





*This Annual Report summarizes the activities of the Tâichô Government in its first year of operation from Effective Date, on August 4th, 2005 to the Annual Gathering, August 4th, 2006. This report was created by Plainspeak C.A. for the Tâichô Government.*

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# Message from the Grand

On August 4th of last year, responsibility for the governance and care of Tāichō Citizens, land, language and culture was turned over to the Tāichō Government.

Our task has been challenging. Never before have any people tried to build self-government, in the modern sense, from the ground up. Much of our time in this last year has been spent setting up the systems of government - the laws, rules and procedures that allow a government to run properly. We have been learning to exercise our authority as a full government in our dealings with other governments and agencies. And we have been educating people about the powers, roles and responsibilities of Tāichō Government.

We have entered a new period of our history. Our elders started the path we are on, and they have brought us this far. Together, we must continue to pave this road into the future, based on traditional principles.

We must begin to educate our own people on the importance of what Tāichō Government stands for - language, culture and way of life.

The education must include not only an understanding

of our Agreement, but all the rules and procedures for decision making. We must grow our youth into a system of government that they understand and accept, so that they can eventually take it over and bring us into a new era.

The work we have done this year was time consuming and not without its struggles, but it needed to be done. We will continue to work hard so that at the end of four years, we have a government that is running smoothly and able to face the challenges of the future.

In the end, the Tāichō Government is about individual people living in the communities. We must be open to our Citizens to direct and guide us as we build a strong political body and strive for economic self-reliance.

We now deliver our first Annual Report. It sets out all the work we have done in our first year operating as a Government. It describes the laws we have passed, the budgets we have approved, and our continuing work with Tāichō Corporations. This Annual Report is one way that Tāichō Government will remain open and accountable to Tāichō Citizen





The Tâichô Government has 4 main parts. The Assembly is made up of the Grand Chief, the Chief of each Tâichô community, plus two Councillors from each community.

The Assembly is responsible for passing Tâichô laws, approving budgets and making the most important decisions facing the Tâichô Government.

The Chief's Executive Council is made up of the Grand Chief, and the Chiefs of the four communities. The CEC meets regularly to make important decisions about how to spend the Tâichô Government budget, entering into large contracts and other major decisions.

The Tâichô Government has a number of managers who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Tâichô Government and managing its staff. The most senior manager is John B. Zoe, the Tâichô Executive Officer. Other managers are called Directors, and each is responsible for a different branch of the Tâichô Government.

Finally, the Tâichô Government has a staff of over 20

people that do all the work necessary to keep the Tâichô Government running.





# The Chiefs and the Grand

**Former Grand Chief Joe Rabesca** was the Tâîchô Nation Grand Chief during the negotiations for the Tâîchô Agreement, and on Effective Date. He agreed to remain as acting Grand Chief from August 4th to September 1st, when the new Grand Chief would be elected.

**Grand Chief George Mackenzie** was elected on September 1, 2005. The Grand Chief obtained a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan. He spent many years as a teacher and cultural instructor, teaching youth about hand games and drumming. In addition, he spent many years coaching youth volleyball. Prior to becoming Grand Chief, George Mackenzie acted as President of the Behchokö Development Corporation, and as Chair of the Diavik Community Advisory Board. He is married to Louise Mackenzie

**Chief Charlie J. Nitsiza** was elected as Chief of Whatì on June 13, 2005. He has also previously served as Chief of Whatì. He has served as a member of many Boards, including the Board of NK Forestry, where he was a long time employee. He is married to Therese Nitsiza.

**Chief Leon Lafferty** was elected as Chief of Behchokö on June 13, 2005. He is a former Member of Legislative Assembly and is Chair of the Mine Training Society. Chief Lafferty spent many years as a Municipal Foreman, and has volunteered as a sport coach for youth. Cecile DesJardins is his long time partner.

**Chief Henry Gon** was elected as Chief of Gamèti on June 13, 2005. He was previously the Chief of Gamèti from 1989 to 2000. Before becoming Chief, Henry Gon worked at BHP. He is married to Sandra Gon.

**Chief Charlie Football** was elected as Chief of Wekweèti on June 13, 2005. He is married to Mary Adele Football. Like the Grand Chief, he considers himself a Traditionalist. Prior to becoming Chief of Wekweèti, Charlie Football spent many years working at BHP.





