



# Tłcho Government

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Tłcho Government



# Message from the Grand Chief

Jamie Stevenson / Tłıchq Government



In this annual report, I am pleased to provide an overview of the Tłıchq Government's activities during the first year of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tłıchq Assembly.

The last years have been challenging for us all. COVID-19 brought changes to our way of life and our ability to gather and it has tragically taken from us a number of our family members and friends. To all who have lost loved ones, the Tłıchq Nation mourns with you.

While the last two years restricted us in many ways, our government was still able to achieve many great things.

The Tłıchq Highway opened on time and on budget. Our partners: Kiewit, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), the community governments of Behchokq and Whatı, and the Government of Canada (Canada) all worked diligently to make this road a reality. Many Tłıchq citizens worked on this road and we now have a crew of Tłıchq workers who will operate and maintain the road for many years to come.

We are now working to move forward with more regional infrastructure projects, including the construction of a new bridge at Frank Channel and linking the Snare hydro system to Whatı. We continue to push Canada and the GNWT to make significant investments to address the growing infrastructure crisis in our communities.

Our Tłıchq communities have some of the worst housing conditions in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Canada is providing us with an investment of almost \$43 million to address housing conditions in our communities. With these resources we plan to provide quick solutions and bring in new units; but we will also be looking into innovative solutions such as tiny homes, multi-generational homes and other options that will allow our people to once again be proud of the place they call home.

Meanwhile, we continue to promote and protect our language, culture and way of life. Programs over the last year have increased our ability to get on the land through funding on the land activities, monitoring our lands and wildlife, and continuing to research and document our elder's traditional knowledge.



We know our communities are struggling with addictions, and the COVID-19 pandemic shone a brighter light on the crisis many of our people are facing. We are continuing to work with our partners at the Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency to implement actions that will give citizens the supports they need to get healthy. As such, we are working diligently to expand our addictions strategy in the coming year.

The Tłı̨chǫ Investment Corporation is in a strong position to take on more projects, while also creating employment and wealth for Tłı̨chǫ citizens. I look forward to increasing opportunities for our Tłı̨chǫ small business owners to get involved with major projects as they arise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff of the Tłı̨chǫ Government. Without you, all this work would not have happened.

Now that we are safe to gather again, I encourage you to all reach out to your family, friends and neighbours and once again gather around our campfires, spending time with each other on the land, playing and teaching our youth our way of life and to listen to the stories of our elders. It is through time together that we can reconnect.

I look forward to the years ahead as your Grand Chief all while continuing and growing our people, wherever you live, as one Nation.

*In Tłı̨chǫ Unity,*

**Grand Chief, Jackson Lafferty**

# Highlight from the 5<sup>th</sup> Tłıchǫ Assembly

## Assembly Sessions

Assembly sessions that took place from April 1, 2021 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 had to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions to protect our communities. The 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tłıchǫ Assembly originally scheduled to take place in Gamètì from May 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was moved to Behchokò due to pandemic restrictions. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tłıchǫ Assembly originally scheduled to take place in Wekweètì from September 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was conducted virtually. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tłıchǫ Assembly took place from December 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 in Behchokò. The 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tłıchǫ Assembly originally scheduled to take place in Whatì was held virtually from February 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Annual Gathering

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering and the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the Tłıchǫ Assembly took place from August 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Behchokò. Unfortunately, due to an increase in COVID-19 cases the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> year signing of Treaty 11 was postponed.

## Directives and Laws

A number of directives and laws were approved by the Tłıchǫ Assembly between April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This information is available on the Tłıchǫ Government website at [www.tlicho.com](http://www.tlicho.com).

## Assembly Workshops

Assembly workshops were held from April 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, January 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



Tłıchǫ Government

# Executive

The Executive of the Tłıchq Government consists of the Tłıchq Executive Officer and support staff that provide support and coordination for the Chiefs Executive Council (CEC), as well as departmental management.

The executive group is responsible for the monthly (at minimum) meetings of the CEC. They coordinate the agendas, materials, decision papers, as well as other research documents needed to ensure good decision making. The department also takes the direction of the CEC, and ensures that departments are advised of the strategic and policy direction provided by the leadership.

The CEC hold many meetings with Ministers of Canada and the GNWT, other Indigenous leaders, leaders of industry and other organizations. The Executive ensures leadership is aware of critical issues, and important follow up actions are taken from these meetings. Over the last year, CEC has met on a number of occasions with Ministers to discuss the major needs of housing and infrastructure in our communities. This has resulted in a significant investment in actions to address the housing crisis.

The Executive has worked on many issues over the past year but some of the major ones have focused on the following:

## COVID Coordination

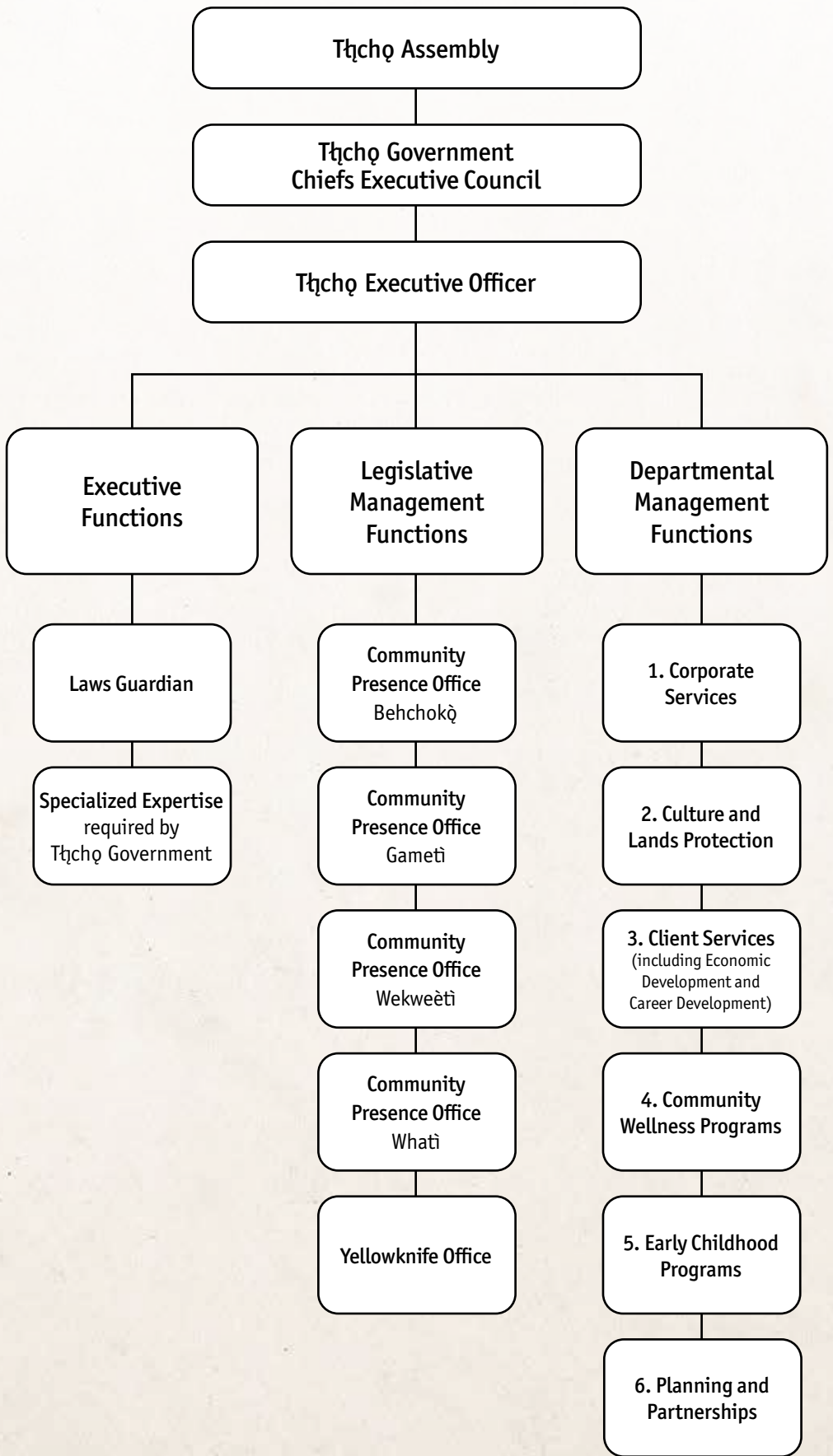
The Executive group took a leading role in coordinating both internal and external meetings to manage the Tłıchq Government's response to COVID-19. This coordination assisted all parties in providing the supports needed during the height of the pandemic, including ensuring effective communications, providing food hamper supports, isolation supports and other supports as required.

## GNWT Legislative Development Processes

The Executive group has worked on the implementation of the Intergovernmental Council Land and Resource Management Legislative Development Protocol, resulting in important progress on the co-development of land and natural resources legislative initiatives between Indigenous governments and organizations and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Currently Tłıchq Government is actively participating in the processes to develop a new *Forest Act*, and the regulations to support the *Mineral Resources Act* and the *Public Lands Act*.

## Tłıchq Highway

The Tłıchq Highway opened on time and on budget, even with the challenges of COVID-19. The project successfully hired and trained many Tłıchq citizens and is now generating revenue for the Tłıchq from our equity participation. The ongoing maintenance of the highway involves the Tłıchq Investment Corporation and ensures benefits continue. Tłıchq Government departments are also monitoring and where possible managing the social and economic impacts to the community of Whatì, and the environmental impacts to the land and wildlife in the area surrounding the highway. Two important agreements with the GNWT are now in place to ensure woodcutting and cabin development is controlled and that the Tłıchq Government has been involved in the development of several key management plans to protect wildlife.



# Department of Planning and Partnerships

The Department of Planning and Partnerships (DPP) is responsible for providing leadership and direction to the Tłıchq Government. The DPP's mandate includes establishing and documenting Tłıchq Government priorities and fostering relationships with other Governments and external stakeholders. The DPP communicates the Government's position on key policy issues, articulating its priorities and ensuring an understanding of the Government's vision. The DPP is not focused on running projects and programs but rather on managing leadership tables and decisions while providing ongoing consultation, engagement and negotiations related to intergovernmental relations and self-government implementation.

