

Tłycho Government

Ilè do gha gota... In Tłącho Unity...

Message from the Grand Chief



Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

The Annual Report is an opportunity to speak to our people about the activities and purpose of the Tłįchǫ Government. This year a theme which arises again and again in this report is the celebration of education and our work in this area, which shows so much progress from years past.

I remember attending a meeting with a group of our elders in 1990 when we were talking about the importance of education for our young people. We began our discussions during that meeting talking about the leadership of Chief Jimmy Bruneau. While he was Chief, young children were taken by the Government of Canada from their families and sent to residential schools. Conditions often were not very good in these schools and, as Chief, he worked to gain control of the education of our children, and to build schools in our communities of Behchokò, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Whatì.

Chief Jimmy Bruneau also spoke about what should be taught to our children. He spoke of the importance of education in two ways. He knew that it was important for our young people to speak their language, to understand their culture and know their history, and be proud of who they are. Bruneau knew that our language is the foundation of our culture, and a special gift to us from our elders. He knew our language is a doorway into our stories, our land, the struggles and hardships our people have lived, and he knew our language and culture unites us as one people.

Chief Bruneau's leadership was very unusual because, at this time, for most people, education was only about the importance of learning English, and mathematics and science. His educational "vision" was far ahead of his time. Mrs. Elizabeth Mackenzie, who was also attending this meeting, said the Chief wanted us to be "strong like two people". We liked these simple words and, for us, Strong Like Two People became a vision for education in our schools.

2014 marks the largest graduating classes ever in our region. On behalf of the Tłįchǫ Government, we are all very, very proud of this achievement by our graduates, their teachers and their family members, who are true partners in the education of our young people. We wish you all the very best and our prayers will go with you as you go forward with your lives.

Each year we gather together in unity to celebrate who we are as a people and where we have come from. It is important to remember that the purpose of our Tłıcho Government is to protect and preserve our lands, language, culture and way of life, while the purpose of the Grand Chief is to maintain the unity of our people. In this spirit, I am pleased to offer you this brief overview of the work of the Tłıcho Government in 2013-2014.

"Iłè do gha goita... In Tłįcho Unity"

Grand Chief Eddie Frasmus

Cover Photos: (top) Participants in the Trails of Our Ancestors program arriving during the Annual Gathering; (middle) Elder Edward Weyallon drumming to children in Behchokò; (bottom) Mary Adele Chocolate and Rosa Mantla leading a culture class on the land outside of Gamèti.

Photo Credits: Tessa Macintosh

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Highlights from the 3rd Tłįcho Assembly 2013-2014



Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Cultural Coordinator Lucy Lafferty and Laws Guardian Bertha Rabesca



Discussion at the Annual Gathering

Chiefs and Assembly members were sworn in as members of the 3rd Tłąchǫ Assembly during the Annual Gathering in Behchokǫ in August 2013. The 3rd Tłąchǫ Assembly welcomed: Chief Clifford Daniels, Rosa Mantla and Noel Bishop from Behchokǫ; Chief Alfonz Nitsiza, George Nitsiza and Sonny Zoe from Whatì; Chief Johnny Arrowmaker, Joseph Judas and Robin Laboline from Wekweètì; and Chief David Wedawin, Henry Gon and Garry Bekale from Gamètì. Nominations were made for the election of the Grand Chief at the Annual Gathering, and the election was held in September 2013. Eddie Erasmus was re-elected Grand Chief.

The 3rd Assembly began their work immediately after the election of the Grand Chief. Over the past year, they have been focused on orienting themselves to the ongoing work of the Tłįchǫ Government, and developing their priorities and planning for the next four years as well as implementing some new initiatives.

