



# VGEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER  
of the  
VUNTUT GWITCHIN  
GOVERNMENT

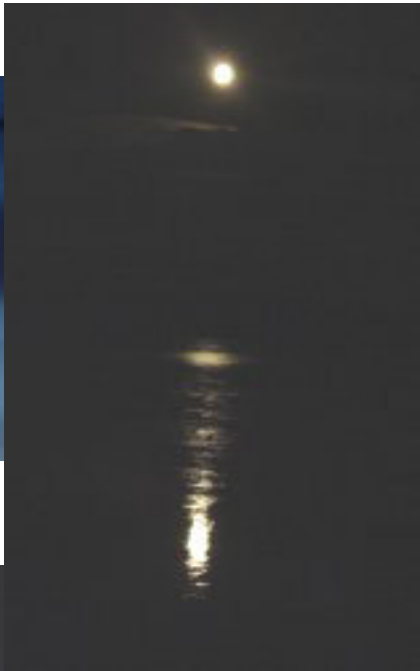
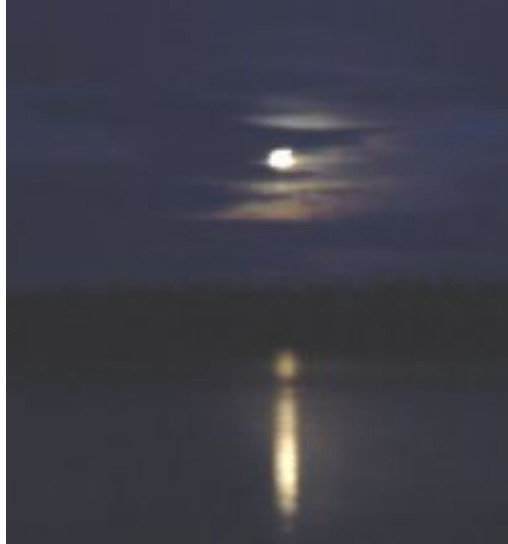


Issue #05, Volume #05

August 2006



The Full moon and sky  
nearing the midnight hours  
on September 6, 2006



Images by: Michael Peter

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**VGFN  
NEWS**  
NEWSLETTER  
of the  
**VUNTUT GWITCHIN  
GOVERNMENT**

VGFN News is the monthly  
Newsletter of the Vuntut Gwitchin  
First Nation Self-Government in Old  
Crow, Yukon, Canada.  
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the employees of VGFN.

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**Glenna Tetlich**  
**Director Health & Social Department**

I'm pleased to submit my report to provide an overview of the activities of the Social Department over the summer months.

Ted Howes, who has been working for the past several months as the "Acting Community Wellness Worker" had to leave suddenly to attend to a family emergency in Alberta. For those clients that were seeing Ted, you may contact me at my office for assistance, for the clients that were court ordered contact Joe Tetlich. In addition to this the social worker (Angie Sengt) is on call at all times for support, her number is 996-3124, Angie also does community visits at least once a month, her next visit will be September 5th – 7<sup>th</sup>. Cheri Vandelst (mental health worker) was here from August 28-30<sup>th</sup> and Annette King (child abuse

treatment center) will be here from September 13-15<sup>th</sup> accompanied by the new outreach worker who will be doing community visits to Old Crow.

Renee will be moving on from her position as the Home & Community Care Coordinator by mid-September, we hope to have this position filled soon to ensure that services continue to be delivered in a timely manner. I thank Renee for the great work that she did while in this position.

We are in the process of negotiations for the Community Wellness position. Within every position we have to finalize and sort out a few issues. We are hoping for a favorable outcome to have this position filled very soon.

I would like to thank Dennis Frost and Joe Tetlich for facilitating the boy's camp. This was held August 24-27<sup>th</sup> at the police cabin, also mahsi to Loretta Itsi and Susan Drury for helping to coordinate

this camp. The boys had a great time as they learned a lot about the land, the culture and basic life skills, the facilitators realized there is huge interest and need for this to continue in the future.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions on how we can better serve the community, feel free to phone or drop in to share your ideas.

Good luck to the students that are returning to school and those that are moving on to pursue other opportunities. Thank you all for your work and contribution to our community.

I wish everyone a safe, successful and enjoyable harvest season! Remember to take care of the little ones, after all they are our most important and valuable resource.



