



the Gwich'in News

Season's Greetings to all!



photo by Robert Alexie

The Gwich'in float, one of the highlights of the Santa Claus Parade held in Inuvik

GTC STAFF CHANGES

We at the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) are pleased to welcome two new employees to the GTC and two to the Gwich'in Development Corporation.

Tom Williams has come on board as the new Chief Operating Officer for the GTC. Tom is originally from Inuvik and has spent years pursuing a successful career in the public sector in Yellowknife. Most recently he was Executive Assistant to the Honourable Roger Allen, the MLA for Inuvik Twin Lakes and Minister

Responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs; NWT Housing Corporation and Youth. As Chief Operating Officer, Tom will draw upon his management experience to help President Fred Carmichael and the rest of the GTC management team as they deal with the full range of issues affecting Beneficiaries.

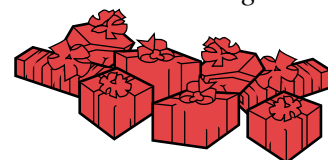
Allen Firth has now joined us as Environmental Contaminants Coordinator, an important position created two years ago in response to Gwich'in concerns over the levels of

various contaminants in traditional foods and the potential consequences of their consumption. Allen will build on the work done by his predecessor, Norman Snowshoe, in gathering, organizing and distributing to the Gwich'in communities information on these issues, drawing upon his own background in environmental and resource issues.

Allen is a Gwich'in Beneficiary, and his previous position was as Fisheries Technician at the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, based in Inuvik.— *more changes on pg 8*

COMING NEXT ISSUE....

- ✓ NEWS FROM THE GWICH'IN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
- ✓ UPDATES ON GTC ISSUES IMPORTANT TO YOU
- ✓ INSIGHTS FROM PRESIDENT FRED CARMICHAEL

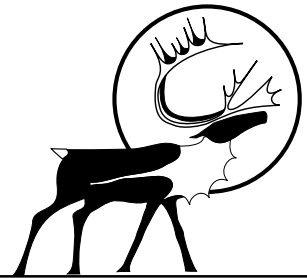


the President

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL BENEFICIARIES!

Another year is drawing to a close, making this a good time to reflect on how much we Gwich'in were able to accomplish in 2001 by working together.



For me, the early months of the year were largely taken up by efforts to strengthen the GTC organization and prepare us to deal with new developments in the Beaufort-Delta region.

We've taken important steps to improve our financial position and to enhance our ability to serve all Beneficiaries efficiently and responsibly. There are important changes facing us, including the return of oil and gas activity to the Delta and the coming of Self-government. Strengthening the GTC to deal with these issues will help ensure that all Gwich'in are heard and have an opportunity to benefit from the economic and political changes around us.

Of the changes to the GTC, one of which I am particularly proud is the creation of a new management team consisting of the GTC President and the Chiefs of the four Gwich'in communities. This team acts as an "executive committee" of the GTC, meeting regularly to discuss the overall direction the Council should take. The Chiefs are our recognized leaders, elected at the community level. Now, for the first time, they have been brought in to GTC decision-making at the highest level, ensuring that community concerns and perspectives are always understood and reflected in GTC policies and programs.

This November the management team met in Ottawa with Robert Nault, the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. We had productive discussions on a wide range of issues, including social and economic development, the Land Use Plan, the Yukon Development Assessment Process (YDAP) and the Yukon overlap question.

I'm pleased to report that we made significant progress on a number of fronts, with the Minister willing to work with us on the major items on our agenda. We presented a social and economic development proposal to the Minister and some of his key staff members, and found a receptive audience. Earlier this year we and DIAND managed to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding on our Land Use Plan. At the November meeting, we reached agreement that key officials from the Minister's staff will work with us to finalize the Land Use Plan. Given the Plan's importance to the management of our resources and to our future, this is a welcome development. The Minister also committed himself to work with us, and the Governments of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories to develop an inter-governmental forum to deal with the difficult Yukon overlap issue. This will allow Gwich'in to take part in decisions affecting our Primary and Secondary Use Areas in the Yukon.

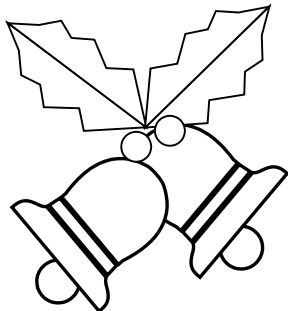
In addition to the progress we made on particular issues, this face-to-face meeting between the Minister and the Gwich'in leadership helped lay the foundation for closer cooperation in the future.

