

Message from the Grand Chief

I am pleased to present this Annual Report for 2017-2018. The Annual Report is used by the Chiefs and Assembly members to explain some of the more important activities of our Government during the past year.

2017-2018 has been the first year of the new mandate of the 4th Tłįchǫ Assembly. This Assembly was elected by the citizens of our communities in the spring and early fall of 2017. I had the privilege to be Grand Chief in the first years of the Tłįchǫ Government and, now that I am back again in 2017, I can see a great deal of change. From a much smaller organization, the Tłįchǫ Government has grown to over 100 staff, with offices in five communities.

The work of the Tłącho Government has grown too. Our Government has a very broad mandate to protect and promote our lands, language, culture and way of life. We have many opportunities, but we also have many challenges, too, and there is a great deal of work that needs to be done. As Grand Chief, I am committed to working with the other Chiefs, the Assembly members, staff and our citizens to develop a government that we can be proud of.



Grand Chief George Mackenzie

Some of my priorities are:

- We need to work to unify the Tłicho Nation. Politics can divide us and, although difficult to overcome, we can do it through our shared language and culture. Our language and culture unite us as one people and we must work together if we are to progress.
- We want to work with our elders and our young people. Our elders are the knowledge holders of what
 it means to be Tłicho. We need to respect and listen to them. Our youth, however, are the key to our
 unity as they are the next generation to take over political leadership. We want them to be strong.
- We want to strengthen the Tłicho Government by strengthening the language and culture of our youth.
 We need to develop programs and projects that provide opportunities for our youth to travel on our land, where we can teach our language and our culture.

The unity of our Nation, captured in the phrase "Itè do gha gota", will help us work together to build a strong government and meet our goals. Each year we gather together and celebrate who we are as a people, and talk about where we are going and how we should get there.

I look forward to meeting with you at our Annual Gathering and talking to you about the work of our Tłįcho Government.

"Itè do gha gota... In Tłącho Unity"

To want

Grand Chief George Mackenzie



Highlights from the 4th Tłıcho Assembly

and Chiefs Executive Council 2017-2018



The members of the 4th Tłįchǫ Assembly are: Chief Clifford Daniels, Cody Mantla and Nora Wedzin from Behchokǫ; Chief Alfonz Nitsiza, George Nitsiza and Leon Nitsiza from Whatì; Chief David Wedawin, Henry Gon and Garry Bekale from Gamètì; and Chief Charlie Football, Joseph Dryneck and Gordon Judas from Wekweètì. George Mackenzie has presided as our Grand Chief.

The 4th Assembly has been busy in 2017-2018. As a new Assembly, there was a great deal of orientation to the Government and its' ongoing work. There were workshops on budgeting, strategic planning, rules of order and procedures for meetings.

The following activities have been among the priorities focused on by the Assembly and the Chiefs Executive Council:

Tł₁ch₀ All-season Road

On March 28, 2018, the path to the construction of the all-season road to Whatì took a significant step forward as the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board issued their Report of Environmental Assessment. The report recommended that the road proceed, with 23 measures to protect wildlife and address potential social and economic impacts to the community. As the final decision maker, Tłąchą Government can accept, modify or reject the proposed measures of the Review Board. Following the Tłąchą Government decision, if approved, the next step in the process will be the issuance of land use permits and water licenses needed to construct the road.

The Tłıcho Government continues to work with the community governments of Whati and Behchoko, the Tłıcho Community Services Agency(TCSA) and the Tłıcho Investment Corporation(TIC) to ensure that the project is developed in a way that will maximize opportunities for Tłıcho citizens and companies, but minimizes impacts to our communities, land and wildlife, and way of life.

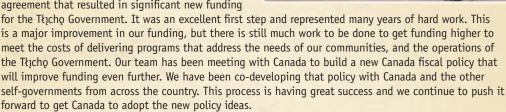


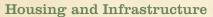
Update on the Progress on a New Fiscal Relationship with Canada

As part of the Tłıcho Government's engagement with Canada we have been working to build a new fiscal relationship. Building a new fiscal relationship means not only negotiating better funding for our Government, it means starting to deal with the housing shortages in our communities and fixing our infrastructure deficit. The Chiefs have made this a priority.

