

4th Tłıchq Assembly
20th Session Directive
April 22, 2021

The 4th Tłıchq Assembly held its 20th Session on April 21 – 22, 2021 and approved the following:

1. **2021 ANNUAL GATHERING AND NOMINATION MEETING**

Due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, the Tłıchq Assembly must adjust how the 2021 Tłıchq Annual Gathering is to take place;

Considering the orders and advice of the NWT Public Health Officer, which restricts large gatherings of people due to the contagious nature of Covid-19 and its ability to be easily transmitted from person to person, the Tłıchq Assembly has deemed all efforts must be made to keep Tłıchq citizens safe;

And considering it may be unsafe for Tłıchq citizens, particularly Elders, to travel to Behchokò and gather in large numbers for the 2021 Annual Gathering;

It is directed that should the orders and advice of the NWT Public Health Officer restrict the in-person Annual Gathering of the Tłıchq in Behchokò for 2021, then

- a) the 2021 Tłıchq Annual Gathering will be held simultaneously in each of the four Tłıchq communities of Behchokò, Gamètì, Whatì and Wekweètì on those days set aside for the 2021 Annual Gathering by in-person means in limited numbers which respects the orders and advice of the NWT Public Health Officer and which keeps Tłıchq citizens safe, and will be broadcasted live by virtual means; and
- b) that the Grand Chief nomination meeting shall be administered from Behchokò by the Elections Registrar, Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott, adjusted to comply with the *Regulations for the Covid-19 Adjusted Conduct of the 2021 Tłıchq Grand Chief Nomination and Election*, on the day set aside for nominations.

It is also directed that Chiefs Executive Council continue to work to design an Annual Gathering for 2021 which implements this Directive.

It is also directed that the dates for the 2021 Annual Gathering of the Tłıchq will be August 16 to August 20, 2021 with the meeting to nominate candidates for the position of Grand Chief being held on August 20, 2021.

2. **Addiction to Wellness Strategy**

Many parents are expressing grave concerns to Chiefs and Assembly members about young people and others in our Tłıchq communities who have become sick with addictions to drugs, alcohol and gambling. Existing government addictions programs and services are considered inadequate for affecting any significant long-term change in the patterns of addiction in our people and our communities.

The Tłıchq Government recognizes the need for change, and that any renewed effort required to heal our communities must be a collaborative effort between the Tłıchq Government, and the Tłıchq Community Services Agency. This renewed effort must be built upon the foundation of the best community-based strategies that have come before, best current practices in addictions and wellness treatment, as well as a fundamental recognition of the healing capacity of Tłıchq language, culture and way of life.

Therefore, the Tłıchq Government approves the "12 Things we can do NOW" document to be used as a guide while a renewed Tłıchq Strategy for Addictions and Healing is developed.

Signature: _____



Grand Chief George Mackenzie
April 22, 2021