

Tł̥chọ Ndek'áowo



Tł̥chọ Government

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Annual Report 2013

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*Hè dọ gha gọta...
In Tł̥chọ Unity...*

Message from the Grand Chief



I am pleased to provide this brief overview of the work of our Government in 2012-2013. As the mandate of the 2nd Tłı̨chǫ Assembly also draws to a close, it is useful to look back over the past four years since 2009.

2012-2013 has been a very busy year for the Tłı̨chǫ Government. Much of the activity is related to preparing ourselves to manage our lands as the moratorium on development was lifted in June. Our land is under pressure by corporations and outside governments as never before to remove the resource wealth that is underneath us. We, as leaders, are also under pressure by our own people to ensure that we make the best decisions, not only in our traditional roles as custodians of the land, but also for our people who want and deserve the security that meaningful employment brings to their lives and the lives of their families.

As a people, one way to build strength and capacity is for the citizens of our communities to come together in unity. Unity will help us build a strong Tłı̨chǫ Government and unity will help sustain our lands, language, culture and way of life. It̨è dǫ gha gǫita (In Tłı̨chǫ Unity) speaks to our reality as one Tłı̨chǫ people, one nation with a shared language, culture and way of life.

On behalf of the Tłı̨chǫ Government, I wish everyone peace and happiness within your families and with your friends in our communities. We remember that we have much to be grateful for and, with that gratitude, we know we have a responsibility to help each other. This is our way as Tłı̨chǫ people.

God bless all of you.

Mahsi cho

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Erasmus".

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

Cover Photo: Joe Dryneck, a Tłı̨chǫ Assembly Member from Wekweètì, participating in a “feeding the fire” ceremony. Fire has an important spiritual meaning for many Tłı̨chǫ people as a gift from the Creator that has enabled our people to survive on our land over many generations.
(Photo by T. Hamilton.)

Highlights from the 2nd Tłı̨chǫ Assembly 2009 – 2013

The Completion of the Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan

Since 2007, the Land Use Plan working group has guided the development of a Tłı̨chǫ land use plan for the management of 39,000 square kilometres of Tłı̨chǫ lands. A lands moratorium was extended through May 2013 to allow for the completion of the plan and for the establishment of a functioning lands administration system.



Financial Management of the Capital Transfer Fund

As required by the Tłı̨chǫ Constitution and the Capital Transfers Interim Protection Law, the capital funds transferred from Canada to the Tłı̨chǫ Government are managed as a “perpetual endowment” for present and future generations. This resource can never be spent, but will be invested to generate interest funds. An investment manager, who will provide an annual report on the fund to the Tłı̨chǫ Government, has been hired.



The Development of Assembly Rules of Order

Rules of Order for the Assembly were developed and passed into legislation. This law provides direction to the Assembly regarding a variety of procedural rules, including the creation of agendas for Assembly sessions and Annual Gatherings as well as defining the role and functions of the Speaker and the Laws Guardian.

Restructuring Government Departments

The return of transferred social programs to the Tłı̨chǫ Government from the Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA) in 2012, as well as a new focus on the work of the departments, has led to the reorganization of the Government into four departments: Corporate Services, Culture and Lands Protection, Community Programs and Community Services.

Policy Development

The Chiefs Executive Council has continued to review and approve a wide variety of important administrative policies designed to ensure the Tłı̨chǫ Government operates effectively. Recent additions are Establishment policies for the new departments of the Government, a policy governing safety and wilderness travel for our programs as well as a Code of Ethics for staff members.

Strategic Planning

In the fall of 2011, the Chiefs Executive Council directed that a multi-year plan be created to document the priorities and planning work under development since 2008. The resulting document “Itè dǫ gha ǵǵita” or “In Tłı̨chǫ Unity” contains a strategic framework with a vision, mission and guiding principles, and a multi-year statement of intentions covering the life of the 2nd Tłı̨chǫ Assembly.