# The Long Road to

Canadian Constitution.

- 1921 Treaty 11 Signed** Chief Monfwi Signs Treaty 11 on behalf of all Tâîchô. The Treaty allows Canada to grant development rights to companies throughout the Mackenzie Valley. In exchange, Tâîchô and other Aboriginal groups are promised health care, education, social services and Treaty payments.
- 1968 Tâîchô Treaty Payment Protest** Tâîchô people gather in Behchokö and collectively refuse to accept Treaty Payments. The boycott is to protest Canada's failure to keep the promises made at Treaty 11.
- 1973 Modern Treaty Process Begins** A number of important legal cases start to define Aboriginal rights to harvesting and use of land. They also say that these rights were not extinguished by signing treaties.
- 1981 Dene-Métis Negotiations** The Aboriginal people of the Mackenzie Valley collectively begin negotiations with Canada for a Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement.
- 1982 Aboriginal Rights Recognized** Section 35 of the Charter recognizes Aboriginal Rights as belonging to the most important rights protected by the

Signed at **Liard** on the  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1921 by the

Katzieh Commissioners and the Chiefs  
and Treaties in the Presence of the  
Intervention Witnesses after having been  
first interpreted and explained.

Witnesses:

[Blank lines for witness signatures]

Signed at **Nae** on the

day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1921 by the  
Katzieh Commissioners and the Chiefs  
and Treaties in the Presence of the  
Intervention Witnesses after having been  
first interpreted and explained.

Witnesses:

[Blank lines for witness signatures]

*William of Com...*  
*Worship*  
*James*  
*John*

*Witnessed and interpreted at the Katzieh  
Commission Office, Liard, B.C., Canada, on  
the 21st day of July, 1921.*

*W. G. Lewis*  
*Chief of the Katzieh*

4-2-21-24

Approved by  
S. E. Thomas  
Deputy Chief of  
Intervention





# The Long Road to

- 1990 Dene-Métis Negotiations End** The Joint Assembly votes to accept the Final Agreement with some changes. Canada treats this as a rejection of the Agreement and ends negotiations.
- 1991 Nunavut “Parker Line” Established** The Parker Line is imposed, defining the new Territory of Nunavut at the northern boundary of traditional Tâîchô territory. Tâîchô vote almost unanimously against the decision.
- 1992 Tâîchô Begin Own Negotiations** After the end of the Dene-Métis negotiations, Tâîchô pass a resolution to negotiate their own land claims agreement with Canada.
- 1993 Sahtu Dene Métis Land Claim** The new Sahtu Agreement defines the traditional use area to the northwest of traditional Tâîchô territory.
- 1997 Self-Government Rights Negotiated** Canada agrees to negotiate for self-government rights in the Tâîchô Agreement. This marks the first time

self-government rights are included in a comprehensive land claim in NWT.



