

# **Tetlit Gwich'in Council Fort McPherson, NWT**



**Annual Report  
2002 - 2003**

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**Tetlit Gwich'in Council**  
**and**  
**Economic Development**



## The Chief's Message

### Who Sits on the Council?

The current Council consists of the following people:

Sub-Chief: Hazel Nerysoo, Johnny Charlie, Jr., Peter J. Vittrekwa, Frank Firth, Neil Colin, Annie Jane Modeste, Wilbert Firth and Youth Representative Delores Vittrekwa.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council Board Members are Wilbert Firth and Hazel Nerysoo, since I recently stepped down from that position.

This report is an update of the activities by the Tetlit Gwich'in Council for 2002-2003.

### Development of the Social Arm of the Council

One of our challenges was to continue to develop the Social Arm of the Council and we made great progress in this area.

The TI'oondih Camp was transferred from the Gwich'in Tribal Council to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002. In my last year's report, I mentioned that we will discuss with the Department of Justice programs for territorial inmates. To date, we are accomplishing this task, and before the end of the year, we should have this in place. The Tetlit Gwich'in Council in partnership with the Justice Department will deliver programs at the TI'oondih Camp. This will be a major step for Tetlit Gwich'in Council in developing part of their social arm.

### TGC Family Healing Program

This past year we have seen many of our children taken away from their families because of alcohol abuse. Not only is the Council concerned about this, but we are doing something about the problem. The TGC Family Healing Program was recently approved for two more years of funding by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

### Child and Family Services Committee

Last year we met with the Minister of Health and Social Services and discussed some important issues pertaining to the Family and Child Services Act. On July 10, 2003, the Tetlit Gwich'in Council established the Child and Family Services Committee. This Committee consists of members of the community who will work with the Social Worker when children are apprehended from their families. They will look at options and make recommendations as to what can be done to help with these cases. This Committee is the first in the Northwest Territories. An orientation with the members will take place shortly.

**Community Youth Centre**

One of the other projects we are working on is the Community Youth Centre. This has taken its toll with lack of support from the Federal Government, but we did receive some funding from the GNWT. The proposal has been discussed with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and we have received a favourable response. The Minister said we can make this work. We are waiting for their final response.

**Self Government Agreement**

One of the major provisions of the Gwich'in Land Claim is the Self-Government Agreement. Several problems have come up.

The main problem is Chapter 27 of the Agreement in Principle (AIP). This will eventually wind up the Band Councils as created by the Indian Act. The Councils in the communities would not be recognized. As well, the treaty rights which are the foundation of the Agreement may change. The Council of Gwich'in Chiefs has been established to look over our treaty rights. We will have our own negotiation team and Karen Snowshoe, who is from Fort McPherson and a lawyer, will be part of the team to speak on behalf of the Gwich'in People when a treaty issue arises. It is an honour to have Karen on board working with the Chiefs.

**Yukon Territory Issues**

During this past year, we have tried to work with other communities in the Yukon Territory. Our working relationship with the Mayo Council continues on the overlap issues. We are again trying to work with the Vun Tut Gwich'in Council, but we have yet to set up a meeting. Our proposal to build a cabin with them in the Yukon has had its ups and downs. Even these small projects have been turned down. The whole idea basically was to build a cabin along the old portage trail over to Old Crow. We will continue to work on these issues.

The Yukon is part of our culture and history. We have close ties to three communities that we deal with almost on a daily basis. We are working on setting up a Land Use Planning Commission for the Peel River Watershed. This will hopefully be fast-tracked as we have done the work before as part of the old Land Use Planning Process that was done in the 1980's.

The Yukon Territorial Government continues to open up lands for bid to oil and gas companies. These are environmentally sensitive areas and are wetlands for wildlife. We must have a Land Use Plan completed before any development can take place. We have made numerous statements with the support of the other communities to both the Federal and Yukon Governments.

Another concern is that devolution has taken place in the Yukon, where the Government of the Yukon has taken over many responsibilities from our Overlap Agreement which was signed by the Federal Government and not the Yukon Government. One transfer to the Yukon Government was the Oil and Gas Act, giving the Yukon Territorial Government the right to open lands for development. We would like to also say that we are not against any development, but we need to have assurances that our traditional lands will be protected. Having the Land Use Plan would be one process to ensure that protection.

<b>Closing Comments</b>
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In closing, I would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement. As we move into the final year of our mandate, we still have a lot of work ahead of us.

Mussi cho, Sha Gwich'in Kat'

Abe Wilson, Chief

## The Fort McPherson Municipal Area Network (MAN)

### What is the MAN?

In early 2002, the Tetlit Gwich'in Council passed a motion to take the lead in implementing technology in the community of Fort McPherson. This was to be accomplished by undertaking a study to develop an Information and Technology Strategic Plan (ITSP) for the community. The ITSP was completed by Celerica Community Development in May of 2002 and outlined twelve steps that the community needed to complete in order to have a working community-wide network up and running in Fort McPherson. This network will help all of the participating organizations get access to most of the same services available in the rest of the country. The MAN also includes a Community Access Centre that will be open to the public and will provide computers and access to the Internet. A virtual library will be located at the Community Access Centre and will include research software and books to support family literacy. Once completed, the MAN will be the first of its type in the Gwich'in region.

