

# Tł̥chq Government

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Tł̥chq Ndek'əowo



Tł̥chq Government

# Table of Contents

<b>Message from the Grand Chief</b> .....	1
<b>Executive</b> .....	3
<b>Organizational Chart</b> .....	5
<b>Strategic Intentions</b> .....	6
<b>Department of Planning and Partnerships</b> .....	8
<b>Department of Early Childhood Programs</b> .....	11
<b>Department of Governance</b> .....	13
Community Programs and Projects.....	15
Community Events 2022 to 2023 .....	17
Behchokò Community Presence Office – Additional Programs and Services.....	18
Whatì Community Presence Office – Additional Programs.....	20
Gamètì Community Presence Office – Additional Programs.....	20
Wekweètì Community Presence Office – Additional Programs.....	21
<b>Department of Corporate Services</b> .....	23
<b>Department of Culture and Lands Protection</b> .....	24
Research Operations (Tłıchq Research and Training Institute).....	24
Language .....	28
Cultural.....	30
Lands Protection and Renewable Resources.....	32
Lands Regulation .....	35
Hotì Ts’eeda.....	38
<b>Hide Camp Photo Gallery</b> .....	40
<b>Department of Community Wellness Programs</b> .....	44
<b>Tłıchq Hotì Ts’eeda Edets’ats’edi Etq: The Tłıchq Healing Path</b> .....	49
<b>Department of Client Services</b> .....	52
Apprenticeship .....	52
Career Development .....	53
Communications .....	53
Socio-Economic Research.....	54
Economic Development .....	55
Enrolment .....	56
Justice and Victim Services.....	57
Post-Secondary Program .....	57

# Message from the Grand Chief

Jamie Stevenson / Tłı̨chǫ Government



## Welcome to the Annual Report for the second year of the 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Tłı̨chǫ Government.

Over the last year we have taken steps to improve our relationship with both the federal and territorial governments. Earlier this year we took part in the annual Prime Minister's forum, along with other self-governing Indigenous Nations from across Canada.

We have also had several meetings with federal and territorial ministers. These meetings have been important and resulted in new resources for the Tłı̨chǫ in the areas of housing and governance, and soon we expect to see significant new infrastructure resources being made available to us. With these new resources, we have commenced improvements to the facilities in our communities, repairs to our crumbling and inadequate infrastructure, and progress on the housing conditions for our citizens. We know that where we are now is unacceptable, and we are working to make changes to how new projects are developed to ensure we are in the driving seat for projects on our lands and in our communities.



Our Infrastructure Cooperation Agreement with the GNWT has meant we are now at the table for all new government-led infrastructure projects in our region. Every new project will see us at the table involved in planning, funding, development, and operation. The Tłı̨chǫ Highway and the fibre optic line to Whatì are models of how we can and will be involved moving forward.

Our relationship with Canada has also seen the approval of the long-awaited Implementation Policy. This policy will mean every department and part of the Canadian Government must think seriously about how it respects our treaties. I want to recognize our negotiators and our past leadership that lobbied for many years to move this forward. I am pleased to have been able to see this completed.

Throughout the region, we know people are ready and willing to find ways to be self-sufficient and self-reliant. Programs are being set up to support citizens in those endeavours, while also creating a safety net for those who struggle, all while respecting the Tłı̨chǫ culture, language, and way of life.

To support those in need, we are developing strategies like the Healing Path to support recovery, for Tłı̨chǫ citizens. We are actively negotiating a new Intergovernmental Services Agreement that will increase our role in the delivery of health, education, and social services. We are again assuming responsibilities that were taken from us, drawing back up the powers Tłı̨chǫ people always held.

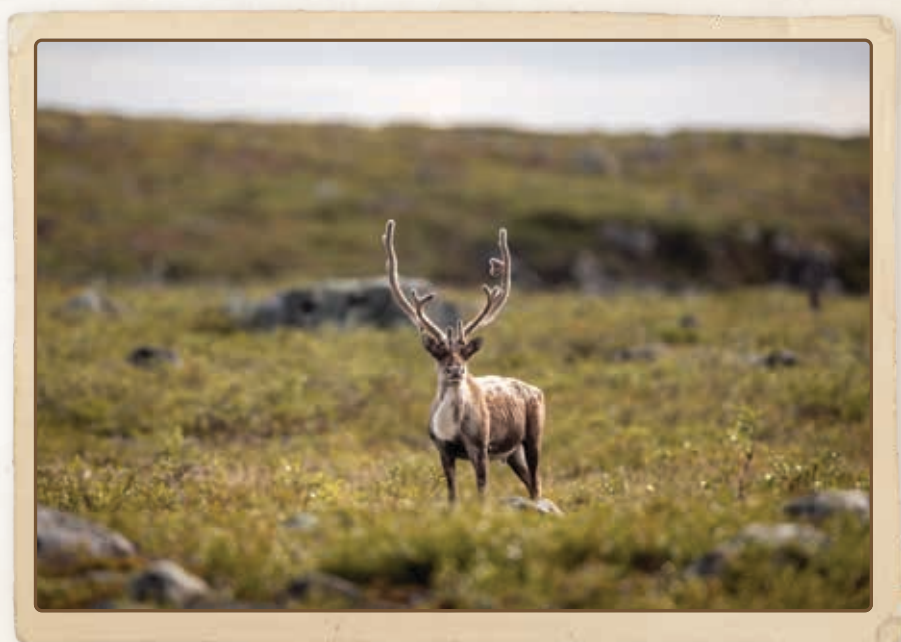
I want to take a moment to recognize the previous Tłı̨chǫ Executive Officer, Laura Duncan, who worked with us for many, many years; we thank her for her dedication. I welcome Bertha Rabesca Zoe to the position.

I am pleased to be working with the other Chiefs *In Tłı̨chǫ Unity*. Our positions are one – and together we can make a change and move our nation forward. I'm excited as we continue the journey to fully take the responsibilities of self-government.

*In Tłı̨chǫ Unity,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'L' that are interconnected.

**Grand Chief, Jackson Lafferty**



# Executive

**The Executive of the Tłı̨chq̓ Government consists of the Tłı̨chq̓ Executive Officer and other staff who provide support and coordination for the Chief’s Executive Council (CEC), as well as departmental management.**

The executive group is responsible for the monthly (at minimum) meetings of the CEC. They coordinate the agendas, materials, decision papers, as well as other research documents needed to ensure good decision-making.

The department also takes its direction from the CEC and ensures that Departments are advised of the strategic and policy directions provided by the leadership. The CEC holds many meetings with the Ministers of Canada and the GNWT, and other Indigenous leaders, industry leaders, and organizations. The Executive ensures leadership is aware of critical issues and important follow-up actions are taken from these meetings.



Over the last year, the CEC has met on several occasions with Ministers to discuss the major needs of healing and addictions programming, housing, and infrastructure needs in Tłı̨chq̓ communities.



## Housing

This year the CEC approved the Tłıchq Government Action Plan to address the housing crisis in the Tłıchq region. The plan consists of eight key areas of delivery for the year 2022 to 2023:

- Bring 26 new modular homes into Tłıchq communities. A total of 60 new housing units were brought in between May 2020 and April 2023.
- Work with community governments to expedite community lot and infrastructure development.
- Develop a master plan for the construction of Tłıchq-designed housing solutions in Tłıchq communities. This work is led by the Tłıchq-owned architectural firm – Urban Arts Architects.
- Establish a department for housing and infrastructure.
- Implement the Tłıchq Government – Housing NWT Memorandum of Understanding.
- Develop a homeowner’s maintenance and repair program.
- Carry out a regional private home condition assessment.
- Create a working group to develop a Tłıchq region trades and apprenticeship strategy.

The Tłıchq Government is unrolling programming to implement the action plan, and more actions to expedite solutions to the housing crisis are being developed and implemented.

## Infrastructure

The Tłıchq Government has a significant number of large capital infrastructure projects underway funded either by the Tłıchq Government or as part of the Infrastructure Cooperation Agreement (ICA) with the GNWT and through contribution agreements with federal and territorial agencies.

The signing of the Infrastructure Cooperation Agreement in August 2020 marked a milestone in the relationship between the Tłıchq and the GNWT. The agreement has been a strong step forward with the GNWT in their recognition and compliance with Section 26 of the Tłıchq Agreement which provides a first right of refusal for all GNWT projects that take place on Tłıchq or Tłıchq community government lands.

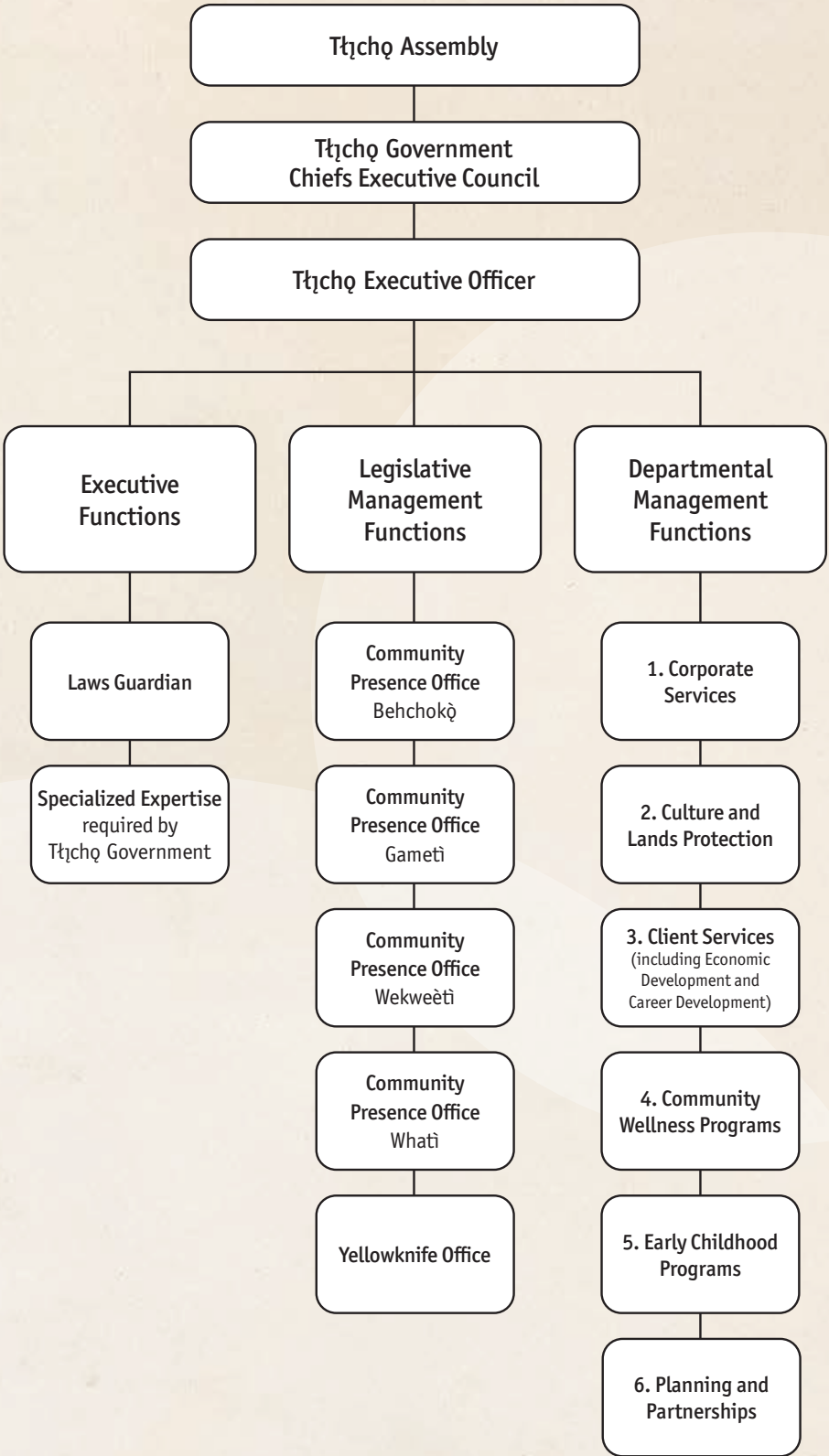
The GNWT and Tłıchq Government meet regularly to ensure that the ICA Agreement is followed for all GNWT projects that take place on Tłıchq lands.