Iłè dọ gha gọta In Tłchọ Unity

Strategic Planning and Intentions 2009 – 2013

The mission of the Tłchọ Government is stated in our Tłchọ Constitution. The Constitution says, “The purpose of the Tłchọ Government is... ‘To preserve, protect and promote our Aboriginal and treaty rights, and way of life – including our culture, language, heritage, lands, economy and resources – for all Tłchọ today and for future generations to come for as long as the land shall last.’ ”

“Nàdàa Gètsètł” or “Looking Forward” is a Statement of Intentions for the 2nd Tłchọ Assembly, which describes what we were committed to doing as a government and the strategies that we used.

Goal 1: Sustaining Our Lands and Environment

Introduction

A core intention of our Government is to protect and sustain our lands and environment.

Accomplishments

Completion of a Land Use Plan and laying the groundwork for a lands administration function within the Tłchọ Government.



Goal 2: Sustaining Our Language, Culture and Way of Life

Introduction

The Tłchọ Constitution states that the purpose of the Tłchọ Government is to preserve and protect our Aboriginal and treaty rights, and our language, culture and way of life.

Accomplishments

Establishment of an award-winning annual summer Imbe cultural program for youth, and supporting Tłchọ “traditional practices” such as hunters and trappers assistance, the development of an online market for handcrafts, and events such as the annual youth and men’s hand game tournaments.

Goal 3: Strengthening Our Communities, Our People

Introduction

One of the intentions of the Tłchọ Government is to improve the life of our communities by making contributions to fill gaps and supplement existing programs and services that promote wellness, spirituality and our traditional cultural activities.

Accomplishments:

Providing funding to support the post-secondary education of Tłchọ students, the recreation of school age students, a harvest subsidy to all Tłchọ citizens, relief funding to support families in crisis because of severe illness, and bringing together elders and families for funerals.



Goal 4: Increasing Financial Strength and Economic Development

Introduction

The Tłchọ Government seeks to increase the financial strength and economic development of the Tłchọ communities through the development of business interests under the direction and management of the Tłchọ Investment Corporation.

Accomplishments:

The Tłı̨chǫ Investment Corporation (TIC) has a large number of businesses performing in many sectors of the northern economy, including mining, mine site remediation, transportation, construction, hospitality, retail business services in the smaller Tłı̨chǫ communities and power generation.

Goal 5: Strengthening Governance

Introduction

The Tłı̨chǫ Government is committed to the ongoing development and practice of an effective government based on our Tłı̨chǫ language, culture and way of life.

Accomplishments:

Improving communications between leadership and Tłı̨chǫ citizens through two community tours in 2012-2013 and continuing development of a strong social media presence on www.tlı̨chǫ.ca and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Tlı̨chǫ.

Goal 6: Building Human Resource Capacity

Introduction

The Tłı̨chǫ Government is committed to the development of a representative, skilled and effective workforce within the government.

Accomplishments:

A staff training and development strategy for the Tłı̨chǫ Government workforce which includes a Management Development program focused on integrating Tłı̨chǫ culture and professional management practices.



The Tłı̨chǫ Government provided funds in partnership with the GNWT for staff training in preparation for the new Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home.

Goal 7: Strengthening Program and Service Delivery

Introduction

The Tłı̨chǫ Government delivers First Nations programs and services that are funded by the Government of Canada and only available to Aboriginal people. Under self-government, the Tłı̨chǫ Government will become responsible for delivering more programs and services.

Accomplishments:

Discussions with the GNWT on reforming the TCSA, and considering strategies and models that will ensure the responsiveness of K-12 education, as well as health and child and family programs and services.

Goal 8: Managing Effective Intergovernmental Relationships

Introduction

The Tłı̨chǫ Government and the Government of the NWT signed a Memorandum of Understanding called "Working Together" in June 2012. The leaders of the two governments have agreed to meet on a regular basis.