The twelve requirements for implementing the Fort McPherson MAN are:

- A community leadership focused on a common goal
- A business plan to support the development of a unified strategy
- A formal agreement between community organizations
- A budget and operating guidelines for a community IT department

- A community IT department must be created, staffed, and supported
- Business relationships must be formed with local and national suppliers
- Funding must be located for hardware/software/training and for the implementation/migration process
- Initial pre-migration training of employees must be completed
- Migration from existing model to a unified model
- Short term intensive post-migration training of employees
- Ongoing training of employees
- Ongoing network maintenance, upgrades, and management

### Funding Issues

In order to implement a Fort McPherson MAN, it is critical to ensure funding for:

- IT infrastructure
- Software development
- Software licensing
- Internet access
- IT Department to provide on the ground service and support
- Employee training

Partners in the study process understood that not all the funding for the MAN in Fort McPherson would come from government – that, in fact, local government would have to foot some of the bill.

**Implementation of the MAN**

The implementation of the community's Municipal Area Network has started. At the time of this writing, Part One of the installation is taking place, including the installation of the core of the network services in the Charles Koe building. This building will act as the centre of the network and it will house the server room and the IT department.

Part Two of the installation will take place in the near future and will include connecting the Charles Koe building with the Annie G. Robert building and the John Tetlitchi building, and expanding the MAN across the community. Doing this will allow the employees in all three buildings to communicate with each other and share resources over the network, and it will provide them with centralized services such as e-Mail, Dedicated Internet Access, centralized Anti-Virus protection, centralized data storage and backup, and a full time community IT department responsible for troubleshooting network problems and making sure that all of the network's computers are working. The IT department will include one network manager, and one or two trainees. Training for all employees will begin as soon as network components have been installed and users have been migrated over to the new network platform.

## Employment Officer

### Summer Students

Every year we have the Summer Student Program. This program is intended for students between the ages of 15 to 29, the student must be in school full time and planning to return in the fall. We get a lot of interested applicants, but unfortunately we usually only have six positions available. This year we have eight positions. Two additional students will be helping out at the 8 mile campground.

### Gas and Oil Activities

Every year in June, different industries put on the Petroleum Show in Inuvik. This show is attended by people from across the NWT and the South. Businesses in the Oil & Gas Industry inform the public in attendance about their Companies, and their plans for the up coming months if they are going to do business in the North. It attracts people from all over Canada, and again this year it was a big success.

Jobs were few this winter. Devon did some work around the Tsiigehtchic area and some people found work as truck drivers, cooks etc. Veri-Illug hired twelve men from our community for two weeks this spring. The past summer they also hired two men for the summer clean up program. Akita Drilling was busy and hired about five men from the community. Gwich'in Ensign also hired about two men from the community.

Last summer Western Geco did some seismic work on the McKenzie River. They were in the community on two occasions to inform the public of their intent.

A Business Spin-Off Meeting in Fort Liard was attended by Chief Abe Wilson, Youth Rep. Sue Ellen Wilson and myself. Again businesses informed the group of the upcoming work that is going to be required if there is a pipeline built. They stressed the importance of training our people now, so that they can be ready when the jobs become available.

### Other Activities

The Beaufort Delta Education Committee offered a four week Youth Entry Levels Skills Program, four youths were selected for this program. Unfortunately they were unable to complete the program.

### Career Development Courses

So far I've taken three of the courses offered. I also make an effort to attend the annual Linx Conference in December. This workshop is for people that are in the helping field, usually in career development.

ECE usually has a workshop every year for all Employment Officers - sometimes twice a year. This is usually a two day workshop in regard to how to take care of ourselves and if anything is new in HRDC, we are informed.

**Designated Gwich'in Organization  
Annual Report  
June, 2003**

I was hired once again as the D.G.O. coordinator for the Tetlit Gwich'in Council in May, 2002. I have been busy throughout the year working with the Elders, Youth and a lot of land applications. In my report I will provide some of the highlights we accomplished this past year. The other part of my job is to look after the beneficiaries throughout the year and also the issues which evolve around the Land Claim Agreement.

**Elders' Issues**

The elders have a committee and have been busy on many issues. The committee is made up of elders who are 50 and over. The President of the committee is Effie Jane Snowshoe. Other members of the committee include Elizabeth Colin, Louisa Robert, Rosie Stewart and Rebecca Francis and Richard Martin who just recently joined the committee.

One of the highlights of the committee, and with input from Council, was to be able to secure an Old Folks Home for the elders of the community. The existing old folks home is now 30 years old and the elders wanted a new Old Folks Home for the elders. Frank Firth was also very instrumental with the project and promoted the project at last year's Annual Gwich'in Assembly in Aklavik. From then on we pushed the project through the Housing Corporation with support from Housing Minister Roger Allen and M.L.A David Krutko.