From November 21-23, our Implementation Committee met in Inuvik with the representatives of federal and territorial government departments for the three-year review of Chapter 10, the economic chapter of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. We were joined in this session by representatives of the Sahtu Nation, who have a similar claim. Presentations by departments such as DIAND, RWED, Industry Canada and ECE touched on programs available to the Gwich'in for economic development purposes. And in early December I was pleased to participate in a two-day meeting of the Beaufort-Delta Interim Regional Council, at which community leaders throughout the region exchanged ideas on the shared challenges we face and the steps we can take together to meet them.

This year also saw productive meetings with the Territorial Government, in which I was able to discuss regional and local issues with Premier Kakfwi and a number of Cabinet Ministers. At these meetings we managed to clarify a number of points in Chapter 10, reaching agreement where there had previously been differences of interpretation.

the President

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Other highlights of the year included meetings with the Aboriginal Pipeline Working Group, which is working to ensure meaningful Aboriginal participation in the proposed natural gas pipeline. And this summer we had useful meetings with an inter-governmental forum involving federal and GNWT representatives, to discuss resource-sharing and devolution.

I was also pleased by the initialing of the Beaufort-Delta Self-government Agreement-in-Principle. The work towards a Final Agreement will be one of the GTC's highest priorities in the coming year.

Of all our achievements together over the past year, one of the most significant for our future is turning around the Gwich'in Development Corporation. Following the direction given by several Annual General Assemblies, we moved this year to separate the GDC's business operations from GTC politics. The GDC now has its own Board of Directors, chosen for their experience and ability in business and with a mandate to chart the GDC's path free from day-to-day political interference. Early in the year Tom Connors came aboard as the GDC's Chief Executive Officer. Tom has worked hard to reorganize the GDC's various subsidiaries along profitable lines and to establish new joint ventures in fields

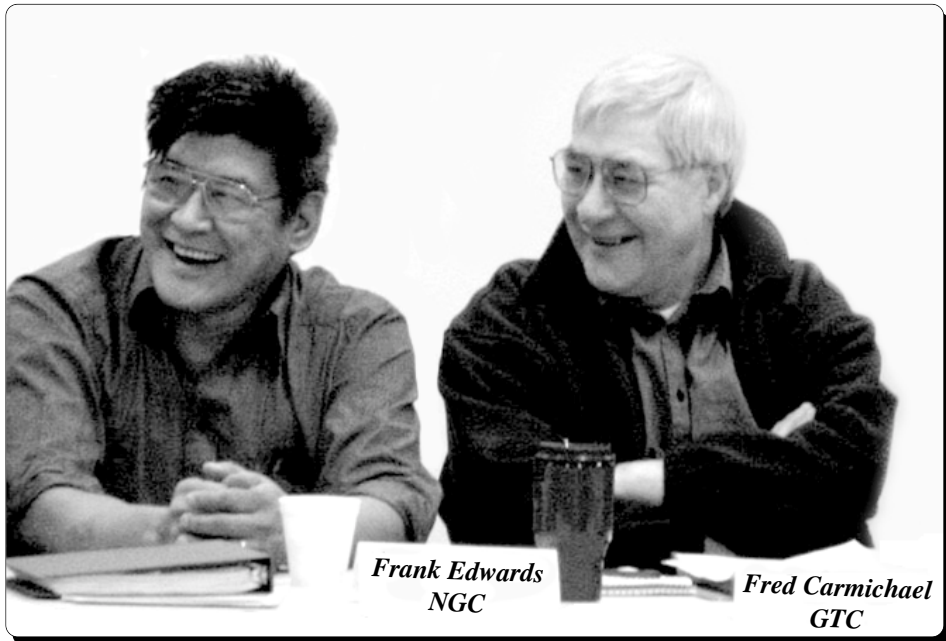


photo by Robert Alexie

President Fred Carmichael with Frank Edwards at the Beaufort-Delta Interim Regional Council meeting held in early December.

as diverse as civil engineering, oil field services, and property management.

The GDC's success as a stand-alone entity is now clear. After several consecutive years of heavy losses, the Corporation is now turning a healthy profit, exceeding the projections in its budget for 2001.

All this is good news for the Gwich'in. The fact that the GDC is now fulfilling its mandate to make money for the Beneficiaries provides us with a new source of needed revenues for the programs so important to us all, from health and education to Elders' payouts. And the GDC's increasingly visible and important role in the regional economy means that our voice will be heard when decisions affecting economic development are made. With a stronger GDC giving us a seat

at the table, our values and our interests will have to be taken into account.

