a Special Assembly to discuss the Term Extension of the current Executive members: President Carmichael and Vice-President Ross.

The GTC Board of Directors felt that an election in June 2007 was not in the best interest of the Gwich'in since there were a number of outstanding issues to be dealt with by the Executive and that a change in leadership might not be a wise decision.

Contact:

- Fred Carmichael, President
- Mary Ann Ross, Vice-President
- Tom Williams, Chief Operating Officer

Ph: 867-777-7900

Ph: (867) 777-7900 • Fx: (867) 777-7919

PO Box 1509, Chief Jim Koe Zeh, 1-3 Council Crescent, Inuvik NT X0E 0T0

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