

Tłıchọ Government Annual Report 2015

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Photo Credit: Tevsa MacIntosh



A 10 Year Celebration of the Tłıchọ Government 2005-2015

Tłıchọ Ndek'áowo



Tłıchọ Government

Ikè dọ gha goita... In Tłıchọ Unity...

Message from the Grand Chief



Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

I am pleased to provide this brief overview of the work of our Government in 2014-2015. This summer is the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Tł̨chq̨ Government. It has been an amazing decade, with many challenges for our Government, but also many successes. It is a time to remember where we started and determine where we want to be going. The Tł̨chq̨ Government owns, manages and controls over 39,000 square kilometres of lands in the Northwest Territories. Under the Tł̨chq̨ Constitution, we acknowledge our responsibility to serve for all time as custodians of these lands, as Monfwi said, "for as long as this land shall last".

As we come to the end of our first decade as a northern Aboriginal government, we are dealing with many critical issues involving our lands and our people. Canada is seeking to speed the permitting of northern industrial development by eliminating the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board. We believe this breaches our agreement and, as a result, we are asking the courts to make a legal ruling against Canada's actions.

At the same time, we have been alarmed and deeply saddened by the dramatic decline of the Bathurst and Bluenose East caribou herds. This decline has been shocking to all of us and it is one of the greatest current challenges to the Tł̨chq̨ Government. For the first time in our history, we are facing the possibility that all the caribou will be gone from our lands. This crisis speaks to the critical need to build the capacity of our Government to effectively monitor and manage our lands. We must be able to do this in a time of unprecedented climate change, industrial development and significantly increasing harvesting pressures. We must increase the training of our community members to be the eyes and ears on Tł̨chq̨ lands, so that, as we move forward with the implementation of the land use plan, Tł̨chq̨ Wenek'é, we are able to adequately protect our lands.

On behalf of the Chiefs Executive Council, Chief Clifford Daniels, Chief Alfonz Nitsiza, Chief David Wedawin and Chief Johnny Arrowmaker, and the Assembly members of the Tł̨chq̨ Government, I wish all of you the very best as we celebrate together at the Annual Gathering in Gamètì, and later in August, the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Tł̨chq̨ Government in Behchokò.

As always, I welcome a conversation with you on the work of the Tł̨chq̨ Government.

In Tł̨chq̨ Unity

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

Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus

A Celebration of Our First 10 Years



Who could have foreseen in 1921 when Monfwi signed Treaty 11, that it would be over 80 years of often difficult, challenging work by our elders, Chiefs and other community leaders, before the Tłı̨chǫ Government could be established in 2005. By 2003 agreements had been drafted and our people voted overwhelmingly to accept the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement with 92% of citizens voting “yes”. The work to establish a new government had begun.

The major task of the 1st Tłı̨chǫ Assembly, 2005-2009, was to establish a new Government. Reorganizing the Tłı̨chǫ corporations was a major task, where over 40 companies were brought together under a unified investment corporation. Throughout the 2nd Tłı̨chǫ Assembly, 2009-2013, the Government began to organize its work agenda into a formal strategic plan.



The first strategic framework set out a vision, mission and intentions for the new Government. The Assembly established a moratorium on the development of Tłı̨chǫ lands and began working on the land use plan Tłı̨chǫ Wenek'e. The Kwe Beh Working Group was established. It's task is to manage the implementation of the Impact and Benefit Agreements, and mining industry and roads files. As well, the Assembly began developing infrastructure in the communities, and cultural and heritage activities to strengthen our cultural life.

Tłı̨chǫ Government programs and services delivered by the Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency, under the Intergovernmental Services Agreement, were returned to the Tłı̨chǫ Government in 2013. Finally, a major restructuring of the Government began with the creation of four new departments: the Departments of Corporate Services, Culture and Lands Protection; Community Programs; and Community Services.



A Celebration of Our First 10 Years

continued

Tłı̨chǫ Ndek'áowó



Tłı̨chǫ Government

The Government of Canada and the GNWT pass legislation that recognize the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement and make it law. On August 4, 2005, the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement becomes law and the new Tłı̨chǫ Government begins operations.

A budget and starter kit of laws were passed to allow the Assembly to do its work and to set up the government administration in the four Tłı̨chǫ communities.