During one of the meetings with Roger and David here in the community it was decided that we would be able to look at a couple facilities in the N.W.T. Mary Teya and Elizabeth Colin went down to Yellowknife to view the facility in N'dilo. N'dilo is the community just down the hill from Yellowknife. Mary gave an extensive report on the facility. We later went to Tsiighetchic to view the facility there. With the comparison of the both facilities, the elders agreed to go with the facility in Yellowknife. Now we will be constructing a facility in the community on the north side of the fire hall. This project will be built this year and our elders will have a new facility in the community. Thanks to those that were part of the team for their commitment and dedication to the project.

Some of the other work of the elders has to do with fundraising and donations to the community in terms of funerals, feasts and the many functions of the community. One of the purposes of raising funds is to provide support to the elders for funerals and trips out of the community. Each trip they make is expensive and the funding they receive from the Gwich'in Tribal Council does not cover these events. The funding is basically for meetings and community programs where the elders are involved. Over the past year the elders also planned trips to the mountains, but it did not work out as the time of the caribou migration did not meet our deadline.

### Youth Issues

The youth are not as active as the elders yet we receive funds for them to support their projects. Over the past year Anita Koe was a youth coordinator. We were able to receive funds to go out of the community. I had the opportunity to travel with them to the Dream Catchers Conference to learn more about the conference and what was involved. This conference took place in Edmonton and they were over 2000 youth in attendance. Some of issues that they dealt with were Self-esteem, Communications, Suicide, Education and many more issues. This conference is put on every year and brings to light many youth issues which effect our youth in today's society.

We also support the youth with community events. Most of our funding in our administration is strictly for the youth. Our funding has to be used for the youth at carnivals, Christmas and whatever they plan in the community. We also have a youth on the council who is there to address the youth issues and that is Delores Vittrekwa.

The last thing I would like to touch on is the Youth Center proposal which was given to the Minister of Indian Affairs Robert Nault who we met with in Inuvik. He gave his support to the proposal and now is reviewing the proposal. We are confident that he will give us a positive response and we will start the project as soon as we get the green light.

Over the years we received some money from the Government of the N.W.T. and M.L.A. David Krutko to construct a youth cabin out on the land. This will enable the youth to gain more knowledge about the culture, tradition

and language in the future. We decided to the build the facility at Deep Water Lake. It is near completion and hopefully the youth of the community will use this cabin for many years.

### Land Applications

As for land applications, we received many applications as a result of the Land Claim Agreement. These developers have to go through many processes to get a land application approved. Over the past year we had oil companies coming to our community to present their proposals for development. As you know there are countless studies of environmental issues conducted by the developers before any development takes place. Every application has to come to the community for our review before they can go ahead with their project. So there is no end to land applications coming to our office and there will be many more coming our way down the road.

**Other Activities**

Over and above all, I also attend band meetings in the community and write many proposals for funding for various projects. I'm also involved with the Self-Government office and sit on the committee to develop a constitution for our community so we can be ready for Self-Government once the agreement is ready for ratification.

Gina Neyando is my accountant and she has been in the position for many years. I would like to thank her for her dedication to the organization. She spends many extra hours in the office to get the job done. She also keeps a keen eye on the budget and make sure we are within budget.

Mussi-cho and I hope you enjoy my report.

William R. Koe  
Community Cordinator

**Economic Development Officer  
Annual Report  
April 1, 2002 – March 31, 2003  
By: Larry Firth**

The Economic Development Office in Fort McPherson experienced a roller coaster ride this past year with staff turn-overs. It went through hoops and loops, but still manages to assist its clients with business grants, financial advice, and counseling. We assisted in establishing new businesses and working on newer ones. We trained beneficiaries on the efficient and safe operation of our Woodmizer and provided financial assistance to twelve businesses which created employment for these clients.

This office is responsible for delivering Resources, Wildlife, and Economic development programs for the Government of the NWT as well as Band funding for economic activities. Although funds are limited, we still manage to assist most of our clients. Because some of these plans are still being worked on and some are confidential, I can tell you only that they are in tourism sector, hospitality industry, transportation and renewable resource sectors.

We continue to work on bigger projects such as:

- Peel River Bridge and Marine boat launch at 8 miles
- Information technology, such as a high speed internet service
- Community Website
- POL and gas bar improvements
- Youth Center Building Programs

- Tl'oondih Camp and business plan
- Midway Lake Music Festival improvements

I hope that this snap shot of your Economic Development office gives you some information and a better understanding of what goes on in there.

To finish on a better note, we have recruited a new Economic Development Officer, and hope by the time this report is read that we will have the position filled.

For anyone wanting more information, we have audited statements of funds given out, and we have a detailed report as required under Band Council Policies.

## Rat River Development Corporation Annual Report June, 2003

### Organizational Issues

During the last two years, the Tetlit Gwich'in Council amalgamated its business development investments under the Rat River Development Corporation Ltd. (RRDC). A separate Board of Directors has been appointed with a mandate to pursue business interests separate from the political aspects of the work. The Board of Directors consisted of Peter James Vittrekwa (President), Taig Connell (Director), Dennis Wright (Director), Abe Wilson (Director), Wilbert Firth (Director) Glenn Alexie (Director). Some directors have since moved on and we are in the process of advertising for replacements.