Many smaller and medium-sized capital projects have been awarded to Tłıchq companies. The following large capital projects are currently underway in various stages of planning, design, negotiation, or construction.

- Wekweèti Community Presence Building
- Dehk’è Frank Channel Bridge
- Whatì Transmission Line
- Behchokò Cultural Centre
- CJBS School Replacement
- Whatì Access Road
- Whatì Fibre Optic Line to Whatì

The Chief’s Executive Council has approved the development of the Department of Infrastructure, to be based in Whatì. Moving forward, this new department will lead the implementation and coordination of housing and infrastructure projects.

# Organizational Chart





# Strategic Intentions

**The Strategic Intentions reflect the values of the Tłıchq Nation and provides a road map for the Tłıchq Government to achieve its purpose.**

Developing strategic intentions that are relevant and reflective of the goals and aspirations of Tłıchq citizens requires careful consideration, engagement, and input from internal and external stakeholders. To achieve this and to ensure the intentions are embraced by Tłıchq citizens, Tłıchq leadership and the Tłıchq Government Administration, a strategic engagement plan was prepared and approved by the Tłıchq Assembly.

## **Intention #1**

### **Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife**

The Tłıchq Government has the responsibility of managing 39,000 square kilometres of Tłıchq lands, including surface and subsurface rights. This land is one of the largest single blocks of privately-owned land in Canada. The preamble of the Tłıchq Constitution, “Affirms our relationship with God and respects the inter-connectedness of all living things. We acknowledge our responsibility to serve for all time as custodians of our lands, including our water and resources.”

Based on this primary commitment in our Constitution, the Tłıchq Government is committed to the intention of sustaining our lands and environment for *“as long as this land shall last”*.

## **Intention #2**

### **Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life**

The Tłıchq Constitution states that the purpose of the Tłıchq Government is “to preserve, protect, and promote our Aboriginal and Treaty rights and way of life, including our culture, language, [and] heritage.”

Therefore, a major intention of our government must be to implement and support a variety of strategies and initiatives to sustain our Tłıchq language, culture, and way of life.

## **Intention #3**

### **Build Strong, Healthy Communities**

Our people expect the actions of the Tłıchq Government to strengthen our communities and our people. For our communities to be healthy and sustainable they must have quality buildings and infrastructure that support land-based activities, the economy, recreation, health services, and our spiritual needs in a culturally relevant way. If our communities have these, it will help our people to maintain their mental and physical health and build a community that cares for its people and Elders while instilling community and cultural pride and unity. We intend to improve our communities and build strength in our families and people.



## Intention #4

### Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development

We have always sustained ourselves from the land and what the land provided was shared with everyone. We continue to endure hard times as one and share equally in times of prosperity. Development has put pressure on our traditional economy as the modern economy operates differently; however, Chapter 26 of the Tłıchq Agreement states that all Tłıchq people should have the opportunity to participate in the traditional economy and share in the wealth and prosperity resulting from activities in the contemporary economy on Tłıchq lands. It is our intention to develop both the traditional and contemporary economies and to provide all Tłıchq citizens and the Tłıchq Government the opportunity to be self-sufficient.

## Intention #5

### Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research

Our people seek opportunities to expand their capacity so they can take on professional, administrative, and leadership opportunities in our communities with confidence. Our government needs program data and information to make decisions and contribute to the expanding knowledge about the health, education, lands, culture, and economy in Indigenous communities. We intend to have the data and information we need to make informed decisions and to ensure Tłıchq citizens have the tools and resources they need to pursue their professional and educational aspirations.

## Intention #6

### Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness

We know that to prosper as a Nation, our citizens must be healthy and strong. It starts with individual healing, then moves to family and finally community. We have endured a history of colonization and, although our people are resilient, we have been left with a legacy of oppression that strains our mental, physical, and spiritual health. It is our intention that Tłıchq citizens have access to high quality, reliable, and culturally relevant services that are consistently delivered to promote healing and wellness. Providing opportunities for healing and recovering from addictions is one of the main priorities of the Tłıchq Government.

**Note:** *This document highlights how each Department has aligned their programs and services with each of the Strategic Intentions. All six Strategic Intentions are addressed frequently throughout the 2023 Annual Report.*

To learn more about the Strategic Intentions, visit <https://tlichq.ca/sites/default/files/documents/government/2021-25TGStrategicFrameworkandIntentions.pdf>

# Department of Planning and Partnerships

The Department of Planning and Partnerships (DPP) is responsible for providing leadership and direction to the Tłı̨chq̓ Government. The DPP’s mandate includes establishing and documenting Tłı̨chq̓ Government priorities and fostering relationships with other governments and external stakeholders. The DPP communicates the Tłı̨chq̓ Government’s position on key policy issues, articulating its priorities, and ensuring an understanding of the Tłı̨chq̓ Government’s vision.

The DPP does not focus on running projects and programs but rather on managing leadership tables, intergovernmental relations, and self-government implementation. The work of the DPP primarily focuses on representing the priorities identified throughout the Strategic Intentions in intergovernmental forums, agreements, and negotiations. The work of the DPP is guided by the objectives and activities in “Our Ways of Working and Relationship Building”.

## Government Planning

The DPP is responsible for overseeing the whole of the government’s “Strategic Intentions”. Every four years the Tłı̨chq̓ Assembly develops and approves the Tłı̨chq̓ Government’s Strategic Intentions, a formal strategic plan which sets out Tłı̨chq̓ Government’s priorities for that Assembly. In 2022, “*Itè dq̓ gha gq̓ita, ... In Tłı̨chq̓ Unity*”: Our Strategic Framework and Intentions 2021 to 2025’ was unveiled.

Throughout this past year, the DPP worked to identify leading Departments to implement key actions and initiatives. Work is currently being done to establish a new system for tracking progress and implementation of the Strategic Intentions.



### Tłıchq Agreement Implementation

The DPP oversees the overall implementation of the Tłıchq Agreement through the Implementation Committee, working together with Canada and the GNWT to ensure that the Tłıchq Agreement is being fully implemented.



A key priority for implementation, as identified in Intention #4, is the implementation of Chapter 26 of the Tłıchq Agreement on building economic self-sufficiency. The Tłıchq Government signed an inter-cooperation agreement with the GNWT to support Tłıchq procurement in Mqwhì Gogha Dè Nııłtłèè – this has significantly improved Tłıchq participation in economic activities. The Tłıchq Government hopes to make a similar agreement with Canada. The DPP is currently conducting a study to define a traditional economy and support the goal of Chapter 26.

The Tłıchq Government continues to meet regularly with Canada and GNWT representatives as part of the Effectiveness Review Working Group which is implementing a work plan to ensure that Chapter 26 treaty promises are honoured and fulfilled.

### Intergovernmental Relations

The Tłıchq Government manages relationships with many levels of government including with Canada, the GNWT, and other Indigenous governments. It is also active in several territorial and national level forums that support collaboration amongst different governments.

Many of the forums include several working groups to advance key issues such as climate change, legislative development protocols, housing, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Territorial level forums in which Tłıchq Government has been active include:

- CEC-Cabinet Forum
- Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners Forum
- Intergovernmental Council
- NWT Council of Leaders
- NWT Project Finance for Permanence

At the national level, the forums and working groups in which the Tłıchq Government is active include:

- Land Claims Agreement Coalition
- Self-Governing Indigenous Governments Collaborative Fiscal Policy Process
- Bi-Lateral Leadership Meetings

The Tłıchq Government’s participation in the Self-Governing Indigenous



Governments Collaborative Fiscal Policy Process has been critical to securing better funding agreements with Canada for areas such as housing and social well-being. This past year, Tłıchq Government secured an additional \$45 million in funding for housing and infrastructure, in addition to the \$42.1 million secured in 2022.

In 2023, CEC lobbied Canada for Indigenous language funding to be included in the next budget for Indigenous governments. The lobbying effort included several meetings in Ottawa with leaders and senior government officials. If this language funding request is supported, it will allow the Tłıchq Government to implement new language revitalization programs proven to strengthen Indigenous languages.



The CEC met several times with various ministers, hosting the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Honourable Dan Vandal in Behchokq in late fall 2022. The CEC travelled to Ottawa in December 2022 and February 2023, during which they met with several ministers to discuss and advance the priorities of the Tłıchq Government. In addition, CEC collaborates with NWT Member of Parliament, Michael McLeod, to ensure Tłıchq priorities in Ottawa are represented in the House of Commons.

Two major milestones were reached this past year in the recognition of Indigenous rights and the Tłıchq Government as a modern treaty at the federal and territorial level.

#### **Canada's Modern Treaty Implementation Policy**

In February 2023, Canada approved the Modern Treaty Implementation Policy, which was co-drafted with modern treaty holders. This historic policy provides guidance to the federal government and civil servants on how they fulfill their responsibilities as treaty partners and advance the full implementation of modern treaties.

#### **NWT United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Legislation**

The Tłıchq Government has collaborated with the GNWT and several Indigenous Governments to draft legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The legislation is now ready to be passed by the Legislative Assembly.

# Department of Early Childhood Programs

Early Childhood programs are founded in Tłıchq̓ culture, language, and way of life. It has dedicated, passionate and caring Tłıchq̓ staff who work year-round to provide families with quality daycare and educational services. The Department also provides much-needed respite for families and children with special needs and runs preschool programs in each daycare for children ages two to three and afterschool programs in both daycares in Behchokò.

## Community Childhood Care and Education

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Early Childhood provides care and education to Tłıchq̓ children and families in the Tłıchq̓ communities. The programs provide continuous year-round daycare services as well as provide support to children and families with home educational activity kits and providing books to families even after the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.



## Baby Baskets

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The Behchokò AHS program has put together “new” baby baskets for the young families of the community. The baskets reflect the needs of new parents and babies and offer a wide range of goods that are both practical and reflect the needs of raising a baby with a Tłıchq heritage and community.

The Tłıchq Government has made early learning and childcare a priority and is working to carry out the visions of the Tłıchq people which are outlined in the Early Childhood Strategy and Framework (2017). Some of the goals worked on this past year include:

1. The development and building of an Early Childhood Family Resource Center in Behchokò and eventually in each of the Tłıchq communities.
2. The development of more services for children and families in oral language development and occupational therapy.
3. The development of a Tłıchq Early Years Law so the Tłıchq have the authority and decision-making power over all areas of early learning and childcare.
4. A partnership with the Martin Family Initiative, to create parenting resources and services that reflect Tłıchq culture, language, and way of life.
5. To support Tłıchq citizens and staff pursuing courses in early learning and childcare online and through distance programs. Discussions continue with Aurora College on a partnership focusing on expanding this support.
6. A project to develop Tłıchq resources for early learning and childcare programs to support all Tłıchq children’s learning needs.
7. Efforts continue to be made to develop an Early Childhood vision of what a Tłıchq Early Years Education Program could be for future work and training.

All of the work being done is rooted in Tłıchq culture, language, and way of life in order to strengthen Tłıchq communities, provide the best services to Tłıchq children and families, and create a vision for the future.

## Parent/Toddler Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

A highlight this year was to offer parents more in-person programming. The Behchokò Aboriginal Head Start began a parent/toddler program in the afternoons four days a week. Each month is focused on a different theme such as families cooking together and sharing ideas. This program has been very well received by young families in Behchokò and will continue to grow and develop. Work has begun on developing new parent/toddler groups and expanding the programs in each of the communities.

# Department of Governance



**The Senior Director, Governance is responsible for Legislative Management functions, Mine Liaison Coordinator, Assembly Researcher and Policy Analyst positions and Community Presence Offices in Behchokò, Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì and the Yellowknife satellite office.**

## **Legislative Management Functions**

The Department of Governance is responsible for legislative management functions which includes providing support for Assembly members, planning and coordinating Assembly sessions, Assembly Workshops, Annual Gatherings and other events as requested. The Senior Director of Governance is responsible to over-see the Legislative Management Functions.

## **Assembly Sessions**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Tłıchq Assembly 5<sup>th</sup> Session was originally scheduled to take place in Gamètì. Due to COVID -19 restrictions and to protect our communities the 5<sup>th</sup> Session took place in Behchokò on May 16 to 17, 2022. The session was also conducted virtually by ZOOM to enable Elder's Advisory Council to attend. The 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Tłıchq Assembly took place September 20 to 22 in Wekweètì. The 8<sup>th</sup> Session took place November 22 to 24 in Behchokò and the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Tłıchq Assembly took place February 14 to 16, in Whatì.

