

Tł̄chǫ Government

Annual Report 2016

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Tł̄chǫ Ndek'āowo



Tł̄chǫ Government

Ilè dø għa goita... In Tł̄chǫ Unity...

Message from the Grand Chief

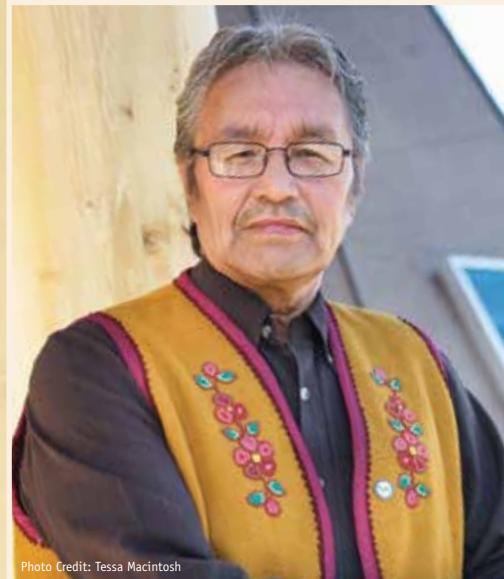


Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

I am pleased to present this annual report for the year of 2015-2016. The Annual Report is an opportunity to look back and highlight some of the wide-ranging and more important activities of the Tł'chǫ Government over the past year.

We are optimistic that the recent elections, which changed governments at both the federal and territorial levels, will assist the progress of our work. We are building a new and respectful relationship with the Trudeau government and that new relationship is bearing fruit. We have already seen changes, not only in the way the federal government is speaking about issues, but also in how they deal with them. For instance, we saw almost immediate progress on our efforts to protect the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB). You will remember that in May 2014, the Tł'chǫ Government was forced to file a lawsuit against the Government of Canada, challenging Canada's plan to change the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). These MVRMA changes were an attempt to dismantle the WLWB and the other regional land and water boards throughout the Mackenzie Valley. The MVRMA changes are unconstitutional and a breach of the Tł'chǫ Agreement. On February 27, 2015, the NWT Supreme Court issued an injunction stopping Canada from implementing its changes to the MVRMA. Since the federal election, Canada has indicated a willingness to enter into discussion to resolve this issue outside of litigation, and this winter, Canada filed a notice saying that it is not proceeding with its appeal of the injunction at this time. As well, the Tł'chǫ Government has already met with the new Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, and raised our concerns over the lack of previous progress in achieving a fair and equitable new Financing Agreement for our Government. We are pleased to report that, since that meeting, significant progress is being made on the negotiation of a new Financing Agreement for the Tł'chǫ Government.

Over the past year, there have also been changes in our northern government. Here too, we believe we are continuing to make progress in building a government-to-government relationship with the Government of the NWT. Our regular meetings with the Premier and Cabinet to work out solutions to mutual problems have resulted in progress on a number of issues, including the recent establishment of a joint working group to try to resolve the many housing issues that are raised by our people.

In this spirit, I am pleased to offer you this brief overview of our work in 2015-2016. As always, I welcome a conversation with you on the work of the Tł'chǫ Government.

"Iłè dö gha góta... In Tł'chǫ Unity"

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

Highlights from the 3rd Tł'chǫ Assembly

2015-2016



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Tł'chǫ Assembly in Gamèti

The Chiefs and Assembly members of the 3rd Tł'chǫ Assembly are: Chief Clifford Daniels, Rosa Martla and Noel Bishop from Behchokǫ; Chief Alfonz Nitsiza, George Nitsiza and Sonny Zoe from Whatì; Chief David Wedawin, Henry Gon and Garry Bekale from Gamèti; and Chief Johnny Arrowmaker, Joseph Judas and Robin Laboline from Wekweètì. Eddie Erasmus has presided as our Grand Chief.