2005



The reorganization of all the Tłı̨chǫ corporations was a major task and over 40 companies were brought together into a unified investment corporation.

A moratorium on Tłı̨chǫ lands was declared to ensure that they would be protected from development while a land use plan was developed.



2006



Creation of www.tlicho.ca as a media tool to communicate with citizens and the world about the Tłı̨chǫ Government, our communities, our businesses and our culture.

Support for the revitalization of Tłıchǫ cultural practices such as the Trails of Our Ancestors and regional Hand Games Tournaments.

2007



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

During the 2nd Tłıchǫ Assembly, 2009-2013, our strategic plan was developed, approved and implemented with a Tłıchǫ vision, mission, principles and intentions to guide our work.

The Kwe Beh Working Group was established to engage with the mining industry and implement the Impact and Benefit Agreements.



Photo Credit: Trudy Hause

2008



Working with Tłıchǫ elders to develop the Tłıchǫ land use plan and the addition of sacred sites to the TK database.

The development of community infrastructure Community Presence offices in Whatı and Gamèti.



2009



The creation of the (soon to be award-winning) Tłıchǫ Īmbè program to provide summer employment in their home communities for post-secondary students, working with elders and youth.

A Celebration of Our First 10 Years

continued



The signing of the "Working Together" Memorandum of Understanding with the GNWT to develop positive working relationships around the delivery of programs and services in the Tłı̨chǫ communities.

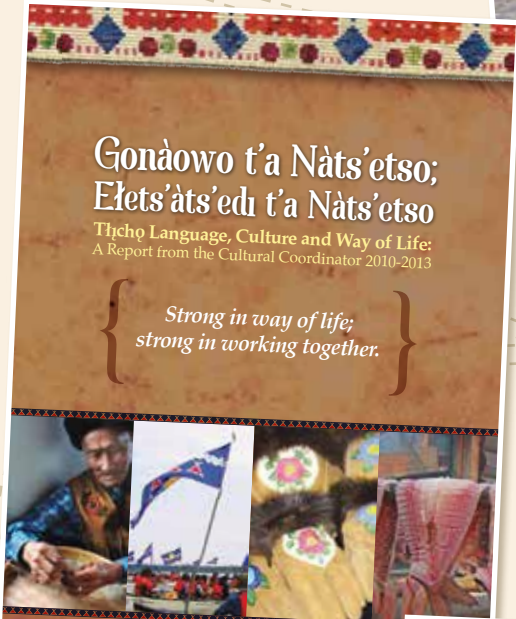
Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

2010

Tłı̨chǫ Government programs and services at the TCSA were returned to the Tłı̨chǫ Government. The Tłı̨chǫ Government was restructured into four major departments, including Corporate Services, Culture and Lands Protection, Community Services and Community Programs.



2011



First triennial report released by the Cultural Coordinator, which makes nine recommendations, including a call for a recommitment of all northern governments to language, culture and way of life.

2012

The Community Action Research Team (CART) achieves national and international attention for its work on youth violence in relationship.

Tłı̨chǫ Community Action Research Team (CART)

CART strives to promote healthy, well-being within the Tłı̨chǫ region by developing and implementing Sustainable Programs to meet the needs of the Tłı̨chǫ people and assist them in making better informed decisions that enhance their whole way of life to be "Strong like two People".

The work of CART

Our work originates from the realization that the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people is the responsibility of the Tłı̨chǫ Government. The Tłı̨chǫ Government is committed to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people and to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people's future generations. The Tłı̨chǫ Government is committed to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people and to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people's future generations. The Tłı̨chǫ Government is committed to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people and to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people's future generations.

How CART began...

CART is an offshoot of the Tłı̨chǫ Government's commitment to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people. The Tłı̨chǫ Government is committed to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people and to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people's future generations. The Tłı̨chǫ Government is committed to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people and to the well-being of the Tłı̨chǫ people's future generations.