New Financing Agreement

Last year we entered into a new financing agreement that resulted in significant new funding





The Chiefs Executive Council (CEC) and our teams have been pushing hard to make sure we can secure new funding to fix our buildings and add houses to our communities. The CEC has met with the federal ministers and the Prime Minister to push for commitments to meet these financial needs. In the federal budgets for 2017, and now 2018, the Trudeau government committed significant new resources for Indigenous community infrastructure needs, including housing. Canada is now going to set aside a portion of the \$4 billion in new funding



specifically for modern treaty and self-governing Indigenous governments. This is the first time that they have done so, and represents an important precedent for national infrastructure programs in the future.

Our teams have been working hard with Canada to identify the Tłįchǫ share of those funds and working on how that money will be transferred to the Tłįchǫ Government so we can put it to work for our citizens. We are hopeful that those funds will flow soon and we can start building new houses and new infrastructure projects as laid out in our Infrastructure Plan.

Tłıcho Region Infrastructure Plan

Infrastructure in Tłącho communities and across Tłącho lands is of critical importance to support our people, encourage economic growth and support cultural preservation. A comprehensive Tłącho Region Infrastructure Plan is under development to identify infrastructure gaps and determine priorities throughout Tłącho communities and the region. The Plan will identify where we need new, replacement or upgraded infrastructure in areas such as community and recreational infrastructure, government operations, traditional trails and camps, housing, communications, energy and transportation.



The Tłįchǫ Region Infrastructure Plan will assist the Tłįchǫ Government in making decisions on infrastructure development and assist Tłįchǫ and community governments in developing funding proposals and partnerships to access funding. To develop the Plan, a working group was formed in 2018, which includes representatives from all our community governments, the Tłįchǫ Government, the TCSA and TIC. Communities, leadership and citizens will be engaged to ensure the plan reflects the priorities and needs of our people.



Intergovernmental Council

The Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement, signed in 2013, established a new relationship between the GNWT and Aboriginal groups, and describes how public lands, waters, minerals, and oil and gas in the NWT would be managed.

The Devolution Agreement established the Intergovernmental Council (IGC). This joint political body embodies that new relationship. The Intergovernmental Council is the forum for the GNWT and Aboriginal groups to work together on many issues relating to land and resources.

The Intergovernmental Council met in December 2017 and discussed a number of issues that are important to the Indigenous and territorial governments. A priority of the current Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories is to develop and change a number of pieces of legislation relating to land and resources. Through our membership of the IGC we are working with the GNWT to ensure that territorial legislation incorporates the values and perspectives of Indigenous groups, involves them in the management of lands and resources, and our rights in the Tłįcho Agreement are not impacted.



Bilateral Meetings between the Chiefs Executive Council and the GNWT

The Chiefs Executive Council meets with the Premier and Executive Council of the GNWT two times per year, as described in the Intergovernmental Agreement between the GNWT and Tłįchǫ Government. At these meetings, issues are raised that are of concern to Tłįchǫ citizens and the Tłįchǫ Government.

At the last meeting, in October 2017, the CEC discussed with the GNWT Cabinet the housing crisis in Tłįchǫ communities and pushed the GNWT to bring together the joint housing group previously established to look for solutions to the issues faced by Tłįchǫ citizens. The Tłįchǫ Government also raised the importance of Land Use Planning throughout Wek'èezhìì to guide where and when development could proceed and the important of the creation of Dinàgà Wek'èhodì, the protected area for North Arm.

These meetings continue to be an effective opportunity for CEC and Cabinet to discuss issues of concern and identify opportunities for action for our two governments.