## **Annual Gathering**

18<sup>th</sup> Tłıchq Annual Gathering and 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Tłıchq Assembly took place in Whatì on July 11 to 14, 2022.

## **Directives and Laws**

A number of Directives and laws were approved by the Tłıchq Assembly between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023. This information is available on the Tłıchq government's website at [www.tlicho.ca](http://www.tlicho.ca)

## **Workshops**

Four workshops for Assembly members took place this year; April 11 to 13, 2022 Strategic Intentions Workshop, May 18 to 19, 2022, Housing Workshop, June 28 to 29, 2022, Audit and Annual Gathering prep workshop, and February 1 to 2, 2023 Fiscal Negotiations/Revenue Sources/ Draft Budget workshop.

## **Land Claims Agreement Coalition Conference**

Assembly Members and Elders travelled to Ottawa February 27 to March 1 to attend the Land Claims Agreement Coalition Conference; Honoring our Past; Building our Future.

**Mine Liaison Coordinator**

The Department of Governance oversees the Mines Liaison Coordinator, who is the main contact for the mining industry with the Tłıchq Government. The Mines Liaison Coordinator manages the implementation of Impact Benefit Agreements and coordinates meetings with the Resource Management Working Group to make crucial decisions and recommendations on mining related issues. The position is also responsible for managing the Tłıchq Governments listening post, which supports workers who may have concerns regarding employment issues at the mines. The Mines Liaison Coordinator supports Tłıchq employment and training opportunities in the mines by working with other Tłıchq Government Departments.

Throughout the year, mining updates were communicated by the Mines Liaison Coordinator to the Chief Executive Council and to other Tłıchq Government staff. This included mining companies COVID-19 pandemic response and preparedness plans.

The Mine Liaison Coordinator attends Mining Conferences to promote exploration opportunities and to educate the Mining industry about the Tłıchq.

**Assembly Researcher and Policy Analyst**

The Assembly Researcher/Policy Analyst reports to the Senior Director of Governance. The position is assigned logistical duties related to supporting the administrative work of Assembly members and the Elders Advisory Council members, as well as the documentation and arrangements for members travel, accommodation and per diem expenses; they also assist with other duties such as coordinating community programs (such as COVID-19 and Christmas hampers) and assisted with the Annual Harvester payments for distribution in the Yellowknife area to Tłıchq citizens.

The Assembly Researcher/Policy Analyst assisted Tłıchq Citizens with information related to community programs (and other programs as needed) by completing the documentation needed for the various organizations and/or programs. They acted as a liaison with Corporate Services staff in Behchokq regarding financial operations for payroll, contracts, travel payments/arrangements while ensuring financial documents and reports were properly completed and submitted in a timely manner.





## Community Programs and Projects

Community Presence Offices located in Behchokò, Whatì, Gamètì, and Wekweètì develop and implement programs that follow Tłıchq Government's Strategic Intentions and reflect community needs as identified by community members and leadership.

Community Directors oversee the Community Presence Offices, create and support partnerships with Tłıchq Government departments and other government agencies including Community Government and Tłıchq Community Services Agency (TCSA) to coordinate and deliver annual events along with promoting cultural and traditional practices including healing and wellness programs. Activities include community feasts, drum dances, Feeding of the Fire Ceremonies, Christmas Celebrations and on-the-land family trips. Community Presence Offices act as a liaison for the Chief and Community members. Community Directors support Tłıchq citizens and their families in matters related to illness and death within Tłıchq community families.

### Community Caribou Harvest

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

Community Presence Offices located in Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì Behchokò and the satellite office in Yellowknife organized community caribou harvests. Caribou meat was brought back to each community and distributed to community members who do not have harvesters of their own, as well as Elders, single parents and low-income families. This initiative provided food security as prices of store-bought food have been continually rising. Behchokò harvested approximately 100 caribou, Whatì harvested 40 caribou, Gamètì harvested 38 caribou, Wekweètì harvested 32 caribou and Yellowknife harvested 48 caribou.

### Home Exterior Painting and Step Repair Summer Projects

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Home Exterior painting and step repair projects took place in all Tłıchq communities from June to August 2022. Community members in Wekweètì were employed to repair foundations in 3 homes. 15 homes had steps repaired or replaced. Home Exterior painting will take place Summer 2023. In Behchokò, the Community Presence office hired students and young adults to paint and refurbish homes in the community. The students received training and became certified in Fall Protection, WHIMIS, Intro to Construction, etc. (The training is valid for 3 years) CJBS allows the training to be credited to CALM hours which brings students closer to completing credits needed for high school diplomas. Behchokò Presence Office also hired individuals to repair or replace steps for home owners. In Gamètì, exterior steps were repaired and homes painted. In Whatì, Tłıchq Property Management overseen the Home Exterior Painting Project from June to August. The hands-on outside summer project employed 20 to 30 summer students/local people. Students learned carpentry and other skills. The Home Exterior Painting and Step Repair Summer Projects enabled home owners to have safe access to their homes and the communities to have freshly painted houses.

## Trails of Our Ancestors/100th Year Anniversary 2022

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

Community Presence Offices helped to coordinate the Trails of Our Ancestors Program for their community. The work included accepting applications, the selection process, and hiring local people to move equipment and supplies. The program was coordinated according to the route travelled and the number of people travelling from each community to Whatì. Whatì Presence Office helped to coordinate the 100th year Anniversary canoe trip to Behchokò.

### Trail Breaking

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Trail Breaking took place in the Tłıchq Region. Whatì Presence office hired local people to break trails from Rabbit Lake to Gamètì. Gamètì men traveled towards Hottah lake to break trails, brush-cut and do gravesites cleanup. This initiative takes place to ensure the trails can be utilized by traditional harvesters.

### Gravesite Cleaning/Crib Fixing Project

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Community Presence Offices help to maintain and clean gravesites and graveyards. In Wekweètì the Crib Fixing Project was developed to teach Tłıchq youth the history of Tłıchq ancestry stories. The program teaches youth the proper way of fixing the ancestor cribs, gives Elders and youths an opportunity to work together and share stories in the evenings on the land. Gravesite cleanup and repair occurred on Gamètì's trail breaking trip to Hottah lake and also in the community in the summer.

### 50/50 Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Community Presence Offices assisted in executing a 50/50 Program that assisted households to purchase equipment, tools and materials need for traditional purposes such as going out on the land. Each household was eligible for up to \$10,000 in purchases.



## Tłjchq Imbè Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Community Presence offices helped support the DCLP Imbè program which takes place in each community each summer. Program staff and participants were able to earn certificates, plan and carry out community service projects and most importantly, spend time on the land learning from Elders.

## Feeding of the Fire Ceremonies

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Community Presence Offices hosted Feeding of the fire ceremonies which are a ceremonial blessing in honour of our ancestors, culture, spirituality, water, land and animals. The ceremony consists of drumming, prayer songs and offerings made to the fire. Behchokq Community Presence Office hosted a Feeding of the Fire Ceremony on the first Friday of every month followed by a lunch. In Gamètì a Feeding of the Fire Ceremony followed by a lunch takes place every 4 months (Quarterly).

## Tłjchq Do taàts’eedi

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Community Presence Offices assisted DCLP’s Dotaa’tseedi project with providing traditionally harvested meat/fish and firewood for community members. Local harvesters were hired to harvest traditional food such as fish, beavers, muskrats, rabbits, ducks and to cut firewood for wood stoves. Elders and low-income families were given priority. Community caribou harvests were an important component of this program.

## Caribou Harvest/Fur Harvest Gas Subsidy

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Presence Offices in partnership with DCLP subsidized individuals with gas for caribou and fur harvesting purposes. This initiative also provided some food security for families as the price of store-bought food has continually been rising.

## Community Events 2022 to 2023

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Throughout 2022 to 2023, Community Presence offices hosted or assisted recreation justice, education and health and social programs in hosting events to bring communities together to celebrate special events, play games and enjoy food. Community Presence Offices distributed special gifts, flower, food hampers, etc. for special days and when community events could not take place in person due to COVID 19 restrictions. The following are events that have taken place:

- Christmas Events
- New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day
- Valentine’s Day
- Easter
- Community Carnivals/Happy Daze
- Mother’s Day
- Father’s Day
- National Indigenous Day
- Canada Day
- Tłjchq Day
- Hallowe’en
- Remembrance Day
- Community BBQ’s

## Christmas Celebrations

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

The four Tłıchq Community Presence offices had special activities and programs throughout the holiday season. Wekweètì Presence Office delivered gift packages for each household. Two handgames were held in December. House decorating took place and a Christmas feast brought everyone together to celebrate with a community feast and to win lots of prizes. Whatì delivered traditional food to Elders during the Christmas season. Food hampers were delivered to each household in Tłıchq Communities as well as to Tłıchq families living in Yellowknife. Behchokò, Presence Office delivered a specially designed Christmas card from Chief Daniels to each household and served Christmas brunch for the community to enjoy throughout the holiday season. A traditional hand-game tournament took place in Behchokò, the evening closed with the community celebrating with a drum dance. Behchokò Presence office also hosted a Community Staff Christmas Banquet. This event was delivered as a way for the Chief to thank all employees of the Community for the services that they have provided throughout the year. Gamètì festivities included feasts, banquets, sliding youth party, hand-games, decoration contests, feeding of the fire and a fireworks display.

## New Year's Eve Celebrations

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Community Presence Offices welcomed 2023 with a number of activities for community members. In Behchokò, people enjoyed fireworks both New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. During the fireworks hot chocolate and hot dogs were served. Behchokò Presence office distributed gift bags that included a hat, mittens and neck warmers to help keep people warm. A traditional feast and drum dance followed. Wekweètì Presence Office hosted the 1<sup>st</sup>-time Fireworks and a New Year's Eve celebration. Community members came out to celebrate with a traditional drum dance and food. Gameti and Whatì also enjoyed fireworks and New Year's festivities.

## Behchokò Community Presence Office – Additional Programs and Services

### Fish Net Distribution

The Behchokò Community Presence Office assisted community fish harvesters by providing fishing nets. This support to harvesters helped to provide traditional food for Elders and community members.

### Support for St. Michael's Church

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Behchokò Presence office donated Christmas decorations to St. Michael's Church during the Christmas holiday season. Community people came together to decorate the church in the spirit of the holiday season, which created a sense of community. BPO also donated Christmas goodie bags filled with Christmas treats, trinkets and colouring books for children.

## Natural Material drop-off for Homeowners

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Behchokò Presence Office delivered natural material (pit-run, gravel or black dirt) for private home owners. This was part of Behchokò's beautification project and to ensure that home owners received some assistance in maintaining their yards, gardens and private lots.

## CJBS Graduation Sweaters

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Behchokò Presence Office have shown support and appreciation for the CJBS high school graduates and have purchased and provided the graduates with graduation sweaters.

## 100 Year Celebration of the Signing of Treaty 11

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

Behchokò Presence office (BPO) assisted in various ways in the 100 Year Celebration of the signing of Treaty 11. This event was delivered in Behchokò by various TG Departments. Promotional clothing was purchased and sold by BPO and BPO assisted in providing security for the community in collaboration with the Community Government.

## Elder Clearing of Walkways and Snow Removal

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

Behchokò Presence Office provided a snow clearing program for elders. This program assisted elderly individuals in the community to have their walkways cleared and snow removed. This initiative created jobs for youth over the Christmas holiday season.

## Community Security

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Behchokò Presence Office hired local security during a few weeks in the summer and also during the Christmas holiday season to help ensure community safety. This initiative was collaborated with the Community Government to increase a sense of safety and to increase security presence throughout the community.



## Whatì Community Presence Office – Additional Programs

### Hand Game Tournament

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Whatì Community Presence office helped support a Handgame Tournament for \$30,000 April 22 to 24, 2022.

### Men, Woman and Families on the Land Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Whatì Presence office assisted with Tìchq Healing Path Family on the Land Program in September.

### Trip Around the Lake

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The Whatì Community Presence office assisted the Department of Justice with funds for the annual youth trip around the lake.

### Taking Kids on the Land Program – collaboration with Mezi Community School

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

In March 2023, Whatì Presence Office in collaboration with Mezi Community School, took students from Kindergarden to Grade 12 on the land to experience cultural education. The students observed and harvested fish, rabbits, ptarmigan, grouse and made drymeat.