Seeking Community Engagement

Each project involves engagement with our stakeholders:

Youth

Parents

Elders

Leaders

CART Activities

Control and professional support programs throughout the Tłı̨chǫ region:

- 1. Healthy Choice Initiative
- 2. Outreach Initiative
- 3. Menstrual Health Initiative
- 4. Cultural Enhancement
- 5. Youth Violence Prevention
- 6. Youth Violence Prevention
- 7. Youth Violence Prevention
- 8. Youth Violence Prevention
- 9. Youth Violence Prevention
- 10. Youth Violence Prevention

Communication Strategies

CART uses:

- 1. Peer-led traditional community initiatives
- 2. Community outreach through cultural activities
- 3. Cultural activities
- 4. Outreach initiatives
- 5. Outreach initiatives
- 6. Outreach initiatives
- 7. Outreach initiatives
- 8. Outreach initiatives
- 9. Outreach initiatives
- 10. Outreach initiatives

Building Community Capacity

Training courses and training efforts:

- 1. Training in building community capacity to support and respond to the needs of the Tłı̨chǫ people
- 2. Training in building community capacity to support and respond to the needs of the Tłı̨chǫ people
- 3. Training in building community capacity to support and respond to the needs of the Tłı̨chǫ people
- 4. Training in building community capacity to support and respond to the needs of the Tłı̨chǫ people
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- 8. Training in building community capacity to support and respond to the needs of the Tłı̨chǫ people
- 9. Training in building community capacity to support and respond to the needs of the Tłı̨chǫ people
- 10. Training in building community capacity to support and respond to the needs of the Tłı̨chǫ people

Contact: Tłı̨chǫ CART

Meeting Venues: Tłı̨chǫ Government

Size: 100-150

Phone: 867-754-4444

Website: www.tlicho.ca

Address: 1000-10th Street, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2S4

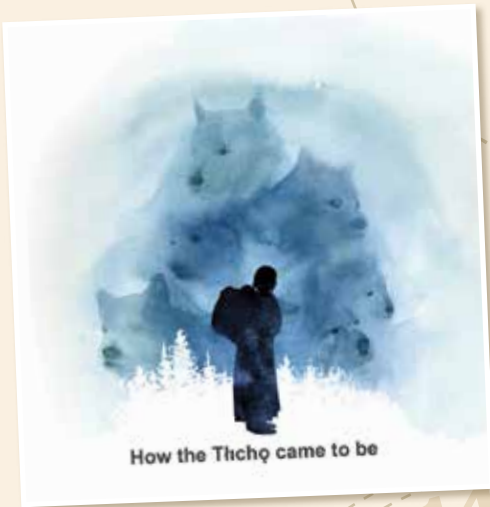
Twitter: @TlichoCART

Facebook: TlichoCommunityActionResearchTeam

2013

Establishment of Dedats'eetsaa: Tłı̨chǫ Research and Training Institute to advance the study of Tłı̨chǫ lands, language, culture and way of life.

Tłı̨chǫ Weneke': The Tłı̨chǫ Land Use Plan was completed in 2013 and provides a guide for the protection and future development of our lands, outlining how Tłı̨chǫ land will be protected and how activities and development should occur.



The creation of the Tłı̨chǫ Cultural Commons Digital Archives, with documents, pictures, film, video and audio files.

2014

Creation of the Wilderness Safety Program as part of the development of our Occupational Health and Safety policy framework and the graduation of 10 people in the first cohort.



2015

Iłè dọ gha gọta In Tłıchọ Unity

A Strategic Framework and Intentions for the 3rd Assembly

During 2014-2015, the 3rd Assembly approved a renewed Strategic Framework and Intentions for the term of the Assembly from 2013-2017. The Strategic Framework includes the vision of our Government, “Iłè dọ gha gọta”... “In Tłıchọ Unity” as well as a mission and principles for guiding our actions. Six major Intentions were approved:

Intention One: Sustaining Our Lands and Environment

Introduction

The Tłıchọ Government has the responsibility to manage approximately 39,000 sq. km. of Tłıchọ lands. This land is one of the largest single blocks of privately owned land in Canada. From the Tłıchọ Constitution, we acknowledge our responsibility to sustain our lands and environment... for all time.



Accomplishments

We are seeking to protect Tłıchọ lands and wildlife according to Tłıchọ traditional, ecological and social values for future generations. We promote a Tłıchọ approach to sustainable land management through research of traditional knowledge of land occupancy and use and its application to current issues. We work in partnership with other governments and agencies to use western science as a research tool to protect Tłıchọ lands and wildlife.

In 2014-2015, we continued to implement the Tłıchọ Wenek'e (Land Use Plan) and improved our administration and registry systems to process industrial applications for the use of our lands. We have also continued to develop an Environmental Monitoring Training Program to train Tłıchọ citizens to be our “eyes and ears” on the land to monitor a variety of ecosystems. We have worked collaboratively with other governments and agencies to protect areas of cultural and natural importance, and develop strategies for species at risk such as the Bathurst caribou.