## Tłıchq Government Strategic Intentions

Part of the departments responsibilities is to develop and monitor the implementation of Tłıchq Government's Strategic Intentions. Every four years the Tłıchq Assembly develops and approves the Tłıchq Government's strategic intentions. Starting with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tłıchq Assembly, these priorities have been documented in a formal strategic plan which sets out the vision, mission, intentions, strategic directions and key initiatives and plans. The process has evolved over time, with each new set of intentions building on the foundation of previous years. After the Installation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tłıchq Assembly, DPP undertook the task of developing the strategic intentions for 2021 to 2025. The document entitled *"Ilè dı ǵha ǵıta, ... In Tłıchq Unity"*: Our Strategic Framework and Intentions 2021 to 2025 will be unveiled at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering in July 2022.

## Housing Action Plan and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The DPP is overseeing the development of a housing strategy for the Tłıchq region, which involves developing an action plan through engagement with Tłıchq communities, securing resources, and coordinating with existing housing agencies and programs.

In 2021, Tłıchq Government secured \$3.9 million from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to support the construction of 18 permanent affordable housing units for individuals and families in the Tłıchq Region under the Rapid Housing Initiative.

In 2022, the Tłıchq Government secured \$42.1 million in funding from the Indigenous Community Infrastructure Fund, giving Tłıchq Government the resources needed to start to address housing and infrastructure gaps in its four communities. This funding was secured through the Collaborative Fiscal Process with the federal government (described below).

In addition to securing funding and doing housing and infrastructure planning for the Tłıchq region, the Tłıchq Government has also taken on an advocacy role to support better policy development and action from existing housing programs managed by Housing NWT. In 2022, the Tłıchq Government entered into a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on housing with the Government of the Northwest Territories. This commits both governments to a formal framework for intergovernmental cooperation on housing-related matters. The MOU on housing acknowledges and builds on previous cooperative efforts between Housing NWT and the Tłı̨chų Government through the GNWT- Tłı̨chų Government Housing Working Group.

## Annual Report

The Department of Planning and Partnership is responsible for coordinating and producing the Tłı̨chų Government Annual Report (such as this one here). The Annual Report captures highlights of the work the Tłı̨chų Government staff and community members are involved in throughout the year. The Annual Report is traditionally made ready and distributed to Tłı̨chų citizens just before the Tłı̨chų Annual Gathering.

## Communications

The department is currently coordinating the development and implementation of the Tłı̨chų Government Communications Strategy Plan. The strategy will assess ways to improve communications channels internally at Tłı̨chų Government, as well as externally with Tłı̨chų citizens and other stakeholders. The strategy will build on a strong social media presence with the goal of reaching Tłı̨chų Citizens in all Tłı̨chų communities and throughout Canada.

## Policy Development

DPP is responsible for managing Tłı̨chų Government administrative policies and training and to ensure they are compliant with applicable Federal, Territorial and Tłı̨chų legislation.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19, pandemic the department developed and implemented all measures and guidelines related to keeping Tłı̨chų Government workplaces safe. This includes monitoring safe work practices as document in the *Tłı̨chų Government Exposure Control Plan*. In recognition that there is still much that can be done to protect individuals from infection, the Tłı̨chų Government has developed a new plan called *New Normal: COVID-19 & the Workplace*, this replaces *The Returning to Workplace Plan* and provides guidelines to ensure the Tłı̨chų Government is returning to typical operations while doing what we can to keep our employees, leaders, and citizens safe.

## Tłı̨chų Agreement Implementation Committee

DPP is responsible for coordinating committees and working groups, negotiating tables and forums mandated to address Tłı̨chų Agreement implementation. The Implementation Committee was established by the Tłı̨chų Agreement and consists of all parties: Tłı̨chų Government, Canada and Government of the Northwest Territories, who work together to ensure the Tłı̨chų Agreement is being fully implemented. The Implementation Committee oversees and monitors the status of the implementation plan and addresses issues that arise. Some of the key topics discussed in 2021/2022 include: Mq̄whì Gogha Dè Nı̨łtłèè Boundary, Deputy Dispute Resolution Administrator, Board Appointments, Cultural Coordinator position, Tłı̨chų Lands Survey, Economic Measures, and the Intergovernmental Services Agreement Renewal. The Implementation Committee releases a separate Annual Report each year further detailing the work and progress of the committee.



## Tłıchq Agreement Chapter 26 – Economic Measures

As an implementation priority, the Tłıchq Government has been working with the Government of Canada (Canada) and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) on breathing life into Chapter 26 of the Tłıchq Agreement. Chapter 26 is about the Nation’s economic measures and economic development. There are two main goals of the Chapter: (1) that the Tłıchq’s traditional economy be maintained and strengthened; and (2) that the Tłıchq Nation be economically self-sufficient. Chapter 26 requires Canada and the GNWT to consult with the Tłıchq Government any time they propose economic development programs related to these goals. In addition, Canada and the GNWT must meet with the Tłıchq Government at least once every three years to review the effectiveness of the programs and measures relating to the goals of Chapter 26. This is referred to as the “Effectiveness Review” tool, which is an ongoing treaty commitment.

Over the last year, the Tłıchq Government has been meeting regularly with Canada and the GNWT representatives as part of the Effectiveness Review Working Group. Discussions have focused on creating a deeper understanding of what the “Tłıchq traditional economy” includes and what “economic self-sufficiency” means from a Tłıchq point of view. This information will help guide the Tłıchq Government’s ongoing work with Canada and the GNWT to establish the work required in Chapter 26 thereby ensuring that the treaty promises it includes are honoured and fulfilled.

## Intergovernmental Relations

The Tłıchq Government manages relationships with many levels of government including Federal Government of Canada (Canada), the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and other Indigenous governments. The DPP has made strong progress in building our nation-to-nation relationship with Canada. In this past year, we have begun implementing a new approach to our financial agreement with Canada, which allows the Tłıchq Government to access resources based on the true needs of our self-government. It has provided more room and opportunity to access financial resources for our Nation especially in critical areas such as housing.

With the Land Claims Agreement Coalition group, we are collaborating with other modern-treaty Indigenous bodies from across Canada to advance the full implementation of our treaties with the Federal Government by developing an implementation framework. The Tłıchq Government works closely with the GNWT through the Intergovernmental Council and the NWT Council of Leaders along with bi-lateral meetings between our leaders and the GNWT to ensure that we are working together on key issues (such as caribou management and co-developing legislation in areas such as land and resource management, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and education in the Northwest Territories).

## Government of Canada

Managing the nation-to-nation relationship with Canada is very important to the implementation of the Tłıchǫ Agreement. In addition to the Implementation Committee (described above) some of the key forums through which Tłıchǫ Government manages our relationship with Canada includes:

### *Prime Minister's Forum*

A forum between Indigenous self-governments and modern treaty holders with the Prime Minister.

### *Collaborative Fiscal Process*

This past year, Tłıchǫ Government made strong progress in building our nation-to-nation relationship with Canada through implementation of the collaborative fiscal policy process, a process for negotiating fiscal agreements with Canada and other Indigenous self-governments. The process resulted in better fiscal agreements that took into account the expenditure needs of Tłıchǫ Government for core governance, interim lands and most recently, housing. An expenditure-based approach is now being taken to negotiate fiscal arrangements for other areas such as infrastructure, language and culture, lands and resource management, and social well-being.

### *Bi-lateral Leadership Meetings*

Tłıchǫ Government addresses key issues of importance with the federal government through bi-lateral meetings between the CEC and leaders of Canada. In April 2022, Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty, Chief Clifford Daniels and Chief Adeline Football met with Federal Minister Dan Vandal (Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister of Northern Affairs) and Member of Parliament Michael McLeod. Topics of discussion included: Tłıchǫ highways, Behchokǫ water, Indigenous Workforce Development, Whatı transmission line and Rayrock. It was a productive meeting and reinforced the commitment of Canada and the Tłıchǫ to work together to improve conditions and create future opportunities for Tłıchǫ people. In May 2022, Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty and Chief Clifford Daniels met with federal Minister LeBlanc, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities. Topics of discussion included climate change, the water and wastewater system in Edzo, and the need for wireless coverage on the highway between Whatı, Behchokǫ, and Yellowknife, and extending the Tłıchǫ Highway to Gamèti and Wekweèti.



Tłıchǫ Government

## Government of the Northwest Territories

In addition to the Implementation Committee (described above), Tłı̨chǫ Government manages a government-to-government relationship with the Government of the Northwest Territories through several intergovernmental tables:

**Chief Executive Council and GNWT Cabinet Forum:** The Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding recognizes the importance of the government-to-government relationship between the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). The Tłı̨chǫ Chief Executive Council meets with GNWT Cabinet twice a year to discuss issues of priority and shared interests. These meetings provide Tłı̨chǫ Government with the opportunity to address pertinent issues that require immediate or future attention and affect the smooth functioning of Tłı̨chǫ Government and delivery of programs and services to its citizens. The CEC met with GNWT Cabinet on April 19, 2021 in Behchokò. The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest, including: continuing to strengthen government-to-government collaboration on key initiatives; maximizing housing opportunities, including funding opportunities; improving road access to Gamètì; policing in Tłı̨chǫ communities; and continuing to work in partnership on barren-ground caribou and boreal caribou management.

### *Intergovernmental Council*

The Devolution Agreement established the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) to allow the GNWT and Indigenous governments to cooperate and collaborate on matters related to lands and resource management, while respecting the autonomy and authority of each government over its own lands. This past year IGC completed strategic planning and implemented a Legislative Development Protocol, which allows the GNWT and Indigenous governments to co-develop legislation related to land and resource management. On January 31, the Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta Territorial Protected Area Regulations became the first piece of Northwest Territories legislation to be finalized under the IGC Northwest Territories Land and Resource Management Legislative Development Protocol. Leaders meet once a year, and senior officials from each member meet monthly as the IGC Secretariat.



Tłı̨chǫ Government

## ***NWT Council of Leaders***

The NWT Council of Leaders forum offers members the opportunity to discuss territory-wide social and economic issues that are of interest to all governments. The Northwest Territories Council of Leaders Memorandum of Understanding was signed by leadership on June 11, 2021 for a four-year term. Signatories to the NWT Council of Leaders include: Akaitcho Dene First Nations, Délıne Got'ıne Government, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Kát'odeeche First Nation, Nahanni Butte Dene Band, North Slave Métis Alliance, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Salt River First Nation, Sahtú Secretariat Inc., Tłıchǫ Government, and the Government of the NWT. Leaders held the second forum meeting on November 18 and 19, 2021, in Yellowknife and virtually. Leaders discussed a range of NWT-wide issues of mutual interest related to social and economic issues, including:

- Advancing work on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through an officials' working group identified as a priority of the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders;
- Working together to review the NWT Housing Corporation's mission statement and policies and collaborate, support each other and share information related to housing;
- Continuing to share information around COVID-19, including vaccinations, and complete a lessons-learned exercise together on the approach to COVID-19 in the territory;
- Continuing to share information on the wise management of caribou;
- Ongoing discussion and planning around climate change in the territory;
- Sharing information on work underway on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls action plan; and
- Working together to ensure the voices and values of Indigenous government leadership, parents, students, and Elders are heard and incorporated as work continues to improve student learning outcomes.