The 3rd Assembly has been busy in 2015-2016. We are pleased with the growth of our Capital Trust investments. We are also pleased with the establishment of a regional Tł'chǫ Economic Development Working Group, the development work on a mineral policy and the implementation of our On the Land Safety policies, the ongoing work in establishing an early childhood framework, the continuing work on the Sportsplex in Behchokǫ and the all-season road to Whatì. We are proud to have implemented the Tł'chǫ Awards this year. Some highlights include:



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Tł'chǫ Gathering Gamèti 2015



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Tł'chǫ Gathering Gamèti 2015

Portfolio Performance of the Capital Trust

The Tł'chǫ Constitution states that all Capital Transfers from Canada are to be protected as a perpetual endowment for the benefit of all Tł'chǫ, now and in the future. The Tł'chǫ Government will receive its last Capital Transfer from Canada in August of 2019 and, at that time, the total amount received from Canada will be \$134,211,195. Section 18 of our Tł'chǫ Capital Transfer Protection Law says that all the investment income shall be retained in the Trust until 2019 and re-invested to build up the funds in the Trust. The Tł'chǫ Government will be able to start to spend eligible income from the fund in the year 2020. The Tł'chǫ Capital Trust Investment Portfolio is being managed by TD Bank and is growing steadily despite continuing weaknesses in the national and international markets.





Photo Credit: Laura Duncan

Tł'chö Assembly and Tł'chö Elder's Advisory

Sponsoring a Northern Governance Conference

For the second year in a row, the Tł'chö Government has partnered with other northern organizations and governments to sponsor a highly successful national-level conference on important northern issues. In 2015, we sponsored "A Festival of Traditional Knowledge and TEDx Event" with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and the Canadian Polar Commission. This past year, the Tł'chö Government hosted a Northern Governance Conference in March 2016, in partnership with the NWT Regional Group of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) as well as GNWT Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs, and Aboriginal and Intergovernmental Affairs. This event addressed challenges shared by all levels of government in terms of capacity, research, policy development and operating in a northern context.



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Establishing the 2016 Tł'chö Government Awards

To recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of remarkable individuals, companies and organizations in protecting, preserving and enhancing the Tł'chö way of life, these awards are the highest form of recognition from the Tł'chö Government.

The Chiefs Executive Council of the Tł'chö Government announced the 2016 recipients of the Tł'chö Government Awards. They are: the late Chief Jimmy Bruneau, of Behchokö, for a Lifetime Achievement Award; Charlie Gon, of Gamètì, for Public Service, Politics, Law and Justice; Jimmy Kodzin, of Wekweèti, for Active Living and Cultural Skills; the late Jimmy Martin, of Behchokö, for Education and Health; and Dora Nitsiza, of Whati, for Culture Heritage and Spirituality.

Legislation and Policy Development during the 3rd Assembly



Frank's Channel Bridge



Wekweèti

Mineral Policy Development Strategy

The Tł'chǫ Government has seen the need for the development of a Mineral Strategy. One of the biggest assets we have is our land, and clear rules need to be in place on how the land will be managed and used by different groups. A Mineral Strategy will provide clear guidance on how mineral development must occur on Tł'chǫ lands. The Kwe Beh Working Group has been given the lead on the development of this strategy. Research has been completed, a technical working group has been established and a draft scoping document is under development.



The Development of Early Childhood Legislation and Policy Framework

Two years ago, the Chiefs Executive Council met with the Premier and Cabinet of the GNWT and committed to the drawdown of Early Childhood Education as per the Tł'chǫ Agreement, and to the development of an Early Childhood Education Framework from pre-natal to age 6 for the Tł'chǫ communities. In order for the development of the strategy and framework to be successful it is important to work closely with the TCSA to ensure that programs and services offered by TG and TCSA are integrated. Work is underway on the development of Tł'chǫ legislation for the Early Childhood Programs and Services, including a Tł'chǫ Daycare Act and Regulations as well as a framework and implementation strategy.

The Practical Implementation of a Wilderness Safety Policy Framework

A multi-year occupational health and safety policy project has been implemented across the Tł'chǫ Government in 2015-2016. The implementation promotes the health and safety of TG staff, contractors and project participants by working to prevent accidents by ensuring compliance to all legislative requirements under the NWT Safety Act as well as health and safety best practices. This implementation has led to a comprehensive overhaul of TG practices related to on-the-land projects as well as innovative wilderness training programs over the past two years.