Intention Two: Sustaining Our Language, Culture and Way of Life

Introduction

The Public Health Agency of Canada states that culture is one of the 12 key determinants of health and we believe that strengthening our culture will promote physical and mental well-being for all ages. We are working with other agencies and governments to promote wellness within on-the-land activities. We work to celebrate our language, culture and way of life with activities such as handgames, drumdances, cultural camps, spiritual gatherings, puberty camps for youth, support for culture-based livelihoods and more.

Accomplishments

We are committed to initiating and supporting activities that maintain the practice of our language, culture and way of life. We are committed to protecting, creating and promoting Tłıchọ heritage resources to ensure that our people have access to our shared heritage through film and video, pictures, documents and audio recordings. We foster research that serves to preserve, protect and promote our language, culture and way of life.



In 2014-2015, we have promoted traditional cultural practices, including assistance to hunters and trappers, online support for the sale of our artists' works and the support of annual celebrations, including the Annual Gatherings, adult and, now, youth hand game tournaments, and spiritual gatherings in Russell Lake, Lac St. Ann and Dèl̄ne. We have continued to develop Dedats'eetsaa: the Tł̄ch̄q Research and Training Institute to promote, coordinate and consolidate research in the region and established a new website at www.research.tl̄ch̄q.ca. We have implemented Tł̄ch̄q language and literacy classes to improve communication for interpreter/translators and other language activists. We are creating resources for Tł̄ch̄q citizens to learn and celebrate their identity and language through the creation and development of the Tł̄ch̄q Cultural Commons Digital Archive.

Intention Three: Strengthening Our Communities, Our People

Introduction

The third Intention of the Tł̄ch̄q Government is to improve the life of our communities by making contributions that fill gaps and supplement existing programs and services to promote wellness, spirituality and our traditional cultural activities. Our intention is to improve the life of our communities and build strengths in our families and people.



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Accomplishments

We encourage our citizens to participate in community-based training to increase their employability, as well as involvement in post-secondary education and the training needed to build our communities, our government and businesses. We promote healthy living by delivering wellness programs and services that focus on healing and incorporate Tł̄ch̄q culture. We seek to connect elders and youth in a variety of activities in the communities and on our lands. We also provide compassionate funding to support the traditional activities of our people and their families related to illness and deaths in the family within the Tł̄ch̄q communities.

In 2014-2015, we have continued to provide financial assistance to Tł̄ch̄q post-secondary students through the ONE post-secondary financial support funding program. We have provided training and education courses in each Tł̄ch̄q community to prepare people for employment. We have provided information programs and services in prenatal nutrition and maternal child health, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, youth suicide prevention, Aboriginal diabetes, and mental health and addictions.

Intention Four: Increasing Our Financial Strength and Economic Independence

Introduction

The Tł̄ch̄q Government seeks to increase the financial strength and economic development of our communities primarily through the activities of the Tł̄ch̄q Investment Corporation, which undertakes commercial activities on behalf of our Government. The intention of the Tł̄ch̄q Investment Corporation is to ensure our economic self-reliance, prosperity and future certainty by creating sustainable economic development.



Jasper Lamouelle, President,
Tł̄ch̄q Investment Corporation

Accomplishments

We encourage sustainable economic development in the region and support the development of a strong Tł̄ch̄q traditional economy. We also protect the Capital Transfers under chapter 24 of the Tł̄ch̄q Agreement as a perpetual endowment for the benefit of all Tł̄ch̄q citizens, now and in the future.



Photo Credit: Trudy Hause

In 2014-2015, we directed the Kwe Beh Working Group to ensure the successful implementation of benefits agreements and for the scoping of future business opportunities with the mining industry. We have developed and implemented legislation for a Capital Trust Fund to preserve the value of the Capital Trust for future generations. We have invested in community facilities and provided financial support for the construction of community infrastructure, including Tł̄ch̄q Community Presence offices, recreational facilities and office infrastructure.



