

**TETLIT GWICH'IN YOUTH
COUNCIL**

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

December 2005

Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council

Article 1

The name of this group shall be the **Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council**.

Article 2

The objectives of this group shall be:

1. To be an advocating body of the Fort McPherson youth at local, regional, and national levels.
2. To provide Tetlit Gwich'in Youth living in or outside the community, with an opportunity to obtain leadership skills and to promote youth empowerment.
3. To know the importance of refraining from the abuse of alcohol, drugs, and smoking; to maintain physical and mental well-being in order to be a positive role model for present and future generations.
4. To accept spirituality as an important foundation for a healthy, balanced lifestyle.
5. To be honest, understanding and respectful of the diversity and uniqueness of self, others and our environment.
6. To interact and volunteer our time and talents to work towards improving Gwich'in youth, families and communities.
7. And finally to make a personal commitment to strive towards reaching our full potential through self-awareness, education, and commitment to well-being.

Article 3

Members:

Membership of the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council shall consist of 8 members and shall consist of any member of the Fort McPherson youth between the ages of 15 and 30, all of whom must be residing in the community.

Section 1

Each member shall:

- ✓ Attend regular and special meetings and other Council Activities.
- ✓ Be committed to serving others and their community.
- ✓ Exhibit high interest in traditional activities and not abuse alcohol and/or other drugs.

Section 2

- ✓ Each member shall have one vote on any matter submitted to Council by the entire membership.

Article 4

Officers/Portfolios

The officers of the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council shall consist of the following:

1. One (1) Chairperson
2. One (1) Vice-Chairperson
3. One (1) Secretary
4. One (1) Treasurer
5. One (1) Director
6. One (1) Director
7. One (1) Director
8. One (1) Director

In addition to the Officers the Council will consist of one **Elder advisor** from the Community at large. All members shall be representatives of the Tetlit Gwich'in Council. The same person may not hold two or more offices within the Youth Council. These members will serve for a one (1) year term.

Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council

Portfolios:

Section 1

The Chairperson shall be responsible for the overall political portfolio and will take direction from the membership and shall advise the membership on these matters. Chairperson's participation relates to decision making processes and distribution of power and giving youth a voice.

Section 2.

The Vice- Chair shall be responsible for the portfolio and will advise the membership on all matters affecting the issues of the membership. The Vice- Chair shall sit on behalf of the Chairperson when he/she is absent or when the Chairperson has appointed him/her to.

Section 3

The Social Chair shall be responsible for the social well-being of the membership and shall advise the membership on these matters. Social participation relates to family and community involvement and issues of self-esteem among all youth.

Section 4

The Cultural Chair shall be responsible for Traditional and Cultural activities and will advise membership on these matters. Traditional and Cultural portfolio relates to the arts (dances, sewing etc.) Cultural values, traditional hunting and spirituality.

Section 5

The Recreation Chair shall be responsible for the Recreation portfolio and will advise the membership on these matters. Recreational participation relates to sports, traditional and modern recreation and leisure activities of all forms and which will include all members of the community regardless of ability.

Section 6

The Education Chair shall be responsible for the education portfolio and will advise membership on these matters. This chair will work in partnership with the DEA, students, parents, teachers and the Education and Training Manager of the GTC on issues relating to elementary and high School to secondary and post secondary education.

Section 7

The Crisis chair shall be responsible for the crisis portfolio and will advise membership on these matters. The portfolio relates to the suicide epidemic within the community as well as other various mental health issues among Fort McPherson youth. The chair will work closely with the T'loondhi Healing Society.

Section 8

This portfolio shall be responsible for attending meetings with the Band Council and Hamlet Council and shall bring forth issues related to the Youth as directed by membership and President and Council.

Article 5

Elections:

All eight (8) members shall be elected by way of nominations by the membership. Each member shall hold office for a one (1) year term.

Elections shall take place in September of each year.

Article 6

The appointed advisor, at least one (1) and no more than two, for the Youth Council shall be members of the Tetlit Gwich'in membership and can be a respected leader/elder/youth, who have demonstrated commitment to youth empowerment issues.

Article 7

Meetings

At least one advisor must be present at all youth council meetings and functions.

The Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council as a whole shall meet two (2) times per month during the duration of its term. A notice of time and place shall be provided to all voting members prior to the meeting.

Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council

Section 8

All meetings and special meetings of the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council shall be conducted as such:

1. Call to order
2. Opening prayer
3. Welcome/Introductions
4. Summary of previous minutes
5. Reports of Chairs
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Concerns from Council/Public
9. Announcements
10. Closing prayer and adjournment.

Section 9

Code of Conduct

All members of the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council who take responsibility to run the affairs of the Council are expected to abide by the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council Code of Conduct. Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council will hold members who violate the code of conduct responsible on a case by case basis.

Section 10

Amendment of Constitution and Bylaws

The constitution and bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the group by consensus, provided that the amendments have been submitted in writing and the Council has been notified one week prior to the meeting.