Orientation and Review of the work of the Assembly

Assembly members met and reviewed the Government of Canada's Bill C-15, the NWT Devolution Act, and its consequences for the Tłįchǫ Agreement, especially the provisions regarding environmental protection of Tłįchǫ lands and co-management with Canada and the NWT. Other legislation and agreements reviewed included the Devolution Agreement with the GNWT, the Intergovernmental Services Agreement with Canada and the GNWT, and the Resource Revenue Agreement. The draft Tłįchǫ Government budget 2014-2015 was discussed and approved as well as updates on the Caribou Plan, GNWT restructuring, Intergovernmental Council on Lands and Resource Management, role of the Oda?a Advisory Committee and Tłįchǫ Government Rules of Order.

Validation of the Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles of the Tł₂ch₂ Government for 2013-2017

The Assembly members met to review "Itè do gha goita... In Tłącho Unity: A Strategic Framework and Intentions 2009-2013" of the 2nd Assembly. Members validated the vision, mission and guiding principles of the Tłącho Government as emerging from the paths created by our elders and protected by the Tłącho Constitution. The purpose or mission of the Tłącho Government is to preserve and protect our lands, language, culture and way of life... for as long as this land shall last. The vision of our government, "Itè do gha goita" or "In Tłącho Unity", speaks to our unity as one people.

Developing Priorities and Planning for the 3rd Assembly 2013-2017

The Assembly members, Chiefs and senior staff met in November 2013 to identify priorities and plan activities for the next four years of the 3rd Tłąchǫ Assembly. The Tłąchǫ Assembly approved six core intentions for 2013-2017, including sustaining our lands and environment, sustaining our language, culture and way of life, strengthening our communities and our people, increasing financial strength and economic development, strengthening Tłąchǫ Government institutions and organizations, and developing effective intergovernmental relationships.



Tłįchǫ Assembly Members

Highlights from the 3rd Tłįcho Assembly continued...

Legislation during the 3rd Assembly

Legislation passed by the Assembly this past year included the Tłıcho Government Audited Financial Statements, the Tłıcho Government Budget Law 2014-2015, Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement Law, Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources Management Law, and the Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement Law.



Tłycho Assembly during the Annual Gathering

Paperless Meeting Initiative

The paperless meeting initiative is an environmentally responsible strategy to increase the efficiency of the 3rd Tłįchǫ Assembly. The operation of the Tłįchǫ Assembly has in the past required large amounts of binders, tabs, paper and endless hours of photocopying by staff to keep Assembly members and Chiefs informed about the issues discussed in meetings. In 2014, a decision was made by the Assembly to move to a paperless meeting format using Cloud computing technology. All reference materials necessary for meetings are now made available on tablet computers, which were provided to all Assembly members. Ongoing training has been provided to help members learn this new way of conducting the business of government.



Assembly Members Rosa Mantla and Sonny Zoe



Security Staff during the Annual Gathering



The Assembly session at the Annual Gathering





Itè do gha gota In Thcho Unity

A Strategic Framework and Intentions for the 3rd Assembly

The vision for the Tłįchǫ Government comes from our elders. "Iłè do gha goita" or "In Tłįchǫ Unity" speaks to being one people where we continue to celebrate our shared language, culture and way of life. The mission or purpose of the Tłįchǫ Government emerges from our Constitution: Our mission is to preserve and protect our land, our language, culture and way of life... as long as this land shall last.

Goal 1: Sustaining Our Lands and Environment

Introduction

The first priority of our government is to "sustain our lands and environment," as Monfwi said, "for as long as this land shall last." Under the Tłąchą Constitution we acknowledge our responsibility to serve for all time as custodians of our lands, including our waters and resources.

Accomplishments

In 2013-2014 we have been working to build Tłącho capacity to monitor and manage Tłącho lands. We have been training community members how to be the eyes and ears on Tłącho lands, so that, as we move forward with the implementation of the Tłącho Wenek'e (Land Use Plan), we will have comfort in the continued practice of traditional activities on Tłącho lands.