RRDC has Davis and Company as their legal advisor and KPMG from Edmonton serve as their auditor.

On April 22, 2002, we began restructuring operations and positions of all our companies to address economic opportunities within the community. Our immediate task was to determine our financial position and ensure all companies were in good standing.

### Rat River's Companies

RRDC owns the following companies:

- *Stoney Creek Enterprises Ltd.* – 100% ownership. This company provides general contracting services for both the private and public sector. It previously supplied labour services for the Peel River Ferry Contract for the GNWT, Marine Services Division.

- *Fort McPherson Incorporated Band* – 100% ownership. This is a property holding company that owns the John A. Tetlich Building and on December 20, 2002 purchased the Charles Koe Building, the Single Staff Teachers' Residence, as well as five residential properties in Fort McPherson. This purchase was made possible due to Band Support funding in the amount of \$400,000 from the Gwich'in Tribal Council Sahtu Royalty Fund.

- *Dunnett Petroleum Ltd.* – 100% ownership. This company formerly operated as the community's gas station, but is currently inactive.

- *Tetlit Petroleum Distribution Inc.* – 51% ownership. This joint venture company with Tetlit Service Co-operative Ltd. operates the gas bar/confectionary and provides heating fuel services.

- *West Delta Golder Corporation Ltd.* – 33.33% ownership. This joint venture company formed with partners Red River Incorporated Band and Golder Associates Ltd. to provide environmental engineering and consulting services. The office will be located in Fort McPherson.

### The Future

RRDC is developing a corporate plan to determine our return on investments, growth potential, long-term viability and employment and training opportunities. We are planning to have this document available before Christmas, 2003.

Although significant work has been accomplished thus far, there is much more to be done. We look forward to another successful year.

Rat River Development Corporation  
 Financial Report  
 For the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2003

Consolidated Statement of Operations

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>Change</u>
Revenues	\$2,828,000	\$1,995,000	\$833,000
Expenses	2,781,000	1,979,000	(802,000)
Operating Income	47,000	16,000	<u>\$ 31,000</u>
Other	(68,000)	3,400	
Net Earnings (loss)	<u>\$ (21,000)</u>	<u>\$ 19,400</u>	

Breakdown – Revenue – 2003

	\$	%
Management & Administration	191,000	7%
Property Management	381,000	13%
Special Projects	303,000	11%
Gas Bar & Fuel Distribution	<u>1,953,000</u>	<u>69%</u>
	<u>2,828,000</u>	<u>100%</u>

Consolidated Balance Sheet

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>Change</u>
Assets	\$3,145,000	\$1,386,000	\$1,759,000
Liabilities	<u>3,660,000</u>	<u>1,880,000</u>	<u>1,780,000</u>
Shareholder's Deficiency	<u>\$ (515,000)</u>	<u>\$ (494,000)</u>	<u>\$ (21,000)</u>

Breakdown – Assets – 2003

	\$	%
Management & Administration	57,000	2%
Property Management	2,309,000	73%
Special Projects	158,000	5%
Gas Bar & Fuel Distribution	<u>621,000</u>	<u>20%</u>
	<u>3,145,000</u>	<u>100%</u>

Environmental  
and  
Renewable Resource Projects



**Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council  
Annual Report  
April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003**

Before the fiscal year end, there were a couple of projects conducted within the Fort McPherson Area with a little assistance from the Economic Development Officer of the Tetlit Gwich'in Council and the MLA for Mackenzie Delta. They include:

**Education, Culture and  
Employment-Gwich'in  
Traditional Territory Portage  
Trail-Funding \$20,000.00**

The Economic Development Officer submitted a proposal to ECE on behalf of RRC to cut out old portage trails up and down the river from Fort McPherson. The DGO and TGC selected the trails to be cut, as well as the individuals. The RRC received funds in February and had to spend these monies before March 31, 2003. After the project was over, the Trails Inspector was not satisfied with the Charlie Rat Trail and Tl'oondih Trail. If the public is interested, there is a report on file for reading, as well as a breakdown of expenses.

**Resources Wildlife and Economic  
Development-CHAP Community  
Hunt-Funding \$5000.00**

In November, the RRC received funds from RWED additional to CHAP funding, specifically for community hunts. The

RRC would not have been able to do this endeavor without the assistance of David Krutko, who spoke on our behalf to the Minister of RWED-A BIG THANK YOU TO DAVID-KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

**Distribution of Caribou**

In December William Teya, John Boline and Steven Charlie hunted in the Mountains for six days. They were successful with thirty-two caribou and with the assistance of Trucking, Shawn Vittrekwa hauled some caribou to town for distribution to community members. Thanks for all your hard work to provide our community with fresh meat before Christmas.

In January William Koe distributed nine half caribou to community members. A list is on file for those interested.

In February Steven Charlie distributed eight whole caribou to community members. A list is on file for those interested.