## Gamètì Community Presence Office – Additional Programs

### Gamètì Golf Course

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Gamètì golf course greens were upgraded with new turf. This contributed to having a healthier community as it created opportunities for community members to exercise and enjoying the outdoors.



## Youth Golf Clinic

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Youth from Yellowknife came to Gamètì to enjoy the newly rebuilt golf course and learn about golfing.

## Dene Games

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Gamètì youth travelled to Yellowknife, to experience being part of a Dene Games tournament. Youth were very happy and grateful to experience this type of travelling together as for many it was their first time.

## Family Fish Camp

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Families came together to learn about how to fish, live on the land, listen to stories, and learn about culture and way of life. People in the community became closer, and had fresh fish to enjoy.

## Community Moose Harvest Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Gamètì Presence office coordinated a Community Moose harvest. Meat was distributed to families, elders, and used for a feast.

## Trapping Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

A trapping program where youth were mentored by an experienced trapper and learn how to trap, so one day they can eventually trap on their own.

## Parka Making Workshop

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Ladies in Gamètì attended the workshop and learned how to make parkas. Twenty (20) parkas were made for ladies, men, elders and babies.

## Wekweètì Community Presence Office Additional Programs

### Fish Camp/Healing Camp

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Wekweètì Presence office hired 12 elders/adults/young adults, men/women, and youth to take part in the fish healing camp. Participants learned to harvest fish for the community freezer and prepare the fish.

## Moose Harvesting

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Wekweètì Presence office and DCLP helped individuals with gas for the harvesting of Moose. Providing support for these programs helps hunters to provide for the community, themselves and their families.

## Trapping Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Wekweètì Presence and DCLP support harvesters with a trapping program which helps the harvesters to earn some money and also learn to trap.

## Beach Party

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

In August, Wekweètì held a beach party to celebrate the end of summer. Staff cooked for the beach day at the 3<sup>rd</sup> beach, and had activities like volleyball and swimming. Community members attended with families .





# Department of Corporate Services

## Online Staff Development Courses

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

In collaboration with Client Services and MacEwan University, the Department introduced online courses for employees to enhance their skills, knowledge, and capabilities. There was a high enrollment and positive feedback from participants, and this has resulted in a more competent and resilient Tłıchq workforce.

## HR Policy Training Sessions

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The HR Department has initiated in-person and virtual training sessions for staff, focusing on understanding and implementing human resources policies within the Tłıchq Government. Because of these actions, there is an increased awareness and adherence to HR policies, resulting in a more compliant and efficient work environment which has fostered better employee relations and overall workforce management.

## RFP for Salary Review

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The HR Department posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) to conduct a comprehensive salary review for Tłıchq Government employees, aiming to ensure equitable and competitive compensation within the organization. The effectiveness of these actions can be seen in the improved employee satisfaction and retention, as well as being able to attract top talent to the Tłıchq Government by offering competitive compensation packages.





# Department of Culture and Lands Protection

The DCLP focuses on promoting the Tłıchq way of life while protecting and managing the 39,000 square kilometres of Tłıchq-owned land, including its surface and sub-surface resources. The Department works closely with numerous environmental agencies, government agencies, resource development companies, and the Tłıchq Assembly, thus helping to serve and protect Tłıchq lands.

## Research Operations (Tłıchq Research and Training Institute)

### Tłıchq Nàowoq Xàgeht'à Xoghagehts'etq – Traditional Knowledge Research Training Course

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Tłıchq Nàowoq Xàgeht'à Dq is a program designed to encourage students to use their curiosity to become a Tłıchq Nàowoq Xàgeht'à Dq (Tłıchq Knowledge Researchers) and to have the skills required to document information in complicated situations and write reports using the Tłıchq Nàowoq they have learned from Elders and the harvesters.

In 2022, three sessions were held. In May and June, 11 students attended the first class to learn research methods, including listening and memorization skills so key information can be retained if recorders are unavailable. Skills and methods were taught in the morning and in the afternoon, students would listen to stories and visit locations with Elders. The students were taught how to take quality photographs, and during the final two days students were shown how to use both still and video cameras to document information at a fish camp. The program was retaught to four new students in November and December 2022.

In addition, the students attended the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) meeting on December 13 to 14, 2022 where they were taught to analyze the presenters' methodology; the Proposed Whatı Transmission Line Project (February 20 to 21, 2023) where they assisted with recording information. Students also participated in the Tłıchq Caribou Workshop (March 28 to 30, 2023) where they listened to Elders documenting the key components of the Tłıchq Nàowoq way of monitoring the land, which was later than discussed together.

## Ekwo Nàxoèhdee K'è

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

In 2022 three camps were held on the Barrenlands, which allowed 39 Tłıchq people (from each Tłıchq community) to be on the land monitoring caribou. In addition to Kòk'etì and Deèzàatì, in 2022 a new location was added: Ekatì (Lac du Sauvage/Lac de Gras). Prior to the summer activities, there was a caribou health workshop with the Elders, where the caribou health classification field guide was drafted. In addition, CJBS students from Behchokò visited Camp Deèzàatì to learn about the research work.

## Whatì River Research

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The trip had two goals: the first was to clarify information on fishing, cabins, and burial sites and second, to document the harvesters' stories of these places and events as remembered by Elders. Albertine Eyakfwo used the skills she gained during the Tłıchq Nàowoq Xàgeht'à Xoghagehts'etq, noting the depth of knowledge the harvesters had as they re-experienced places they had been to as children with their parents and grandparents. Each team member stressed the importance of placing plaques at grave sites, traditional camps, and cabins. A team was sent out later to clean up the gravesites that were visited.

## “Night at the Museum” Research Expo

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

On December 6 and 7, 2022, the DCLP hosted a two day “Night at the Museum Research Expo.” This event was originally thought of to introduce the Tłıchq Cultural Commons archival work to the Tłıchq public in Behchokò but then grew into a larger event to showcase many aspects of Tłıchq research. Over two days, researchers, Elders, and community members gathered at the Kò Gocho Centre to celebrate, discuss, and present research being done on Tłıchq lands. A report was published capturing the wonderful stories, ideas, and recommendations for archiving and a regional museum space.

## Hide Camps

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Working in partnership with three DCLP divisions (Research, Lands Protection and Renewable Resources, and Cultural Practices) two hide camps were held in 2022; one was in Behchokò (Frank Channel) from May 16 to 27, 2022 and the other was developed in partnership with Whatì and took place on Burnt Island from September 26 to October 7, 2022.

The two camps employed many Elders, boat drivers, camp helpers, and cooks in addition to the hide-tanning participants. Many participants had never participated in hide tanning work before, and they worked tirelessly on the hides throughout the two weeks. It was a pleasure to see some of the participants complete their hide. Artless Collective filmmakers were at the two camps to create a documentary on hide tanning for the Tłıchq Government.

## Traditional Knowledge (TK) Elders Camp

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

In collaboration with the Ekwò Harvest Monitors, a TK Elders Camp was set up during the winter caribou harvest season in the MacKay Lake/Gahcho Kué road area. The purpose of the camp is to have an Elder on site during the caribou harvest to educate and support hunters and remind harvesters of respectful harvesting practices and to share TK stories from long ago. The TK Elders camp was held for the first time from March 2 to March 23, 2022.



## Tłıchq Highway Wildlife Monitoring Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The Tłıchq Tłıì Deè Committee held two meetings in 2022, one in May and another in November. Based on direction from the Tłıchq Tłıì Deè Committee that more baseline habitat information was needed, vegetation surveys were completed along the Tłıchq Highway in late August 2022 (an extension to the vegetation surveys completed in 2021). The surveys focused primarily on species abundance and composition, as well as ground cover composition, general site health, and arboreal lichen loads. Data analysis for the surveys was completed in an October 2022 report.

The Tłıchq Wildlife Monitors and DCLP staff continue to collaborate with members of the Imaryuk Community Monitoring Program for the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway. In August 2022, members of the Imaryuk program attended the Tłıchq Government 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Treaty Celebration and were able to participate in some of the vegetation survey work. They also participated in the November 2022 Tłıchq Tłıì Deè Committee Meeting to provide an update on their program to the Tłıchq Government. This continues to be a positive and collaborative relationship where Indigenous Nations work and learn alongside one another.

Based on direction from the Tłıchq Tłıì Deè Committee, the Tłıchq Government is undertaking a dust study along the Tłıchq Highway to improve collaborations and cost efficiencies. The Tłıchq Government is partnering with NRCAN, which is supporting the Tłıchq Government with in-kind contributions by way of dust canisters, technical support, and data analysis. The Tłıchq Government and NRCAN have a Memorandum of Understanding for this work, which will support the implementation and promotion of an Indigenous-led dust study along the Tłıchq Highway.

## Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) Workshop

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The NWT Regional Environmental Monitoring Results Workshop for the Wek'èezhìi region was held in Behchokò December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. It was co-hosted by the GNWT's NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP) and the Tłıchq Government.

The workshop examined research and monitoring conducted in the Wek'èezhì region and focused primarily on NWT CIMP-supported projects centered on caribou, water, fish, and permafrost. Ten presentations were delivered by researchers and resource staff. Small, interactive break-out groups (Talking Circles) were held to generate discussion on how to include traditional knowledge and to better share research and monitoring results as well as to gather feedback on presented projects.



Fifty-eight people participated either fully or partially in the workshop. NWT CIMP provided funding for Tłıchq community representatives to attend the workshop thereby promoting information sharing with communities and decision-makers.

Key themes from the Talking Circles included:

- Communities want to be more involved in monitoring (identifying local questions, training local monitors, helping analyze data, communication, etc.) and building capacity.
- Communities want to be involved from the beginning of a project and provide input in the planning.
- Project leads must communicate with community members in plain language before, during, and after a project. It was noted that this approach is occurring in the Wek'èezhì region, but more work needs to be done.

## Building Content for Tłıchq TV Broadcasting

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

DCLP worked closely with Artless Collective on various projects to build our collection of documentaries, on-the-land projects, Elder-sharing through storytelling, and documenting special events such as the Annual Gathering, 100 Year Treaty Celebrations, men's hand games tournament, etc. Artless has been working with language experts to include transcriptions and training for Tłıchq citizens in various areas of video documentation. Some of this work has included:

- Tłıchq Government TV – creating content for it to be streamed at a later date either on a web streaming platform or TV
- Translation and subtitling of Wekweèì Elders' storytelling
- Whatì Falls Elders short
- Hide tanning documentary
- Translation of "Night at the Museum" interviews
- Cole Clark – subtitling Wekweèì storytelling with Elders, Tłıchq language shorts
- Sadetlo Scott creation of language learning resource for new language learners



## Language

### Mentor Apprenticeship Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

MAP is a way to learn an Indigenous language where a fluent speaker of the language (a mentor) teaches a committed language learner (an apprentice) through immersion. The goal of the program is to have apprentices increase their ability to understand and speak the language by “living life in the language.” The pair must agree to spend plenty of time together, usually about 7-10 hours per week during the program. Mentor-apprentice pairs complete 200 hours of language immersion over approximately nine months (July to March).

Pairs are paid for their time in the program with funding from the GNWT and the Tłı̨chq̓ Government.

This year four pairs completed the program and were honoured with a celebratory evening at the Explorer Hotel hosted by the GNWT’s Department of Education, Culture, and Employment.

Many apprentices have now become mentors, passing down their knowledge and mentoring new apprentices. This program awakens the “sleeping” language and apprentices can gain confidence and pursue careers in the language or become mentors.

### Monthly Contests and Holidays to Promote Tłı̨chq̓ Yatì

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

In March and April along with Indigenous Language Month and during the seasons of Easter, Mother’s Day, and Christmas; contests were held to promote the use of the Tłı̨chq̓ language in homes, workplaces, and public spaces.

### University of Victoria – Certificate of Language Revitalization

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

This course introduced topics in the study of language and linguistics, providing a foundation for understanding language revitalization. The language focus on was Tłı̨chq̓ Yatì. Topics in the course included the nature of sound systems and how they relate to orthographies, literacy, word structures and dictionaries, sentence structures and understanding texts, meaning and vocabulary, linguistic aspects of language acquisition, and historical change. Participants gained an awareness of language systems, particularly the Tłı̨chq̓ Yatì language. Completion of the course also gives credit towards a certificate.