Our achievements this year depended on the efforts of many people. I want to thank the four Chiefs, the members of the GTC Executive and Board of Directors, and our staff, who can be found working hard throughout the Settlement Area to build a better future for all Gwich'in. I am confident that the spirit of unity and cooperation that enabled us to accomplish so much this year will allow us to achieve even more in the year ahead.

Drin Tsal Zhit Srugoonch'uu Vili',

FRED CARMICHAEL
PRESIDENT

Land Administration

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The last year has been one of changes for the Gwich'in Land Administration, in both our own way of doing things and the challenges facing us.

We've developed a computerized Land Registry that can be linked to the Arc View GIS mapping system. While the Registry is not yet complete, it is impressive, and will eventually allow us to produce maps on different subjects from the information it contains.

In April we closed our Aklavik office, moving Lands Officer Joe Benoit to Inuvik, bringing us greater efficiency and cost savings. This year Joe successfully participated in extensive training.

Our white 4X4 crew cab with the familiar caribou logo provides more cost-effective inspections and access to Gwich'in lands. In response to community needs and requests, we've made inspections or visits to all the communities.

This year we also developed an extensive filing system, putting information on most subjects at our fingertips. An activity-based budget was produced, allowing us to justify our expenses on the basis of what we do. This year we're actually making money.

We've almost completed development of an information package to assist industrial applicants with our regulatory referral processes, in the shape of a CD-Rom disk the size of



photo by Howard R. Townsend

Whether learning to observe wildlife like the small frogs sitting in a grizzly track above, or vegetation like the sundew plants, our monitors are learning valuable lessons from the scientists working in the area. These lessons carry over to the PSPs and to the industrial monitoring they will be doing.

a credit card. We'll be able to mail this out for the cost of a 48-cent stamp.

The GNWT has placed two Calls for Nominations in the Central Mackenzie Valley, and Hunt Oil now has a presence in the region.

The Yukon Government has placed two Calls for Nominations in the Eagle Plains area and we've responded with our comments incorporating community input.

Devlan Exploration has paid for access to cross Gwich'in Settlement

Land and will likely do so again soon.

DIAND is now tendering for the Caribou River Clean Up Project, to be done either this year or in early 2002.

The Water Treatment Plant at Deep Water Lake, where Fort McPherson gets its water supply, has been constructed, and the management plan has been submitted to us. The lease under review is the first of its kind between the GNWT and a Land Claimant.

Land Administration

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

We've had several sand and gravel applications, with more anticipated. We demand detailed planning from the applicants and operating plans for the pits are under development. Eventually applicants will be able to apply and start the same day.

The review and proposed transfer of hinterlands and municipal lands for Inuvik is almost complete, and we're doing research on transfers for the other communities too.

This year we provided our input on the Yukon Quartz Mineral Regulations, Yukon Devolution and the Yukon Development Assessment Process. We hope this will encourage Gwich'in participation in the Land Use Planning processes in the North Yukon. Our concerns also brought the concerns of prospectors about free entry to the attention of Yukon First Nations.

We prepared several proposals this year, with the most significant being the ones that secured support for our work from the First Nations Forestry Program. This program has committed \$34,710 towards the training of our environmental monitors and the establishment of a system of Permanent Sample Plots throughout the GSA. These plots will allow us to monitor climate change, contamination, effects of industrial activity on the landscape and possible changes to wildlife habitats.



photo by Howard R. Townsend

The above picture shows the monitors laying out a PSP south of Fort McPherson. Left to right is Alec Vittrekwa, Beatrice Stewart, Cheryl Greenland and Joe Benoit.

We now have three young Beneficiaries working as environmental monitors, while several Work Experience students assisted us in the office and other young people were hired for fieldwork. Our monitors are learning valuable lessons from the scientists working in the region.

We are training Beneficiaries who are in demand from other potential employers. The bright futures these Beneficiaries might have elsewhere means it may be a challenge for us to hang on to them. We will prepare for this by continuing to meet the demand and by offering employment conditions that will encourage them to stay if they wish.

We hope your year has been as good as ours, and that we may all grow in 2002.