**Joe Tetlich**  
**Justice Coordinator**

This is my report for the summer activities with the Vuntut Gwitchin Justice department. With the long daylight and warm temperatures we have seen a substantial increase in the amount of individuals on the docket. This is due to the high influx of people coming back into the community during the summer months. There is also more employment during the summer months.

We are still open to helping individuals

or families that would like to go out for treatment. All we need is for you to come in and fill out an application. Just for your information the next intake for the live in treatment program for the men's program will be September 25<sup>th</sup> -October 20<sup>th</sup> 06. For the women's program it will be November 20<sup>th</sup> – December 15<sup>th</sup> 06. There are other treatment programs that are outside of Whitehorse that individuals can access also. If you have any concerns in regards to summons or charges that you have, then please get in touch with me.

We are still hoping that the Native Court worker position will be filled fairly shortly. If you are interested feel free to get in touch with me for details.

One of the challenges that we have is getting members to sit on the Justice Committee. If you are interested on sitting on this very worth while committee, get in touch.

I will be at the GA in the next few weeks if anyone has concerns, suggestions, ideas then you can see me there. You all have a good fall hunting season and safety first.

**Renee Charlie**  
**Home & Community Care Coordinator**

Drin Gwiinzii Everyone,

This is my last report as "Coordinator", for the Home & Community Care Program. My contract ends September 30/2006 with this position under the VGG Health & Social Department. This position was a learning experience for me, I will still visit and help out the elders as they need visitors and help all the time, especially during the holidays.

**Homecare:**

I still need homecare workers, if you are interested see the coordinator during office hours or put your name with our H/R office- see Susan or Brenda.

The hours will depend on the need of the elder, this homecare services is for 65 & over.

**Wood/Heating Fuel:**

Wood is available to elders if they don't want monitor heating in their homes. We also have a new woodlot which is located behind the Alice Frost Community college for your information. Just let the coordinator know in this office. We purchased enough wood for

this year, I purchase 50 cords for this year as we have only 3 Elders burning wood. Most of our funds goes to heating fuel which is very expensive.

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation government subsidizes the heating fuel for our citizens. Heating Fuel (200 liters) will be given to each Elder household starting in October/2006. Lawrence Dean Charlie is going to each elder home to do annual maintenance on the monitors, please welcome him into your home. Please be informed that there will some changes to this program which will be

discussed further at our General Assembly.

**VAN:**

At this time I would like to thank Marvin Frost for driving the Van this long, Marvin resigned from this position as of August 30/2006. The position for a van driver for the Home & Community Care Program is open, if you are interested see Susan or Brenda at the HR Office.

This month newsletter will be short; I reported all my activities for the past year in my report to the 2006-General Assembly.

**Plans for my last month of employment as H&CC coordinator:**

1. Do work plan for the year with new coordinator.
2. Meet with the "homecare workers".
3. Orientation for next coordinator.
4. Update all elders' files.

5. Home visits to all 65 & over elders before contract ends September 30/2006.

Enjoy the rest of the fall season and may you all have a successful and safe harvesting. Take care/visit an elder today or check in on an elder. On a personal note: Mahsi cho for everyone who help cleaning/cutting grass at our annual graveyard cleaning.

**Marion Schafer  
Community Health Representative**

**Well I hope everyone had a great summer as fall is near.. I am planning for the following programs:**

- Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative
- HIV/ AIDS
- Canada Prenatal Nutrition

These are the programs that I co-ordinate, most of these programs are held at the school.

I also attend training which is sponsored and funded by Health Canada.

**Some ongoing duties that I perform on a weekly basis are:**

- Elder's Home Visit
- Medicine Deliveries

At the health centre we have a unit meeting every second Wednesday.

Attend Health & Social Staff Meeting bi-weekly at VGFN

Dr's Clinic for September

Dr White Sept 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>

Dr Skinner Sept 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>

Welcome Back Brook and Dustin Davis, who were away for the summer, It's good to have Brook back, due to high

turn over of nurses over the summer. Hugh Charlie who just returned from a well deserved vacation .Hugh does a great job and keeps the health centre spotless.

Tara, the receptionist is away on vacation and will return on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September.

In closing, welcome! To the recent V.G.F.N. employees and to the rest of the staff I wish you all well

**Marla Kaye  
Accounts Receivable Clerk**

Good Day to All,

As everyone knows I've been off for the whole month of July on medical leave. It's great to be back at work. I've been back since August 3, 2006. Everything is going well and I have to say Barbara's done a very good job in keeping up with everything.