Petter Jacobsen

Activities by Departments and Community Presence Offices

2017-2018

The Tł₂cho Government is currently revising the Strategic Planning Framework to update it for the 4th Assembly 2017-2021. Typically, our Annual Report reports the activities of our Government based on the intentions from our Strategic Plan. Until our plan is formally approved by the 4th Assembly, we will be reporting by Departments.

The Tłįchǫ Government restructured Departments in 2013: including an Executive; a Department of Corporate Services, which includes both Finance and Human Resources functions; and programs and services delivery departments, including Culture and Lands Protection, Community Services, Community Social Programs and Early Childhood Education. The Community Presence Offices in each community also deliver project-based activities throughout the year.

Departments of the Executive and Corporate Services

The Executive and Department of Corporate Services provide direction, support, and financial and human resources services for the rest of the Government department, as well as for the organization and support of the activities of the Tłįchǫ Assembly and the Chiefs Executive Council. The Tłįchǫ Assembly meets five times a year, while the CEC meets as required, but generally, at least once every month.

Community Presence Offices in Behchokò, Gamètì, Whatì and Wekweètì

Our Presence Offices in Behchokò, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Whatì are active in their communities and sponsor a number of community events each year, often in conjunction with the Department of Community Social Programs, which frequently provides funding and staff to help coordinate and deliver the activities. For instance, activities in Wekweètì in 2017-2018 included: moose hide tanning; sewing workshops for mukluks, where participants made one pair for themselves and one pair for the Economic Development Officer; a youth On-the-Land Healing Program, which was a partnership with the Alexis Arrowmaker School; and a very special Christmas music workshop and family photos activity with Nadine Neemeh (neema.ca), an internationally known artist and musician (and former Band Manager), who came to our community to work with the students. Nadine coordinated the Christmas concert along with other teachers, working with students on Christmas carols and also taking pictures of students and family. It resulted in an awesome Christmas concert.



Department of Early Childhood Programs and Services

On May 16, 2017, the Tłįchǫ Government approved Įłaà negetsà-lıa et'ıì hoghàgetǫǫ xèhoòwı, an Early Childhood Strategy and Framework (2017-2027). Įłaà negetsà-lıa et'ıì hoghàgetǫǫ xèhoòwı, known as the "Early Years", is a guiding tool for the future, and sets out aspirations and desired outcomes for the youngest Tłįchǫ children and the children of tomorrow, the structures and policies needed to realize these goals, the systems that need re-alignment, and the descriptions of innovative programming needed for the future.

First steps in implementing the Strategy began with the restructuring of early childhood education programs and the implementation of Family Drop-in Play/Family Resource Centre Programming.

The Tłącho Government has set a priority for their youngest children, prenatally to age six years, regarding their health and well-being, and their ability to learn and be self-sufficient. Tłącho language, culture and way of life are the foundation of the Early Years Framework, as included in the Tłącho Constitution and as a determinant of health and well-being. A copy of the Strategy and Framework is available on the Tłącho Government website.







Department of Culture and Lands Protection: Do Nàowoò Eyıts'o Dè Wek'èhodìı

The Department of Culture and Lands Protection is the largest Department in the Tłąchǫ Government, with over 27 staff. It includes Lands Protection, and Research and Operations, with Dedats'eetsaa: The Tłąchǫ Research and Training Institute and Cultural Practices.

Lands Protection

Remediation of Old Contaminated Mine Sites

In 2017-2018, we have continued to build Tłįcho capacity to monitor and manage Tłįcho lands. Our on-the-land programs continue in the Department of Culture and Lands Protection's investment in 'Watching Everything'. During remediation of nearby contaminated sites, participants from Whatì and Gamètì worked with Tłįcho Construction in environmental maintenance at the former Colomac mine site, while Contaminated Sites Management graduates from Behchokò continue remediation work at Rayrock (Kwetjįraà).

Partnerships

We have developed new partnerships with Wilfred Laurier University and Tides Canada in supporting the Marian Watershed Stewardship Program.