### Tłı̨chq̓ Yatì Projects and Promo Items

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

Several items such as a Tłı̨chq̓ prayer book, hymn book, online dictionary, Tłı̨chq̓ app, Tłı̨chq̓ typeface design, a code of ethics, playing cards, Tłı̨chq̓ bingo, and Tłı̨chq̓ Yatì T’à Sets’ò Gojde children’s shirts were designed and/or promoted. Seeing Tłı̨chq̓ Yatì written is a reminder to use our heritage language as much as possible.

## Elder's Biography

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

This audio project captured interviews of Elders in each community. The interviews are then cleaned up and approval is sought for sharing, either by the speaker or the next of kin. When Elders share their life stories through interviews the community can hear and learn from them. This collection of interviews can be used to conduct community research on various Elders and/or topics shared. By listening to their stories, this project honours the Tłıchq Elders' way of life.

## Archiving and Digitizing

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

The information collected will aid the discussions on how to go about caring for and stewarding the Tłıchq archival and museum collections in a Tłıchq approved way. It will also empower community members to get involved in archiving their heritage, whether that be through stories from Elders, exploring their family history, or other ways.

## Phase One of Animation to be Used as a Language Learning Resource

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

Sadetlo's Animation is in phase one and will eventually be a resource to help early language learners learn Tłıchq Yatì following something like Dora the Explorer. Using the technology will help younger and new language learners, and having the ability to hear Tłıchq Yatì on new apps can be a go-to tool for new speakers. It will also help to portray the Tłıchq Yatì language and culture accurately.

## Tłıchq Yatì Online Dictionary

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

The Tłıchq Yatì Online Dictionary is now hosted by the Tłıchq Government. The DCLP is working partnership with Client Services to enhance the online version and is in the beginning stages of creating a new Tłıchq Yatì App for all to use. Because online resources are powerful tools used by many (community members, staff, students, and regional guests) the tools must be kept current and running smoothly.

## Online Tłıchq Yatì Lessons Through College Nordique

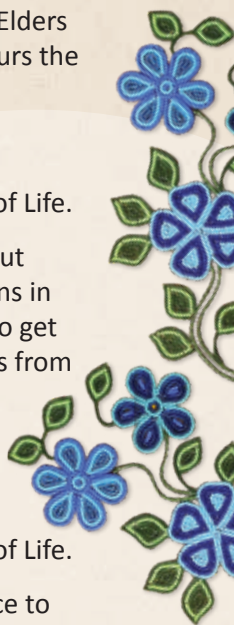
**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

The Tłıchq Government has partnered with College Nordique to financially support online Tłıchq language classes for those interested in learning Tłıchq Yatì and the training of another language instructor to offer these courses online. As a result, many language learners benefit from these lessons and the process is easy and free so long as access to the internet and a computer is available. This method is proving to be an effective way of reaching many language learners at once.

## Transcribing

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

Several transcribers are used to assist with various projects, such as The Ethnobotany Project with Laughing Lichen, Tłıchq TV projects, Whatì Falls Project, and signage projects. The aim of the transcribers and having projects transcribed allows us to create resources that can be used by all age groups and any language speaker (Tłıchq Yatì or English). It also helps language learners to listen in Tłıchq Yatì or practice their reading in Tłıchq Yatì.



## Cultural

### Tłıchq Jmbè Program

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

This year was the twelfth anniversary of the Tłıchq Jmbè Program which ran for six weeks in every community. The program created opportunities for Tłıchq youth to spend their summer focusing on culture and traditional skills learning, safety certification, and community service. Spending time on the land with Elders allows young people who participate in the program to gain a solid cultural foundation before leaving the community to attend post-secondary education. The program supports Tłıchq youth to be *Strong Like Two People*. Employment and safety certifications were provided for thirty-seven young people and employment opportunities for thirty Elders and on-the-land staff. Overall, it built intergenerational relationships, cultural resilience, and pride.

### Trails of Our Ancestors Canoe Trip

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

A total of 126 people participated in the Trails of Our Ancestors canoe trip to Whaṭi for the Annual Gathering. Paddlers spent ten to fourteen days retracing the traditional trails that have been travelled by their Tłıchq ancestors for millennia to hunt, fish, trap, travel, and trade.

The canoe trip creates opportunities to maintain the traditional trails, pay respects at ancestral grave sites, and visit other culturally significant sites along the way. It is also an opportunity for knowledge keepers to pass on stories about Tłıchq history and culture to younger generations.

The trip highlighted the guardianship of the land, celebration of culture and ceremonies, passing on the Tłıchq culture to future generations, and learning about significant sites, Tłıchq place names, and important stories.

### Gowhahdqq Gits'q Etq Nıwheṗàa (Trails of Our Ancestors) – Virtual Reality

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

This project allows people to explore the Tłıchq land, traditional trails, and significant cultural sites on a digital map while hearing stories told by Elders along the way. It is designed to be a powerful teaching and learning tool that highlights Tłıchq history, culture, and way of life. The virtual reality experience allows Elders to 'visit' cultural sites even when they are too frail to travel on the land. It also provides an interactive knowledge-sharing opportunity for Tłıchq students to gather and share cultural knowledge about the region. Young Tłıchq people are also able to see themselves and their stories represented online.



## Tłıchq Broadcasting – Building Content for Tłıchq TV

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

This ambitious project has run for two years and has resulted in hundreds of hours of video and audio content that showcases the Tłıchq language, culture, and way of life. Through this project, two young Tłıchq film makers were hired and trained in film and audio production skills. Six Tłıchq translators were also hired to start the long and important process of translating and transcribing material from the Tłıchq digital archive. Through the program skills have been developed, jobs created, and Tłıchq stories and knowledge made accessible to younger generations.

## Reforestation

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

Research is being conducted into tree planting opportunities in the region. This project would help to combat some of the effects of climate change by improving tree growth after forest fires. The hope is that this project will also help to preserve the caribou habitat and create many jobs for years into the future.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mqwhì Signing Treaty 11

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

For the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tłıchq Chief Mqwhì and the signing of Treaty 11 in 1921, the Tłıchq Government collaborated on numerous commemorative projects and special events supported by Canadian Heritage funding. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival took place August 14 to 17, 2022 in Behchokq beginning with a canoe trip from



Whatì and included a community feast and drum dance. The festivities continued with a re-enactment of the Treaty signing, the opening ceremony, an unveiling of the Mqwhì portrait, and the dedication of the ceremonial fire circles. The celebration continued with Feeding of the Fire, feasts, drum dances, a fashion show, a talent show, traditional activities, a re-enactment, canoe races, outdoor games, music performances, and an art/cultural workshop. Many of the cultural activities continued during the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hand Games tournament that followed the festival. Commemorative projects include ceremonial fire circles in all four Tłıchq communities, a commissioned portrait of Mqwhì and framed prints, and the yet-to-be-installed and unveiled bronze statue of Mqwhì, the Treaty 11 Exhibit, and establishment of the Community Museum Space in Behchokq.



## Lands Protection and Renewable Resources

### Dinàgà Wek'èhodì Establishment Agreement

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

Chapter 16 of the Tłıchq Agreement requires that any party wishing to develop a protected area partly or wholly within the Mqwhì Gogha Dè Nıjtłèè must negotiate a bilateral agreement with the Tłıchq Government on the management and governance of the said protected area.

Since 2008, the Tłıchq Government has been working towards protecting a large portion of the North Arm of the Great Slave Lake, known as Dinàgà Wek'èhodì. In 2016, the Tłıchq Grand Chief requested that this area be formally established as a protected area under new territorial legislation. Since 2019, the Tłıchq Government has been involved in continuing negotiations on a bilateral establishment agreement for Dinàgà Wek'èhodì with the GNWT.

Following consultation, the Tłıchq Government and the GNWT may ratify the agreement and designate Dinàgà Wek'èhodì as an Indigenous and Territorial Protected Area under the *Protected Areas Act*.

### Tłıchq Wenek'e (Land Use Plan)

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

The Land Use Plan was enacted in 2013 and acts as a strategic tool for managing Tłıchq lands. Tłıchq Wenek'e uses maps, policies, and written information to manage these lands and have the ultimate goal of protecting Tłıchq culture, heritage, and way of life. The plan provides a guide for future development by outlining the protection of Tłıchq lands, and how activities and development on them should occur.

Over the last several years, the Tłıchq Government has been undergoing a comprehensive review of Wenek'e. This process is nearing its completion and a series of recommended updates have been approved by leadership and will come into effect in mid-2023, with the next comprehensive review scheduled for 2028.

### Dinàgà Wek'èhodì Protected Area

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

The Tłıchq Government received \$2.75 million over four years in funding from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada for the establishment and management of Dinàgà Wek'èhodì, starting in 2019/2020. This funding continues to contribute to and improve on the Tłıchq Government's capacity to create new environmental and cultural programs as well as to strengthen existing programs. It provides much-needed program infrastructure, equipment, training, research opportunities, and other co-benefits such as community wellness and cultural continuity within Dinàgà Wek'èhodì. The establishment of Dinàgà Wek'èhodì is expected to play a crucial role in the implementation of Chapter 16 of the Tłıchq Agreement.

## Nàl̄l̄l̄

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

For the last eighteen months, the DCLP has been undertaking substantial planning, design, and engagement work in relation to the Nàl̄l̄l̄ (Whatì Falls) project – a multiyear, multiphase project which seeks to balance the cultural, spiritual, ecological, and potential recreational and tourism land uses associated with Nàl̄l̄l̄ and to chart a coherent vision and management plan for this area. There is a spiritual significance of Nàl̄l̄l̄ to Tł̄chq̄ citizens, especially those from the adjacent community of Whatì, and this special area needs protection.

## Tł̄chq̄ Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program (TAEMP)

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

TAEMP began as a collaboration between the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board, the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board, and the Tł̄chq̄ Government. On a rotation schedule, each summer the TAEMP goes to one of the four Tł̄chq̄ communities and information is exchanged between Elders, fishers, youth, and Tł̄chq̄ scientists.

Participants share Tł̄chq̄ perspectives on assessing the health of the ecosystem and take part in hands-on scientific monitoring activities such as collecting fish tissues and water and sediment samples for analysis. The TAEMP collects baseline information on fish life history and fish health to discern long-term changes while refining methods to monitor fish and fish habitats that build on both traditional Tł̄chq̄ knowledge and science. 2022 was the twelfth year of the program and the research took place in Whatì.

## Dìnàgà Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program (DAEMP)

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

DAEMP is a recent addition to our community-based monitoring programs, focusing on the vast water expanse of the North Arm of Great Slave Lake. This area is important for resident fish and migratory fish coming from the main basin of Great Slave Lake and heading to Marian Lake and into the Marian River for spawning. The North Arm is also the rearing grounds for an enormous number of fish species.

Participants help to collect fish tissues and water and sediment samples for analysis. The DAEMP is collecting baseline information on fish, water, and sediment from Frank Channel to White Beach. DAEMPs comparative sampling provides an opportunity to address community concerns related to potential changes in the environment.

The annual program commenced in 2022 and the number of participants will be greatly expanded for 2023.

## **Marian Watershed Stewardship Program (MWSP)**

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

MWSP contributes to a growing body of knowledge and capacity-building for a community-based aquatic effects monitoring program in the Marian Watershed prior to any proposed developments. It was initiated in 2013 to monitor the cumulative effects of development, land disturbances, and climate change, drawing on both Western and Indigenous science to obtain a clear picture of baseline conditions and potential changes over time. During the earlier years of the program, the Tłıchǫ Government developed partnerships with academia and external partners but today the Tłıchǫ Government conducts this annual monitoring on their own at multiple sampling sites within the Marian Watershed. Comparative sampling over the years provides a method to detect and address community concerns related to environmental changes. The program also brings together Elders, community members, and scientists in an outdoor forum where everyone participates in different aspects of this work.

## **Tłıchǫ Government’s Geographic Information system (GIS)**

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The Tłıchǫ Government implemented various methods to update and enhance its GIS database and workflow including digitizing and updating boundaries, mines, burial sites, cabins, land protection zones, creating land use plan maps, and migrating GIS data to a new server. Additionally, the team conducted outreach activities such as providing GIS classes for high school students and training programs, and traditional knowledge mapping workshops for community members. The GIS team employs new GIS applications to disseminate information to stakeholders and produces maps and data for requests from both internal and external clients. The team has also developed guidelines and instructions for using the Tłıchǫ Government’s website/web map and map request applications. To aid decision-makers and address community concerns, a dependable and up-to-date database that contains spatial data on cultural, environmental, and traditional knowledge was created. Additionally, the Government created and revised reference materials, such as LUP maps, the traditional knowledge-based GIS database, and tools that help to mitigate the impacts of development projects.