## ***Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners Forum***

In 2021, leaders of the GNWT, Tłıchǫ Government, Délıne Got'ıne Government, Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation signed the Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners Forum Founding Agreement to formally establish the Forum. It provides an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern and work collaboratively to improve the ongoing implementation of land claims and self-government agreements. Leaders met in April and November of 2021 to discuss issues of mutual interest related to implementation of land, resources, and self-government agreements, including:

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Indigenous procurement and procurement review;
- Social and economic recovery;
- Opportunities for joint engagement with the federal government;
- Economic measures chapters;
- Monitoring obligations under the modern treaty and self-government agreements; and
- The importance of working together to keep northerners safe from COVID-19.

## Indigenous Governments

Tłıchq Government manages relationships with Indigenous Governments in the Northwest Territories to address issues of common interest, as well as the management of lands and resources that affect Tłıchq. The territorial-level intergovernmental tables in that exist such as the Intergovernmental Council, NWT Council of Leaders, and Modern Treaties and Self Government Partners Forum are forums in which Tłıchq Government is able to collaborate and build relationships with other Indigenous governments. Tłıchq Government will caucus in these forums with other Indigenous governments to build cohesive strategies on issues of mutual interest. Tłıchq Government has also been proactive in the last year with having conversations related to traditional territory overlap with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Dèḻne.

### *Tłıchq – Akaitcho Overlap Area*

The Tłıchq Government and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) on behalf of the Akaitcho Tribal Council are working on the implementation of the 2002 Tłıchq and Akaitcho Overlap Agreement. A working group was set up to discuss issues of shared interest within the overlap area but the COVID-19 pandemic naturally took priority since its outbreak. Tłıchq Government reached out through a letter to the YKDFN to arrange a meeting which brought officials from both governments meet together to re-enact the process.

### *Dèḻne Overlap Area*

Tłıchq Government has initiated conversations with the Dèḻne Got'ıne Government to discuss land and resource management, such as mining remediation on shared traditional lands.

### *Dene Nation*

As a self-government, the Tłıchq Government is clear that Dene Nation does not have authority to represent Tłıchq interests in any forum. However, the Dene have a long history of working together, and so the Tłıchq Government continues to send a representative to Dene Nation meetings to understand what is happening across the NWT and identify potential areas for collaboration.



Tessa Macintosh / Tłıchq Government

## Land Claims Agreement Coalition

The Land Claims Agreements Coalition is a coalition of 22 Indigenous modern treaty partners in Canada who work together to ensure that comprehensive land claims (modern treaties) and associated self-government agreements are respected, honoured and fully implemented. Leaders meet at least once a year, and have met twice already in 2022 to get work revitalized after an overall slow-down due to COVID-19.

The LCAC leadership met in February and May of 2022. LCAC facilitates a Working Group with the members of the coalition and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. The Working Group is developing an implementation policy framework to help ensure full implementation of modern treaties. In addition, other tools to support implementation are under review to strengthen their effectiveness, such as the Deputy Ministers Oversight Committee and Assessment of Modern Treaty Implications. LCAC is also working on proposing changes to the *Interpretation Act* to ensure that all current and future legislation upholds the treaties.

In addition to policy development, LCAC does education and awareness training to ensure public servants and members of the general public understand treaty history and obligations. They have courses available online.

LCAC is currently administering a \$2.5 M Implementation Research Grant from SSHRC to conduct research that can inform modern treaty implementation. Research themes are focused on:

- Indigenous Relations to Land;
- Intergovernmental Relations;
- Treaty Financing and Fiscal Relationships;
- Indigenous and Settler Legal Systems; and
- Implementation Evaluation and Socioeconomic Issues.

## Education Act Modernization (EAM)

The GNWT continues to move forward with the *Education Act* modernization to improve educational outcomes in the Northwest Territories. The Tłı̨chǫ Government continues to advocate for the Tłı̨chǫ to have an equal say in the proposed changes and amendments and in the development of new legislation that will affect our children. In January 2022 the Tłı̨chǫ Chiefs met with the GNWT and committed to a collaborative drafting process for the *Education Act* modernization, similar to the Intergovernmental Council legislative development protocol process. They also committed to having further discussions on legislative drafting at the Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners forum. On the NWT Council of Leaders, the Tłı̨chǫ Government is an active and strong advocate in pushing for a collaborative drafting process for legislation and has taken a lead role in drafting a MOU (memorandum of understanding) to guide future work on the EAM.

# Department of Early Childhood Programs

The Tłıchq Government's early childhood programs continue to face challenges in our program and service delivery this past year due to COVID-19. Despite the limitations in how we can deliver our programs, early childhood continues to provide learning and care to the children and families in Tłıchq communities. Despite continued periods of restrictions, the Tłıchq early childhood programs provided continuous daycare services to essential workers throughout the entire year. Our programs also provided support to children and families during the lockdowns with educational activity kits, books and food delivered to families. We also provided online music classes to families as well as a three-part short video series for parents about making and using homemade modeling clay (also known by the brand name of Play-Doh at home as an example of play-based learning).

The early childhood staff were able to provide programs founded in the Tłıchq culture, language and way of life. Thanks to the passionate and caring Tłıchq staff in our early childhood programs, we continued to support our children and families. Early childhood programs provided families who work with quality daycare and help parents to attend high school, upgrading or training opportunities, and provide much needed respite for families with special needs children.

Recognizing the importance of the early development for the long-term health and wellness of the Tłıchq people, the Tłıchq Government has made early learning and childcare a priority and is working to carry out the visions outlined in the Early Childhood Strategy and Framework (2017). The goals that we have been working on this past year are:

- The development and building of an Early Childhood Family Resource Center;
- The development of more services for children and families in oral language development and occupational therapy;
- The development of the Tłıchq Early Years Law for the Tłıchq to have the authority and decision-making power over all early learning and childcare areas;
- A partnership with Aurora College to offer the Tłıchq Early Years Training Certificate and Diploma Program in our communities;
- A research project to develop Tłıchq resources for our early learning and childcare programs to support all our children's learning needs; and
- A partnership with Deedats'eetsaa (the Tłıchq Research and Training Institute) on the research project "We Will Not Be Banned from Our Land" to explore and understand the impact of the caribou harvesting ban on Tłıchq lives and health and to look for transformative solutions to this crisis from within the Tłıchq's ten-thousand-year-old hunting culture. We will develop an Early Childhood Advisory group through this partnership and as part of this research project.

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

# Department of Governance

The Department of Governance is responsible for legislative management functions which includes providing support for Assembly members, planning and coordinating Assembly sessions, Assembly workshops, Annual Gatherings and other events as requested. The Senior Director of Governance oversees the activities of Community Presence Offices in Whatì, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Behchokò, the Yellowknife satellite office, the Mine Liaison Coordinator and the Assembly Researcher.

## Community Presence Offices

Community Presence Offices in Behchokò, Whatì, Gamètì and Wekweètì develop and implement programs in their communities that follow the Tłıchǫ Government's strategic intentions and reflect community needs as identified by community members and leadership.

Community Directors oversee the Community Presence Offices as well as looking to create and support partnerships with Tłıchǫ Government departments and other government agencies to coordinate and deliver annual events along with promoting cultural and traditional practices including healing and wellness programs. Community Presence Offices act as a liaison for the Chief and the community members. Community Directors support Tłıchǫ citizens and their families in matters related to illnesses and deaths within Tłıchǫ community families. Community Directors provide culturally-sensitive community programs and services that provide health outcomes for Tłıchǫ citizens in each community. Activities include community feasts, drum dances, Feeding of the Fire Ceremonies, Christmas celebrations and on-the-land family trips.



Colin Salter



## Mines Liaison Coordinator

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

Throughout the year mining updates were communicated by the Mines Liaison Coordinator to the Chief Executive Council and to other Tłı̨chq̓ Government staff. The COVID-19 pandemic response and preparedness plans were communicated to this office on a regular basis.

## Assembly Researcher and Policy Analyst

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

The analyst assisted Tłı̨chq̓ citizens with information related to community programs (and other programs as needed) by completing the documentation needed for the various organizations and/or programs. They acted as a liaison with corporate services staff in Behchok̓q̓ regarding financial operations for payroll, contracts, travel payments and travel arrangements while ensuring financial documents and reports were properly completed and submitted in a timely manner.



Tessa Macintosh / Tłı̨chq̓ Government

# Community Presence Offices

The Tłıchq̓ Government has Community Presence Offices located in the four communities of Behchok̓q̓, Whatì, Gamètì and Wekweètì. Community Presence Offices are headed by a Community Director. Each Community Presence Office coordinates and supports community activities and programs — many of these are carried out in cooperation with other Departments and agencies including community governments and the Tłıchq̓ Community Services Agency (TCSA). In 2021 to 2022 (and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic), the Community Presence Offices have continued to provide services to each community. The following is a brief summary of Community Presence Office’s programs, projects and events that were delivered.

## Community Programs and Projects

### *Home Exterior Painting and Step Repair Summer Project*

Home exterior painting and step repair projects took place in all Tłıchq̓ communities from June to August 2021. In Whatì, the Tłıchq̓ Property Management overseen the home exterior painting project. The project consisted of 20 to 30 summer students and local people and was a hands-on, outdoor work experience. While students learned carpentry and exterior painting skills, in Wekweètì community members were employed to paint the exterior of homes, as well as the fences, decks and steps of private homes. The Behchok̓q̓ Community Presence Office collaborated with Chief Jimmy Bruneau School (CJBS), the Department of Client Services and Tłıchq̓ Property Management to complete the home exterior painting project.

The project entailed hiring local youth to paint the exterior of some homes in Behchok̓q̓. The local high school had granted the authority to give work experience credits to the youth who had participated in the program. Client services had arranged training for the youth prior to the program commencing. The Tłıchq̓ Property Management executed the program on behalf of the Behchok̓q̓ Community Presence Office. The Behchok̓q̓ Community Presence Office also hired local people to repair and/or rebuild exterior front and back steps for private homeowners. In Gamètì, a home exterior paint and step making project also took place.



### **Community Caribou Harvest**

Community Presence Offices in Behchokò, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Whatì and organized community caribou harvests. Caribou meat was brought back to each community and distributed to community members. In 2021, the community of Wekweètì assisted Gamètì in caribou harvesting and its distribution to community members.