Cultural Practices

Įmbè

The annual summer student Imbè program continues to be very popular amongst our high school and post-secondary students. The summer of 2017 had a total of 36 participants focusing on outdoor activities, strengthening students' on-the-land skills in each of the four Tłącho communities. The Imbè program ran until late August.

Trails of Our Ancestors Canoe Trip

Each year the Trials of Our Ancestors Canoe Trip is an event that is looked forward to by many. For the summer of 2017, over 225 people took part in the major canoe trip, travelling from the outlying communities of Gamètì, Wekweètì and Whatì, with Behchokò as the final destination. The canoe trip went well, with no emergencies, and all canoes arrived early!

K'ıchıì (White Beach Point)

A major accomplishment was the delivery of Campfire at Whitebeach Point (K'nchiì Xàgots'eèk'o). Camp K'nchiì was set up for the purpose of Behchokò Tłącho citizens to get back to the North Arm of Great Slave Lake (Dinàgà Wek'èhodì) to gather around the campfire sharing stories about our people who travelled this beautiful land. A total of 56 people were present for the opening day, with drumming and a Feeding the Fire Ceremony. Elder charters were available for those unable to ride in boats to the beautiful traditional site. Lunch and supper was served for all guests at the camp. Camp K'nchiì welcomed 200 people during the two weeks the camp was in operation. We are very proud of the work that staff, partners and participants continue to accomplish in sustaining our Tłącho lands, language, culture and way of life.



Traditional Sewing

Community sewing projects continued in the 2017 fiscal year. Many people (mainly women) came out with their daughters, mothers, grandmothers or aunts to spend time practicing handicraft skills. For many ladies this was the first time learning a new pattern or a sewing stitch. This time together initiated a special connection with each other and the instructors. Tłącho pride and the artisan's self-esteem increases as each piece of article is completed. A special family member or friend proudly wears the new creations in Hand Games tournaments, drum dances or on any given day.



Corporate Partnerships

The Northern Store has a new service allowing shoppers to scan barcodes to hear the name of the food item in Tł₂chǫ. The Cultural Coordinator spearheaded this project with the help of others such as Russell Drybones. The oral recordings were downloaded to an app. Users download the app, swipes the barcode of the food item to hear the name of the food item twice in Tł₂chǫ. This will assist many people to learn how to pronounce specific food and other store items in our Tł₂chǫ heritage language.

Publications and Productions

Staff published a book of legends/stories stemming from two projects: the Tłįchǫ History Resource (a partnership between the TCSA and De Beers) and the Interpreter Translator course. These books demonstrate the importance of interpreting and translating, and display various examples. The book encourages Tłįchǫ people that are fluent to begin improving their translating and interpreting skills. Three hundred books were printed.

An animation production of Peace Between the Tribes: Edzo and Akaitcho Making Peace is closer to completion. Narration and background sound have been added, with additional drawings. This project is tentatively scheduled to be completed this fall.

All the Tłįcho communities took part in the Elders Biography Project where the most senior community members were interviewed by local researchers. The purpose of this project was to collect historical information on our elders to compile into an online biography, in addition to a print version.



Dedats'eetsaa and Cultural Research and Training

The Dedats'eetsaa Tłąchǫ Research and Training Institute was created within the Department of Culture and Lands Protection in 2013 by the Chiefs Executive Council. The purpose of the Institute is to advance the study of our lands, language, culture and way of life. Activities in the past year have included the caribou monitoring program, which relies on the traditional knowledge of elders and harvesters to assess conditions of Bathurst caribou and its habitat. This research program ran for six weeks during July and August 2017 at Conwtoyto Lake, and it continues again this summer. The team will monitor the Bathurst caribou and gather research on four key indicators: (1) habitat; (2) caribou; (3) predators; and (4) industrial development. This is a partnership with the GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources, WRRB and Dominion Diamond Mine.