Accomplishments:

This process has led to the harmonization of our harvest subsidy with income support regulations, ISA renewal, the shared use of GNWT facilities, and amendments requested to the GNWT Tłı̨chǫ Community Government Act related to candidate eligibility matters, and the clarification of terms of elected and re-elected Chiefs and councillors.



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh



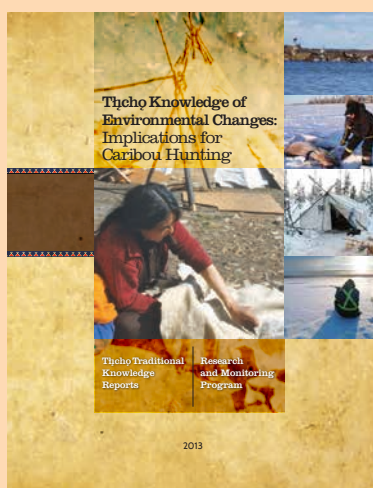
Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

A Plan for Action: Sustaining Our Lands, Language, Culture and Way of Life

Our elders talk about the importance of making our traditions... “strong within our people again”... by sustaining our lands... because our language, culture and way of life emerges from our relationship with the land... and sustaining our language, culture and way of life, because this provides our identity as Tłı̨chǫ people.

In 2012 we began to develop the foundation to strengthen the work of the Tłı̨chǫ Government in sustaining our lands, language, culture and way of life. We are focusing in three areas:

- **Lands Protection** administers the Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan and includes the administration of Tłı̨chǫ lands, collecting and sharing mapping and GIS information, renewable resources management, and maintaining intergovernmental and interagency relationships.
- **Research and Monitoring** includes the establishment of a Tłı̨chǫ Research and Training Institute, which will focus on the promotion of research, especially Tłı̨chǫ traditional knowledge and education and training related to our language, culture and way of life.
- **Cultural Practices** will provide opportunities for youth and other citizens to celebrate our identity as Tłı̨chǫ people and practice our language, culture and way of life.



◀ Publications from the Tłı̨chǫ Government 2013 Traditional Knowledge Series publishing program.

Report on the Work of the Cultural Coordinator



The Cultural Coordinator is appointed jointly by the Tłı̨chǫ Government, the GNWT and the Government of Canada as per section 8 of the Tłı̨chǫ Intergovernmental Services Agreement (2003). The position advises government on how to use their respective powers in ways that respect and promote Tłı̨chǫ language, culture and way of life. Appointed in 2010, the term of the first Cultural Coordinator is finished in the fall of 2013.

The Cultural Coordinator is a member of the new Department of Culture and Lands Protection, working in the Research and Monitoring section of the Tłı̨chǫ Government. A report has been produced that discusses the current state of the Tłı̨chǫ language, culture and way of life, and makes recommendations related to the actions and inactions of the Parties to the Agreement that impact Tłı̨chǫ Language, Culture and Way of Life.

This report, available at www.tlicho.ca, puts forth nine recommendations to the Parties intended to strengthen Tłı̨chǫ language, culture and way of life. The recommendations include the obligations that all governments have to identify, anticipate and prevent or minimize damage from harmful social policy and legislation to Aboriginal cultures and languages in the NWT, and the need for all governments to recommit to the strengthening of language and cultural communities at the local level across the NWT through a variety of identified strategies.



Restructuring the Tł̨ch̨ Government

Restructuring of the Tł̨ch̨ Government is necessary to accommodate the integration of new programs and services as well as to implement the additional priorities of the Tł̨ch̨ Government reflected in the Strategic Framework and Intention 2009 – 2013 planning process. The restructuring of the Tł̨ch̨ Government is resulting in four new departments:

Corporate Services is being created from the two former departments of Human Resources and Finance. This is an internal service department providing finance, human resources and other logistical services to the other departments of the Tł̨ch̨ Government. It is expected that this department will grow to take on the oversight of IT services and facilities and vehicles.