### **Trail Breaking**

Trail breaking took place in the Tłı̨chǫ region from Rabbit Lake to Gamètì, halfway between Gamètì and Whatì, the Hottah Lake Trail plus in other locations. Local people were employed to break and clean up the trails. This initiative was aimed to ensure these trails are continuously utilized by traditional harvesters.

### **Trails of Our Ancestors 2021**

Community Presence Offices coordinated the Trails of Our Ancestors Program for their community. The work included accepting applications, the selection process, and then hiring local people to move equipment and supplies. The program was coordinated according to the routes traveled and the number of people travelling from each community. In 2021, two canoes traveled 15 days from Wekweètì to Behchokò.

### **Gravesite Cleaning/Crib Fixing Project**

Community Presence Offices help to maintain and clean gravesites and graveyards. In Wekweètì the Crib Fixing Project was developed to teach Tłı̨chǫ youth the history of Tłı̨chǫ ancestry stories. The program teaches youth the proper way of fixing the ancestor cribs, allows Elders and youth the opportunity to work together and share stories in the evenings on the land. In Gamètì a gravesite beautification project BBQ was provided as well as the addition of picnic tables.

### **50/50 Program**

Community Presence Offices assisted in executing a 50/50 program that assists individuals (one per household) to purchase equipment, tools and materials needed for the traditional purposes such as going out on the land. Each household was eligible for up to \$10,000 of purchases.



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### ***Tłıchq Dqtaàts'eedı Project***

Community Presence Offices have actively been involved in delivering the Tłıchq Dqtaàts'eedı project, a project under the DCLP. Local harvesters were hired to harvest traditional foods such as fish, beaver, muskrats, rabbit, ducks etc. and to cut firewood for woodstoves. Elders and low-income families were given priority. Community caribou harvests are an important aspect of this program.

### ***Family on the Land Program***

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tłıchq Government assisted families who wished to retreat to the land as a traditional practice to maintain a safe distance from the community. Community Presence Offices had been designated to assist families with funds for food and gas to enable families to retreat to the land. This program commenced in the spring of 2022.

### ***Tłıchq Imbè Program***

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

### ***Feeding of the Fire Ceremonies***

Community Presence Offices hosted Feeding of the Fire Ceremonies which are ceremonial blessings to honor our ancestors, culture, spirituality, water, land and animals. The ceremony consists of drumming, prayer songs and offerings made to the fire. The Behchokq Community Presence Office hosted a Feeding of the Fire Ceremony on the first Friday of every month followed by a lunch. In Gamètı a Feeding of the Fire Ceremony followed by a lunch takes place every four months (quarterly).



Tłıchq Government

## Community Events 2021 to 2022

Throughout the year, Community Presence Offices hosted or assisted community governments, community justice and social programs and recreation departments in hosting events to bring communities together to celebrate special events, play games and enjoy food. Community Presence Offices also distributed special gifts, flowers, hampers etc. for special days when community events could not take place in person due to COVID-19 restrictions. The following are events that have taken place:

- Christmas Eve and Christmas Day;
- New Year's Eve and New Year's Day;
- Valentine's Day;
- Easter;
- Community Carnivals/Happy Daze;
- Mother's Day;
- Father's Day;
- National Indigenous Day;
- Canada Day;
- Tłıchq Day;
- Halloween; and
- Community BBQ's.

### ***Christmas Celebration***

Four Tłıchq communities had special activities and programs throughout the Christmas season. In Whatì, a Christmas holiday breakfast and a Santa Claus parade was hosted by the community government which was supported with funds from the Community Presence Office. Wekweèti's Community Presence Office delivered gift packages for each household in the month of December 2021 to celebrate Christmas and to bring families together during the holiday season. Gamèti held events for all ages throughout December. Behchokò had special events on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as well as delivered special gifts.

### ***New Year's Eve and Day Celebrations***

Celebrations for the New Year were held outdoors due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Firework displays in Behchokò took place on the ice at 12:00 a.m. on January 1, 2022. A second set of fireworks were set off at 6:00 p.m. on January 1, 2022. The Behchokò Community Presence Office filled 150 bags with mittens, toques, neck warmers and treats for those who enjoyed the fireworks outdoors. In Whatì, a fireworks display took place on the ice at 12:00 a.m. on January 1, 2022.



## Behchokò Community Presence Office Additional Programs and Services

### *Fish Net Distribution*

The Behchokò Community Presence Office continued to assist community fish harvesters by providing them with fishing nets; this initiative is also an important piece of the Alternative Food Project.

### *Church Refurbishing (Summer 2021)*

The Behchokò Community Presence Office completed small repairs to St. Michael's Church.

### *Hide Preparation Program (Spring 2021)*

The Behchokò Community Presence Office delivered a hide preparation program for teen girls. The youth participants were able to take home their finished product.

### *Youth Trapping Program (December 2021)*

The Behchokò Community Presence Office presented a youth trapping program for young men. The program taught the youth how to harvest and prepare muskrats, rabbits and small game. The program also enabled youth to apply for their General Hunting License as this will assist them with the opportunity to sell their fur to the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, which in turn will enable them to generate an income and assist Behchokò economically.

### *Natural Material Drop-Off for Homeowners*

One bucket of natural materials (pit-run, gravel, black dirt) was given to private homeowners; the natural materials were paid for by the Behchokò Community Presence Office and delivered to the homeowners by the community government. This service was provided under the scope of the community beautification program.

## Whatì Additional Program

### *Trip Around the Lake (2021)*

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



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# Department of Corporate Services

The Department of Corporate Services mandate is to provide leadership and financial management oversight for the Tłıchq Government to ensure the responsible, legal and ethical management of resources. The Department of Corporate Services is structured into two divisions: financial and human resources.

## Finance Division

The Finance Division provides strategic financial analysis, financial reporting, management of related policies and procedures, liaising with external auditors, preparing budgets and related reporting, and advice and guidance to all of Tłıchq Government departments which include funds and contribution management. The Financial Operations Sector provides efficient accounting operations for payroll, accounts payable and receivables, travel operations and year-end reporting.

## Human Resources

The Human Resource Division is responsible for recruitment and staffing, compensation and benefits, staff training and development, labour and employee relations and occupational health and safety.

The Human Resource Division aims to:

- Promote a work atmosphere that is safe and healthy for all employees while balancing the needs of the employees and the needs of the Tłıchq Government;
- Establishing and administering effective communication, while maintaining the Tłıchq Government's policies and practices along with employment and labour laws;
- Seek to provide solutions to workplace problems that support and optimize the principles of the Tłıchq Government; and
- Support and promote inclusivity and diversity within the Tłıchq Government, by providing staff training, recruiting qualified employees, retaining valued employees and the organization's overall development.

The Human Resources Division has launched an on-going staff development workshop about mental health by hosting live workshop sessions on various mental health topics. Thus far Human Resources has hosted:

- Mental Health: Coping with stress
- Work/Life balance
- Healthy relationships/conflict
- Mental Health: Impacts of Residential School, from Trauma to Healing

This is an on-going project that the Human Resources Division plans to maintain throughout 2022 for all Tłıchq Government employees.

## Ongoing Human Resources Projects

### *ERP and System Management*

Last year the Department of Corporate Services started the process of upgrading the Tłıchǫ Government's accounting and management information system. One of the key directives of the new program is to provide a functional system which provides services beyond accounting to the entire Tłıchǫ Government framework. The Department of Corporate Services initiated the change to assist in ways data and information is used and accessed across the various Departments. The CEC approved the implementation of SAP (SAP which is one of the world's leading producers of software for the management of business processes, developing solutions that facilitate effective data processing and information flow across organizations).

The project is scheduled for completion by the end of December 2022 with a go-live date of January 2023. The project is at the production level now and will move to testing by the last quarter of the year. There will be hands-on training for all Department staff, starting with the key users to the occasional users. The Department is also developing an SOP to onboard future and new staff.



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# *Ìtè dọ gha gọita, ... In Tłıchọ Unity*



All photos Tessa Macintosh / Tłıchọ Government.

# *Ihè dọ gha gọita, ... In Tłıchọ Unity*



All photos Tessa Macintosh / Tłıchọ Government except for top left.

# *Ìtè dọ gha gọita, ... In Tłıchọ Unity*



All photos Tessa Macintosh / Tłıchọ Government except for top right and bottom left.

# Department of Culture and Lands Protection (DCLP)

The DCLP is responsible for providing leadership and direction in all areas related to the protection of Tłıchq traditional territory including activities on Tłıchq lands, Mqwhì Gogha Dè Nıttlèè and Wek'èezhìi; the promotion of cultural survival and revitalization strategies of the Tłıchq Government; and promoting research of value to Tłıchq communities and the Tłıchq Government.

## Lands Protection and Resources

### *Tłıchq Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program (TAEMP)*

The Tłıchq Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program (TAEMP) began as a collaboration between the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board and the Tłıchq Government. Each summer the project rotates to a different Tłıchq community and information is exchanged between Elders, fishers, youth and Tłıchq scientists. The TAEMP rotates through each of the four Tłıchq communities once every four years. Participants share the Tłıchq perspectives on assessing the health of the ecosystem and take part in hands-on scientific monitoring activities such as collecting fish tissues and water and sediment samples for analysis.

Through this community-driven project, the TAEMP is collecting baseline information on fish and fish habitats to compare long-term changes and thereby develop methods to monitor fish and fish habitats that build on both traditional Tłıchq knowledge and science. The year 2021 was the eleventh year of the program and the research took place in Gamètì.

At the conclusion of 2014 at a camp near Whatì, the TAEMP completed its initial baseline sampling phase. In 2015, the first round of comparative sampling began with the return of the TAEMP to the Wekweètì community. The comparative sampling phase (now that a baseline is collected in each community) will continue to be built on the work carried out since 2010 which will allow for the continuation of the comparative analysis of sampling results. The comparative sampling provides a method to address community concerns related to changes in the environment. We are happy to report that our fisheries resources and water quality continue to be safe to eat and drink within our sampling locations.



Tłıchq Government

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

The Marian Watershed Stewardship Program contributes to a growing body of knowledge and capacity-building for a community-based aquatic effects monitoring program in the Marian Watershed prior to any proposed developments. The MWSP was initiated in 2013 for monitoring the cumulative effects of development, land disturbance and climate change, drawing on both western and Indigenous science to obtain a clear picture of baseline conditions and potential changes over time. During the earlier years of the program, the Tłıchq Government had developed partnerships with Wilfred Laurier University and Tides Canada but today the Tłıchq Government conducts this annual monitoring at their own at multiple sampling sites within the Marian Watershed.