*Mahsi
Cho*

*Howard R.
Townsend
Joe Benoit
Cheryl Greenland*

*Beatrice Stewart
Alec Vittrekwa
and Kim Brown*

Implementation

YEAR 9 OF 10 YEAR PLAN

We are now in year nine of the initial ten-year Land Claim Implementation Plan. The Plan provides for:

- ✓ *activities and obligations required to fulfill the Land Claim Agreement;*
- ✓ *who is responsible, and within what time frame, for these activities and obligations;*
- ✓ *employment and training needs and opportunities for Gwich'in to participate in the Agreement's implementation;*
- ✓ *legislative requirements arising from the Agreement's provisions;*
- ✓ *a communication and information strategy to inform interested parties of the content of the Agreement and the Implementation Plan;*
- ✓ *a process to develop cooperation among the federal and territorial governments and the Gwich'in to implement the Agreement and the Implementation Plan;*
- ✓ *a process to determine that the identified obligations and activities have been fulfilled;*
- ✓ *the costs of implementing the Agreement.*

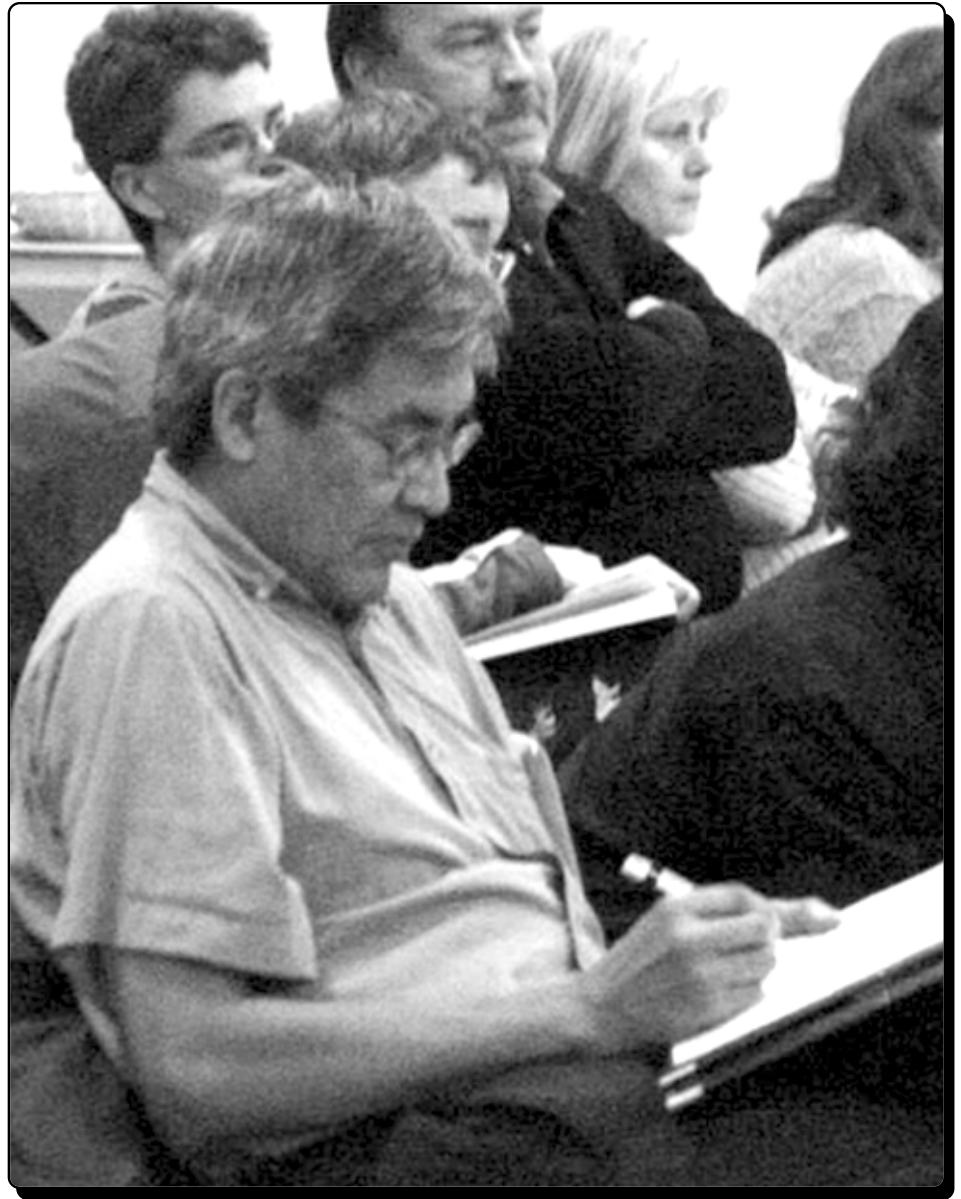


photo by Robert Alexie

Gwich'in Negotiator Lawrence Norbert "sleep-writing" at the Beaufort-Delta Interim Regional Council two day meeting early December.