One of the major projects of Dedats'eetsaa this past year has been a successful partnership with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services to establish a major healthcare research support unit in the NWT hosted by the Tłįcho Government. Called Hotii ts'eeda (nwtspor.ca) the NWT SPOR Research Support Unit will bring over \$8 million in research support funding to the NWT over the next five years, along with in-kind funding from other northern Indigenous governments and universities such as the University of Alberta. Dedats'eetsaa is also working with Carleton University and the Land Claims Agreement Coalition to conduct modern treaty research in the NWT.





The Tłicho Digital Commons

Staff have been accessing the valuable information for Tłįchǫ Traditional Knowledge to be used for meetings, reports and other TG research. A Tłįchǫ Plant Book project has begun in partnership with Dillon Consulting. This field guide resource will be available in print and as an online resource for those interested in studying the important Tłįchǫ plants and medicines.

University Courses

A total of sixteen Tłącho students enrolled in Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Instructor courses over the summer of 2017. Three students received certification from the University of Alberta in Edmonton: Mary Adele Mackenzie, Genevieve Bekale and Lafi Schuck.

Three University of Victoria courses have been offered this year. One hundred and eleven students have now taken one or more University of Victoria Certificate in Aboriginal Language Revitalization courses. In some cases, couples took the course together; in other instances, mother, daughter and even siblings were taking courses together. These courses help all to understand that language revitalization in the Tłįchǫ region is everyone's responsibility and together we can make a difference in maintaining, revitalizing and promoting our ancestral language.



Department of Community Social Programs

Our Department of Community Social Programs is our second largest group within the Tłıcho Government, with 13 staff and a budget of approximately \$1.9 million. The Department includes Justice and Victims Services as well as Healthy Families and Wellness programming for communities. Staff work closely with the Community Presence Offices. Some of the highlights of the past year include the following.

Healthy Babies and Families Programs in Whatì and Behchokò held Prenatal/Postnatal Cooking Classes, which focused on meal preparations for expecting and new parents, and provided information on how to prepare healthy meals while learning how to budget. All four communities had access to craft classes where they taught participants how to make a variety of sewing projects, ranging from canvas sugar bags, baby quilts, baby mittens and other various items.

The Behchokò Youth Hand Games event – The Department provided financial assistance to host the Youth Hand Games event in 2017. The goal of the event was to promote a sense of belonging for youth, and to support and uphold the traditional hand games, culture and way of life for Tłącho youth. The event brought a sense of respect, unity and sportsmanship. As well, the games brought the community members together in positive ways that also enhanced self-esteem and a pride amongst youth and community members. There were approximately 250 youth, 15 years of age and under.

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The Department also provided funding for the Behchokò Parents Club, the Wekweètì Moosehide Tanning Project, Aboriginal Day, Mother's and Father's Day events, Elder's Appreciation events in all the communities, Family Violence Awareness Week in the communities October 16 to 19, 2017, Annual National Addictions Awareness Week November 19 to 25, 2017, and a Children's Winter Festival provided a means to celebrate children in the Tłącho region and bring family together during the holiday season through dinner, games and togetherness. There were approximately 1,000 people that participated in the



events to celebrate children from the region. As well, there was the Kids Learn through Art Project in Whatì, the Behchokò Fish Camp, the Behchokò Youth Community Beautification Project to paint elder's homes, and groups of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 attended safety courses, WHIMIS courses and standard First Aid courses, prior to the start of the summer projects.





The Department hosted a six-month program to encourage participants to exercise, get fit and eat healthy nutritious meals through fitness programs, nutrition workshops and peer support for participants of Behchokò.

The Department of Social Programs hosted the "Tse Whii Tse Daa Camps" in the communities of Whatì, Gamètì and Wekweètì. Youth learned our traditional ways of life on the land, cultural teachings of hide scrapping, tanning, net fishing and dry fish/meat making and smoking. The youth also learned about the rites of passage to womanhood/manhood through teachings of the body, mind and spirit. As well, participants received traditional teachings from our elders on the roles and responsibilities of young woman and young men in the Tłįchǫ region. There were also loss and grief workshops and self-esteem workshops organized in the communities, and conferences funded for youth, both within the Tłįchǫ region and outside.