## **Dìga (Wolf) Harvesting Program**

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

With the ongoing decline of the Bathurst and Bluenose East Ekwò (Caribou) herds, the Tłıchǫ Government and GNWT have been collaborating with the Wek’èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) and other co-management partners to implement actions that will support the recovery of the herds. The proposed goal for dìga management is to annually reduce their number on winter ranges of the ekwò herds over the next four years. This will depend on how the ekwò population responds to their removal and the objectives and outcomes of wolf removals will be evaluated annually.

The dìga harvest is done using Tłıchǫ cultural protocols and keeps safety as the highest priority. The program focuses on training Tłıchǫ harvesters to trap, snare, and hunt dìga using the most effective, legal, and respectful (i.e., humane) techniques.

## Ekwò (Caribou) Harvest Monitoring Program

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The Ekwò Harvest Monitoring Program has been created to protect the caribou herds. The program's focus is to enhance monitoring efforts, educate, and promote respectful harvesting methods and establish a presence in harvesting areas to encourage Tłıchq harvesters to comply with Tłıchq traditional laws while harvesting.

Over the past three years, the program has collected harvest data from Tłıchq harvesters who hunt along the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road. The Tłıchq Elders and harvesters guide the monitoring camp, where they serve as the eyes and ears in the field. They assist and share teachings related to traditional harvesting to prevent wastage and wounding the ekwò and strive to promote respectful harvesting along the winter road, with the hope of encouraging the return of the ekwò.

## K'ichii (Whitebeach Point)

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Thanks to the backing of the Tłıchq Government, the DCLP successfully operated the K'ichii (Whitebeach Point) Camp for five consecutive years, granting local community members the opportunity to engage with the land, and partake in customary pursuits. The program offers organized daily boat trips for community members to visit K'ichii and those traveling on their own from Behchokò or Frank Channel received subsidies to cover their gas expenses. Additionally, residents of Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì, and Yellowknife were given the opportunity to travel via organized charters. It enabled Tłıchq citizens to reconnect with nature and customary practices through on-the-land activities.

## Lands Regulation

The Lands Regulation Division within the DCLP is responsible for reviewing and responding to all development proposals within the boundaries outlined in the Tłıchq Agreement. This includes: Tłıchq lands, Wek'èezhii, and Mqwhì Gogha dè Njłtłèè lands.

## Regulatory Updates

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

The Division ensured that the Tłıchq Government has 'eyes on all activities' within Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njłtłèè to look for potential impacts to Tłıchq people, culture, and way of life by reviewing applications and requests sent from companies, the GNWT, and the Land and Water Boards.

## Weghàà Eleyatits'eedi:

### Tłıchq Government Engagement Guidelines

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

In November 2022, the Tłıchq Government finalized the Weghàà Eleyatits'eedi: Tłıchq Government Guidelines for Proponents of Development. These guidelines are based on Tłıchq way of life principles such as respect, coexistence, and inclusiveness.

## Mineral and Mining Conferences

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

In the past year the staff have participated in several mining-related events such as:

- Geoscience November 2022 (Yellowknife, NWT)
- Association for Mineral Exploration (AME): Round Up January 2023 (Vancouver, BC)
- Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) March 2023 (Toronto, ON)

## Tłıchq Mine Remediation Update (TMRU)/Kwetłı́ǰàà Elders Committee (KEC) Meeting 2022

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

In April 2022, a multi-day Kwetłı́ǰàà Elders Committee (KEC) meeting was held with the Tłıchq Government, Crown-Indigenous Relations, CIRNAC, and other parties to discuss the remediation of the Kwetłı́ǰàà (Rayrock), Colomac, Giant Mine, and Indore-Hottah mines. Updates were heard and dialogues had on each site's remediation and reclamation and over forty people were in attendance. Tłıchq feedback and key considerations were centered on a continued connection to the land in remembrance of the ancestors who frequented this area. Concern about the impacts of abandoned mines led to a collective vision of the Tłıchq Mine Remediation Update (TMRU) Meeting 2022 on remediating the land.

The 2022 KEC meeting fostered a collaborative, multi-party dialogue that played an important role in building relationships, reconciling the past with the present and future, and building a shared vision to ensure that the land is once again restored for safe use among future generations.

## Rayrock

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

The Tłıchq Government continues to work towards the remediation and cleanup up of the Kwetłı́ǰàà (Rayrock) Mine. This remediation work focuses on reconciliation, repairing the harm that was caused to the Tłıchq when this mine was built and abandoned, and repairing the harm caused by being unable to use this area for so many years.

## Gunnar Mine Saskatchewan Trip

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

The Tłıchq Government and members of the KEC visited the Fond du Lac First Nation in the northern Athabasca region of Saskatchewan in the summer 2022 to learn about remediation efforts undertaken there. The team learned how the remediation work already underway could help to inform the remediation and restoration of the Kwetłı́ǰàà Mine.

## Regional Water Sampling

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

August 2022 marked the Tłıchq Government's completion of the annual water sampling field program for the Kwetłı́ǰàà remediation project. The Tłıchq-led water sampling program documents water quality at and around the former mine, focusing on the area known as the Kwetłı́ǰàà Avoidance Zone. In this area Elders avoid hunting, harvesting, and drinking surface water. This sampling was conducted to clearly understand the extent of contamination and to assure the Tłıchq that the Marian River and the surrounding environment is safe for use. The water sampling program was initiated in 2018 under the direction of the Kwetłı́ǰàà Elders Committee and 2022 marks the fifth year of sampling.

## Vegetation One-day Site Visit

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

Members of the Tłıchq Government, KEC, CIRNAC, and Architecture, Engineering, Construction, Operations and Management (AECOM) conducted a site visit to the Kwetı̀zaà site in August 2022. The focus of this trip was to discuss plans for the re-vegetation of Kwetı̀zaà once it has been cleaned up and remediated.

Feedback collected from the Elders on this trip contributes to existing Tłıchq knowledge surrounding natural species and use in the area, and highlighted economic development opportunities for the Tłıchq Government and its citizens.

Key to the discussion between the KEC, CIRNAC, and AECOM were Tłıchq concerns and vegetation priorities, which will directly shape re-vegetation planning in the reclamation of the Kwetı̀zaà mine site.

## Cultural Site Visit/Supplement to Archaeological Impact Assessment

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

This one-day site visit was completed in response to the draft Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) that was completed for the former Rayrock mine. Elders participated in a one-day site tour of Kwetı̀zaà and the Sun Rose/Sun Main sites in September 2022. Their visit highlighted the cultural value of Kwetı̀zaà Tı̀ (Sherman Lake) and Kwetı̀zaà while documenting important historic and cultural features on the land for future generations.

This work is part of a larger effort by the Tłıchq Government to understand how to best protect cultural sites during active remediation while restoring the land and making the area safe for Tłıchq people to return to the land.

## Colomac

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

Steve's Lake is the water body situated on the Colomac Mine site in the NWT. The mine has completed the remediation phase and is now in closure phase with continued monitoring. The purpose of the Colomac Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CAEMP) is to build and maintain a community-based monitoring program that meets the needs of the Tłıchq people in determining if fish, water, and sediment quality are changing over time and whether the fish and water are once again safe to consume. The CAEMP involves members from all four Tłıchq communities and Tłıchq scientists. It will likely occur once every three years.

As a successful community-driven program, it meaningfully involves community members in conducting contaminants-related studies, including the collection of samples and observations using both Tłıchq and scientific knowledge.



## Diavik

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

The Tłıchq Government has been working closely with Elders, technical experts, and Diavik staff on the closure of the Diavik Diamond Mine. Diavik Diamond Mine is expected to close down in a few years, and it has submitted its 'Final Closure and Reclamation Plan' to the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board on October 13, 2022 for approval.

Throughout 2022, Elders and Tłıchq Government staff were part of closure workshops, site visits, and meetings with Diavik staff to understand and provide input on the Final Closure Reclamation Plan as well as proceedings related to closure. At the same time, the Tłıchq Government was involved in technical sessions and public hearings related to the closing of collection ponds at the mine site. This work continues into 2023.

## Ekati

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

There has been much activity with Ekati Mine's project regulatory processes. In October 2022, Arctic Canadian Diamond Company (ACDC) engaged with the Tłıchq Government on the Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan (ICRP) version 3.1. Lands Regulation provided comments to address issues such as closure criteria, research plans, cultural use criteria for water quality, and other related issues. Lands Regulation also participated in an Ekati site visit with Elders to help understand the latest activities on site.

## Hotì Ts'eeda

### Northern Climate Changes

**Strategic Intention #1** – Sustain Our Lands, Water and Wildlife.

Hotì Ts'eeda's Scientific Lead Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox and Communications and Knowledge Translation Advisor Rachel MacNeill contributed to the northern chapter of a Natural Resources Canada report on climate change impacts and adaptation. The report identifies ways climate change affects landscapes and ecosystems thereby impacting the health and wellness of northerners. The report also highlights northerners as leaders and innovators in climate change adaptation.

### Xàgots'eèhk'ò Journal

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Hotì Ts'eeda, in partnership with Aurora College Health and Human Sciences, Aurora Research Institute, and Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, launched the first issue of Xàgots'eèhk'ò Journal (Having a Fire Journal). This new, Northern-based, open-access journal publishes work in multiple genres to exchange information and bring together voices from across the north.

### Gonàowo Film

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

Gonàowo premiered at the Yellowknife International Film Festival, winning the Audience Choice for Best Canadian Short Documentary. It is a short documentary produced by Artless Collective, Hotì ts'eeda, and the Tłıchq Government featuring John B. Zoe sharing the story of the Tłıchq past, present, and future.



## Phase II Funding Press Release

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Intention.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Hotì Ts'eeda hosted the formal announcement of Hotì Ts'eeda's phase II funding. Member of Parliament Michael McLeod, Tłı̨chǫ Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty, and Hotì Ts'eeda Governing Council Chair John B. Zoe jointly announced \$24 million in funding over five years from federal, territorial, and Indigenous government partners. Press releases and social media announced the Hotì Ts'eeda deal. The funding allows the continued support of Northern and Indigenous health and wellness initiatives across NWT.

## B. Dene Adventures Vaccine Camp

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

From February 23 to 26, 2023 Hotì ts'eeda hosted a youth gathering at B. Dene Adventures Camp outside of Yellowknife, bringing together youth from twelve communities across the NWT to share experiences and ideas about vaccine hesitancy in the context of Indigenous health and wellness. Topics were explored creatively through art and storytelling. It allowed a safe, culturally appropriate space for young people to explore their relationship with the healthcare system and interventions.

## Streamlined Funding

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Intention.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Hotì Ts'eeda launched streamlined funding programs, including project funding for individuals and organizations with health research, knowledge translation, or community project ideas. Funding is for grassroots project that contribute to building knowledge about health, such as land-based healing programs, hiring local research assistants or Elder advisors, and supporting training and education in health-related fields. It promotes health and wellness by way of community-based led initiatives that recognizes Northern peoples' relationship to land, languages, cultures, and ways of life while reducing barriers to federal funding for communities and grassroots projects. This initiative also recognizes traditional ways of knowing and doing in the field of health and wellness.



# Hide Camp Photo Gallery





# Hide Camp Photo Gallery







# Department of Community Wellness Programs

The Department of Community Wellness Programs (CWPD) focuses on providing help and support to four main areas: community justice, victim services, healthy families program and the healthy babies, families, communities program. These areas focus on positively impacting the community by providing short-term and long-term aid and support.

## Healthy Families/Healthy Babies, Families and Community Program

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

This year the program coordinators and healthy family’s workers provided parenting worksheets for young parents along with crafting projects and virtual cooking programs that focused on budget-friendly meal planning, and healthy meal preparation. The parent worksheets also provided child development activities for brain development, social development, and fine-motor skills while also providing parents with tools and resources for relationship building.

## Behchokò Warming Shelter

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness

The Behchokò Warming Shelter provided a warm place to sleep, three meals a day, showers, and laundry services to homeless clients throughout the fiscal year. During the winter months clients were also provided with warm clothing (jackets, snow pants, boots, hats, scarves, and mittens).