Monitoring Fish Health in Gametì

We have participated in the regulatory processes for Fortune Minerals, ensuring that Tłįchǫ values and traditional land use is taken into consideration. Our Government has also participated in the Protected Areas Strategy and we feel confident this process will move forward in the next year and the Dinàgà Wek'èhodì Protected Area process will be complete.

We have been actively working with the GNWT on the co-management of the Bathurst Caribou and though great sacrifices have been made by the Tłıcho people, these sacrifices seem to be working and the population of the caribou herd has stabilized.

Goal 2: Sustaining Language, Culture and Way of Life

Introduction

The second most important goal or intention of the Tłącho Government is to preserve and protect our language, culture and way of life.

Accomplishments

This is the 4th year for the Tł₁cho Imbè Program, which is an award-winning annual summer cultural employment program for youth. In 2013, over 38 young people and 30 community elders were employed, with participants learning traditional and cultural skills, Tł₁cho language as well as on the land safety, employment skills, community service and healthy living activities. Leadership training is provided for the community coordinators.

Other Tłącho Government programs related to "cultural practices" all contribute to an active and vibrant cultural life in our communities. These include hunters and trappers assistance, the development of an online market for handcrafts, which provides incentives for people to continue making traditional Tłącho clothing and art, and events such as the annual youth and men's hand game tournaments.



The Youth Hand Games Tournament in Behchok $\grave{\varrho}$



Įmbè Program Participants

Ilè do gha goita In Tłįcho Unity continued...

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Goal 3: Strengthening Our Communities and Our People

Introduction

The Tłącho Government strives to improve the lives of our people and the life of our communities by making contributions that fill gaps and supplement existing programs and services. These contributions are intended to promote wellness, spirituality and our traditional cultural activities.

Accomplishments

We have provided funding to support postsecondary students in education, promoted recreational activities with school age students, provided harvest subsidies to all citizens and crisis funding to families who have members who are severely sick, while bringing together elders and families for funerals.



The Online Store at www.tlicho.ca http://www.tlicho.ca

Goal 4: Increasing Financial Strength and Economic Development

Introduction

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

Accomplishments

The Tłıcho 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 Gamèti, Wekweètì and Whatì, and power generation.

Goal 5: Strengthening Tł₁ch₀ Government Institutions and Organizations

Introduction

The Tłącho Government is committed to the development of a representative, skilled and effective workforce so as to build a stronger government which can achieve the goals we have set for ourselves.

Accomplishments

Restructuring of the TG Departments has continued, with significant work continuing with three of the four new Departments. Management structures have been put in place and co-location



Managers at the Management Development Training Program

of similar functions has been achieved. The Management Development training program has continued this year as well as Occupational Health and Safety training, both within government and for people in the communities who participate and lead on-the-land activities.

Goal 6: Developing Effective Intergovernmental Relationships

Introduction

The Tłąchǫ Government, the GNWT, Canada and other First Nation governments in Canada work together to promote effective relationships through a number of different agreements, strategies and mechanisms.

Accomplishments

The Tłącho Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding called "Working Together" with the GNWT in June 2012. The Chiefs have continued to meet with the Premier and Cabinet members on a regular basis, most recently in January 2014. These meetings have created a positive working relationship and a number of outstanding issues between the two governments have been resolved.

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Highlights from 2013-2014

Healing Paths and Voices: A Tłącho Government and TCSA Response to Addictions and Community Wellness

Two On-the-Land Healing Camps, a pilot program made possible through partnerships between the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Health and Social Services and the Tłącho Community Services Agency, encouraged individuals to come together and share personal stories of addiction and seek guidance in overcoming such hard struggles in their lives. The Coordinator for the Tłącho Government, Tony Rabesca, explained the benefits of the program in this way, "The land is a place of healing, the Tłącho people strongly believe that. We are not sending our people away. We are not saying 'go to Edmonton to get help'. We are helping our own people, who are part of our community. We work together towards healing and we do it here on our own land, in our own language, using our own traditions."