Culture and Lands Protection is being created from the two former departments of Language, Culture, and Communications and Lands Protection. It is expected that this department will include three functions, including lands protection, research and monitoring which will include the new Tł̨ch̨ Research and Training Institute, and cultural practices.

Community Services is a new department that is anticipated to include a variety of services to the communities offered through the Community Presence offices in Behchok̨, Gamètì, Whatì and Wekweètì. The department will begin with the integration of career and economic development services as well as financial support for post-secondary students.

Community Programs is another new department that includes a broad variety of third party funded programs returned to the Government from the TCSA in 2012. Investing over \$1.16 million in the Tł̨ch̨ communities, these programs are funded by Canada and the GNWT as Brighter Futures, Aboriginal Diabetes, FASD, Canadian Pre-Natal Nutrition, National Native Alcohol Program, Aboriginal Youth Suicide and others. The Tł̨ch̨ Government Justice Programs will be integrated into the Community Programs over the next year. Early Childhood Programs are also a part of this new Department of Community Programs, but will be managed separately.



◀ Ts'e Whì Ts'e Daa (Rights of Passage) Camp – 38 youth participants from Behchok̨, Whatì and Gamètì. The major focus was on understanding our culture and traditions related to Tł̨ch̨ rites of passage.



Community Programs continued...

- The Community Action Research Team (CART) is part of the Department of Community Programs of the Tł̨chq̨ Government. CART activities this past year have included: film-making workshops with youth using themes on alcohol; the development of the “Breaking the Silence” video on violence in homes and against women; the Youth Conference 2013, Tł̨chq̨ Empowerment Program, with involvement of 33 youth and 11 adults, with a focus on building self-esteem; and the Ts’e Whı̨ Ts’e Daa (Rites of Passage) program with 38 youth participants.
- Nutrition and diabetes prevention is one of the priorities of Community Programs. Diabetes workshops were held with 42 participants from the Tł̨chq̨ communities.
- Early Childhood Education – The Tł̨chq̨ Government delivers Early Childhood programs in all Tł̨chq̨ communities. The funds come to the Tł̨chq̨ Government from different programs provided by the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Early Childhood programs include pre-school programs and daycare. The legislative authority for Early Childhood programs derives from the GNWT Child Day Care Act. There are currently 17 Tł̨chq̨ staff employed in the Early Childhood education programs. Staff are allocated to each community based on the number of children that each program is licensed for by the GNWT Daycare Act and Legislation. All pre-school programs are linked to school programs and share space in community schools. Resources and programs for the pre-school children are integrated with kindergarten and school age programs, and staff work closely with school staff to support children and families to help transition from pre-school into kindergarten.



◀ Youth Conference – 74 participants from Behchok̨, Gamètì, Whatì and Wekweètì. Major focus of the conference was making healthy choices with the mind, body and soul.

▶ Early childhood education programs in Gamètì.



◀ Cultural learning in early childhood programs in Behchok̨.



Highlights from 2013

Website Renewal www.tlicho.ca

The Tłıchǫ Government website, at www.tlicho.ca, is intended to be a celebration of all things Tłıchǫ, with current information about the activities of the Tłıchǫ Government, the Tłıchǫ Investment Corporation and the TCSA as well as news from each community. This past year the site has been rebuilt with a major technical overhaul, which will allow for major improvements through increased capacity.

IT Development within Tłıchǫ Government

Significant work has been completed this year on building the IT infrastructure necessary to create a digital network within the Tłıchǫ Government. Computer upgrades, the installation of connected servers in each community and IP telephones have allowed for the integration of financial payroll and HR staff attendance and record keeping functions. There is a continuing need for more bandwidth service in Behchokǫ before further capabilities can be realized.



Kwe Beh Working Group

The Tłıchǫ Government established the Kwe Beh Working Group with membership from the Chiefs Executive Council, Assembly members, staff, community members and technical advisors. Kwe Beh advises the Government on relationships with the mining companies, including implementing agreements, negotiating new IBAs, environmental assessment and providing a "listening post" to manage concerns, complaints or problems from Tłıchǫ people.