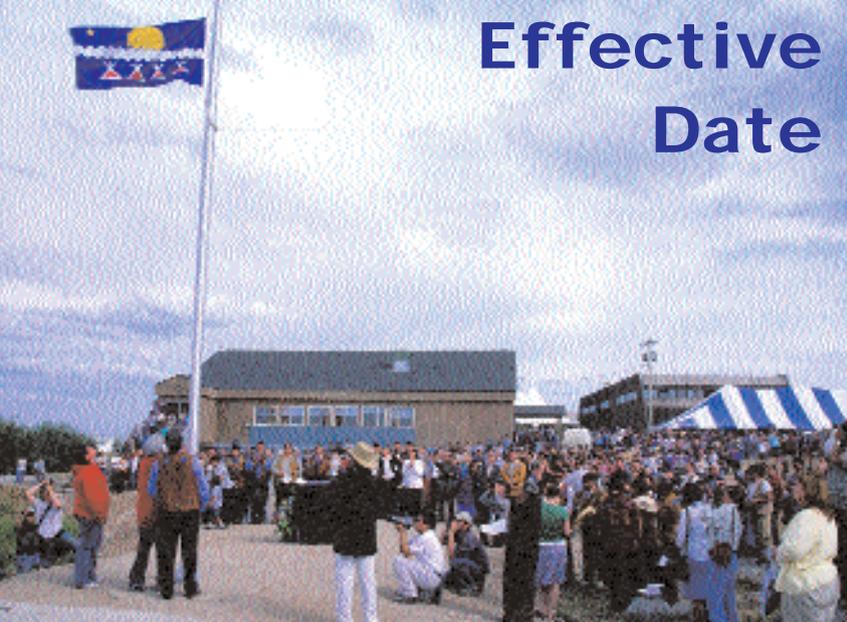


# The Long Road to

- 2000 Tâîchô Agreement-in-Principle** Negotiators for Canada, GNWT and Tâîchô finish the AIP which will form the basis for the final Tâîchô Agreement.
- 2000 Tâîchô Constitution** Tâîchô create and vote on their own Constitution. The Constitution is the highest Tâîchô law, defining and protecting the rights of Tâîchô Citizens.
- 2002 Tâîchô Agreement Initialled** The Final Agreement is completed and initialed at a ceremony in Whatì. A period of community tours and consultations begins.
- 2002 Deh Cho and Akaitcho Overlap Agreements** Tâîchô conclude historical agreements with the Deh Cho and Akaitcho that say how traditional lands will be shared and used.
- 2003 Revised Tâîchô Agreement** Following the consultation period, important changes are negotiated in the Final Agreement dealing with Tâîchô Citizenship and other Aboriginal peoples.
- 2003 Tâîchô Ratification Vote** Tâîchô vote overwhelmingly to accept the Tâîchô Agreement. 92% of all Tâîchô vote yes!
- 2003 Signing Ceremony** The Tâîchô Agreement was signed at a historic ceremony in Behchokö, with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in attendance.
- 2005 Tâîchô Legislation Passed** GNWT and Canada both pass laws that recognize the Tâîchô Agreement and make it law.
- 2005 Effective Date** On August 4, 2005, The Tâîchô Agreement becomes law and the new Tâîchô Government begins operations. Massive celebrations take place.



