



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **GTC Commences Five-Year Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy**

INUVIK (October 22, 2010) – Richard Nerysoo, President of the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), is pleased to announce the commencement of a five-year program for Gwich'in and other Aboriginal peoples in the Gwich'in Settlement Area to access training and employment services leading to meaningful and sustainable employment through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) with Service Canada.

*“We have Participants of the Gwich'in land claim agreement and other Aboriginal peoples in the Gwich'in Settlement Area who are seeking a job or how to upgrade their skills”* said President Nerysoo. *“ASETS will use an integrated approach to link training needs to labour market demands, providing Gwich'in and other Aboriginal peoples in the Gwich'in Settlement Area with training or skill upgrading and with help to find a job.”*

ASETS is the successor program to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (also known as AHRDA). Under the ASETS strategy, GTC will design and deliver programs and services best suited to the Gwich'in and other Aboriginal peoples in the Gwich'in Settlement Area including: job-seeking skills and training, programs for youth, persons with disabilities, women and enhanced access to child care.

*“We believe that ASETS will ensure that Gwich'in and other Aboriginal peoples in the Gwich'in Settlement Area can fully participate in Canada's economic opportunities thus meeting one of our objectives, that being to develop and promote economic, social, educational and cultural programs that will enable the Gwich'in and other Aboriginal peoples in the Gwich'in Settlement Area to become self-sufficient and full participating members in a global society.”* said President Nerysoo.

ASETS will focus on three priorities:

1. demand-driven skills development;
2. partnerships with business including the private and public sector and governments;
3. and accountability for strong performance results.

The agreement between the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Service Canada began October 1<sup>st</sup> and will be flexible to ensure the GTC has the authority to make decisions that best meet the needs of the Gwich'in and other Aboriginal people.

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