It was a pleasure having Barbara as part of our department for the last 3 months. She has learned so much in such a short period of time and I have to say "Job well done Barb".

**Water and Sewer**

We've been having some problems with our ACCPAC program and the invoicing for water and sewer, and still trying to sort it out. In the mean time we have to do them manually and that takes some time going through everyone's file.

For some of you, you probably already notice we have been sending out **30day,**

**60day and disconnection notices.** These changes have been made in April due to

people not making payments toward their water and sewer bills.

For those of you who are or will apply for water and sewer hook-up, please be advised you are required to pay **\$35.00** for the whole month you are being hooked-up for.

This is for the reason that we don't charge a hook-up or disconnection fee. So please give Government Services a notice if you will be away or no longer need water and sewer delivery.

**Fuel**

Heating fuel will be delivered starting this month, when they find a driver. Please remember to hand in your white copy (fuel slip) to the person who is delivering heating fuel.

For those of you who are purchasing gas/heating fuel please go to the Northern store and get your gas/heating fuel slip there.

As for the Gas, its done daily except for Saturday/Sunday and the schedule is posted in the Store and VGG building.

- Monday - Friday  
12:00pm-1pm and 4pm-6pm





**Tracy Rispin-Kassi**  
*Director of education*

Hello to everyone. Hope that things are going smoothly with your preparations of winter supplies of meat and berries are plentiful. I know that it was busy out there for the berry pickers! Looking forward to that cranberry sauce at Christmas with the turkey!

August has been a month with much emotional impacts on my life personally. Some days were difficult but with love and support from family, friends and others, days have become stronger for my children and me. Mahsi Cho to the people of Old Crow. Your thoughtfulness and kindness will forever be in our hearts and please know that you will be always welcome in our home.

Upon my return to my desk on August 8<sup>th</sup>, I began with the preparations of listing our Post Secondary & High School student on our funding deposit form. This form is handed into Finance a day or two before the first of every month for a direct deposit to our students and a couple of caregivers. This month, September, we had a bit of a delay because of incorrect information that was received. This has been all cleared up now and will be on November's deposit form.

This year, I have made the decision to cut in half the Winter Clothing Allowance of \$ 400.00 that is issued to our high school students in September. In September, the students will receive \$ 200.00, along with their school supplies fund of \$ 65.00 and their monthly allowance of \$ 35.00, totaling \$ 300.00 that was issued to each high school student this month. The additional \$ 200.00 will be issued on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The reason for this change comes from a concern last year, when students forget to buy their winter clothing in September and this is understandable. September in Whitehorse is still fairly warm and you don't worry about the cold too much ahead. So this is why I will issue the remaining \$ 200.00 in November. Currently, VGFN has 22 students in their High School program, from Grade 10 to 12. Michelle Rispin-Kendi and Sherrie

Frost are in Grade 12 this year! Start early on your dress design, girls!

As the school year re-opens, this department will be meeting with the teachers on September 12<sup>th</sup>, to introduce ourselves and the roles we play in Education. I would like to see more community involvement in the school and this is one step to ensure we can work together and make this an enjoyable year for our children.

On that note, a letter will be sent out to parents & caregivers this month regarding treatment of others on the school bus. I have received concerns about bullying and the disrespect being shown to others, while on route to and from the school. **This behavior will not be tolerated this year and I ask for your support.** We all want our children to enjoy their schooling this year. I am working with others to locate volunteers to ride on the bus in the mornings and afternoons. If you are interested in assisting us, please give me a call and we can arrange the times with the bus driver, Jimmy Linklater. This will help with the supervision of the students. If this behavior arises, the bus driver or volunteer will notify me and I in return will notify the parent/caregiver with the first warning. If a second warning should be issued, the parent/caregiver will be held responsible to transport their child to school for one week. Now if the child continues with this behavior after our efforts to resolve this, we will have no choice but to withhold the child from riding on the bus for a longer period. This is unfortunate but we need to take responsibility for our children's behavior and the safety of others on the bus. Your understanding will be appreciated.

On a positive change to our cultural programming this year at Chief Zzeh Gittlit School, we will be introducing Christopher Siddall to teach and run the Cultural Photography Project. Chris will be teaching the methods of developing film at the school and make use of the school's darkroom. Mr. Vokey has given his approval with the use of this room. From this project we hope to develop visual cultural projects through storytelling and hopefully if time allow us to create

the first yearbook of Chief Zzeh Gittlit School. Donna Frost will be assisting Chris and in return will be trained to take over the project during his absence. Cultural programs at the school run on Friday afternoons. The sewing classes will also get started as soon as Mabel returns. Mabel is away attending to her son, Kibbe, who was in an automobile accident this summer. Speedy recovery blessings to Kibbe!