### **Dinàgà Wek’èhodi Establishment Agreement**

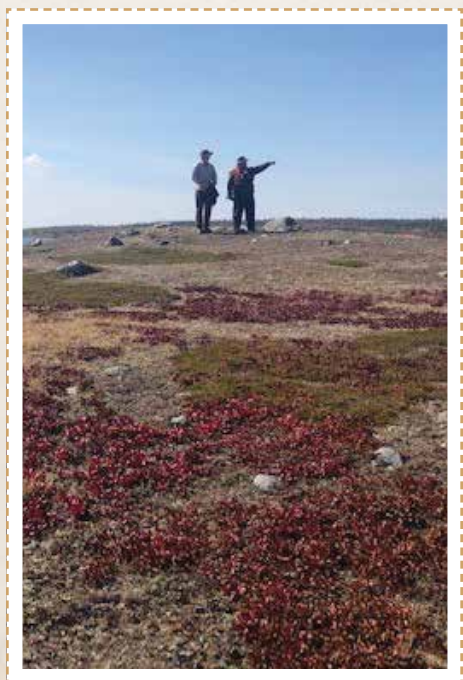
Chapter 16 of the Tłıchq Agreement requires the parties concerned in developing a protected area within Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njıttèè to negotiate a bilateral agreement with the Tłıchq Government on the management and governance of such the area. The Tłıchq Government and the GNWT are involved in continuing negotiations on a bilateral establishment agreement for Dinàgà Wek’èhodi. The Tłıchq Government and the GNWT are in the final stages of these negotiations. The GNWT has commenced on the early consultation stages on the bilateral agreement with other Indigenous governments expressing interest. Following consultation, the Tłıchq Government and the GNWT may ratify the agreement and designate Dinàgà Wek’èhodi as an Indigenous and Territorial Protected Area under the *Protected Areas Act*.

### **Dinàgà Wek’èhodi Protected Area**

The Tłıchq Government received funding from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada in the amount of \$2.75 million over 4 years for the establishment and management of Dinàgà Wek’èhodi, starting in 2019/2020. This funding continues to contribute to and improve on the Tłıchq Government’s capacity, create new programs and strengthen existing programs. It provides much-needed program infrastructure, equipment, training, research opportunities, and other co-benefits such as community wellness and cultural continuity within Dinàgà Wek’èhodi.

### **Tłıchq Wenek’e: Tłıchq Land Use Plan**

The Tłıchq Land Use Plan was developed and ratified in 2013 and recommends a review of the plan every fifth year. The Tłıchq Government received funding from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada in the amount of \$2 million over three years primarily for the review of two Land Protection Zones within the Tłıchq Land Use Plan: Gowhadq Yek’e t’ıı k’e (Traditional Use Zone) and Tłıchq Nawoo Ké Dét’ahot’ıı (Cultural Heritage Zone). These funds will enable the process for a comprehensive Land Use Plan review for improved land management and administration until it needs to be reviewed in another five years.



Tłıchq Government

### ***K'ichì (Whitebeach Point)***

A major accomplishment was the delivery of a campfire at Whitebeach Point (K'ichì Xàgots'eèk'ò). Camp K'ichì is a beautiful place for Tłıchq citizens to enjoy the North Arm of Great Slave Lake (Dinàgà Wek'èhodì) and practice the Tłıchq ways of being out on the land while visiting around the campfire and sharing stories about our people who travelled the stunning land of Tłıchq Nation. The area is well known for fishing; duck, caribou and moose hunting; berry picking and sight-seeing. The DCLP are very proud of the work that staff, partners and participants continue to accomplish in sustaining our Tłıchq lands, language, culture and way of life. The Tłıchq Government has been organizing annual trips for community members to visit K'ichì since July 2017. Visits to this site by outlying communities was cancelled in 2021 due to high winds.

### ***Dìga (Wolf) Harvesting Program***

With the ongoing decline of the Bathurst and Bluenose East ekwò (Caribou) herds, the Tłıchq Government and GNWT have been collaborating with the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) and other co-management partners to implement actions that will support of the recovery of ekwò herds.

The proposed goal for dìga management is to annually reduce the number of wolves on winter ranges of the ekwò herds over the next four years. The annual number of wolves to be removed from the Bathurst (Kòk'èetì) and Bluenose East (Sahtì) winter ranges will depend on how the ekwò population responds to the removals; the objectives and outcomes for wolf removals will be evaluated annually. The harvest of dìga is performed by Tłıchq cultural protocols, keeping safety as the highest priority. The program also focuses on training Tłıchq harvesters to trap, snare and hunt dìga using the most effective, legal and respectful (i.e., humane) techniques. Ensuring the transfer of on-the-land knowledge while providing the Tłıchq with opportunities to support the recovery of ekwò populations remains a goal of the program.

### ***Ekwò (Caribou) Harvest Monitoring Program***

The Tłıchq Government has supported the GNWT to enforce actions through the increased monitoring of ekwò and focused on information sharing and education of the Tłıchq citizens along the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road. Our monitoring camp is guided by Tłıchq Elders and harvesters — the Tłıchq people are the eyes and ears in the field by assisting and sharing teachings related to a traditional harvest for the winter harvest season along the winter road.



Tłıchq Government

## Lands Regulations Division

The Lands Regulation Division is responsible for reviewing and responding to all development proposals within the boundaries outlined in the Tłıchq Agreement: Tłıchq Lands, Wek'èezhì and Mqwhì Gogha Dè Nıttlèè.

### *Mining and Mineral Exploration*

The Lands Regulation Division is heavily involved in the closure and reclamation planning for the Ekati and Diavik Diamond Mines; this includes the public hearings and closure planning workshops along with key remediation issues of re-vegetation, water quality, long-term monitoring, investigating how to reclaim roads and waste rock piles.

The new Ekati Point Lake expansion was proposed in 2021. The Lands Regulation Division attended public hearings and hosted virtual and in-person workshops with Tłıchq Elders and technical staff to identify improvements within the project to reduce the impact and effects on caribou. Also reviewed was the DeBeers Gacho Kue Diamond Mine, the Nechalacho Rare Earth Project (3-year pilot project), Nighthawk Gold (advanced mineral exploration in the old Colomac Mine area) and Rover Metals (small mineral exploration project near Russell Lake).

### *Remediation and Monitoring of Old Mine Sites*

The Lands Regulation Division has continued to work closely with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and the Kwetııııàà Elders Committee to plan remediation work at the Rayrock Mine. We attended public hearings together with Elders and youth from the Tłıchq communities, hosted a traditional knowledge workshop and prepared a small traditional knowledge project to confirm information of past Elders who harvested around the Rayrock Mine. CIRNAC also continued to provide training and employment for summer students as Wildlife and Environmental Monitors for the Colomac and Rayrock Mine projects; they assisted technical workers who conducted water and wildlife sampling. Finally, the Division secured world-class technical expertise to help plan and monitor the Rayrock Mine remediation — something to celebrate!

### *Weghàà Èleyatıts'eedı — Tłıchq Government Guidelines for Proponents of Development*

The Weghàà Èleyatıts'eedı — Tłıchq Government Guidelines for Proponents of Development which was completed last year and went out for feedback has now been approved by the Tłıchq Government and ready to be utilized. It is our hope that the Weghàà Èleyatıts'eedı document will help developers build strong relationships with the Tłıchq Government and communities, facilitating the ability to work together and to enable investments and balanced developments that brings benefits to Tłıchq citizens while protecting the environment, Tłıchq culture and way of life.

### **Improved Internal Processes and Capacity Building**

The Lands Regulation Division developed an application tracking system and hired new staff to effectively respond to applications in a timely manner. An internal process was developed to respond to: lands access applications, cabin lease applications, quarry and archaeological permits. The position also focuses on engagement requests to maintain relationships with both small and medium-sized projects.

The Lands Regulation Division continues to build capacity and plans to recruit three additional positions: Land Administrator, Contaminated Sites Project Coordinator and Resource Management Inspector. These positions will help with the timely and effective management of the Tłı̨chų Lands Access Agreements and permits, and the Tłı̨chų Government’s participation in remediation planning for contaminated sites.

### **Elders Meeting and Computer Distribution During COVID-19**

With COVID-19 upon us in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the regulatory division was confined to holding virtual meetings through Zoom with the Elders to minimize the spread of the highly contagious virus. Initially, the Elders were not pleased with the virtual meetings as the communities experienced technical difficulties with the technology. When it was announced that COVID-19 was a long-term problem, the Land Regulation Division purchased approximately 25 laptop computers and distributed them amongst the Tłı̨chų communities Elders through the Tłı̨chų Community Presence Offices. The Elders adjusted themselves to the new way of conducting business and are more comfortable and better able to meet to conduct business as needed.

### **Tłı̨chų Names for Mining Companies**

More mining companies are expressing interest to have their claim blocks be named in Tłı̨chų. The Department of Culture and Lands Protection has been reviewing these requests with the Elders to create new Tłı̨chų names for the blocks.

### **Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) and Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB)**

Both IEMA and EMAB are established by an environmental agreement signed by the GNWT, the Federal Government and the Indigenous government in the Great Slave Lake area which was impacted by the Diamond Mine in the Lac de Gras area. The Lands Regulation Division has a member on the EMAB board to represent the Tłı̨chų Government. The IEMA board also has a Tłı̨chų representative appointed to the board. Concerns of interest are shared by the board members with Tłı̨chų Government DCLP on the Diavik and Arctic Diamond Mine project in the Lac de Gras area.



Tłı̨chų Government



Tessa Macintosh / Tłı̨chų Government



## Cultural Practices

Cultural Practices is responsible for documenting, promoting, sharing and revitalizing the Tłıchq culture and way of life.

### *Tłıchq Jmbè Program*

The Tłıchq Jmbè Program ran in all four communities this summer with 37 young people employed through the program. Participants earned safety certifications in First Aid, Firearm Safety and Canoe Safety; they planned and carried out community service projects and spent time on the land learning from Elders and community mentors. 30 Elders and cultural mentors were also employed and taught cultural skills workshops on fishing, beading, paddle making, moose meat preparation, hide tanning and more. This was the eleventh summer that the Jmbè Program has operated.



Tłıchq Government

### *Virtual Gowhahdqq Gits'q Etq Nıwhe?àa (Virtual Trails of Our Ancestors)*

This project focuses on gathering and sharing the Elder's stories about the land, the trails that link the four communities and the significant sites along the way. Documenting the land and the Elder's stories will give the Tłıchq people the opportunities to see the trails and to hear the Elders even when it is not possible to travel the land or visit the Elders in person. Work continues on the project with the help of a large grant from Digital Museums Canada. The route from Whatı to Behchokq will be completed this year with work starting in Wekweèı and Gamèı starting next year.