Highlights from 2015-2016



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Youth On-the-Land Program

An On-the-Land Healing Program was delivered at Stagg River in March 2016 to provide youth with a wellness and healing program using a spiritual connection to our language, culture and way of life. There were nine youth participants in the program, with a resource team of Elders and other staff. This was an opportunity to explore, learn, revive our language, culture, way of life and retrace our path through the eyes of our Elders. The program is well designed to provide one-on-one support, a healing journey, drugs and alcohol awareness education, intervention and prevention education, an on-going support network, oral history, ceremonies and a reconnection with spirit through the On-the-Land program.



Wilderness Safety Training Program

The Wilderness Safety Training Program was established to address the Tł'chǫ Government's Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures, especially when dealing with on-the-land programming. It has now become recognized within the NWT and other parts of Canada as a culturally sensitive and relevant safety training program. The Wilderness Safety Training Program gives the participants the skills, tools and certifications necessary to provide opportunities for employment and self-employment within the Tł'chǫ region and within the NWT.

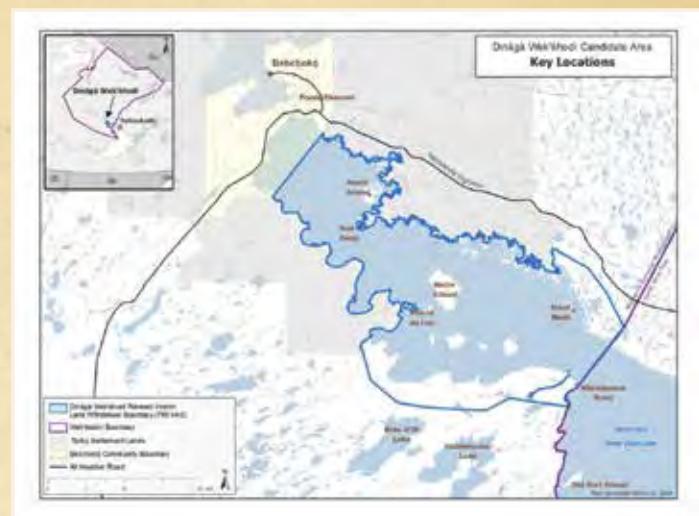


Tłı̨chǫ Job Readiness

The Tłı̨chǫ Job Readiness Program has been developed in partnership with the Tłı̨chǫ Government's Mines Liaison Coordinator and the Mine Training Society. Within the curriculum of the Job Readiness Program, community members' self-identified employment barriers have been addressed, specifically: self-empowerment, self-esteem, industrial workplace awareness, pardon suspensions, resumes and interview skills. The success of the Tłı̨chǫ Job Readiness Program has enabled the participants to continue to look at how to improve themselves, either by going back to school and completing their Grade 12, or by applying for a Pardon Suspension, or by addressing their interpersonal dynamics with others. Success is based on giving people tools, in assisting them with improving their own lives by providing skills that they may obtain in becoming self-reliant individuals and valuable contributing citizens within their community.

The Tłı̨chǫ Region Economic Development Strategy

The Tłı̨chǫ Region Economic Development Working Group has members from the Tłı̨chǫ Government, Tłı̨chǫ communities, the Tłı̨chǫ Investment Corporation and GNWT-ITI, who are working together to maximize economic development opportunities in the region and to create a strategic economic development plan. The Tłı̨chǫ Region Training and Economic Development Strategy will provide a foundation for each Tłı̨chǫ community to implement their own self-invested, community priorities and action plans on economic development activity. The strategy objectives include maintaining and strengthening the traditional economy, and building the economic self-sufficiency of the Tłı̨chǫ First Nation.



Language Revitalization Training, November 2015.

Dedats'eetsaa: Tłı̨chǫ Training and Research Institute

The Dedats'eetsaa Tłı̨chǫ Research and Training Institute was created within the Department of Culture and Lands Protection in 2013 by the Chiefs Executive Council. The purpose of the Institute is to advance the study of our lands, language, culture and way of life. One of the major projects in 2015-2016 has been a successful partnership with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the GNWT Department of HSS to submit a major healthcare research support proposal to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The proposal has now been approved and will bring over 5 million dollars in research support funding to the NWT, along with in-kind funding from other northern indigenous governments and universities such as the University of Alberta.