Photo Credit: Trudy Hause

Iłè dọ gha gọta In Tłıchọ Unity

A Strategic Framework and Intentions for the 3rd Assembly

Intention Five: Strengthening Tłıchọ Governance, Institutions and Organizations

Introduction

The Tłıchọ Government is still a “young” government, celebrating its first decade of existence this year. From a handful of people working for the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council in 2004, it has grown to over 75 staff, with facilities in five communities and a budget of over \$23 million annually. Ongoing work is required to strengthen our governance, institutional and organizational framework.



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Celine Zoe and Nancy Rabesca

Accomplishments

We are committed to the development and application of a governance framework based on our language, culture and way of life. We are committed to the development of a representative and skilled workforce in our Government and in the associated boards, agencies and business partners. In 2014-2015, we have continued to develop the legislation, policies and procedures for the effective and efficient operation of the Assembly, CEC and the Government. We have developed a comprehensive policy framework for safety for our on-the-land cultural programs. We have continued to upgrade our information technology infrastructure in all the communities to ensure effective, secure communications, data storage and information management functions. We have also continued our management training program for senior managers.

Intention Six: Managing Effective Intergovernmental Relationships

Introduction

The Tłıchọ Government engages with the Government of the NWT and the Government of Canada in a broad range of activities. The Tłıchọ Government reviews and provides commentary on proposed legislation, policy, programs and services of both the federal and territorial governments, and intervenes as necessary. The Tłıchọ Government also participates in activities for the protection and support of Aboriginal rights in Canada.



Justin Trudeau with CEC

Accomplishments

We are committed to participating actively in a review and intervention process, where necessary, in regards to Canadian and GNWT legislation and policy. We seek to improve territorial and federal programs and services to our citizens by working on a government-to-government basis. We meet regularly with the GNWT Premier and Cabinet under the “Working Together” Memorandum of Understanding as well as individual Ministers, when appropriate, to raise the profile of concerns regarding GNWT program and service delivery. We are also involved with Aboriginal treaty groups to strengthen coalitions and further our key interests in regards to treaty rights nationally.



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Highlights from 2014-2015

Communications with Our Communities and Continuing Website Development

Our website, at www.tlicho.ca, has continued to grow and develop along with its partner, www.facebook.com/Tlicho, attracting more and more people to the site as well as bringing many people back again for repeat visits.

The Tłı̨chǫ Government has established the main site to focus on the Tłı̨chǫ Government, our culture and heritage, our four communities and our businesses as well as specialized sites for the Online Store at www.onlinestore.tlicho.ca/, the Tłı̨chǫ History Project at www.tlichohistory.com/, the Chief Jimmy Bruneau School at www.cjbs.tlicho.ca/ and the newest addition, Dedats'eetsaa: Tłı̨chǫ Research and Training Institute website at www.research.tlicho.ca, which will bring people an in-depth look at the work of our Department of Culture and Lands Protection, with its focus on research and training, cultural practices and lands protection.



The Online Store at www.tlicho.ca



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

A Festival of Traditional Knowledge and TED^x Event

The Tłı̨chǫ Government, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and the Canadian Polar Commission worked together to host a festival of TK Knowledge in Behchokǫ and Yellowknife in September, which included a TED^x independently organized event (<http://tedxtalks.ted.com/>). Speakers came from the Tłı̨chǫ communities, across the north as well as North America and the world. This very successful event was dedicated to the memory of Chief Jimmy Bruneau. The event was named "łàà kati" or "speech of few words with great meaning", which was a metaphor for his words in relation to the modern TED^x format that we hosted with our partners. Bruneau's speeches were powerful, filled with great meaning and said a great deal in very few words. He spoke eloquently and forcefully for a vision of Tłı̨chǫ communities built on a foundation of traditional Tłı̨chǫ values, but which would integrate the knowledge and skills of two worlds.

The companion TED^x event, with its emphasis on tightly focused, highly accessible presentations not exceeding 18 minutes, including a digitally streamed attendance, sought to direct international attention towards the future of Traditional Knowledge as an important contemporary issue of deep social and cultural concern. The Tłı̨chǫ Government and our partners are publishing a DVD of the event, jointly.