## Healing and Wellness Workshops – Tłıchq̄ region (Behchokò, Gamètì, and Whatì)

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness

The CWPD hosted eleven different five-day “Clearing to Create” workshops that focused on personal development, self-awareness, and developing a clear awareness of what triggers stress and how stress is caused along with methods to release stress and anxiety. The delivery of the workshops helped participants work through personal issues, struggles, and barriers to overall health. When support workshops were not available, clients were able to access additional support from mental wellness specialists, counselors, and/or facilitators.

## Youth Life Visioning Workshops (Behchokò and Whatì)

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD delivered four Youth Life Skills and Visioning workshops in Behchokò and Whatì that focused on:

- Clearing limiting belief systems
- Teaching and assisting connection to inner stillness
- Visioning endless possibilities
- Raising individual awareness and mindfulness to empower social skills for a successful future
- Career development, career planning, and life purpose
- Exploring culture and traditions
- Self-care
- Family values
- Community and capacity building
- Where to find assistance, what it takes to succeed, and following and understanding life's purpose
- Building self-esteem

The delivery of the workshops helped youth in areas where they needed support. They included self-esteem building, peer support groups, planning for their future, developing skills, career planning, self-care, relationship building, building community capacity, exploration of culture and traditions, and stress management.

## Behchokò On-the-Land Healing Camps

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

This year the CWPD delivered thirty weekends (Friday to Sunday) of On-the-Land Healing and Wellness camps at Russell Lake.

The workshops focused on:

- Residential school survivors
- Addictions
- Mental health
- Intergenerational trauma
- Trauma-informed care
- Loss and grief
- Suicide awareness
- Building healthy relationships
- Self-care

These workshops included:

- Implementing healing circles
- Identifying support groups
- One-on-one sessions

The workshops and sessions assisted participants in areas they needed support in, including, guidance, knowledge, and skill development to implement healing, recovery, support, and resources for their health.



## Whatì Annual Trip Around the Lake Program

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD programs and the Whatì Community Justice program hosted the Annual Whatì Trip Around the Lake in Whatì, NWT. It was held in an on-the-land setting outside of the community of Whatì. Youth learned the traditional ways of life on the land, cultural teachings of hide scrapping, tanning, net fishing, and dry fish/meat making. Youth also learned about the rites of passage to adulthood through teachings on the body, mind, and spirit. Likewise, participants received traditional teachings from Elders on the roles and responsibilities of young women and young men in the Tłıchq region.

## Mother’s Day Events and Activities – Tłıchq Region

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD partnered with the CPOs and contributed funds for Mother’s Day events throughout the Tłıchq region.

## Father’s Day Events and Activities – Tłıchq Region

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD partnered with the CPOs and contributed funds for the delivery of Father’s Day events throughout the Tłıchq region.

## Aboriginal Day Events – Tłıchq Region

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD contributed funds for the delivery of events recognizing the National Indigenous Day in all Tłıchq communities in June 2022.

## Tłıchq Day Celebration – Tłıchq Region

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD contributed funds towards events in all Tłıchq communities to celebrate Tłıchq Day on August 4, 2022.

## Behchokò Fitness Program

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD delivered fitness programs to participants in Behchokò four times a week throughout the year both virtually and/or in-person in Behchokò. The participants learned about proper form when exercising, warm ups and cool downs, and different exercise equipment. Specific activities such as yoga poses taught participants how to relax their body and breathing techniques were incorporated into the program to calm the mind.

The goals and objectives of the program were to teach participant’s self-regulation and resiliency tools that participants can use in their daily life.



## Halloween Events and Activities – Tłı̄chq̄ Region

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD contributed funds towards Halloween events (on October 31) in all Tłı̄chq̄ communities. The support of these events is aimed at getting families to socialize again in a fun environment, especially after COVID-19.

## Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage – Elders and Traditional Drummers

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD assisted and contributed towards the participation in the Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage for Elders and residential school survivors. It also selected drummers for the pope. This was an opportunity to help residential school survivors with their healing and recovery as “survivors” and with “intergenerational trauma”.

## Children’s Winter Festivals – Tłı̄chq̄ Region

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD hosted a children’s winter festival event with games, activities, family feast, and photos with Santa for children twelve years and under in December 2022.

## Elders Appreciation Banquets – Tłı̄chq̄ Region

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD hosted a banquet dinner, dance, and winter-themed activities for Elders in December 2022.

## Tłı̄chq̄ Government Support Programs – Food Hampers

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

By request from the Chief’s Executive Council, the CWPD provided administrative, planning, and delivery of the Tłı̄chq̄ food hampers and the Tłı̄chq̄ Non-Resident Gift Card Program for Tłı̄chq̄ citizens. In total, 1,145 homes within Tłı̄chq̄ boundaries received a food hamper twice.

## Tłı̄chq̄ Government Support Programs – Non-Resident Gift Cards

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

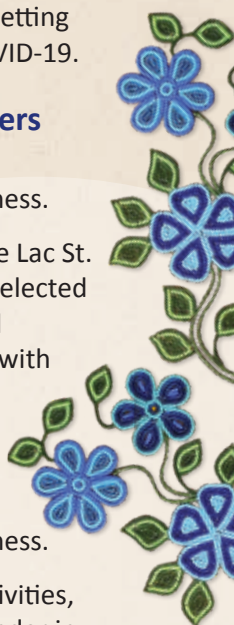
By request from the Chief’s Executive Council, the CWPD provided administrative, planning, and delivery of the Tłı̄chq̄ food hampers and the Tłı̄chq̄ Non-resident Gift Card Program for Tłı̄chq̄ citizens. Overall, 375 Tłı̄chq̄ citizens outside the Tłı̄chq̄ boundary received a \$150 gift card (as an alternate to the food hampers) twice.

## Elders – Support Program

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD provided funding support to Elders in the senior’s home and Elders in their personal homes for items such as food, materials, supplies, and appreciation gifts. The support for the Elders provided encouragement for a healthy mind, body, and spirit.



## Traditional Sewing Programs

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

In partnership with “Come Sew with Auntie”, the CWPD contributed and supported sewing programs in Behchokò, Gamètì, and Whatì; a MMIWG event, Mother’s and Father’s Day events, and for community members to learn the art of traditional crafts (i.e. making beaver mittens, slippers, moccasins, jackets, etc.). The support and contribution allowed young and old to come together and learn valuable skills, build friendships, hear storytelling from Tłıchq Elders, have discussions on wellness topics or awareness programs, and build a social network through sewing.

## Behchokò Hand Games

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD contributed funds to assist with the Behchokò hand games event during the Christmas holidays. The contribution assisted with additional staffing support and activities.

## Whatì Men’s On-the-Land Program for Youth

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD assisted with a youth hunting trip to the Barrenlands in March 2023 for youth between the ages of fourteen and eighteen. The contribution helped youth learn valuable hunting and harvesting skills.

## Youth Empowerment Workshop – Whatì

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD hosted a youth empowerment workshop for Whatì youth. It was led by Mike Scott who spoke to youth in Whatì about addictions, gangs, homelessness, and opportunities to excel in life.

## Whatì Wellness Workshops

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD delivered workshops on loss and grief, addictions, the impacts of residential school, and mental health. The workshops assisted participants in identifying assistance in their overall wellbeing.

## Family Violence and Addictions Awareness Week Events – Tłıchq Region

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD hosted week-long events in each Tłıchq community focusing on raising awareness of family violence and addictions. The events informed community members on the issues, concerns, and impacts of violence within families.

## Tłıchq Youth Banquet – Tłıchq Region

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD hosted a banquet dinner, dance, and winter-themed activities for youth aged thirteen to eighteen in December to celebrate all the youth and to recognize their importance to the community and to regional programming.

## Tłıchq Youth Mentoring Program

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The CWPD delivered the Tłıchq youth mentorship program in Behchokò to youth ages 13 to 17. The program included youth empowerment workshops, activities, craft programs, and life skills development workshops.

## Tłıchq Hotì Ts’eeda Edets’ats’edı Etq: The Tłıchq Healing Path

**Tłıchq Hotì Ts’eeda Edets’ats’edı Etq, or the Tłıchq Healing Path, is a multi-year addictions-to-wellness initiative that aims to strengthen support for Tłıchq citizens at all stages of their journeys toward addictions recovery and wellness. The Tłıchq Healing Path is a response to the serious challenges Tłıchq communities face with addiction to drugs, alcohol, and gambling.**

Over the past year, Tłıchq Government and TCSA have collaborated to establish structures and processes to support the Tłıchq Healing Path, including the development of a written strategy (available next year).

Built on Tłıchq strengths and ways of knowing, best practices in addictions treatment and wellness, and a fundamental recognition of the healing capacity of Tłıchq language, culture, and way of life, all work of the Tłıchq Healing Path directly aligns with and supports Tłıchq Government’s sixth Strategic Intention to create opportunities for healing and wellness.

## Transitional Steering Committee

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

A transitional steering committee of Elders, scholars, and staff oversaw the Tłıchq Healing Path’s first activities throughout the year. Following delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee began a process of engagement to understand community needs and wishes for the Tłıchq Healing Path strategy and programs. Tasked with developing a first draft of the written strategy, this committee will complete its mandate next year.



## Community-Based Healing and Support

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The Tłıchq Healing Path focuses on community members taking the lead in supporting one another's healing journeys. Early successes have already been noted this year, with the support of the following programs:

- A virtual women's peer support group open to all Tłıchq women in the region met weekly throughout April and May 2022. This group then moved into an in-person format in Behchokò and ran until August 2022. The women participated in activities such as sewing, baking or art, while a guest community member shared her personal story. APTN did a national news segment on this group in July 2022.
- In partnership with Tłıchq Government early childhood staff, an on-the-land camp for families was held at Russell Lake from July 6 to 7, 2022. Tłıchq youth facilitators led fun family programming to strengthen family bonds, promote health and wellness, develop communication and social skills, and create positive memories for parents and their children.
- The Tłıchq Healing Path supported a grassroots men's support group in Whatì and is helping the group leaders connect with men in other communities so that they may learn how to start their own groups. Several knowledge-exchange meetings took place between men in Whatì and Behchokò, and arrangements are being made to expand these connections into Gamètì and Wekweètì.

## Addictions Treatment with Poundmaker's Lodge and Treatment Centre

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

In September and October 2022, the Tłıchq Healing Path and Poundmaker's Lodge and Treatment Centre (Poundmaker's) collaborated on a six-week clinical addictions treatment program held outside Behchokò at Russell Lake and Stagg River. Seven Tłıchq clients (four men, three women) received certificates of completion at the end of the program. These clients ranged in age from 29 to 61 years of age at the start of the program. An eighth Tłıchq client received special recognition of their dedication to the program and personal progress despite not being able to participate full-time due to other commitments.

In the words of one client, "I had issues that I had suppressed for years and years and years, and they just took it out of me. And I'd been to counselling and healing programs in my lifetime but the stuff they were doing with me, they just took it right out of me. I couldn't believe it."

Since the six-week program in 2022, the Tłıchq Healing Path has sent six Tłıchq citizens to receive residential addictions treatment at the Poundmaker's facility. The Tłıchq Government has directly managed all arrangements for these clients, independently from the standard NWT Medical Travel program. The Tłıchq Government has formally requested a follow-up contribution from GNWT to ensure Tłıchq citizens retain access to culturally appropriate facility-based addictions treatment on an ongoing basis.

## Behchokò Wellness Centre

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The Tłıchq Healing Path secured space in the Tłıchq Motel in Behchokò to create a community wellness centre. The new wellness centre will contain staff offices as well as a meeting area for community programming. As of March 2023, the space was being renovated to meet program needs. Further discussions are planned to secure similar spaces for wellness centres in Gamètì, Wekweètì, and Whatì.

## Partnership with University of Alberta

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The Tłıchq Government is partnered with the University of Alberta School of Public Health (SPH) to enhance community leadership in research and evaluation for addictions and wellness. Scholars provide assistance and expert advice to the Tłıchq Healing Path, notably through ongoing education and training of three Tłıchq staff members at Tłıchq Government and TCSA who are completing the SPH Master of Arts in Community Engagement. In this way, staff are increasing their skills in community-based research, program evaluation, and practices of community engagement.