Devolution

Devolution is the transfer of the administration of public lands and waters from Canada to the GNWT. Throughout 2012-2013, continuing discussions with the GNWT have resulted in our Government joining the NWT devolution process. However, our leadership has continuing concerns about changes to environmental regulations by the Government of Canada and proposed responses to these changes by the GNWT.



▲ Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Robert McLeod and Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus.



► Working with the MLA. A discussion on electoral boundaries.

Highlights from 2013 continued...

Tłchq Research and Training Institute

The Chiefs Executive Council created the Research and Training Institute within the Department of Culture and Lands Protection with the purpose of advancing the study of our lands, language, culture and way of life. One of the goals of the Institute is to involve as many young people as possible in the traditional knowledge research of our Government. The Institute will also promote a comprehensive TK publishing program and the continuing development of a digital resource database.

Tłchq Community Services Agency



The Chiefs Executive Council have notified Canada and the GNWT that the Tłchq Government would like to modify the Intergovernmental Services Agreement to ensure the Agency reflects the priorities of the Tłchq Government. Highlights from the Agency this year include the training of local staff for the new elders' home currently under construction in Behchokò, Emergency Medical Responder training and Tłchq language immersion classes at the Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School in Behchokò.

Wek'èezhì Renewable Resource Board and Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board



Both the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resource Board and the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board are creations of the Tłchq Agreement and may be at risk with proposed changes to federal regulations and environmental oversight in the NWT. The Tłchq Government's position is that their roles are an integral part of the Tłchq Agreement and must be maintained.



Caribou

The Tłchq Government is working collaboratively with the GNWT to co-manage the future of the Bathurst caribou herd. The Bathurst Caribou Regional Gathering was held in January 2013, with harvesters, elders, youth and delegates of Aboriginal governments and co-management boards of the NWT, Nunavut and Saskatchewan. Workshops and training camps were also held to train harvesters how to collect biological samples from the caribou to help us understand the overall health of the caribou herd.



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Edèzhìe

Since 2002, the Deh Cho and Tłchq Governments have worked together through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy to achieve long-term protection for Edèzhìe through the establishment of a national wildlife area. A legal settlement has recently been achieved with Canada, who will now proceed with the creation of a national wildlife area.



GoSokati-Tłchq Barrenland
Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Community Presence Offices

The new Community Presence Office in Whatì opened in the summer of 2012. The Gamètì office is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2013. The construction of these offices, handled by Tłchq Construction, has contributed greatly to the employment and the economic activity in Whatì and Gamètì over the last two years.

ONE

One Nation Education...

Tłchq Student Financial Support Program

Introduction

Since 1997, our Government has invested over 7 million dollars in the post-secondary education of Tłchq students. Criteria for financial support include residency, program duration and whether students are supporting dependents. This program is one of the most successful services provided by the Tłchq Government.

Investment in Our Youth!

In 15 years, the program has helped to support students who have earned over 150 post-secondary certificates, 30 post-secondary diplomas, 25 university degrees and 15 trades apprenticeships. In April 2012, the Tłchq Government assumed control for the administration of the financial support program from the TCSA. Program funds have been increased to \$800,000 per year. Approximately 99 percent of these funds go directly to students.

A student contest to name the program in 2013, resulted in ONE: One Nation Education Tłchq Student Financial Support Program.



Thank you to our partners!

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



*Du sa naet'aa, du deh n̄l̄l̄, du d̄e n̄agoèhd̄o-le n̄d̄e,
as̄u wets'ā goet'ō h̄oḹ 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



Dogrib Treaty Dance in Fort Rae - 1937
Photo Credit: Charles Keefer photo, PA-073748 - Library and Archives Canada



Tea Dance in Rae - 1976
Photo Credit: Iapwe Chetien, Native Communications Society NWI



Tea Dance in Gamètì - 2012
Photo Credit: Jessa Macintosh

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