# Effective Date









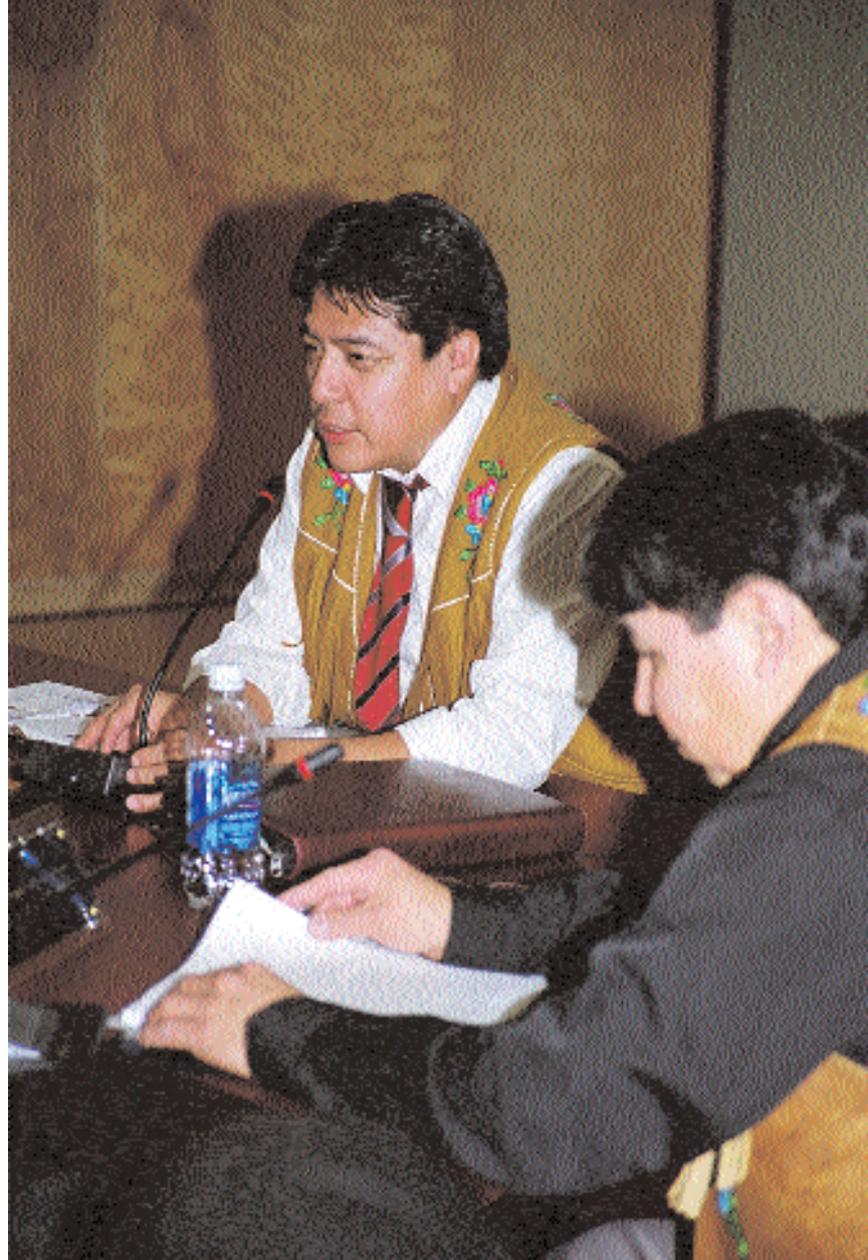


# Sessions of the Assembly

The Tâichô Government Assembly meets a minimum of 5 times a year to discuss the major decisions facing the Tâichô Government. Over the last year, these decisions focused on the passing all the laws and regulations that are necessary for the Government to operate, and passing the budgets that provide the money for the operation, programs and services of the Tâichô Government.

At all these meetings, careful notes are taken about what is discussed and decided. These are called the minutes of the meeting and they are available at the Tâichô Government offices for Tâichô Citizens to review.

Over the last year, the Assembly has also held a number of Workshops to discuss Tâichô Agreement and all the sub-agreements, the Tâichô Constitution, Self-Government and Implementation.





# Sessions of the Assembly

## August 2005, Behchokö

In its first ever meeting, the new Tâîchô Assembly had two main items of business. The first was to pass a Starter Budget which would provide the Tâîchô Government with money for the first three months of operation.

The second task was to pass all the basic Tâîchô Laws that are needed to run the Government. These laws include:

***Tâîchô Assembly and Chief's Executive Council Law***, which sets the rules for replacing members of the Assembly or CEC, and says how members must conduct themselves. The law also allows the CEC to hire a Tâîchô Executive Officer to run the Tâîchô Government.

***Grand Chief Nomination and Election Law***, which sets the rules for nominating, electing and removing the Grand Chief.

***Tâîchô Procedures Law***, which sets out the rules for passing new Tâîchô Laws and regulations. Under the law,

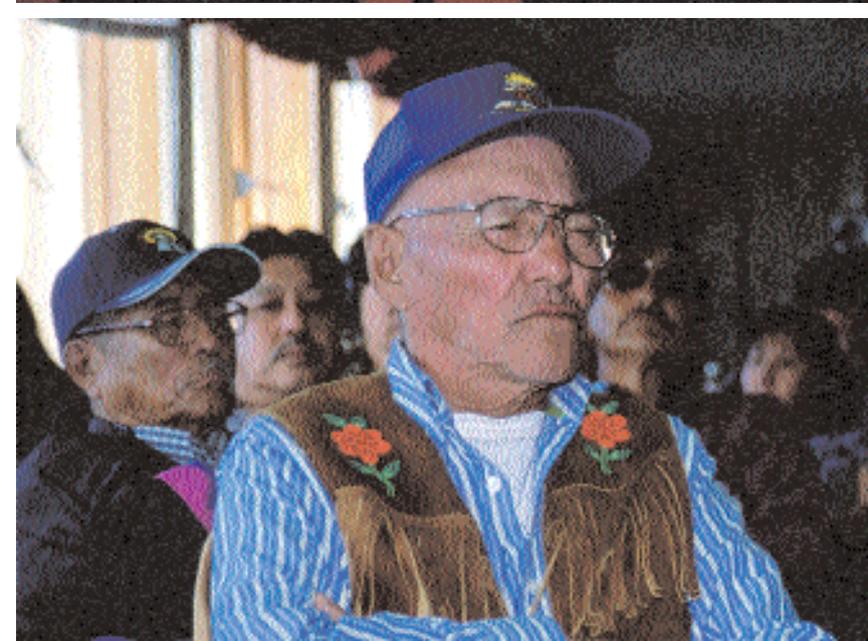
a Laws Guardian is appointed who is responsible for keeping an up-to-date register of all Tâîchô Laws and regulations.