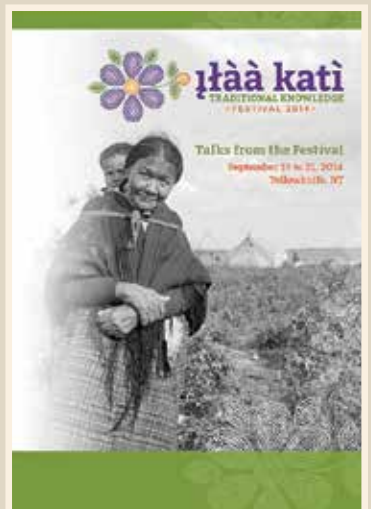


Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Highlights from 2014-2015

continued

Capital Transfers

Under Chapter 24 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement, the Tłı̨chǫ Government receives Capital Transfers from the federal government for the first 15 years of the Agreement after the effective date in 2005. The Tłı̨chǫ Constitution directs that all the Capital Transfers are to be protected as a perpetual endowment for the benefit of all Tłı̨chǫ, now and in the future, and that enough of the interest income earned on the Capital Transfers is to be saved to ensure that the Capital Transfers' value is preserved over time. Following the Constitution, the Tłı̨chǫ Government has put all the funds received so far in a trust called the "Tłı̨chǫ Capital Trust". As of March 31, 2015, the value of the Tłı̨chǫ Capital Trust was \$48,173,291. Another Capital Transfer in the amount of \$15,168,787 will be added to the Capital Trust in August 2015. The Tłı̨chǫ Government will receive its last Capital Transfer from Canada in August of 2019, when, at the time, the total amount received from Canada will total \$134,211,195 before taking into account any investment income.

Section 18 of the Tłı̨chǫ Capital Transfer Protection Law says that all the investment income shall be retained in the Trust until 2019 and re-invested to build up the funds in the Trust. In 2020, the Tłı̨chǫ Government will be able to use eligible income left over after saving enough of the investment income of that year to protect against inflation.



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Early Childhood Programs

The Tłı̨chǫ Government will draw down the authority for early childhood education as the first program to be delivered under the self-government provisions of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement. A Tłı̨chǫ Government Early Childhood Act and Legislation is expected to be completed in 2015 as well as an Early Childhood Strategy document, which will give direction to the program for all families with children aged 0-6 in the Tłı̨chǫ region. All Tłı̨chǫ Government early childhood programs focus on children at the center of the program and attempt to build on the child's knowledge and interest. The programs are based on the belief that children learn through play, and include many traditional and modern aspects of Tłı̨chǫ culture in the curriculum. There are strong speech and language development components in each of the programs and the early childhood educators are encouraged to speak and teach both Tłı̨chǫ yati and English. Elders visit the programs and speak to the children in Tłı̨chǫ yati while teaching the children how to prepare traditional food and learn age appropriate traditional skills.



The early childhood programs have improved services in all the communities by providing families who work with quality daycare, helping parents to attend high school, upgrading or training opportunities, and providing much needed respite for families of children with special/high needs. Preschool programs are located in community schools, where staff work closely with the school staff to ensure a smooth transition for children and their families from the preschool into the kindergarten classroom.



Photo Credit: Tessa MacIntosh

Computer training session

Training

The Tłchq Government has organized and delivered a great variety of training programs in 2014-2015. In the region, courses have been offered, including the Behchokò and Wekweètì Wood Stove Projects, the OH&S Committee and Staff Training in Safety Policy and Procedures, the Commercial Camp Cook training program, Introduction to Office Skills in Behchokò, Whatì and Gamètì, Introduction to Small Business – Part I in Behchokò and Whatì, Financial Literacy – Household Budgeting in Behchokò, the Tłchq Agreement Course – Part I and II in Gamètì and Wekweètì and the condensed Tłchq Agreement Course in Yellowknife and Behchokò. As well, in partnership with the Mine Training Society, a Safety Boot Camp was organized. Other courses included the Wilderness Safety Training Program, a Canadian Firearm Safety training in Behchokò, Wilderness Standard First Aid in Whatì and Gamètì, and the Tłchq Commercial Camp Training Program 2014 in Edzo. The Department of Culture and Lands Protection organized Tłchq Literacy courses through the University of Victoria. As well, the Department of Community Services delivered Staff Self-esteem and Team Building, Staff Career Coaching and Interview Coach Training for the TG staff. There were also three graduates from Wekweètì in the Early Childhood Certificate program.