Highlights from 2015-2016

continued

Activities of the Cultural Coordinator

The Cultural Coordinator is a member of the Dedats'eetsaa Tł'chǫ Research and Training Institute. Appointed jointly by the GNWT, Canada and the Tł'chǫ Government under the Intergovernmental Services Agreement, the Coordinator has focused on four key projects this past year, including Tł'chǫ Interpreter/Translator Training, Tł'chǫ Dictionary Terminology, Tł'chǫ Traditional Place Names and the Tł'chǫ Cultural Indicators Project. Within the past two years, three University of Victoria Aboriginal Language Revitalization courses have been offered in Behchokǫ. A total of 86 people in our region received the Basic LING 187 and 187a Aboriginal Language certificate, while 71 students received their first year, Basic Aboriginal Literacy certificate and 15 received their second level UVIC language certificate.

The second triennial report from the Cultural Coordinator, "Gonàowot'a nàts'etso; Eelets'àts'edi t'a nàts'etso – Strong in Way of Life, Strong in Working Together", will be released in the next year and it is intended to draw attention to the obligations of all governments to use their respective powers in ways that respect and promote Tł'chǫ language, culture and way of life.



Photo Credit: Michael Birlea

Participants of the 2015 TAEMP at Tumi Lake.



Photo Credit: Michael Birlea

Tł'chǫ Marian Watershed Stewardship Program:

To date, the program has trained 22 Tł'chǫ community members in baseline water sampling and fish collection. The Tł'chǫ Government has adopted monitoring protocols for future monitoring on Tł'chǫ lands, while collecting scientific baseline data in places that are important to Tł'chǫ community members.



Photo Credit: Michael Birlea

Wildlife Advisor Joseph Mackenzie observes Regan Fielding as he takes water samples from the Marian River.



Photo Credit: Phoebe Rabesca

Kwetj̱pāà Elders' Committee and mine site remediation workers feeding the fire at Rayrock.

Rayrock Remediation

Last summer, a group of Tł'chǫ Elders, interpreter, wilderness and bear monitors, and an environmental scientist travelled by canoe to take water and fish samples along the Rayrock watershed. In autumn, the Kwetj̱pāà Elders' Committee travelled to the former Rayrock mine site to complete a site blessing and prayer for all life forms to return to the area and for the land and water to be restored to its natural state.

Tł'chǫ All-season Road

The Tł'chǫ Government has worked with the GNWT to develop applications for a Land Use Permit and Water Licence to construct and operate the Tł'chǫ All-season Road. These applications were submitted to the Wek'eezhìi Land and Water Board in March. Once the permit and licence are approved, and funding is secured, construction of the road can begin. We are working to minimize social impacts and maximize economic benefits of this road.



Photo Credit: Kerri Garner

Elders from the Land Use Planning Working Group, 2013.

Planning for Public Lands in Wek'èezhìì

The Land Use Planning Working Group met with the GNWT Department of Lands and completed a community tour. They finished a Scoping Study for a Land Use Plan for public lands in the Wek'èezhìì Management Area. For 2016, the Tłchǫ Government and GNWT will undertake a briefing with the Working Group and prepare a public document on the status of this planning initiative in advance of the 12th Annual Gathering and 16th Tłchǫ Assembly Session.

The Kwe Beh Working Group and Relationships with the NWT Mining Sector

The Tłchǫ Government established the Kwe Beh Working Group to advise the Government on relationships with the mining companies, including implementing agreements, negotiating new IBAs, environmental assessment and providing a “listening post” to manage concerns from Tłchǫ citizens. The Chiefs Executive Council is currently reviewing the Working Group to determine what is working well and what improvements need to be implemented to more effectively meet the objectives of the group.



Photo Credits: Tessa Macintosh

Community Presence Offices

Our Presence Offices in Behchokǫ̀, Gamètì, Wekweèti and Whatì are active in their communities and sponsor a number of community events each year. This year, this report focuses on our largest community, Behchokǫ̀, which over the past year has organized and sponsored many creative wellness, educational, recreational and culture activities in the community. These have included: handgame tournaments, dances for special celebrations, special holiday activities for children including summer camps, youth banquets, and more.