Tłicho Community Services Agency

The Tłącho Community Services Agency was created under the Intergovernmental Services Agreement between Canada, the GNWT and the Tłącho Government. The Agency has the responsibility to deliver K-12 education, and health and social services programs and services in the Tłącho communities. A partnership between the GNWT and the Tłącho Government is currently conducting research and assessing Intergovernmental program and service delivery models to assist Tłącho and GNWT leaders in determining any necessary changes to improve the TCSA as a vehicle of selfgovernment.



TCSA

The TCSA has had notable successes within the NWT in regards to program delivery as well as meeting unique Tłıcho employment goals. For instance, Tłıcho employment within the Health and Social Services function of the Agency is currently at 74% of total staff. This compares to the next closest health and social services authority in the GNWT with Aboriginal staff as a percentage of the total at 52%, whereas the GNWT itself is 35%.

Thicho Training and Research Institute

The Tłącho Research and Training Institute was created within the Department of Culture and Lands Protection in 2013 by the Chief's Executive Council. The purpose of the Institute is to advance the study of our lands, language, culture and way of life. In 2013-2014, one of the major projects of the TRTI has been the development of the Tłącho Cultural Commons Digital Archive, which has over 2.5 TB of information and over 28,000 Tłącho items in four formats: pictures, film and video, documents and sound recordings. The Digital Archives can currently be accessed at Tłącho Government offices in Behchokò and in Yellowknife, and at the Tłącho Community Services Agency in Behchokò.



Tłįcho Cultural Commons logo

Occupational Health and Safety Programming

2013-2014 saw the implementation by the Tłącho Government of a comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety strategy for both the office workplace and for projects on the land. A committee of management and staff developed comprehensive policies and an implementation strategy. Managers, including the Community Directors, received extensive training in workplace safety issues and an introduction to the Wilderness Safety Program.



Wilderness Safety Program Participants

Highlights from 2013-2014 continued...





Certification for the Wilderness Safety Program

Wilderness Safety Program

A highlight of the Tłįchǫ Government Occupational Health and Safety strategy was the development of the Wilderness Safety Program, which highlights the numerous safety issues faced by contractors, staff and others travelling and working on the land. Course modules included material on a variety of on-the-land safety issues, including firearm, water and bear safety, wilderness first aid, and the use of technologies such as GIS. Ten participants finished the program. More training sessions are planned for the future.

International Recognition for work on Sexual Violence

The CART Team (Community Action Research Team), who are members of the Tłąchǫ Government Department of Social Programs, released their video work on gender violence, "Breaking the Silence". The video is intended to highlight sexual violence between young men and women in our communities and help young people to discuss the issue. The work received international recognition when it was selected to premiere at a film festival in Tromso Norway in January 2014. "Breaking the Silence" is one of a trilogy of video productions, including "Yatii ts'ii weta do tsits'ehwhi: Gossip Hurts" and "Tada Weteyaekah: A Tłąchǫ Response to Sexually Transmitted Infections", which uses video to highlight the social and health concerns of young people.

Through a research partnership between the Tłįchǫ Government and the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research in Yellowknife, CART team members have now been asked to participate in workshops with Sami youth in Norway and Finland.

Traditional Storytelling and New Media

Staff from the Department of Culture and Lands Protection have begun work with elders, youth and an animator from the University of Alberta to create a series of short animated films based on traditional Tłącho stories. Elders re-told the stories, while students from the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School participated in the projects using art methods and materials to visualize the landscapes and environments, the characters and the story. "Whanik'wo: The Woman Who Came Back" has just been completed, while work has begun on other stories, including "Peace Between the Tribes" and the "Woman and the Pups".