## Second Jdaà Ts'ade Gathering

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

The second Jdaà Ts'ade gathering of Tłıchq youth ages 16 to 35 took place from March 20 to 24, 2023 in Behchokò. Approximately one hundred participants from across Canada took part in the gathering, which focused on wellness under the theme, *Moving forward together: in Tłıchq unity*. The gathering created a safe space for youth to receive instruction and guidance in wellness topics (e.g., self-care, life promotion, healthy relationships, drugs, and alcohol) and in numerous elements of Tłıchq culture and way of life (e.g., drumming, hand games, language). Participants also had the opportunity to meet and engage with renowned First Nations keynote speakers including Richard Van Camp, Scott Wabano, Matt Mac, and Leela Gilday.



# Department of Client Services

**The Department of Client Services provides professional, client-focused services that assist Tłıchq Citizens in the pursuit of a career, economic development, post-secondary education, and training.**

Through partnerships, connections, and communications, Client Services support clients, employers, and vendors in the pursuit of increasing local capacity in the workforce and enhancing the Tłıchq way of life. There are eight divisions in the Client Services Department: apprenticeship, career development, communications, economic development, enrollment, justice and victim services, post-secondary program, and socio-economic growth.

## Apprenticeship

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

This past year Client Services announced the Tłıchq Trades Apprenticeship Program. This program, funded by Canada, seeks to build the trade skills of Tłıchq people by incentivizing entry into apprenticeship programs in select industrial trades. Client Services is partnering with employers to hire 30 first-year Tłıchq apprentices in 39 Red Seal trades and provide wage subsidies for them.

### Services for employers include:

- Wage subsidy of \$10,000 per Tłıchq apprentice.
- Support matching employers with Tłıchq apprentices.
- Funding to attend open houses and other networking events.
- Professional development for employer and staff to increase inclusivity in the workplace and encourage Tłıchq specific training.

### Services for Tłıchq apprentices include:

- Wage subsidies of \$10,000 offered by the employer.
- Support for matching employers with a journeyman or certified trainer in the available trade of interest.

To date, 24 Tłıchq citizens have indicated an interest in the program, and 12 have completed the application process to enter the program. Seven of the 12 applicants are men (58%) and five are women (42%). Tłıchq applicants have indicated an interest in the following occupations: carpenter (seven), heavy equipment operator (five), and welder (four). Additionally, 77 employers in the NWT have been contacted and 11 have expressed interest in working with Tłıchq Client Services to hire Tłıchq apprentices. This year, one of the candidates completed the hiring process, with more expected to do so soon.



Parties interested in the program should contact [apprentice@Tlıcho.ca](mailto:apprentice@Tlıcho.ca).

# Career Development

## Career Open Houses

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The Client Services Department executed open houses in each Tłıchq community to provide information on services and training programs as well as employment opportunities. The open houses assisted the public in knowing where to go for employment help and where to look for jobs.

# Communications

## News Releases

**Strategic Intentions #1-6**

The Department significantly increased the number of news releases over the previous year to ensure that the communities and wider local and territorial populations were well-informed about the activities and happenings in the Tłıchq communities, and in relation to Tłıchq Government partnerships and accomplishments.

## Media Requests

**Strategic Intentions #1-6**

A process and unique mailbox were created to streamline incoming media requests for information. The new process ensures that leadership is aware of requests, hot topics, and we have the ability to track media outlets, media coverage, and response times.

## Tłıchq Government Branding

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

This year the Department employed the Tłıchq Government flag to upgrade the branding of various platforms and products. The business card, email signature, and a background for Zoom and Teams (used for the interactive meetings) have been updated to create a consistent look and feel. The consistency of design and messaging assists in the establishment of trust and helps the Tłıchq Government stand out in a crowded marketplace.

## Social Media Analytics

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Several changes have been incorporated into the management of social media activities. This past year saw a 123.1% increase in Facebook page visits for a total of 229,250 and new users went up by 11.3%. The Facebook page use indicated 1,058 “likes”, a 45.7% increase over 2021 to 2022. Google Analytics also confirmed a 100% increase in “messaging conversations started”. This means that the information being posted engages the audience and creates additional conversation. In addition to daily postings, Communications worked with MacEwan University to deliver an introductory Adobe Express training session during the Graphic Design Retreat to assist departments in creating their own posters.

Communications has supported the Tłıchq Government Facebook page option to live stream the March Hand Games Tournament.

The event logged excellent viewing and saw an increase in “likes”.

It is anticipated that Facebook users will see more Tłıchq-based activities “live streamed” moving forward.

## Tłıchq.ca Website

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

The [Tlichoc.ca](https://tlichoc.ca) website is an important information sharing platform. Desktop users showed a 13.91% increase in 2022 to 2023 over the previous year (totaling 43,572).

## Socio-Economic Research

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Client Services has allocated funds to increase the research capacity in the Department. The socio-economic research team will plan and implement research to inform social and health impact assessments, coordinate socio-economic impact agreements with development projects, and implement mitigation measures and monitoring programs for the socio-economic impacts of development projects. Specific research programs completed by the research team will include monitoring the diamond mine closure period, monitoring the socio-economic impacts of The All-Season Road (TASR), supporting the development and distribution of the ESDC Indigenous Labour Market Information Survey, providing training for Tłıchq citizens as interviewers and facilitators to support socio-economic research in its communities, and providing other research that supports Tłıchq citizens. Because the DCLP has its own research and monitoring team with parallel or complementary research interests, there will be strong internal communication between the two teams to ensure that work is not duplicated.

### Tłıchq Labour Market Information Survey

To better support youth entering the workforce, adults currently within the labour force, and the many young miners transitioning into new careers, there is a heightened need for Client Services to have an accurate labour market profile to support future training and employment opportunities while identifying appropriate solutions to improve educational attainment. ESDC has a program 'First Nation Labour Market Information and Skills Pilot' that will develop a database of information pertaining to the Tłıchq labour market including citizen career interests, skills mastery, experiences, and priorities such as citizen-identified solutions to increase education and employment success. It will also contain a filterable list of Tłıchq citizen's skills, certificates, and resumes to support Tłıchq career development.

#### Outcomes:

- Baseline labour market information for Tłıcho citizens (skills, employment, education).
- Identify gaps and opportunities in the labour market.
- Database of Tłıcho resumes which can support Client Services in connecting job opportunities with Tłıcho candidates.
- Current status of cultural and well-being indicators for DCLP.

The Tłıchq Labour Market Information Survey opened on March 6, 2023. As of March 26, 2023, responses have been collected from 73 individuals.

For queries about the survey, please email [cs.research@tlichoc.ca](mailto:cs.research@tlichoc.ca).



# Economic Development

## Online Store

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

To showcase Tłıchq traditional knowledge and culture through arts and craftsmanship, Tłıchq Arts launched its new online store on March 31, 2023. The update brings a more immersive and richer online shopping experience to customers with an improved product page and image displays, and new payment options. It also brings a host of new backend tools that will provide the marketing team with a set of new features to help increase customer retention and grow sales.

## Point of Sales System (POS)

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

Client Services invested in a point of sale (POS) system for Tłıchq Arts staff to connect to the online store via mobile devices and conduct in-store and offsite purchases as well as manage shipping, tracking, and inventory levels. This technology improves the use of business tools that make the customer's experience better as well as giving us the ability to sell products remotely at tradeshow and other arts and sales.

## Tłıchq Holiday Showcase and Art Sale

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

In fall 2022, the First Annual Tłıchq Arts Holiday Sale and Showcase was held. The one-day event was designed to connect buyers in Yellowknife who would be Christmas shopping, with Tłıchq artisans who had product to sell.

Eight Tłıchq artists responded to the Tłıchq Government's call to participate. Participating artists were from Behchokò, Whatì, and Yellowknife. The event, which ran from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., was attended by close to 600 shoppers. At the end of the event, sales made by the artists totaled \$22,930.00. Several artists also went home with additional orders. In addition, the Tłıchq Arts Online Store was featured, creating additional promotion for this sales channel to potential buyers.

## Traditional Skills Sewing Workshops

**Strategic Intention #2** – Revitalize Our Language, Culture and Way of Life.

**Strategic Intention #4** – Build Our Self-Sufficiency Through the Traditional Economy and Economic Development.

Sewing workshops were delivered in Whatì and Wekweètì, aimed at growing the skills in traditional economies. As part of these workshops, artists learned about pricing their art to ensure the recovery of costs, compensation for their time, and competitive positioning. In addition, artists were taught about the different sales methods such as direct sales to customers versus commissioned sales through retail outlets, and how to price their products in each of these scenarios. They also learned how to calculate net revenue for themselves.

## Giant Mine Remediation Project Training and Internships

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The Economic Development division established a training and internship program for Tłıchq citizens in partnership with the Mine Training Society, Quantum Murray Metcor, and WSP (formerly Golder Associates) for the Giant Mine Remediation Project. This included the delivery of an industrial safety program at Kasteel Construction and Coatings in Yellowknife, followed by paid training placements for those students who completed the training program. Trainee placements were offered on the Giant Mine Remediation Project site with Quantum Murray Metcor.

A project administrative coordinator has been placed at the Mine Training Society for a one-year term, and a trainee has also been placed at WSP for a 12-week opportunity to work in an environmental support role. Tłıchq citizens have opportunities to take advantage of the job opportunities for mine site remediation and other environmental and administrative roles.

## Economic Development Supports

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The Wekweètì Economic Development Officer (EDO) attended a training secondment for six months in Yellowknife, working at the GNWT Department of Industry, Tourism, and Investment. This project aimed at growing understanding within the Client Services Department for business development support for entrepreneurs and small businesses. While Client Services has been challenged in recruiting and keeping staff in Gamètì, the two EDO's stationed in Wekweètì and Whatì assisted 56 clients in securing just over \$30,000.00 in financial aid from the GNWT for entrepreneurs and small businesses.

## Enrolment

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities

The Enrolment division takes care of the Tłıchq citizenship, commissioner of oaths, marriage issuer, and the Wills and Estates Program. They also provide tools for administration services such as printing and copying, and student services.

**Number of Total Records: 5,157**

- Active Tłıchq Citizens: 4,500
- Active Tłıchq Citizens that are male: 2,278
- Active Tłıchq Citizens that are female: 2,221
- Active Tłıchq Citizens living in Behchokò: 1,999
- Active Tłıchq Citizens living in Gamètì: 247
- Active Tłıchq Citizens living in Wekweètì: 117
- Active Tłıchq Citizens living in Whatì: 469
- Active Tłıchq Citizens living in Yellowknife: 895



## Justice and Victim Services

### Victim Services Open Houses

**Strategic Intention #3** – Build Strong Healthy Communities.

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

Victim Services held a monthly community outreach program to educate community members on services available through the Departments. These open houses have proven to be very beneficial as they highlight the services that might otherwise go unnoticed.



### Justice Symposium – Yellowknife

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

Justice and Victim Service Workers from all over the NWT gathered to educate and improve their knowledge on actions and recourses available to clients in the north. Tłıchq Victim Service Workers attended the symposium with a goal of learning more on how they could help victims in the Tłıchq community.

### Awareness All-Nighters

**Strategic Intention #6** – Create Opportunities for Healing and Wellness.

In March 2023, a total of 50 Tłıchq youths participated in learning how to make responsible decisions in relation to impaired driving. Overall, the program aims to raise awareness surrounding major community issues.

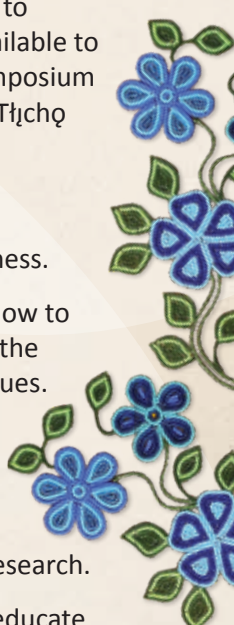
## Post-Secondary Program

### Administrative Assistance and Service Support

**Strategic Intention #5** – Build Our Capacity Through Training and Research.

The program provides administrative assistance with applications, educate administrative assistants and funding coordinators with additional training to create stronger services, meet and collaborate with others to learn what they are doing to improve operations along with providing financial assistance and support programs.

Tłıchq students accessed support programs which included, tutoring, virtual workshops, upskilling training, and virtual support. There is a total of 75 students participating in the program from the Tłıchq region, with a total of 606 in and out of the Tłıchq region.



Dii sa naet'aa, dii deh n̄l̄l̄l̄, dii dè nàgoèhdq-le  
n̄jdè, asii wets'à goet'q hq̄l̄l̄ 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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