**RWED-Community Harvest  
Assistance Program**

Every new fiscal year the Council receives a contribution from Department of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development for Community Harvest Assistance Program (CHAP) in the

amount of \$6750.00 as well as formula funding or administration and operating costs towards the Council. \$6475.04 was expended for the fiscal year. These funds assisted active hunters and trappers from our community to access their winter and summer camps.

This year the Department of Fisheries and Oceans provided Council with funds to cover expenses such as gas and oil and wages towards Rat River Char Monitoring. Billy Wilson was monitoring at the mouth of the Rat River and Selwyn Kaye monitored at Destruction City. Both monitors provided reports directly to DFO personnel.

This year was the final year for the Peel River Fish Study conducted through the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council-Melanie Van Gerwen-Toyne. GRRB wanted to keep monitors consistent with previous years to keep records consistent. Fred Koe was contracted and the RRC had no problems with GRRB's decision. Fred provided reports to the Council and GRRB throughout the study. Good job Fred.

**Gwich'in Harvesters Assistance  
Program-Community Hunt**

The Program Management Committee awarded the RRC with \$2000.00 to be used towards Community Hunt. The Council used these funds to hire local individuals/hunters to provide the community with caribou meat and also to provide supplies needed for the project.

**Gwich'in Harvesters  
Assistance Program-  
Supplement CHAP**

The Program Management Committee awarded the RRC with \$2500.00 to be distributed, at the discretion of Council to active hunters and trappers. Council assisted twelve individuals. A list is on file for those interested.

The Council has been busy this past year with ongoing meetings, to help protect, preserve and manage our beautiful lands, wildlife and resources.

**Peel River Watershed Conservationist Report**  
**By Sharon Snowshoe**  
**June, 2003**

On June 1, 2001, an agreement for funding was signed between the Tetlit Gwich'in Council and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Yukon Chapter to support a part-time position for approximately 2 years to work in the Peel River Watershed Conservation Position. P. J. Kay was the successful applicant for the position that began July 1, 2001 and worked in this position until April 23, 2003.

P.J. Kay began informing the community members about the Peel River Watershed and the call for nominations. Many of the Gwich'in hunters and trappers who have cabins in the watershed have since come forward and have commented that the information that P.J. Kay presents is very informative to them. He has talked to a lot of the elders and users of the area and continues to let them know what's happening in their area.

From August 18-23, 2002, P. J. Kay attended a course entitled, The Art of Leadership at the Hollyhock Institute in Cortes Island, B.C. The course is to empower and engage others in effective action to broaden the impact of the challenging environmental issues that we deal with in this area.

On March 8 and 9, 2003, over 30 individuals, representing First Nations and Renewable Resources Councils from the Yukon and Northwest Territories met at Eagle Plains to discuss the Peel River Watershed. This meeting came about as the direct result of a Summit held in Whitehorse in February 2002.

An earlier conference was also held in Dawson in November 2001 with Elders from the affected communities. This most recent assembly in Eagle Plains represents the third such community meeting regarding the Peel. The following themes came out of this two-day meeting: Oil and Gas Disposition Processes must be put on hold until such a time as regional land use plans are in place and the group calls for more support for back-to-the-land initiatives in the Yukon.

There was a proposal submitted to various agencies for funding an elders gathering in August 2003 after the completion of the three rivers Journey on the Wind, Bonnetplume and Snake planned for this summer. At the end of the trips, all three groups would meet to share the Three Rivers experience on the banks of the Peel River, downstream from the mouth of the Snake River. They will be joined by several boatloads of community members, elders, media, politicians and others for a feast and celebration of the three rivers and the Peel River Watershed. This could be a call for protection of the Peel River, including the three rivers.

P.J. Kay attended an environmental management workshop in Inuvik from March 24-26, 2003 along with William Koe and Woodie Elias. This workshop was put on by the School of Community Governance and the participants learned about the following topics: Environmental Awareness, Players and Legislation, Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, Inuvialuit Land

Administration, Community  
Infrastructure – Waste Water Lagoons  
and Sanitary Landfills, Contaminants in  
the North, Understanding Site  
Inspection and Remediation,  
Government and Indian and Northern  
Affairs Programs.

If there is interest to renew the position  
that Peter held, Canadian Parks and  
Wilderness Society would be willing to  
pursue additional funding to do so.  
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
has also offered any of their research  
and mapping data that might be useful  
to the Peel River Watershed Land Use  
Commission, once it has become  
established.

## Tetlit Gwich'in Wellness

and

## Social Programs



<b>TI'oondih Healing Camp and TI'oondih Healing Society</b>
-------------------------------------------------------------

The social arm of the Tetlit Gwich'in Council has expanded greatly during this past year. In December, 2002, the Council received ownership of the TI'oondih Healing Camp from the Gwich'in Tribal Council. This Camp will be used to design and deliver social programs at the community level.

Then in April, the Tetlit Gwich'in Council took over the TI'oondih Healing Society from the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The TI'oondih Healing Society will act as the social arm of the Council. Under the TI'oondih Healing Society several social programs were transferred to the

Council. The Aboriginal Head Start Program which has been in the Community of Fort McPherson for seven years is now officially under the social umbrella of the Tetlit Gwich'in Council. As well, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation is also under this same umbrella.