Interviews for the position of the CELC Area II in Whitehorse were done on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 17 applicants applied and then screened. The successful candidate is Ms. Kim Rumley! We are very happy to have Kim return for this school year term. Welcome back, Kim. I know the students were disappointed to hear of your resignation last month but were very pleased to hear that you returned! Your dedication and caring towards our students is deeply appreciated from all of us in Old Crow.

In this department, we will be looking back at the strategic plan that Bob Sharp and Tina Jules worked on early this year. Keep in mind, things take time to implement and resources are limited. We, the staff in the Education department do our best to make education a fun and learning experience for everyone. ***Working together is the key to making this happen.***

Welcome back to the CELCs, Mable Tetlich and Kim Rumley, and our bus driver, Jimmy Linklater, also to the staff of Chief Zzeh Gittlit School. May you all have a great year!

A reminder to the community, nominations for School Council run between

**September 11<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Election will be on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.**

School Councils play an important role because they have the ability to make decisions that have an impact on the direction and quality of public education that means our school, Chief Zzeh Gittlit School! If you are interested in your child's education and want to make a difference, this is one opportunity to be involved. VGFN is in the process of appointing a Guaranteed Representative to the School Council. This person

will represent the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

Once again, "Mahsi cho" to everyone for their kindness & caring. May the season be plentiful to your homes.

## **Dustin Davis** *Physical Education Instructor*

Hello Again,

The School is up and running again and along with it the **Health and Fitness Project** will be hosting another season of activities. There will be a few new initiatives for fall 2006. I will be starting a school sports team, possibly indoor soccer. Interested students will be invited to participate in frequent practices. Our goal will be to become well-trained so we can travel out to Whitehorse and participate in friendly competition. Community members who are interested in helping to coach soccer or a different sport of their interest are encouraged to contact me. I would like to see even greater participation from the community with **Health and Fitness** activities this year. Also, I will be starting an outdoor leadership club at the school. Students will learn a wide range of outdoor wilderness skills from the most modern to the most traditional. Community members who are interested in sharing their land-based skills with youth are urged to contact me so an opportunity to share your knowledge can be arranged. I will send home more information with students when the details are worked out.

Great News! With the support of the VGFN Recreation Department, archery equipment is being purchased which will allow both youth and adults to practice this exciting activity. Specialized safety netting will allow us to shoot our arrows at targets inside the school gym right through the cold winter months. Look to see postings for community archery times at the school once the equipment arrives latter this fall.

I will be arranging a community event to get together volunteers to go out on the ski

trails and clear back the willows. Look for postings of this event and come on out for some fresh air, exercise and community service.

Finally, I want to share an important idea that formed in my mind while working with the youth here in Old Crow last year. Hopefully many of you have had a chance to meet with me and perhaps have heard that I did some good work with the youth. I hope the relationships I have built in the community last year will allow the following message to be received in a positive manner and perhaps even acted upon. What follows is my opinion, and as such you can feel free to disagree. When I arrived in Old Crow I was expecting to find that the youth would be very out of shape and physically inactive. After all, I was sent here because the community had identified that there was a crisis of inactivity among the youth. However, to my surprise, the fitness level among young people was not as bad as I had expected. However, I did notice a crisis of low activity among the adults. For example, the youth of this community were involved in a fair bit of walking around town, riding bikes and playing outside. In contrast, I failed to see many examples of adult community members using their bodies to be active. There are indeed some local people being active, but not enough. I did see many people going out on the land to hunt by boat and snowmobile. So yes, people are still getting out on the land, but the youth are not often seeing examples of people using their bodies for extensive exercise. I came to the understanding, that the crisis of health with youth in Old Crow is not their current physical condition, but rather what will happen to their level of fitness when they get older and want to act like an adult. Will they put away their bicycle and start driving a four-wheeler? I believe they will. Why? Because they will have reached the age when they begin to carefully copy the actions of adults, and quite simply, there are very few examples of adults who ride bicycles in this community. The good news is that the people of Old Crow have the power to make

things better. You can make a positive difference in the future health of your child by your actions today. You could walk to work once in a while or go for a walk around town to stretch your legs. Perhaps you could get a bicycle and use it in the summer. Think of the money you'll save in gas alone! If more of the community did active things than our youth would understand that staying healthy and fit is a life-long choice. So Old Crow, the solutions are simpler than they seem. A resource person like myself can help, but in the end it is you, the citizens of Old Crow, who have the power to cause positive change. Dream about what type of adults you would like your children to become and role model those behaviors for them today. The strongest influence in young people's lives is the daily examples set by their family and community.