Self-government and Early Childhood Programming in our Communities

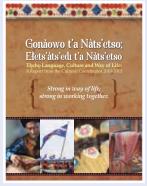
Work has begun by Tłąchǫ Government staff on the drawdown of the authority to deliver early childhood programs and services under the Tłąchǫ Agreement. This work will include the development of Tłąchǫ legislation and a Tłąchǫ early childhood framework. Staff are working closely with the GNWT to integrate TG early childhood education programming and services to parents and families from birth to the GNWT school early years programs, which will include the new GNWT Jr. Kindergarten.



Children with Elders in Behchokò

Report from the Cultural Coordinator

The Cultural Coordinator is part of the Tłįchǫ Research and Training Institute. The position is appointed jointly by the GNWT, Canada and the Tłįchǫ Government under the Intergovernmental Services Agreement. Lucy Lafferty was the 1st appointment to the Cultural Coordinator position for a three-year term from 2010-2013. With the release of the first triennial report from the Cultural Coordinator, "Gonàowot'a nàts'etso; Eelets'ats'edi t'a nàts'etso – Strong in Way of Life, Strong in Working Together", Lucy has made nine recommendations that are intended to draw attention to the obligations of all governments to use their respective powers in ways that respect and promote Tłįchǫ language, culture and way of life. This important report is available at www.tlicho.ca.



Report from the Cultural Coordinator

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



The Tłıcho Government established the Kwe Beh Working Group to advise the Government on relationships with the mining companies, including implementing agreements, negotiating new IBAs, environmental assessment, and providing a "listening post" to manage concerns from Tłıcho citizens.

One achievement this past year has been the signing of an Impact and Benefit Agreement with De Beers for the Gahcho Kué mine.

Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board and the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board





Both the Wek'èezhìì Land and Water Board and the Wek'èezhìì Renewable Resources Board are creations of the Tłıcho Agreement. However, recent legislation from the Government of Canada is intended to make changes to the co-management regime in the NWT that would eliminate the Wek'èezhìì Land and Water Board. We believe this has been done without meaningful consultation and despite the opposition of every single Aboriginal group in the NWT. To safeguard our rightful role as joint decision-makers in our traditional territory, the Tłıcho Government has filed a lawsuit to seek a judicial decision regarding the actions of the Government of Canada and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to eliminate the Wek'èezhìì Land and Water Board.

Community Presence Offices

The second of the new Tłıcho Government Community Presence offices was opened in Gamètì in January 2014. The construction of these offices by the Tłıcho Construction Company of the Tłıcho Investment Corporation has contributed greatly to the employment and the economic activity in Gamètì this past year. The Gamètì office also includes space for the community daycare program.

Communications and Programming on the Web

The website on the worldwide web at www.tlicho.ca and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Tlicho helps the Tłįchǫ Government provide up-to-date news and information to Tłįchǫ citizens, and others interested in the activities and work of the Tłįchǫ Government. The website is also intended to be a celebration of all things Tłįchǫ, and has sections on our communities, our culture and Tłįchǫ history. Over a six-month period, from December 1, 2013 to May 2014, we had 26,664 people visiting the site, of whom 59% were new visitors and 41% were returning visitors.





Tłicho Government at www.facebook.com/Tlicho http://www.facebook.com/Tlicho



ONE

One Nation Education...

Tł₂ch₂ Student Financial Support Program

The Tłįcho Government's ONE program: One Nation Education student financial support program for post-secondary students has provided supplementary funding for post-secondary training or education programs for Tłįcho citizens since 1997. By financially assisting students who are attending post-secondary educational programs, the Tłįcho Government is helping to strengthen our people, their families and our communities. Through financial support from the ONE program, other contributors, and the contributions of the students themselves and their families, Tłįcho students have been successful in a remarkably diverse range of programs of study which have led to post-secondary certificates, diplomas and degrees.