We look forward to running various social programs for Gwich'in people to help them heal and develop on a personal level. Various different initiatives are anticipated in the coming year.

**Tetlit Gwich'in Wellness Project  
Tetlit Gwich'in Council  
June, 2003**

**Advisory Committee and Staff**

The advisory committee members for the program are:

Tetlit Gwich'in Council (TGC)  
Councillors: Hazel Nerysoo, Peter J. Vittrekwa, Annie Modeste and  
Community members: Elizabeth Colin and Eileen Koe.

Staff: Administrator/bookkeeper position for the Healing Program has experienced some changes. Early in the fiscal year, Liz Wright was in the position, then Anita Koe took over until she assumed the Youth Program's Coordinator position. Margaret McDonald was hired as the Social Program Manager on October 28, 2003.

**Aboriginal Head Start Program**

As part of the transfer of the Tl'ooondih Healing Society, the Tetlit Gwich'in Council is now also responsible for the Aboriginal Head Start Program that operates out of the Sarah Simon Church Hall in Fort McPherson. This program has been in operation in the community for approximately seven years and targets children who are aged 3 and 4 years. The goal of the program is to

provide these children with strong foundational skills which will be a great

asset to them when they begin their careers in school.

**Aboriginal Healing Foundation**

TGC was successful in securing funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation for the "Gwich'in Family Healing Program at Tl'ooondih: Addressing the Trauma From Residential Schools" for two years. This program allows for a Community Counselor position at Fort McPherson, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Aklavik. Four 2-week healing programs will be delivered each year, beginning September 2003.

**Brighter Futures**

As well, the Wellness Committee administers the Brighter Futures program. This year, the program provided wages for two student advisors at Chief Julius School, a Community Youth Coordinator and Supervisor partnered with Hamlet Recreation Department, Hamlet Recreation Day Camp Counselor, and the Wellness Coordinator. Funds were allocated to provide a Suicide Prevention workshop, Youth at Risk Workshop, Youth Trek and assistance for students to attend the Dream Catchers conference in Edmonton. Funds were contributed to the Gwich'in Newsletter, Midway Lake

Music Festival which had community participation with emphasis on sober, family activities and the Peel River Alcohol Society provided family activities during the annual National Addictions Awareness week held in November. In partnership with the Chief Julius School Crime Prevention program and Tetlit Gwich'in Council, on the land camps at Tl'oondih were held for grade 4, 5 and 6 students expanding the relationships the students have with the adults and elders of their community. Students had the opportunity to expand their knowledge, learn some essential skills, and feel connected to the traditions of their culture, all in a hands-on environment.

**Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program  
Or  
"Moms and Tots"**

**What is the Canada Prenatal  
Nutrition Program  
Or  
"Moms and Tots"?**

The Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program was introduced in 1994 by the Federal Government, Health Canada. The program is offered to aboriginal communities across Canada to help improve birth outcomes, by providing the prenatal women with nutrition information and support throughout and after their pregnancies.

The CPNP "Moms and Tots" program is offered to all women of child bearing age, prenatal and postnatal women. The program offers a wide variety of information from nutrition information to FAS/FAE. The mothers form a support network for each other where they can openly discuss their pregnancies and their children.

**What activities were done in  
Fort McPherson in  
2002/2003?**

All activities were organized by Tena Baryluk, CPNP Coordinator and were held at the Band House. This year a total of 20 mothers participated in the program. Each "new" mother received a "welcome home" hamper of groceries as well as a basket of baby care essentials.

Some of this year's activities included:

- Weekly Tuesday evening gatherings
- Cooking classes
- Christmas dinner with elders
- Traditional sewing
- Making breastfeeding pillows
- Craft Nights
- Information Booth at Health Fair (May 2002)
- Weekly food supplements

In April 2002, Tena was chosen as the NWT representative to attend a National CPNP review of the program's guidelines and information binders. The review lasted 2 days and the revised binders are now being distributed to all the programs across Canada.

In January 2003 Tena also attended the 1<sup>st</sup> National CPNP Conference in Toronto, Ontario with 4 other representatives from the Beaufort Delta. This conference offered training in various subjects and was an excellent opportunity to share ideas with programs from across the country. The conference also included a live cooking demonstration with the "Cooking with the Wolfman" star David Wolfman.

During the month of March 2003, Tena attended 2 conferences in Inuvik. The first conference was the Regional CPNP conference. Two of the program's mothers also attended the conference which provided them with nutrition information, a cooking class, breastfeeding and FAS/FAE presentations. The second conference attended by Tena was the Regional

FAS/FAE and addictions HOPE conference. The two days was full of information about how we can as a region work together to try and inform people about FAS/FAE. It was a good opportunity to meet other professionals with the same interests and goals.

National Child Day is held every year in November. This year Tena organized a full day of events with the help of Anita Koe and Margaret McDonald. They held an open house at the Band House, a free hot dog lunch for all youth, crafts after school for all youth and a sliding party with hot chocolate and a snack in the evening. The day's events were a huge success attended by 120 or more of Fort McPherson's youth. The 2 local stores, Chief Julius School and the youth council were all contributing sponsors of this event as well as CPNP.