### *Tłıchq Dqtaàts'eedı*

Tłıchq Dqtaàts'eedı is a food security program that helps build cultural skills among the youth, while providing traditional food to Elders in the communities. This year the program continued in the four communities with funding from the Federal Government's Indigenous Communities Support Fund. The program has been a big success! Through Tłıchq Dqtaàts'eedı, close to 5,000 pounds of meat and fish have been harvested by youth and community harvesters and distributed to Elders.



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## **Tourism Infrastructure**

With funding from CanNor, we are developing three campsite locations to support tourism development in the region. Campsites will be located at established boat pullovers on the Marion River, Snare River and at a location on Great Slave Lake. The campsites will include a tent platform, outhouse, fire pit and picnic table. Tłıchq̓ tour operators will be able to use these sites as they develop boat tours, overnight trips and cultural activity workshops. Campsites are expected to be completed by the end of September 2022.

## **Trails of our Ancestors Canoe Trip**

Despite delays caused by uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic and public health measures, in 2021 paddlers from all four communities were able to paddle to Behchok̓̓ this year. The group from Wekweètì cleared new portages through Ghost Lake to avoid a section of dangerous river travel. A group from Gamètì joined the group from Whatì on their trip down the La Martre River and groups from Behchok̓̓ explored Marion and Russell Lakes before joining the other community groups to arrive in Behchok̓̓ together.

## **Tłıchq̓ Broadcasting**

The Tłıchq̓ Broadcasting program focuses on gathering and sharing culture and language knowledge. Over the next two years, the DCLP will be training people in the region to produce audio and video content that will be broadcasted on the radio and on a digital TV station.

Some of the content broadcasted will include Elder’s stories and biographies, DIY traditional crafts and tools videos, Tłıchq̓ language lessons, kid’s shows, etc. Through this program radio broadcasting equipment will be installed in each community to share stories, news, events and local information every day.

## **Language Division**

Although the Language Division is the smallest division within DCLP, its highlights from the past year include:

- Mentor apprentice program. Five people recorded hours. Printed Tłıcho resources for mentor-apprentice participants;
- Resources requests for in the homes. Printed more primary dictionaries, Tłıchq̓ dictionaries, prayer books, dene laws posters, mini prayer booklets, ‘Tłıcho stories from long ago’ and reading and writing in Tłıchq̓ manuals;
- Signage in Tłıchq̓ Yatı. Added new Highway 9 signs: “Welcome to Tłıchq̓ Lands” and “Welcome to the Tłıchq̓ Highway”. Two highway pullouts received Habitat and Whatì storyboards;
- Weekly online language lessons for staff and the public;
- Elder’s biography project. The project has reached the final editing stages;
- Radio stations. Behchok̓̓’s radio station is operable and is assisting other communities as requested with their radio station for Tłıchq̓ language programming;
- University of Victoria Community Indigenous Language Revitalization (CILR) courses. The Department has planned and offered five courses in 2021 and 2022;

- Summer Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) through the University of Alberta. Sponsored students were invited to take the CILLDI program in Edmonton; and
- Moved online dictionary. The dictionary was transfer from the University of Victoria server to the Tłıchq Government server.

## The Research Operations Division

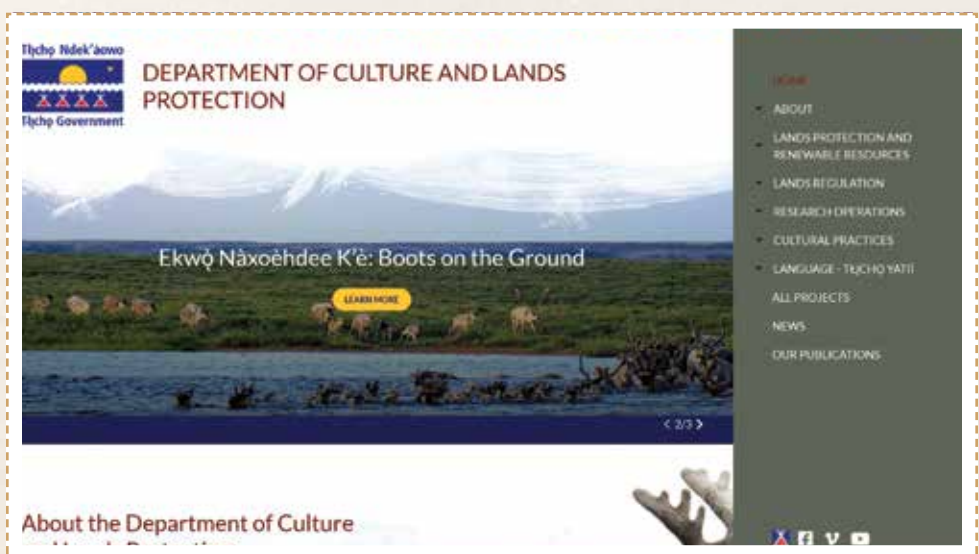
The Research Operations Division (Dedats'eetsa: Tłıchq Research and Training Institute) supports research within the Tłıchq communities and across Mq̄whì Gogha Dè Njłtlèè, focusing with a special interest in research and activities within a Tłıchq cultural framework that sustains our lands, language, culture and way of life. The Research Operations Division works closely with the other DCLP divisions recognizing that research knowledge is produced and used through on-the-land activities and monitoring, as well as local cultural initiatives and activities.

### Research Advisory Group

Research Operations has established a Research Advisory Group to help review the many applications for regional research this past year and has implemented a Research Agreement process with outside parties intending to work in Mq̄whì Gogha Dè Njłtlèè. A few of the many research projects taking place include a Tłıchq ethnobotany (plant medicine) study; Tłıchq knowledge research of the Giant Mine area; assessing potential climate change impacts to the Wekweèti winter road and the socio-economic effects this could have. Research Operations also assists researchers with small studies where they gathered samples. Local field assistants or boat drivers were hired to collect water samples, fish heads and snow samples.

### New DCLP Website

Research Operations has been leading the development of a new DCLP website together with Kellett Communications. This will replace the Dedats'eetsa: Tłıchq Research and Training Institute (TRTI) site (<https://research.Tłıchq.ca/>), whose content has been moved to the new site. DCLP is the TG's largest Department, with many programs and activities serving Tłıchq citizens that will be showcased and celebrated through the new site.



## ***Tłıchq Knowledge Guidelines***

Draft guidelines regarding the research, use and distribution of Tłıchq knowledge in Mqwhı Gogha Dè Nıttłèè have been completed and are in the process of being reviewed and finalized. These guidelines are for users with Tłıchq knowledge such as outside agencies, and researchers proposing to gather, use and/or distribute Tłıchq knowledge. The guidelines provide direction to those planning to conduct research on Tłıchq lands, and within Wek'èezhıi and Mqwhı Gogha Dè Nıttłèè. It also assists Tłıchq communities and prospective researchers in establishing research agreements for projects involving Tłıchq knowledge.

## ***Tłıchq Cultural Commons Digital Archives***

A Digital Records Archivist has been hired to work on the Tłıchq Nàowoò Deghats'etsaa/Tłıchq Cultural Commons Digital Archives (TND/TCCDA). Our archivist is completing a survey of the digital and physical Tłıchq archival records and developing policies to guide the building and management of archives. Preliminary work is also being done to create a website where digital archival records could be accessed.

## ***“We Will Not Be Banned from Our Land” Research Project***

The Dedats'eetsa/TRTI “We Will Not Be Banned from Our Land” research team will be presenting at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) 2022 conference hosted by the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning to talk about experiences and initial findings of a multi-year, multidisciplinary and multiple inquiry approach to understanding the diverse impacts of the caribou population decline in Mqwhı Gogha Dè Nıttłèè. The project brings together Tłıchq research partners with outside organizations within six inquiry areas:

- Traditional knowledge of caribou harvesters;
- Tłıchq food security;
- Cultural identity of children and youth in a time of change;
- Dide whexehotı Ts'eeda; De T'ahotı Ts'eeda (With us the land is healthy; With land we are healthy): Elders' and cultural survival;
- Health systems stewardship; and
- Tłıchq and the mining economy, wellbeing, employment and labour force.



Tłıchq Government

### ***Tłıchq Ethnobotany (plant medicine) Project***

Amy Maund from Laughing Lichen has been working with Tłıchq Elders and is using previous plant and medicine research to create a plant medicine field guide for using common medicines found in all Tłıchq communities. Other resources will be created from this research (such as an app).

### ***Giant Mine Traditional Knowledge Study***

Heidi Klein, John Bekale and Allice Legat are interviewing Tłıchq Elders and knowledge holders living close to Yellowknife and Behchokq, regarding their experiences with Giant Mine and studying how the mine affected their traditional lifestyle.

### ***Caribou Guardians Coalition***

This coalition works with other Indigenous groups and organizations to build a caribou monitoring network for the Bathurst caribou.

### ***Gonaowo Animation***

John B. Zoe and Sadetlo Scott (Hotı ts'eeda) comprise of "Gonaowo" which explores the Tłıchq past, present and future in relation to governance. In this study there is an emphasis on how we became the Tłıchq Government, what it means to be Tłıchq and why self-governance is important.

### ***Assisting Other Researchers***

We assist scientific researchers with small scale studies where they have to gather samples. Local field assistants or boat drivers are hired to collect fish, air, water and snow samples.

### ***Ekwq Nàxoèhdee K'è (Boots on the Ground)***

Four monitoring teams were able to go out to Kqkqti in 2021. A total of 26 Tłıchq people from every Tłıchq community were at the camp. The teams totalled 66 field days, 3,572 km travelled and 266 monitoring hours. In total the teams spotted 3,244 caribou.



Tłıchq Government

Training courses were offered to participants to help prepare for the monitoring. These courses were on boat safety, predator defense/firearms safety, wilderness first aid, and research/photography training. Although plans were cut short due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the NWT, four teams were still able to go to Kqkqti. A team from National Geographic (Katie Orlinsky and Neil Shea) were at the camp in 2021, writing and taking photos for the magazine. Cody Steven Mantla worked with Katie Orlinsky with photography. A short film, KQK'ETI: WALKING WITH CARIBOU will be published and streamed on APTN in January 2023 (Trail Films Inc).