- Post-secondary Certificates in Automotive Systems, Automotive Technology, Bible Studies, Carpentry, Trades Access, Cooking, General Arts and Science, Heavy Equipment, Home and Community Support, Human Resource Management, Management Studies, Office Administration, Early Childhood Education, Fashion Design, Massage Therapy, Teacher Assistant, ESL, Camp Services, Haul Truck Operations, Welding, Instrument Technology, Computer Information Technology, Jewelry and Metal Work, Forestry Management and Community Addictions Counselling.
- Diplomas in Fine Arts, Fashion Merchandising, Management Studies, Public Sector Management, Office Administration, Recreation Leadership, Teacher Education, Information Technology, Aviation, Biological Science, Business Administration, Media Studies, Nursing, Natural Resources Technology and Professional Cooking.
- Undergraduate Degrees in Arts, Education, Management, Law, Social Work and Nursing.
- Graduate Degrees in Fine Arts and Education.
- Apprenticeships in Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Heavy Equipment Technology, Instrument Technology and Power Engineering.









Celebrations of the Education and Training successes of Tłįchǫ students

Originated by the Chiefs of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council in 1997, the program was developed to promote the importance of education and training especially for Tłąchǫ youth. The development of a new diamond mining industry in the region and the negotiation of Impact and Benefit and Participation Agreements with the mining companies gave the Tłąchǫ leadership an unprecedented opportunity to provide funding for this new program.

Early partners included northern mining corporations, which provided additional funds for scholarships and the Dogrib Community Services Board and the T\(\frac{1}{2}\) Community Services Agency, which delivered the program, initially on behalf of the Treaty 11 Council and, after 2005, the T\(\frac{1}{2}\) Covernment.

A comprehensive review and evaluation of the program in 2005, which included over 100 interviews with students as well as regional leaders, resulted in significant changes to the program. Recommendations to reduce the high administration costs and research showing surprisingly little correlation between funds spent on high school student scholarships and post-secondary success, led to a dramatic restructuring of the program to make it simple to administer





and more equitable to all post-secondary students. By the end of 2006-2007, fully 97% of the funds provided by the Tłįchǫ Government were given directly to post-secondary students. In 2010, the Chiefs increased annual funding to the program by 30% to \$800,000 per year. Further changes occurred in April 2012 when the Tłįchǫ Government assumed full control for the administration of the program. In 2013, a student contest to name the program resulted in a rebranding to ONE: One Nation Education student financial support program.

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

2013-2014 Numbers and Location of Students Accessing the Τłιcho Government ONE program		
172 Students accessed the ONE program in 2013-2014. 63 of these students had dependents.	Students from the Tłįchǫ Communities	114
	Students from the NWT	33
	Students from the Provinces and Nunavut	25

Top 5 Areas of Interest in 2013-2014	Top 5 Educational Institutions in 2013-2014	
Trades includes 44 people (Underground Mining, Trades access, apprenticeship, other programs)	Aurora College all campuses	
Business Administration includes 27 people (12 in access, 11 in diploma and certificate, 2 degree)	GPRC: Grande Prairie Regional College University of Lethbridge	
Arts includes 15 people (Bachelor of Arts programs, Education, Science, Fine Arts)	NAIT: Northern Alberta Institure of Technology (in Edmonton)	
Office Administration includes 13 people (9 in certificate, 4 in diploma programs)	University of Victoria	
Social Work includes 11 people (5 in access, 3 in diploma, 3 Personal Support Workers)		

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

Thank you to our partners!

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







Du sa naet'aa, du deh nulu, du dè nàgoèhdo-le nudè, asù wets'à goet'o houl 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







From Chief Jimmy Bruneau to Elizabeth Mackenzie, our leaders have spoken about the importance to be "strong like two people". The cover celebrates culturally-based educational programs supported by the Tłicho Government such as Trails of Our Ancestors, the Imbè summer program and our early childhood programs, which celebrate the role of our elders in teaching our children, and the importance of our Tłicho teachers in helping to pass on our language, culture and way of life.

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Tłįcho Ndek'àowo



Tłycho Government