**"Healthy Babies for a Healthy Community"**

**Culture-Based Crime Prevention  
Project in Chief Julius School  
Year End Report  
June, 2003**

**What is the Culture-Based  
Crime Prevention Project?**

The Gwich'in Crime Prevention Project is a partnership project study with the Tetlit Gwich'in Council, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Chief Julius School and the RCMP to develop a pilot project to address youth crime. The project was scheduled to end in November, 2002, but we were able to extend the project for another school year. This means the students will receive an additional year of traditional skills, social skills and the breakfast program. It is hoped that after this project is completed some of the components of the project will be continued in the school.

The project's target group is school-aged children ages 6-12 years. The goals of the project are:

1. To use the Outdoor Classroom throughout the school year as a teaching environment for academics, cultural activities and crime prevention.
2. To provide an orientation program for teachers, parents and other resource people on the integration of crime prevention strategies.
3. To provide social skill development.

4. To integrate existing community programming with crime prevention strategies for children and their families.

**This Year's Staff and Activities**

Currently, the Crime Prevention Team has four employees: Johnny Kaye, Rosalie Ross, Norma Snowshoe and Helen Wilson. We are hoping that this whole team returns in September.

This year we covered many topics – snare setting, jigging for fish, drymeat making, setting nets under the ice, skinning rabbits, cooking rabbits for the elders.

We have a breakfast program every school morning, a part of the program truly enjoyed by all the students. Since the project began, more than 3,000 breakfasts have been served.

Every other Friday, we have a tea party for the elders and middle aged people. This is a great time for the students to get to know the elders better and to sit with them and talk about traditional activities.

Again, this year we took students to the Tl'oondih Healing Camp – Grade 4 went

from March 24 to 28 and the Grade 5 & 6 classes went from March 31 to April 4. The teachers came along as well. This is truly a highlight of the year for the students.

The students did academic activities in the morning and then had traditional activities in the afternoon and evening. These activities included tea boiling, snowshoeing, tent setting, story telling and moose hunting.

*"Awesome - fantastic - I don't want to go back to town, can we stay another week?"* - quote from more than one of the students at the On-the-land part of the program at Tl'oondih.

This year we had a very successful moose hunt – 4 moose in two weeks. Students, supervisors and those who attended the closing ceremonies were treated by being about to take some fresh moose meat home.

In May, we had our elder Bertha Francis come into the classroom to show the students how to remove the moose hair from the moose. The students showed a lot of interest in learning this traditional skill that is slowly being lost. We need to continue these activities so that traditional skills are not lost, but can be passed on to the next generation.

We are looking forward to coming back in September and wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

**Fort McPherson Justice Committee  
Year End Report  
April 1, 2002 - March 31, 2003**

**Diversions**

The Justice Committee accepted a total of 11 diversions this year. There were 4 adult diversions consisting of 3 females and 1 male. There were 7 youth diversions consisting of 4 females and 3 males. All but one diversion was successful. We have had a very successful year with our clients and are pleased with the progress they made. We had to refer 1 youth male back to the RCMP because he was not cooperating with the conditions set out by the Committee.

**Fine Options**

There have been several inquiries about applying for the Fine Options Program over the past year but unfortunately no one has successfully completed the program. A few of the inquiries were for fines exceeding \$2000.00 and were unable to apply for the program. We have had others apply for the program and then they leave town or lose interest in it. We are hoping to have a more productive program next year and will keep trying to help those with an interest in applying.

**Working Together/Special  
Projects**

Over the past year the Justice Committee has been very involved with other agencies in the community. We have been involved with many community events and are looking forward to many more positive opportunities to work together as a community.

**R.C.M.P.**

We have been in constant contact with the RCMP and have begun working on a more cooperative working relationship with them. In the New Year we hope to have a RCMP liaison officer who will be able to meet with us on a regular basis.

**Tetlit Gwich'in Council**

We have a very positive working relationship with our sponsoring agency and have not had any problems over the past year. The Tetlit Gwich'in Council also has a Council Representative on our Committee that is responsible for reporting back with any information that may interest them.

**Chief Julius School**

The Justice Committee has been involved with various events at Chief Julius School. At the beginning of the school year the Coordinator met with the Principal to talk about the roles and responsibilities of the Committee and answer any questions that they had about the Committee.

**Peel River Alcohol Society**

Once again we are very grateful to the P.R.A.S. for allowing us to use office space and their meeting room to hold all of our meetings over the past year. The P.R.A.S is also a great help to our clients who must write essays as part of their diversion by providing them with helpful information and the counsellors also offer counseling for addictions.

**Youth**

We have a Youth Representative who brings a youthful perspective to the Committee, which helps us to understand how they feel about various issues that we deal with. We sponsored 5 youth from our community to take part in the Annual Johnny D. Charlie Memorial Ski-doo Trip from Fort McPherson, NT to Old Crow.

**Community Counselling Services  
Year End Report  
June, 2003**

**Role of Community Mental Health**

The Community Mental Health program consists of contribution agreement funding to the Tetlit Gwich'in Council through the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Authority, to provide mental health services to residents of Fort McPherson.