Regrettably, on November 9, 2021, the ENK team suffered the significant loss of our camp K'awo, Elder and bear monitor, Leon Ekendia. Leon's leadership, work ethic, knowledge and presence were a tremendous asset to the program and he will be greatly missed at the Kqkqti and Dezaati camps. Leon, we will be thinking of you at camp and will remember all the great teachings you left us with!

## **Tłjchq Highway (TH) Wildlife Monitoring Program**

Based on the Tłjchq Highway Environmental Assessment Measures 6-2, 7-1, 7-2 and 9-1, the following objectives were identified for the monitoring program which will provide data to be used by the Tłjchq Government when considering and negotiating mitigations related to the Tłjchq Highway, which includes: determining changes in tqdzı (boreal caribou) harvesting pressure following the construction of the road; determining sustainable levels of harvest for tqdzı in the North Slave area before the road is built; and; monitoring the harvesting pressure on tqdzı and dedıı (moose) after the road is built to determine if it is too high. The assessment also determined the effects of the road on hozıı ɤekwq̄ (barren ground caribou) winter habitat and the impacts on winter habitat from the road based on Tłjchq traditional knowledge; and to use this information to enact measures to protect the winter habitat near the road. Finally, it was determined to develop an Aboriginal harvest monitoring and reporting program for hozıı ɤekwq̄, tqdzı and dedıı.

The Tłjchq Highway Elders and Harvesters Committee comprises of Tłjchq citizens: three Whatı, five Behchokq̄ and one Gametı: Joseph Moosenose, Frankie Jr Nitsiza, Bobby Nitsiza, Michel Louis Rabesca, Bobby Migwi, Harry Rabesca, Joe M Mantla, Colby Rabesca, Joe Lazare Zoe. Thus far, the terms of reference was completed and four meetings have been held.

- April 2021 — Baseline habitat conditions report was developed.
- June 2021 — The committee visited along the Tłjchq Highway, viewing specific sights that required study and discussion.
- August 2021 — The Tłjchq monitors travelled to Inuvik to job shadow the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway monitors.
- August 2021 — A vegetation study was completed but there is a need to repeat the study in the summer of 2022.

Along with the meetings noted above, the program completed the following tasks:

- December 2021 Monitors — A team of two monitors work daily for one week and then was replaced with a second team. One team was from Whatı and the other from Behchokq̄. The focus of the study was to look out for hunters harvesting caribou/moose and to record habitat changes along the new highway.
- A research permit was requested from ARI for a dust study.
- Voluntary harvest reporting (report your harvest of caribou and/or moose to Tyanna Steinwand, Stephanie Behrens or a Tłjchq Highway Monitor).



Tłjchq Government

## ***Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road Traditional Knowledge Elders Camp Along***

In March 2022 this camp was established to have more Tłıchǫ representation out in the winter caribou harvesting areas to assist and educate harvesters. One of the goals for the project was to decrease Tłıchǫ harvesters getting tickets and fines for illegal hunting and hunting in the 'No Hunting Zone' in the vicinity of the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road. The Elders worked alongside the camp helper and Tłıchǫ knowledge researcher to collect and document the knowledge of harvesting caribou as well as the stories of the land and caribou harvesting that have been passed on from generation to generation along with sharing new experiences from harvesting caribou in this area in recent years.

The camp participants were Samantha Migwi, Albina Nitsiza, Tony Wedawin, Janet Rabesca, Jordan Beaulieu, Doreen Apples, Janelle Nitsiza, Carter Wetrade, Eva Mantla, Kevin Zoe.

Elders included in the group were Charlie Jim Nitsiza, Charlie Football, Archie Wetrade, Louis Zoe, Therese Zoe.

## ***Hotì ts'eeda Contribution to DCLP***

### ***Elet'ànìts'e'ah: Implementing UNDRIP in Health***

Hotì ts'eeda led virtual knowledge sharing sessions with community members across the NWT to understand how the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is being implemented in health and wellness programs, services and research. The sessions introduced participants to UNDRIP, the K'àlaàghaa as a metaphor for UNDRIP and guided participants through a discussion around the principles and approaches necessary to strengthen and guide the implementation of UNDRIP in health and wellness systems. The project created five pages on the Hotì ts'eeda website with valuable information about UNDRIP. This included a plain-language version of the UNDRIP articles and a video presentation by Daniel T'seleie and Bertha Rabesca-Zoe about what UNDRIP is and why it is important.



Illustration: Darrell Chocolate, 2021

**Research CASH (Capacity, Access and Strength Here):  
Tri Council Grant Writing Workshop**

The Aurora Research Institute and Hoti ts'eeda partnered in leading a series of grant writing workshops in March 2022 to support NWT-based researchers and community members in accessing funding from federal organizations providing grants. Attendees received three days of training and working support from Research Officers specializing in each of the Tri-Council funders' programs (SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR), academic mentors and successful Northern researchers. Attendees brought a specific project idea to the workshop where they collectively worked through the stages of a grant proposal: from developing their project idea to identifying a funding program to partnering with relevant co-applicants and collaborators to fully developing a competitive proposal.

**Efèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkakh Łatr'iljil 2021 to 2022**

The annual accountability and priority setting gathering is a space for partners, community members, researchers and decision-makers to meet, build relationships and learn about Hoti ts'eeda and health research and projects across the NWT. Efèts'ehdèe-Katimaqatigiit-Nihkakh Łatr'iljil 2021 was the fifth gathering of its kind, with the theme of Implementing UNDRIP. The event was held virtually and pared back to avoid Zoom fatigue.



Graphic Recording: Nigit'stil Norber, 2021



## Healthy Family Program Renewal Project

The GNWT Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) contracted Hotì ts'eeda to undertake a review and renewal of its Healthy Families Program and Toolkit to guide staff working with families. The Toolkit includes “made in the North” resources to support Northern families. This toolkit was entitled Families Together: Weaving Wellness and Wisdom and completed in 2021 to 2022. Moving forward it will be used to guide the renewed Healthy Family Program across NWT communities.

## Integrated Care Teams (ICT): Research and Evaluation Project

ICT is a new model of staffing and approach to providing primary health care. Hotì ts'eeda is leading a team of collaborators from the GNWT and the Institute of Health Economics (IHE) to examine, measure and document the impacts of Integrated Care Teams in NWT primary health care clinics. The approach is rooted in two reform pillars: relationships and cultural safety. Results of the project will help the GNWT improve the ICT model and culturally safe primary health care across the NWT.



Tiçho Government

Déline Parent Circle: Healthy Family Program Sessions, 2021 to 2022.

# Department of Community Wellness Programs

The Department of Community Wellness Programs is responsible for providing leadership and direction in programs and services delivered by the Tłıchq Government related to wellness, healing, harmony, personal and family self-sufficiency along with an emphasis on using the language, culture and the Tłıchq way of life as a healing force. The Department strives to improve the quality of life for Tłıchq citizens in the areas of education, health, wellness and justice.

## *Healthy Babies, Families and Community Cluster*

Due to COVID-19 programs and the corresponding meeting cancellations and office closures sporadically between April 2021 to March 2022, programs were delivered virtually throughout the year. Participants (mothers and families) cooked and made crafts in their own home and when completed projects the participants submitted pictures and videos of the activity.

On a weekly basis the Healthy Babies, Families and Community Programs in Whatì and Behchokò held prenatal and postnatal cooking classes focused on meal preparations for expecting and new parents and provided information on how to prepare healthy meals while learning how to budget accordingly for those meals.

## Support Programs

### *Food Hampers*

Hampers were provided to homes in the communities of Behchokò (553), Whatì (123), Gamètì (77), Wekweètì (31) and Yellowknife (364). There were seven rounds of food hampers to Tłıchq homes throughout 2021 to 2022.

### *Behchokò Fitness Program*

The Community Wellness Programs Department delivered fitness programming to participants in Behchokò four times a week with exercises virtual and/or in-person in Behchokò throughout the year. The goals and objectives of the program were to teach participants self-regulation and resiliency tools that participants will be able to use in their daily lives. The participants learned about proper form when exercising, warm up and warm down exercises, different exercise equipment, yoga poses for relaxing and breathing techniques for calming down.

### ***Whatì Annual “Trip Around the Lake”***

The Community Wellness Programs and the Whatì Community Justice Program hosted the Annual Whatì Trip Around the Lake in Whatì, NWT. It was held in an on-the-land setting outside of the community of Whatì. Youth learned the traditional Tłıchq̓ ways of life on the land, the cultural teachings of hide scrapping, tanning, net fishing and dry fish/meat production. The youth also learned about the rites of passage to womanhood and manhood through teachings of the body, mind and spirit. As well, the participants received traditional teachings from our Elders on the roles and responsibilities of young women and young men in the Tłıchq̓ region. The program was run differently due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related guidelines and protocols were practiced throughout the event.

### ***Behchokò Healing Camp***

The Community Wellness Programs Department hosted healing camps at Russell Lake and in Behchokò. The camp was delivered for ten days on the land at Russell Lake with approximately sixteen participants with facilitators from the Tłıchq̓ region and Yellowknife. In Behchokò wellness workshops were delivered on weekends for six weeks at the EMES gym with approximately twelve participants. Participants who attended the healing camps were from all Behchokò. Topics included in the camps were:

- Loss and grief;
- Trauma;
- Residential school impact;
- Self-care; and
- Aftercare, etc.

Approximately 28 people participated in the healing camps and weekend workshops. Following the COVID-19 guidelines no more than six people were in a tent at one time.

### ***Whatì Healthy Babies Halloween Festival***

The Healthy Babies Healthy Families Program in Whatì hosted virtual events and provided activity baskets to families in the Whatì community. Activities include pumpkin carving, tie-dye pillowcases, gingerbread baking and decorating. All these programs were delivered virtually with recipients in their own homes with photos submitted to the lead coordinator of the events.



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### ***Wekweètì Merchandise Bingo/Craft Night/Movie Night***

The Community Wellness Programs Department along with Community Justice hosted weekly programs for youth in the Wekweètì community. COVID-19 regulations and guidelines were followed.

### ***Wekweètì Berry Harvesting***

The Community Wellness Programs Department and the Justice Department partnered with the Wekweètì Recreation Department and hosted a Berry Harvesting event out on the land: families went out on the land and gathered berries for harvesting while also following the COVID-19 guidelines and protocols.

### ***Behchokò, Gamètì, Wekweètì, Whatì, Children’s Winter Festival***

The Community Wellness Programs Department delivered winter-themed packages for children twelve years and under in the month of December 2021. The festivals provided a means to celebrate children in the Tłıchq region and to bring families together during the holiday season.

### ***Behchokò Elder’s Appreciation Event***

The Community Wellness Programs Department provided Elders appreciation care packages and distributed to Elders in the month of December 2021 to celebrate all the Elders in our community and recognize their contributions to our youth, to the community and to programs in Behchokò.