Managers at the Management Development Training Program



Photo Credit: Tessa MacIntosh



Photo Credit: Tessa MacIntosh

Empowerment camp participant in Behchokò

The Ìmbè Summer Youth Program

Since 2011, the Tłchq Government has offered the Ìmbè Youth Summer Program in all the communities. The program was designed to help post-secondary students, who are away from their communities throughout the year, to return to work in their home communities for the summer and become reconnected with their culture, language and elders. The Ìmbè program helps young people to “be strong like two people”. The Ìmbè program is unique in that it combines cultural and traditional skills with employment skills and safety certification. It is hoped that the Ìmbè program will motivate young people to get out on the land and connect with their culture and history. The Ìmbè program offers some of the tools needed to be safe on the land. Since 2011, the Ìmbè program has hired 120 young people and 100 elders throughout all our communities. Participants have reported feeling empowered by the program to make positive changes in their community. Others have said that the program has helped them live a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle. The Ìmbè program will run again this summer and expand into Yellowknife as well.

Canada and the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board

In May 2014, the Tłı̨chǫ Government filed a lawsuit against the Government of Canada alleging that changes Canada wants to make to the Mackenzie Valley Regional Management Board (MVRMA) are unconstitutional because they would dismantle the system of regional land and water boards throughout the Mackenzie Valley. These boards are part of a guaranteed co-management role for the Tłı̨chǫ Government in relation to Wek'èezhì. The NWT Supreme Court issued an injunction stopping Canada from implementing its changes to the MVRMA and will remain in place until the lawsuit is complete. The injunction also preserves the Gwich'in and Sahtu regional boards.



After the decision by the NWT Supreme Court, Grand Chief Erasmus said that, "We are optimistic that Canada will read this decision and recognize that we must begin to work together to find solutions that work for all treaty partners. The days of unilateral action by Ottawa are over. Our door is always open to respectful negotiations and finding mutually beneficial solutions."



Community Presence Offices in the Communities

The Community Presence offices in Behchokò, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Whatì are active in their communities and sponsor a number of community events each year. This year, this report focuses on our smallest community, Wekweètì, which over the past few years has organized and sponsored many creative wellness, educational and culture activities in their community. These have included: spiritual gatherings; seasonal "On the Land" programs for the Alexis Arrowmaker School students to learn hunting and butchering caribou, fixing and scraping hides, setting nets, fixing fish and making dryfish; a photo workshop with professional photographer Tessa Macintosh; a song writing workshop with professional musician Nadine Neemeh; as well as jigging and fiddle programs and a Healing Workshop with the school students facilitated by Terri Nasken and Christine Liske.



In 2014-2015, the Wekweètì Presence office sponsored a Women "On The Land" program learning that included both cooking traditional foods, a sharing circle and self-awareness teachings, another Fish Camp "On The Land" program with Alexis Arrowmaker School students, a Tłı̨chǫ Agreement Course Part one and two, Youth and then Adults/Couples Self-esteem Workshops. These are still a topic of discussion in the community because the school was full of people, and great memories were created for our young people and parents.

ONE

One Nation Education...

Tłı̨chǫ Student Financial Support Program

The Tłı̨chǫ Government's ONE program is designed to support Tłı̨chǫ students attending post-secondary training and education programs. ONE is intended to be a supplement to other available funds such as the GNWT Student Financial Assistance program. For some students, the Tłı̨chǫ Government funding may be the only funding they receive. This program is the oldest of all Tłı̨chǫ Government programs, as it was originally developed by the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council. Originally funded largely from IBA payments from the mines, the funds delivered to students under this program have steadily increased over the years.

ONE has been the most long-lived and successful program of the Tłı̨chǫ Government and has had a significant impact on increasing the education and training of our people. Students have been successful in dozens of certificate, diploma and degree programs since 1997 from trades such as automotive technology and welding to professions such as education, social work, nursing and law.

In 2014-2015, 155 people applied for support under the program in a range of access, certificate, diploma, degree and apprenticeship programs in educational institutions from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. The majority of the applications came from Tłı̨chǫ citizens resident in the four Tłı̨chǫ communities. However, a number of applications also came from non-resident Tłı̨chǫ citizens living across Canada. Just over half of the applications included support for their dependents as well.

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



Photo Credit: Tessa Macintosh



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Thank You to Our Partners!

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



*Du sa naet'aa, du deh nılyı, du dè nàgoèhdq-le nıdè,
ası wets'à goet'q hqıı 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



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Tłıchǰ Government