## **Susan Drury** *Director Human Resources*

The HR office was quite busy through the summer with the hiring of 23 youth and students, and over 35 adult seasonal workers. It was good to see and feel the positive energy that came from such a large number of people working on various projects. The youth are now gone, and summer projects have been completed and fall and winter projects are being planned. Workers will be hired for clearing trees/brush around Old Crow under a Fire-Smart program, and workers will also be needed for making a multi-use trail along the airport runway once the new fence is up, and fixing the ski trail on the other side of the lake. GS obtained funds from the Community

Development Fund to create/fix these trails for walking, running, and skiing. We also hope to clear and widen the ski trails and the toboggan hill at the ski lodge. Building materials have arrived in the community to start work on new houses. Thus the next month or more will be busy again for our workers.

As you've seen from the numerous postings there are also jobs inside the government building that are vacant. Some jobs are vacant because of new positions being created such as the Executive Director, Executive Support Officer and a revamping of the Executive Assistant to become the Executive Secretary. Other jobs are vacant because people have left those positions.

So an update on staffing Still completing the recruiting/selection for; Executive Director, Executive Support Officer, NR Director, NR Planner, Community Wellness Counselor, Dog Control Officer (still have to post), Receptionist, and Janitor.

Hired/changes: Harmony O'Hara who started Sept. 7 as Executive Secretary; Dana Lord who will eventually move into the GS office as GS Clerk; Kim Rumley – CELC Whitehorse – the top candidate in the recent hiring competition; Maria Schafer as NR Admin Assistant; Jimmy Linklater as school bus driver; Michael Peter as Computer Support Technician; Douglas Charlie as Purchasing Officer Trainee. The rental clerk position was not filled and Loretta Itsi will assist GS (along with her H&S duties) as needed to help people understand the landlord/tenant relationship, the housing policy and sign a house rental agreement. Brenda Kaye in HR will be the Motor Vehicle Agent for Old Crow (with Susan Drury filling in as necessary); Stan Njootli Jr and Isaac Thomas as Fisheries Technicians at Fishing Branch; Geno Charlie as a Fisheries Tech on the Porcupine River with Keith Rispin and Brandon Kaye. Filling in temporarily for a while; Graham Baird as Acting NR Director until Oct. 8, Amanda Frost as receptionist, Malinda Bruce as GS Clerk, Myranda Charlie/Jenna Lord as Youth

Centre Workers.

In addition to the summer workers who returned to Whitehorse, we recently said good bye to Ted Howes, Kathy Nukon, Tammy Josie, Melissa Valja, Marvin Frost, Darius Elias and Florence Netro. We appreciated their work these past years/months and will miss seeing them in the admin building as employees.

The HR office also helped workers living in Old Crow find employment with other employers: Total Trac that is putting up the airport fence, and Archer Cathro and Assoc. who have mining exploration camps outside of Dawson and north of Elsa. Other positions may be created and posted as we continually assess the needs of the community and the government. Keep an eye on the employment boards!

### **Trainee Program**

Are you interested in a specific job within VGG? Are you interested in the work conducted by a department and would like to be part of that work? VGG encourages community members and employees to meet with HR staff to discuss potential training positions or career goals. Knowing the interest of people helps VGG to determine if a service need can be met by a trainee position. You may not have the skills yet for the position you're interested in, however, with on-the-job training and some formal education, someday you may be ready to fill that position. We want to hear from you!

More information about the work that Human Resources have been conducting since the last GA is contained in this year's GA booklet.

Mahsi'

### **Acting Director Recreation**

This past summer most recreation activities centered on the children, youth and young adults. Organizing and delivering activities this summer were: Jennifer Kaye, Randall Kendi, Malinda Bruce, Amanda Frost, Sherri Frost, Keicia Kassi, Kathie Charlie, Chantal Tizya-Charlie, Samantha

Frost and Crystal Frost. A big thank you to these workers for keeping the children busy through the summer.

