



## Gwich'in Tribal Council

### **Final Report for Gwich'in Environmental Monitor Training March 29, 2006**

**Contact Information:** Mardy Semmler  
Lands Manager  
Gwich'in Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 1509  
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0  
Ph: 867/777-7913  
Fax: 867/777-7919

#### **Personnel Involved in training:**

Dwayne Semple  
Assistant Lands Manager  
Gwich'in Tribal Council

Mardy Semmler  
Lands Manager  
Gwich'in Tribal Council

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) requires Environmental and Research Monitors to be employed by Authorization Holders conducting land use activities within the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) on Gwich'in Owned Lands. The Environmental and Research Monitors assist the GTC Lands and Resources to ensure the land user, industry or not-for-profit organizations, comply with the requirements of the authorization, including environmental protection and mitigation or assisting with research and sampling activities for capacity building.

The GTC conducts formal training of the monitors to ensure the monitors have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The training includes:

1. The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement;
2. Foundation Skills;
3. Communication;
4. Local and Traditional Knowledge;

5. Land Skills;
6. Safety;
7. Technical Skills;
8. Operational Guidelines and Land Use Skills; and

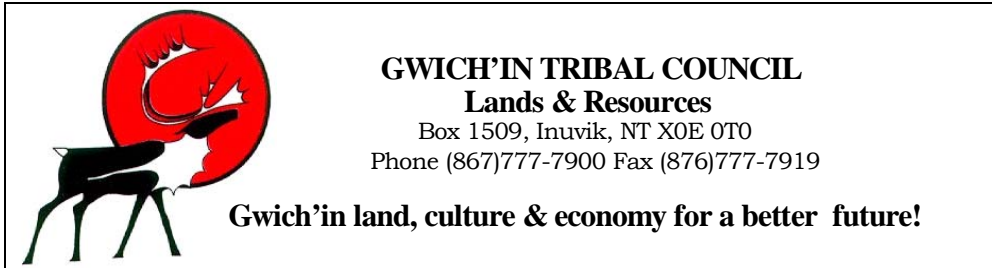
## **Project**

The GTC began using Environmental Monitors during 2002 and 2003 winter field season. Since the Environmental Monitor program is new to the GTC and the Gwich'in organizations, continuous training must be completed to ensure the administrative bodies representing the Gwich'in organizations have a clear understanding of the program, specifically on the reporting aspects of environmental monitoring.

Reference binders, complete with a power point presentation were completed by the GTC staff responsible for the training. The reference binders were put together with information from approximately four different environmental training programs completed by different organizations. All relevant information specific to the GSA and Environmental Monitoring was used. Information was also used from the GNWT Education and Culture Environmental Monitor Standards in incorporated into the reference binders.

The GTC conducted administrative training sessions in three of the four communities within the GSA to target the Designated Gwich'in Organizations administrative bodies and the Renewable Resource Council administrative bodies. Due to scheduling conflicts of the Designated Gwich'in Organization and the Renewable Resource Council, the GTC had to schedule a session with the Tetlit Gwich'in Council for after April 3, 2006. The GTC also invited the Environmental Monitors already certified for refresher training to sit in on the sessions.

Attached are some comments from some of the sessions completed in the GSA to date and the complete hard copy package will be forwarded in the mail.



March 23, 2006.

**Subject: Meetings with Gwich'in DGO/RRC staff on Gwich'in Environmental Monitoring Program Feb/Mar 2006.**

1.0 PURPOSE:

To meet with the people in the communities actually responsible for administrating the Gwich'in Environmental Monitoring Program and present them with copies of the revised reference manual. Basically the meetings involved going through the process for hiring a Gwich'in monitor and all the steps involved. This also involved a general discussion about the program and taking notes on any issues or concerns identified.

2.0

3.0 TSIIGEHTCHIC

Meeting held with Grant Scott (Senior Administrative Officer) and Anna Mae McCloud (Gwich'ya Gwich'in RRC Coordinator) at the Tsiigehtchic Charter Community office on February 23, 2006. General discussion about program and steps involved with hiring and paying of monitors. Discussion items focused on presentation created titled "History of GTC Land Management Policies and Gwich'in Environmental Monitoring Program". The following is a list of concerns identified by Tsiigehtchic's experience with administrating the program.

- They feel like they are held up for ransom because they indicated they have really no control.
- They don't like the term appointing in the early steps of the process when hiring a monitor. Suggested changing the wording.
- Concerned that the premiums with the Workers Compensation Board will go up because they have to register every monitor they put on their payroll. Employment bylaws and NWT Labour standards kick-in.
- No agreement between GTC and DGO's which is really bad and has to be changed.
- They suggested individual contracts with the monitors. They do want to

consider not getting involved. They also suggested that the GTC to put the monitors on their payroll and use the RRC's as an agent when hiring.

#### 4.0 AKLAVIK

Went to Aklavik on March 1, 2006, and sat in the Ehditit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council meeting. Briefed all councilors present (Jerome Gordon (Coordinator), Freddie Greenland, Danny Greenland, John Carmichael, Ian McCloud, Fanny Greenland, James Edwards) why I am in Town and told them what's happening with the monitoring program. No real questions or concerns about the program from the councilors.

After meeting with the RRC Council I sat down and met with Knute Hanson, Band Manager of the Aklavik Band Office. Discussion items focused on presentation created titled "History of GTC Land Management Policies and Gwich'in Environmental Monitoring Program".

Knute was very happy to receive the guidelines and indicated he will know exactly what to do next time they are requested to hire a monitor for a project. Presented the reference binders to him and he will ensure to sit down with their finance and the RRC Coordinator to ensure they have a clear understanding of their responsibilities with respect to the program. Aklavik's experience with the monitoring program is minimal for this reason they did not have too many issues or concerns with it.

#### 5.0

#### 6.0 INUVIK

Scheduled a meeting at the Nihtat Gwich'in Office in Inuvik on March 16, 2006, to discuss program with the RRC Coordinator and Sharon Dahl finance person. I did meet with Neil Firth (RRC Coordinator) but the finance person was busy in another meeting. Discussion items focused on presentation created titled "History of GTC Land Management Policies and Gwich'in Environmental Monitoring Program".

Discussed the new revised binders, hiring and paying of monitors and any issues Neil had with the program. Neil indicated that the Nihtat Gwich'in Councils' business arm, Chii Construction manages the program. Initially they did have a lot of problems with the program but after administrating it for a few months they know the process now. Neil commented that everything is good now, better than when they first started hiring monitors for authorization holders.

The presentation and guidelines document will be included in the next RRC Council meeting as an information item and a copy of the reference manual will be given to Sharon Dahl for her use. I did indicate to Neil that I do want

to talk to Sharon about her perspective on the Gwich'in Environmental Monitoring Program. Inuvik does have the most experience administrating the program.

**Fort McPherson**

No meeting to date.

Dwayne Semple  
Assistant Lands Manager  
Lands & Resources