Department of Community Services

The Department of Community Services includes: Career Development; Economic Development and the Tłąchǫ Online Store; and the ONE Program as well as Enrollment Services. The Department is also responsible for Tłąchǫ Government communications and the social media presence of the Government online.

Career Development

Last year, there were over 141 individuals within the Tłącho region who attended Job Readiness training in collaboration with the Mine Training Society, Aurora College Northern Adult-based Education courses (Introduction to Northern Leadership, Foundations for Success, Introduction to Construction Basics, Introduction to Supply Chain Management and Introduction to Retail and Hospitality), and Class 7, 5 and 3 Driver's Training. Ten youth from the region attended the Katimavik Tłącho Youth in Transition pilot program in Regina, SK. Contributions to the Northern Youth Abroad secures seats for seven to ten Tłącho youth participants. The Department of Community Services also sponsored Tłącho Agreement courses to the Katimavik participants in Regina as well a one-day delivery to Aurora College staff and students.

Economic Development

The Tłycho Government has signed a four-year Skills and Partnership Fund agreement with federal Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). This agreement provides \$6,913,419, with the overall goal and objective to increase Tłycho citizen's participation within the Canadian labour market. The funding will provide training in heavy equipment, woodlot development, wilderness safety and environmental monitoring, and a variety of other areas.

We also continue to move forward with the Training and Economic Development Strategy, which focuses on developing and strengthening the traditional economy by developing a Tourism Strategy, and the Artists and Artisan Strategy for the region.

Tł₁ch₀ Online Store

The Tłącho Online Store was established in 2008 to promote the work of Tłącho artists and craftspeople, and increase awareness of the Tłącho culture and people by promoting the cultural and social interests of the Tłącho people to the world. The Tłącho Online Store is a cooperative effort between the Tłącho Investment Corporation and the Tłącho Government. In 2012, the product lines expanded to include other Aboriginal artists from the north and Canada.



Enrollment

There are 4,408 Tłįcho citizens. Enrollment provides a variety of services for Tłįcho citizens and the implementation of the Harvest Subsidy Payment Forms.

Communications and Social Media

The website on the world wide 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 the past year, we have had over 50,000 people visit the site.





ONE Program

The Tłycho 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 Tłycho citizens since 1997. By financially assisting students who are attending post-secondary educational programs, the Tłycho Government is helping to strengthen our people, their families and our communities.

Originated by the Chiefs of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, early partners included northern mining corporations, which provided additional funds for scholarships. The ONE program is for all Tłıcho citizens. Eligibility to receive ONE funding requires you to be a Tłıcho citizen, attending full-time in an approved program at a designated post-secondary institution, which will lead to a certificate, diploma, undergraduate, masters or doctoral degree.

















2017-2018 Numbers and Location of Students Accessing the Tłįchǫ Government ONE program		
124 students accessed the ONE program in 2017-2018: 85% were women and 15% were men; 40% of these students had dependents.	Students from the Tłįchǫ Communities	60%
	Students from the Provinces and Nunavut	40%

Top Areas of Interest in 2017-2018

- 31% of students entered Certificate programs in Office Administration, Business Administration, Educational Assistant, Personal Support Worker, etc.;
- 27% of students entered Degrees in Arts, Education, Science, Business, Fine Arts, Music, and Law;
- 21% of ONE students entered Diploma programs in Business Administration, Social Work, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood, Personal Support Worker, etc.;
- 20% of students entered Record of Achievements in University and College Access Program; and
- 1% entered apprenticeship programs.

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. Ması Cho!







This year, the Annual Report photographs highlight our monitoring work with the caribou herds and the development of our methodologies of "We Watch Everything" and "Boots on the Ground". The approach of this research project to caribou monitoring is based on the principle that local people who live on the land and rely on caribou for their daily subsistence are the people in the best position to know the current conditions of caribou and of the land.

Du sa naet'aa, du deh nıllı, du de nagoehdo-le nıde, asu wets'a goet'o holl 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