***Tâîchô Finance Law***, which makes the CEC responsible for the financial affairs of the Tâîchô Government, including creating annual budgets. The law also creates a department of finance and requires an auditor to be appointed.

***Tâîchô Language, Culture and Communication Law***, which creates a department that is responsible for carrying out all the language and cultural programs of the Tâîchô Government.

***Tâîchô Investment Corporation Law***, which sets up the Tâîchô Investment Corporation. This is a part of the Tâîchô Government that is responsible for managing and protecting all Tâîchô Corporations and joint ventures.

All Tâîchô Laws are available at the Tâîchô Government





# Sessions of the Assembly

## **October 2005, Behchokö**

The main item of business at the second meeting of the Tâïchô Assembly was to pass a new Budget. The Starter Budget only covered the period from August to October. A new Budget was required for the period from November to March of 2006.

## **December 2005, Behchokö**

In the December meeting, important decisions were made about how to run future Sessions of the Assembly. The Assembly decided that an Assembly Coordinator would be hired, and that future Sessions would be held in each of the communities.

At this Session, the Assembly also authorized recognition payments for former Tâïchô Chiefs.

Finally, the Assembly passed an amendment to the Tâïchô Assembly and Chief's Executive Council Law to provide a raise for Assembly and CEC members.

## **February 2006, Behchokö**

In the first meeting of new year, the Tâïchô Assembly considered and passed a new Annual Budget. The new budget will provide funds for the operation of Tâïchô Government and all its programs and services from April to March 2007.

## **June 2006, Gamèti**

The Tâïchô Government has entered into Impact and Benefits Agreements and Participation Agreements with BHPB, DDMI and, most recently, DeBeers. Each year, money comes to the Tâïchô Government under these agreements for the benefit of Tâïchô Citizens.

In June, the Tâïchô Assembly met to consider how to spend the money coming from these agreements for the 2006 - 2007 year. The Assembly decided to use the IBA and PA funds to support programs to protect, enhance and





# Corporations and Financial Report

## **Reorganizing the Tâîchô Corporations**

On Effective date, the Tâîchô Government took over all the corporations that were once owned by the individual bands and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council. In total, the Tâîchô Government now owns over 40 companies for the benefit of all Tâîchô Citizens.

In March 2006, the Tâîchô Government held a Visioning Workshop focusing on the future of Tâîchô Corporations. Following the Workshop, the CEC gave approval for a Working Group to begin all the work needed to reorganize the Tâîchô Corporations.

The Working Group has been meeting regularly, and will soon make its recommendations to the CEC. The reorganization will make sure that individual corporations are being run efficiently, and that all Tâîchô corporations are working well together.

## **Annual Financial Report**

Every year, the Tâîchô Government is required to prepare a financial report on its activities over the year. This report is prepared by accountants to make sure it is fair and accurate.

The annual financial report gives a full picture of the financial activities of the Tâîchô Government. For example, it says exactly how much money came into the Tâîchô Government, how much was spent on programs, services and equipment, and how much was paid to its employees.

The financial report is available at the Tâîchô Government offices for Tâîchô Citizens to review.





# In Memory of Alexis

In this last year, the Tâîchô lost one of their beloved elders. Described as a grandfather to the Tâîchô people, Alexis Arrowmaker passed away during the night of November 25th, 2005. He was 85 years old.

Alexis Arrowmaker was born in Rae on June 20th, 1920 to Jean Kinetsia Arrowmaker and Julie Kwipanon. Early in his life, Alexis was adopted and raised by the family of Chief Monfwi. Monfwi taught Alexis from a very young age how to be a true Tâîchô and a strong leader. Alexis went on to become one of the great Tâîchô leaders.

Alexis knew the land and the people who lived there. He was an exceptional speaker, frequently asked to speak at public functions, feasts and church services. He was also a man of strong faith, and was not afraid to speak about what he believed in.