Communications and Programming on the Web

The website on the world wide web at www.tlicho.ca and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Tlicho helps the Tłchǫ Government provide up-to-date news and information to Tłchǫ citizens, and others interested in the activities and work of the Tłchǫ Government. The website is also intended to be a celebration of all things Tłchǫ, and has sections on our communities, our culture and Tłchǫ history. Over the past year, we have had over 49,800 visits to the site, of whom approximately 46% were from the NWT. Of interest is that although most visits are from the NWT and Canada, we have had over 7,500 visits from the United States as well as the United Kingdom, India, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Russia and France.

The screenshot shows the Tlicho website homepage. At the top, there's a banner with the text "Tlicho As Long as this Land Shall Last". Below it, a main article features a photo of a landscape and the headline "TRAIL AND ANCESTRAL TRAILS OF OUR ANCESTORS PARTNER WITH TŁCHÖ GATHERING". To the right, there's a sidebar with "15 EVENTS" and a "NEWSLETTER" section. The footer contains links to various departments like DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, and DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE.



ONE

One Nation Education...

Tł'chǫ Student Financial Support Program



Photo Credit: Giselle Marion

Chief Jimmy Bruno School Class of 2016

The Tł'chǫ Government's ONE Program: One Nation Education Student Financial Support Program for post-secondary students has provided supplementary funding for post-secondary training or education programs for Tł'chǫ citizens since 1997. By financially assisting students who are attending post-secondary educational programs, the Tł'chǫ Government is helping to strengthen our people, their families and our communities.



Jennifer Franki Smith



Katrina Drybones

Originated by the Chiefs of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council in 1997, early partners included northern mining corporations, which provided additional funds for scholarships. A comprehensive review and evaluation of the program in 2005, which included over 100 interviews with students as well as regional leaders, resulted in significant changes to the program. By the end of 2006-2007, fully 97% of the funds provided by the Tł'chǫ Government were given directly to post-secondary students. In 2010, the Chiefs increased annual funding to the program by 30% to \$800,000 per year. Further changes occurred in April 2012 when the Tł'chǫ Government assumed full control for the administration of the program. In 2013, a student contest to name the program resulted in a rebranding to ONE: One Nation Education Student Financial Support Program.

ONE has been the most long-lived and successful programs of the Tł'chǫ Government, and has had a significant impact on increasing the education and training of our people.



Storm Lafferty



Marissa Tia Gon

2015-2016 Numbers and Location of Students Accessing the Tłı̨chǫ Government ONE Program

129 Students accessed the ONE program in 2015-2016. 47 of these students had dependents: Students from the Tłı̨chǫ Communities – 80; Students from the NWT – 26; and Students from the provinces and Nunavut – 23.



Rhonda Apples

Top 5 Areas of Interest in 2015-2016

Trades includes 39 people (underground mining, trades access, apprenticeship, other programs). Business Administration includes 25 people (9 in access, 15 in diploma and certificate, 2 in degree). Arts includes 37 people (Bachelor of Arts programs, Education, Science, Fine Arts). Office Administration includes 8 people (5 in certificate, 3 in diploma programs). Health Programs includes 20 people (7 in access, 4 in diploma, 2 in Personal Support Workers and 7 in other).

Top 5 Educational Institutions in 2015-2016

Aurora College...all campuses, GPRC: Grande Prairie Regional College, University of Lethbridge, NAIT in Edmonton, University of Victoria.

For more information, please see our presence on the website at www.tlicho.ca, or if you have questions, email us at one@tlicho.com.

Thank You to Our Partners!

Since 1997, our corporate partners have been contributing to the success of our students! Their financial assistance is greatly appreciated and we look forward to their continuing participation in this wonderful program. Masi Cho!



*Du sa naet'aa, du deh nylq, du dè nàgoèhdq-le nìdè,
asù wets'à goet'qo hqylq ha-le.*

– Monfwi, 1921

*As long as the sun will rise, as long as the rivers will
flow, if the land is not moved, we cannot be limited
from our way of life.*

– Monfwi, 1921



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