Duties

- ◇ Deliver counseling sessions to young and old including families also interventions.
- ◇ Work with interagency groups in the community such as Alcohol Center, Social Services, Health Center, Justice Committee, RCMP, Court worker, Chief Julius School.
- ◇ Go into classrooms at the school and give information to the students on anger, respect, bullying, shame, guilt etc.
- ◇ Work with Clients in need of suicide prevention counseling.
- ◇ Work with clients in need of Residential School counseling.
- ◇ Do home visits or phone counseling and do weekly radio programs on CBQM.
- ◇ Attend workshops for training and continuing education.
- ◇ Court support for clients and victims.
- ◇ Work with referred clients from Social Services, Health Center, Justice Committee, Court Worker and Probation Officer.
- ◇ Work with children in need.

- ◇ Travel to other communities to provide assistance as needed.
- ◇ Provide packages of information on anger, grieving, shame, guilt, abandonment for clients and other caregivers in the Delta and Sahtu Regions.
- ◇ PHASE (Preventing Harassment Abuse with successful Education).

Mary Ross is the Mental Health Worker in Fort McPherson. NT and has been in this position for the past five years.

**Community Counselling Program:  
Addressing the Issues from  
Residential Schools, Past and  
Present, in Gwich'in Communities**

The Community Counselling Program in partnership with the TI'oondih Healing Society provides funding for one counselling position in each of the Gwich'in Communities.

The funding support has been in place with the Aboriginal Healing Foundation in Ottawa since 1999. This support provides regional counselling in the Gwich'in communities. A further program for another two years has been approved. This program will include not only the community counselling positions, but will also include four 10-day programs at the TI'oondih Healing Camp. We are currently working with

each of the communities to determine their needs. We hope to operate the first on the land program in September.

**Major Activities for 2002 -  
2003**

I did a 3 week workshop on suicide prevention in Deline from Sept 23-Oct 09, 2002.

A three day workshop was held on the issues of Residential School, Past and Present in the Gwich'in communities.

As well, in partnership in the Tetlit Gwich'in Council I attended a workshop on sexual abuse in Edmonton.

**Who is the Community  
Counsellor?**

Olive Itsi is the community counselor under this program and works together with the Community Mental Health worker to provide counselling services to the residents of Fort McPherson. NT.

**Other Community Counselling  
Activities**

- Work with young children in the Community, such as Aboriginal Head Start.
- Grieving support for individuals and families.
- Support with school initiatives.
- Support for people in trouble with the law.
- Meetings with regional project counsellors in other Gwich'in communities.
- Training Workshops with Gwich'in partners on grieving, dealing with sexual abuse and anger management.

**Youth Report  
Year End Report  
June, 2003**

I would like to thank the Chief and Council for giving me the opportunity to work with the youth of our community. I would like to thank Sharon Snowshoe for her continuous support.

**Youth Activities**

I began working in September of 2002. My first challenge was to try to get a youth council active within the community. At the community forum held in June, there was youth selected to form the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council.

They were interested in leadership skills so they started fundraising to attend the 2002 Dream Catchers Conference in Edmonton. In October, William Koe and I escorted Kyla Ross, Robert Greenland, Andrea Charlie, John Norman, Rena Koe, and Ryan Wilson to the conference. The conference included entertainment, guest speakers and activities for the youth. It was an excellent conference that showed some of the hardships it took for people to get where they are in life.

In November, along with the Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Council, and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program Coordinator organized events for National Child Day. There was a hot dog lunch for the students at the band house and craft time after school. In the evening we hosted a sliding party and served hot

chocolate. It was an excellent day with the children of the community.

During the Christmas season, I worked with the recreation department from the Hamlet to host different events for the children. We shared the responsibility to organize a game night for the different age groups where the children received prizes. There was also a craft night for the children.

The Tetlit Gwich'in Youth Committee hosted a youth dinner in January. We tried to host another craft night for the children, as there was a lot of material and supplies that were donated to us by the Women Wellness Group.

**Junior Rangers**

A First Aid course was held in February for the Junior Rangers and was instructed by Ed Pattin from Yellowknife. He also gathered information from the youth on what they would like to see in the community for the Junior Rangers.

I worked on a proposal for a caribou hunt to take place in April. There was also a planned visit from the Rangers of Mayo; unfortunately they could not make it.

I spent a lot of my time planning and trying to help with community activities that involve the youth. There was a lot of fundraising for the youth council and the Junior Rangers. The Junior Rangers took a lot of my time, as I was the only

interested person willing to help them with the exercises.

<b>Future Ideas</b>
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I would like to make the following suggestions to the Council:

1. There should be a support system for the people who work with the youth as they tend to misbehave and can be verbally abusive.
2. There should be a monthly budget for the youth worker as there are problems that occur when trying to sponsor an event and plan new activities for the children.

I would like to ask the Council to seriously consider my suggestions and forward them to your next youth worker.

We need the support of the community and the people in the community to work with the youth so that they can become the successful leaders of tomorrow.

Once again,  
Mussi Cho.

Anita Koe