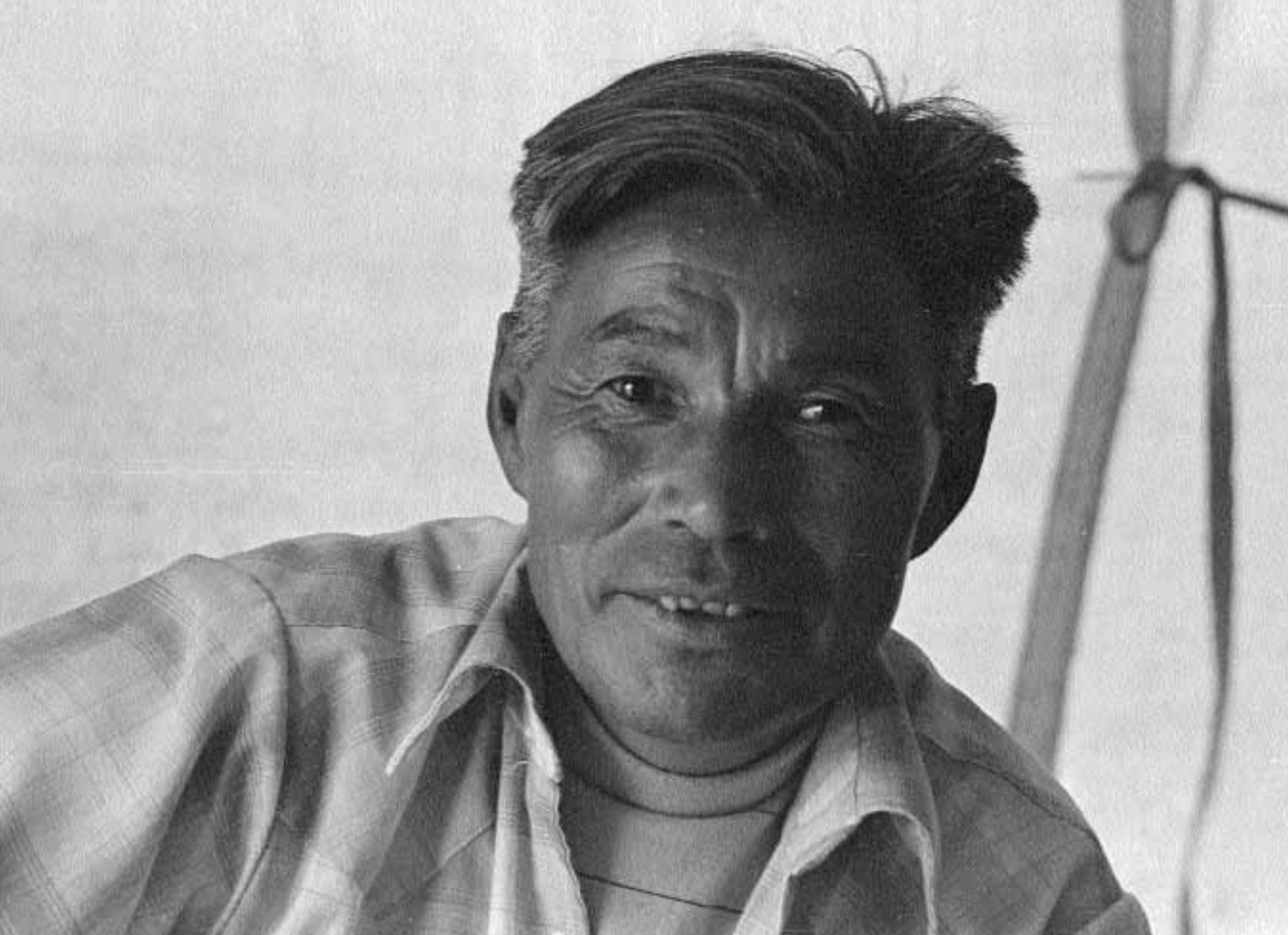
Alexis served as the Grand Chief of the Tâîchô Nation, the Grand Chief of the Dechi Laoti First Nation, and as a special advisor to the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council on the negotiations for the Tâîchô Agreement. In his role as advisor, Alexis was particularly valuable to the younger generation. His advice was always well received and carefully considered. He was also a shrewd negotiator and

would speak passionately on the defence of the land and the rights of the people.

On August 4th, 2005, at the Effective Date celebrations in Whatì, Alexis Arrowmaker proudly unveiled and raised the new Tâîchô Flag, symbolizing the strength and unity of Tâîchô now and into the future. It is what Alexis had worked for his whole life.

Alexis Arrowmaker will be greatly missed by his beloved wife Elizabeth, children and grandchildren, as well as by all Tâîchô and all others who had the honour of knowing him.

God bless you, Alexis. Rest in peace.



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