### ***Behchokò Homelessness Program***

The Community Wellness Programs Department contributed care packages to the Behchokò homeless clients during the month of December 2021.

### ***Zahk’e Youth on the Land***

The Community Wellness Programs held a youth on-the-land program at Marion Lake for seven days. Youth were taught traditional activities and survival skills. They also visited historical sites and taught what the sites were about and why they were significant to our ancestors. Youth reconnected with Elders and the stories they shared with our youth. The last night of the program they had a bonfire and sang drum dance songs.



Tessa Macintosh / Tłıchq Government

# Department of Client Services

Client Services is responsible for providing leadership and direction in programming related to: career development, communication, economic development, enrolment, post-secondary and research. The Client Services Department has adapted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to increase client services for the Tłıchq̓ people. We remained constant and continuous in our service, based on the needs of our citizens through relationship building, partnerships and collaboration.

The following sections below are a short summary from each division in the Client Services Department.

## Career Development

This last year, the Career Development Program was once again impacted by COVID-19. With much of the fall and winter months seeing containment orders throughout the Tłıchq̓ communities, much of the training in these months had to be postponed. Despite the challenges, the Career Development Program was able to serve Tłıchq̓ citizens and deliver training programs across the Tłıchq̓ region.

The Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISETS) Program plan provided training for citizens in the Tłıchq̓ region through 2021. The ISETS Program was supported by the Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF) which came to an end in 2021. 183 Tłıchq̓ citizens are under the ISETS program.

The ISETS Program coordinated a variety of training opportunities in 2021. Driver training continues to be an in-demand program with training being held in each community throughout the year. Behchok̓q̓ had several offerings of Class 1, Class 3, Class 5 and Class 7 training. Wekweèti and Gamèti both held Class 5 and Class 7 training, while Whatì held Class 1, Class 5 and Class 7 training.

Wilderness Safety Training and Environmental Monitoring Programs were also held several times throughout the year. Tłıchq̓ citizens who participated in these courses learned a range of skills: environmental sampling, Canadian Firearms Safety Course, wilderness first aid, wilderness trip preparation, maps & GPS, bear safety, safe working on ice, marine radio, boat safety, snowmobile and canoe safety and chainsaw certification training. These programs also included opportunities for past trainees to receive recertification, where applicable.

Client Services partnered with Laughing Lichen to deliver foraging and wildcraft oriented programming. A series of two-day community foraging workshops were held in several communities in combination with a series of one-day applied foraging workshops available in all four Tłıchq̓ communities. In addition, six Tłıchq̓ citizens were trained and completed their internship at the Laughing Lichens facility. Two holiday workshops were held in Behchok̓q̓ where community members had the opportunity to create wild herbal products (soaps, body lotions and candles) and wreath and garland making in time for holiday season decorating.

During the summer, programming focused on youth training which included the DENE Warriors Youth Camp in partnership with the Community Action Research Team and Community Wellness Program. 17. Tłıchq high-school students interested in learning more about trades participated in the Trades Awareness Program (TAP) hosted at Aurora College's Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith. The program included additional supports through the involvement of several trusted Tłıchq chaperones who accompanied the youth. The youth spent seven days engaging in a hands-on skill building program that provided exposure to several trades, campus life, take-home projects and evening programming throughout the campus and Fort Smith.

To create additional economic and employment opportunities tied to the upcoming sawmill training beginning next year, the logs required for the sawmill training are being sourced from within the Tłıchq region by Tłıchq citizens. Tłıchq citizens have had the opportunity to partake in a paid log harvest in Wekweèti and Whatì with opportunities for other communities to participate in the upcoming year.

Career Development coordinated a variety of training programs including, WHMIS and Traffic Control, standard first aid, first responder and security training in Whatì. Entrepreneurial and leadership training was hosted in partnership with Inspire NWT. The Aspire Literacy Program, a 12-month literacy skill building program began this year and was delivered in partnership with Aspire Training Academy and De Beer's Canada. Client Services partnered with MacEwan University to deliver a series of continuing education programs in the Tłıchq region with the leadership program being the first to occur this year and a series of other programs to follow next year.

## Communications

The Communications Department continues to share information with both internal and external stakeholders using a variety of platforms such as the web, social media, e-mail and print. Between 2021 and 2022 our website, Tłıchq.ca, saw 68,445 users visit the website, a 5.3% increase over the previous year. The website also logged over 294,000 page views over the same period.

Client Services Communications is committed to building capacity through staff training and skills development. These efforts will further enhance awareness of the Tłıchq brand and initiatives. In addition, communications will lead the development of a strategic communications plan which is scheduled for CEC review and approval in fall 2022.

## Economic Development

The Tłıchq Regional Economic Development Working Group (TREDWG) led the development and completion of our second Five-Year Economic Development and Training Strategy, getting input through surveys, interviews and community engagement sessions. The strategy was finalized this spring and is designed to foster and enable economic opportunities for Tłıchq citizens and businesses. It puts in place a solid foundation to guide priorities and outlines the roles and responsibilities for actions that will lead to increased employment, new business opportunities, a diversity in skills and value-added goods and services in Tłıchq communities.

A five-year training proposal was developed and submitted to the Government of Canada under the Skills and Partnerships Program. A successful application will

enable Client Services to offer a variety of training opportunities to assist Tłıchq citizens in accessing employment.

Economic Development Officers assisted 25 clients with wayfinding exercises for grant applications and loans aimed at funding proposals. Four of these clients completed the required application processes and secured funding to start or grow their own micro-businesses.

A detailed work plan to advance the implementation of by-laws for business licensing in Gamètì and Wekweètì and to operationalize the Tłıchq Business Registry has been completed and is in progress now. The work plan will be completed by April 1, 2023.

## Enrolment

Enrolment provides a variety of services to Tłıchq citizens. There are currently 4,493 active Tłıchq citizens enrolled under the Tłıchq Registry. For more information, please email [enrolment@tlichq.ca](mailto:enrolment@tlichq.ca) for questions about Tłıchq citizenship, commissioner of oaths, marriage issuer, and for the Wills and Estates Program.

## Post-Secondary Education

The post-secondary program under Client Services provides post-secondary student funding and support. Please contact [post.secondary@tlichq.ca](mailto:post.secondary@tlichq.ca) for more information.

We have two new funding programs in addition to our **Top-Up “(Our Nation’s Education) ONE Student Financial Support Program”**, a financial top-up available to full-time Tłıchq citizens in post-secondary programs. Running since 1997 and funded by our corporate partners, the program has contributed significantly to the success of our students! Partnered financial assistance is greatly appreciated and we look forward to their continued participation in this program. Masi Cho!

RioTinto



ARCTIC CANADIAN  
DIAMOND COMPANY

## DE BEERS GROUP

New funding provided by the Government of Canada — the Dq Nàke Lààni Nàts’etso Bursary/ Strong Like Two People Bursary — provides financial assistance for students who are members of the former First Nations bands of Dogrib Rae Band, Whatì First Nation, Gamètì First Nation and Dechi Laot’i First Nation who are enrolled in a certificate, diploma or degree program at eligible post-secondary educational institutions.

New funding provided by the Government of Canada — University and College Entrance Preparation Program (UCEPP) — offers non-repayable financial support for full-time and part-time students who are members of the former First Nations bands of Dogrib Rae Band, Whatì First Nation, Gamètì First Nation and Dechi Laot’i First Nation and who are enrolled in a university and college entrance preparation programs to enable them to attain the academic level required for entrance into degree and diploma credit programs.

During the pandemic, Client Services developed support programs for Tłıchq post-secondary students, through the Northern Compass Program (under the Northern Youth Abroad Program). 84 students accessed our support programs which included, tutoring, virtual workshops and upskilling training.

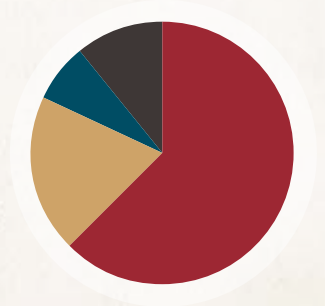


## 2021 to 2022 Statistics

Total students accessing the ONE Program: 119  
Total students accessing the ONE payment: 95

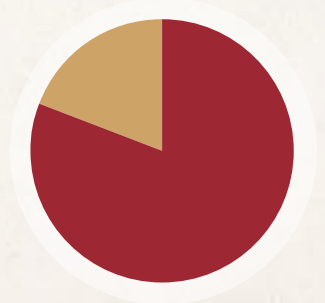
### Total Students from the Tłı̨chǫ Region (Behchokò, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Whatì):

<span style="color: #800000;">■</span>	35 Behchokò
<span style="color: #C08040;">■</span>	11 Whatì
<span style="color: #008080;">■</span>	4 Gamètì
<span style="color: #404040;">■</span>	6 Wekweètì



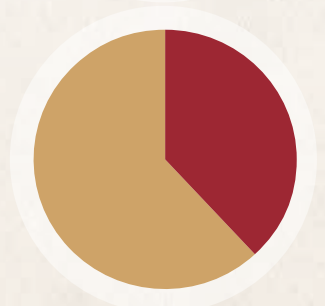
### Number of Applicants by Gender:

<span style="color: #800000;">■</span>	77 Female
<span style="color: #C08040;">■</span>	18 Male



### Number of Students with/without Dependents:

<span style="color: #800000;">■</span>	37 With dependents
<span style="color: #C08040;">■</span>	60 Without dependents



### Deadline Dates to Remember

- Fall Deadline: February 1<sup>st</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>.  
\*Supplemental information must be received by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Winter Deadline: June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>.  
\*Supplemental information must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Summer Deadline: September 1<sup>st</sup> to February 15<sup>th</sup>.  
\*Supplemental information must be received by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.*



## Research

The Department of Client Services has developed their research capacity and is building a socio-economic research team. The socio-economic research team works in collaboration with other Tłı̨chq̓ Government departments conducting research.

To support the planning of future training and employment opportunities, the Client Services research team will be conducting a Tłı̨chq̓-wide survey about employment, education, skills, traditional economy, career interests and work experiences which will open in the summer of 2022. All Tłı̨chq̓ members ages fifteen and older are eligible to participate.



Tessa Macintosh / Tłı̨chq̓ Government



Cody Mantla, CBS

Grad Class 2022.





Dii sa naet'aa, dii deh n̄l̄l̄l̄, dii dè nàgoèhd̄-le  
n̄dè, asì wets'à goet'q̄ h̄l̄l̄ 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



***Tłı̄chǫ Government***

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