The Agreement requires that a second Implementation Plan be negotiated for the period following the initial ten years of implementation, by June 2002. The GTC has selected Richard Nerysoo and Bob Simpson as the Gwich'in negotiators, with technical support from the Implementation Coordinator, Alex

Benitah, throughout the process. The first official negotiations meeting was in Inuvik on July 9th, 2001, with subsequent meetings on a monthly basis. The GTC will provide updates on further developments, and Alex Benitah is always available to provide information to interested Beneficiaries or Gwich'in organisations.

Education & Training

PROGRAMS IN REVIEW

The GTC's Education and Training Department currently administers two major educational funds:

Gwich'in Education and Training Fund (GETF)

The GETF provides bursaries, scholarships and graduation gifts to Gwich'in Beneficiaries enrolled in the Land Claim Agreement who are in post-secondary studies. Bursaries assist students with school-related expenses, with the amount of assistance depending on course load (full-time students only), length of studies (two months or longer), year of studies and academic standing. Scholarships are open to students with an overall average of 80%. Students must submit an application before the start of their program, carry a full course load and complete a full year of study.

Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy Agreement (AHRDSA)

This is a five-year contribution agreement with the federal government to provide human resources development programs to First Nations, Metis and Inuit people residing in the Gwich'in Settlement Region in the NWT. It covers labour market programs (including self-employment, job creation and skills development), youth programs (including internship, community service and summer student employment programs), special programs to assist the disabled, and programs to provide child care services for aboriginal children of working or training parents.



*Pat McKinnon,
Manager*



*Margaret Thompson,
Coordinator*

Other AHRDSA agreements assist students in areas outside the Gwich'in Settlement Region. Call the nearest HRDC office to find out who administers the AHRDSA in your area.

Applications under either the GETF or the AHRDSA must reach the Education and Training Department by the following dates:

SEMESTER OF STUDY DEADLINE:

Fall	July 15
Winter	November 15
Spring/Summer	March 15
Short Courses	30 days before course start date

Late applications will be deferred to the next semester. All requests for funding are subject to the availability of funds in the current fiscal year.

For further information or applications forms, please contact the Education and Training Department at: Phone-867-952-2330 • Fax-867-952-2212

Manager-Pat McKinnon Ext-40 pdmckinnon@yahoo.com
Coordinator-Margaret Thompson Ext-35 margare1@internorh.com

the Staff Changes

Norman Snowshoe was promoted to Resource Manager/Planner several months ago, to succeed Alex Benitah, who has replaced John Bainbridge as Land Claim Implementation Coordinator.

Carl Chala joined us in October as Vice-President, Business Development, of the Gwich'in Development Corporation. Carl is a native of Calgary, a graduate of the University of Lethbridge and a Certified Management Accountant. From 1994 to 1997, he was Manager of Western Arctic Business Development Services in Inuvik. He then returned to Calgary, where he worked as CFO of a high-tech public company and later President of his own technology firm. We welcome Carl back to Inuvik, and to new challenges at the GDC.

We also welcome Colum McCready, who has joined the GDC as Manager of its real estate division, Gwich'in Properties, based in Inuvik. In this new position, Colum will manage the GDC's residential and commercial properties, with responsibility for coordinating maintenance, repairs and rentals. Colum has several years' experience living and working in the Western Arctic and until assuming his new position was Senior Administrative Officer for the Tsiigehtchic Charter Community.

We're delighted to have these well-qualified people join our team and look forward to their contributions to the GTC and to the welfare of all Beneficiaries.



Norman Snowshoe (center) is the new GTC Resource Manager.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

To ensure that you get each and every issue, please make a point of keeping the Enrolment Board informed of your current address. If you move, marry, or there's a birth in your family, keep the Gwich'in Enrolment Board informed. You can contact the GTC Office in Inuvik.

CALL (867) 777-4869 OR FAX 777-4538.

Ask for Cheryl Wright.

Since this is your publication, we want your input. We welcome letters, photographs and story suggestions.

We thank you for welcoming "Gwich'in News" as a guest in your home and look forward to hearing from you.

Please send any contributions to:

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*Our email is:
gglprint@inuvik.net*

Mahsi Cho, one and all.