This fall Myranda Charlie and Jenna Lord will keep the Youth Centre open after school and evenings. If any community members are interested in organizing activities for any age, please come in to discuss with Recreation. If any adult is interested in being trained to participate, coach, or learn any aspect of recreation, we want to hear from you.

Dustin Davis has returned as the Health and Fitness Project Coordinator and the Phys Ed Teacher. If any community members are interested in assisting Dustin with his Health and Fitness program, please contact Dustin at the school. Not only does Dustin organize activities for the children, but wants to include adults and other family members in some of those activities. As you will read in Dustin's report, adults performing fitness activities of any kind (even something as simple as walking) helps children to learn that fitness at all ages is important for a healthy life.

The Winter Games Torch Relay Event was postponed until September and we are still confirming dates. Look for information being posted soon!

The Recreation Society is in need of more members. If you are interested, please contact Sonja Foss, President of the Society. She's located in the NR office.

More information about what has been happening in Recreation is contained in this year's General Assembly booklet.

Mahsi'





**Mary Jane Moses**  
*Heritage Researcher*

Prior to my leaving on holidays I worked to complete some of the tasks on my list. I still have a list of tasks to complete for the upcoming new Visitor

Reception Center. I have lots of researching to do with Oral History database of interviews. I still work endlessly on other Heritage related tasks all of which have kept me busy for some time now.

Just back from holidays, I'll be concentrating on updating the database with

the summer 2006 interviews, transcribing, cataloguing and indexing and other heritage related tasks.

Good luck to everyone in harvesting food from the land for the upcoming winter months and take care.

**Melissa Matheson**  
*Heritage Assistant*

I have recently began working as the Heritage assistant under Megan, Mary Jane and the temporary NR director Darius Kassi. To date my duties as Heritage assistant have included building on the First Voices website, filming for the VGFN Cultural Geography project, transcribing interviews, filing and conducting and transcribing interviews for the VGFN Language and Culture questionnaire.

My first days of work were at a First Voices workshop in Whitehorse, where I learned how to record languages and input words, phrases and/or stories onto the First Voices website. When this site is complete, everyone who has access to the internet will be able to go on the website and learn their traditional language through pictures and sound. I hope to get the school (Gwich'in language classes) involved in this project, as I feel the youth will appreciate it more if they help to build it.

Another exciting experience was the helicopter trip to the head of Johnson Creek with Shirleen, Robert Bruce, Lydia Thomas and Charlie Thomas. There I filmed cutaways and aerial shots of our beautiful land, as well as the interviews with Lydia and Charlie. This was once again such a privilege and I must thank everyone involved in the project, Mahsi!

I look forward to working with Heritage and the rest of the Natural Resources department for the remainder of my time here. Mahsi Cho.

**Robert Kaye**  
*Game Guardian*

Hello to all in the community. Will I hope everyone is have a good fall going out on the land doing all there harvesting for the winter. Will we have a new boat motor on our Natural Resources boat so you will be seeing more of me on the river doing more patrols up and down the Porcupine River and up the Crow River. I went on a patrol with a conservation officer from Dowson His is Russel Osborne we went to Eagle River up the Bell River we seen a few caribou on the way up from Blue Bluff all the way to Eagle River we did not see any big bunch mostly small bunch seen a few bull's at salmon



cache mountains. Russel the conservation officer was saying how well that all the hunters were looking after their meat and it was good to see that no meat was wasted. The only thing is that their is too much garbage lifted on the River at some camp sites we picked few garbage on the River. It is good to see people and kids out on the land enjoying them selves and

working with good fat meat and fish their is some people fishing chum salmon for dog feed for the winter all is doing well fishing. I will be going around to



harvesting numbers some time this fall so have hot tea on that is all I have to say for now. Enjoy the fall and happy harvesting.

**Tracy Marie Bruce**  
*Housing Assistant*

Good day to all. Just to let everyone know that August 24, 2006 was my last day of work for Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation as the Housing Assistant. I would like to thank the HR department for letting me take this job on for the summer. It was nice to see everyone again. Hopefully I will

be back for Christmas. Working for housing is a bit busy. I had been doing a lot of cheque requisitions, and catching up on more filing and whatever has to be done during the day. I would like to welcome Douglas Charlie to the housing staff! Hope you like working in the office! Dana has been recruited as GS Clerk. However, she'll still work in C&C until the new staff is in place in this office. Filling the GS clerk position tempo-

rally until Dana moves here will be Malinda Bruce who will be on a trainee program August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Well that is it for me now. I hope everyone has a nice long winter.

