



# VGEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER  
of the  
VUNTUT GWITCHIN  
GOVERNMENT



#06, Volume #04

September 2005



September  
7, 2005  
*Premier and  
Cabinet  
Visit Old  
Crow*



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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  
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**William Josie**  
**Director, Natural Resources**

Good day to everyone, I hope you and your family had a good fall harvest.

From Aug 16 to 23<sup>rd</sup> Rick Siemen and a crew from INAC cleaned up Tizya Creek and Whitefish Lake. They took out 150 drums from both locations.

Isaac Thomas and Gerald Nukon left to the Fishing Branch River weir camp on Fri. Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, they should be there until end of October. As of Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, Isaac & Gerald counted 107, 891 chum salmon that passed the weir.

All the students left by the end of Aug. I wish them all the best, and good luck.

On Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Old Crow had a visit from the premier and his cabinet, and a broad area of issues were brought up with the cabinet including but not limited to:

- Water and Sewer
- Lagoon and Garbage Dump
- Airport Runway
- Culverts and Road Maintenance
- Yukon Housing
- Education
- Wildlife Act Review
- Promotion of Trapping
- Dental & Eye Care
- Counseling Services for Old Crow
- Justice Issues

- Language and Training
- Climate Change
- Contaminated Sites, and
- Feasibility Study for the Recreation Complex.



**Photo By: Jocelyn McDowell,**  
**Stewardship Coordinator**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

On the morning of Sept 13<sup>th</sup> the second Technical Working Group meeting of the Old Crow Flats SMA took place. The work plan and timelines were discussed, such as; what information is available, public presentations, and communications with the public, and so forth.

From Sept 15 to the 20<sup>th</sup> I visited with Phil Tiphany and Shelly Marshall at the

bear viewing camp at Fishing Branch. I went to learn about our Corporations plans for a bear-viewing venture, and also to look at Shelley's research to see the effects of bear viewing on the ecosystem. She is from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

Canadian Restoration and Enhancement (CRE) -27 was complete on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, this is the mark/recapture project. In total we tagged 3,574 chum salmon down river from Old Crow, combined together the test and Vuntut fisheries recovered or harvested 5,995 chum salmon, with 188 tags recovered. So our estimate is 113,415 chum salmon at the spawning grounds. As there is still a little fishing happening, all the numbers are not in as of yet. CRE-18, the project to put radio receivers in 25 Coho or red salmon will start on Oct 6, this project is to find out where the Coho spawn. At this time I would like to thank the fisher people of Old Crow for bearing with us for last three years. Mahsi.

On the evening of Sept 27, we were visited by the Yukon Environmental & Social – Economic Assessment Board to consult on the rules that govern them. YESAA is to fully take effect on Nov 30, 2005.

With that I wish you a safe fall season.

**Robert Kaye**  
**Game Guardian**

Good day to all. I just got back to work on sept,27. I was out at my camp cutting home wood and doing some hunting.

I had a good time out on the land. I saw a lot of wildlife on my time off. It was good to see everyone out on the land harvesting Moose and Caribou. I hope that everyone had a good fall.

On Sept. 27/ 05 we had a report that there was a dead moose in the water up around Bell River. Sept. 30/ 05 Mike Rispin and I went up to the Bell River to check out the moose. The moose was not shot, we skinned the moose from the neck to the rump. We did not find any bullet holes in the moose. It looked like the moose was killed during the rut. The moose had broods all over the body the moose was right in the water. We camped

the weekend and during that time the water dropped about three feet. The moose was out of the water after we lift.

We saw a few caribou around Bell River and we had a good weekend. There was no ice on the river until we got to the mouth of Crow River. I got back to town and all I have been hearing, is about all the caribou running around the Mountain that were wounded or found by hunter's in town.

To all hunter's in town: When you are out hunting do not shoot in a bunch of caribou. Wait until the caribou single out



**Photo By: William Josie**

and the caribou you want to shoot is in the clear so that you won't wound any. That is all I have to say right now so have a good fall and happy hunting.

**Mary Jane Moses**  
*Heritage Researcher*

September was a busy month. I began by dubbing copies of audiocassette tapes from the 2005 Cultural Geography Project. This project happened in July when we took our Elders back to the land for place name verification and storytelling. An added bonus was having our youth join us on the trips. They were involved by asking the Elders questions about the place names and the history associated with those special places within VGFN Traditional Territory. It was a learning experience for all. At the end of the week of flying, a community supper and presentation was held where the students gave their trip highlights on the places they had gone too and what they learnt in the process.

Other tasks consisted of delivering the calendars to each household in Old Crow and drafting letters for the mail-outs of the Gwich'in Language calendar. The VGFN Heritage Committee produced this calendar and we are proud of the end product. Many hours were spent on editing of the Gwich'in language to ensure its accuracy. This is a resource for anyone wanting to learn the Gwich'in language.

From Sept 13 – 23, I left on a Wilderness Week trip to Washington, DC along with ten Old Crow delegates and a youth from Fort McPherson, NWT. As a group, with one voice, we were bringing a strong message to the politicians in Washington “not to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling or any development.” Our way of life and culture as Gwich'in people would be at stake. The

Budget Bill would be voted on in



October 2005 and by going to Washington as a group, we were lending support to the many other people who are fighting this same cause from across the United States and Canada. I was so happy to see so many supporters from everywhere.

The 3,000 plus people that congregated on Capitol Hill on the rally day of September 20<sup>th</sup> was something else to see. There are so many people in the United States who are onside supporting our plight to save the refuge and to keep

ANWR wild. The Alaskan Gwich'in and Yupik Eskimos were also there to lend support and tell the truth about their way of life that would be affected too, if oil drilling does go ahead. I'm glad we went to Washington to educate and bring an awareness to people about the Gwich'in way of life here in north Yukon.

After gathering the many addresses for the calendar mail-outs, thank you to Megan, I began printing out letters to include with the calendars and the mail-outs began. I hope that people enjoy their calendars.

Also to note that the winter Gwich'in evening classes for adults will be beginning in mid October, watch for postings.

I wish a happy fall season for everyone. I hope for successful caribou harvesting and red salmon fishing for all. Do take care when traveling out on the land at this time of year.

Mahsi' choo for another wonderful fall season in Old Crow that is upon us. Successful moose and caribou harvesting, good chum salmon run and so much more to be grateful for. Mahsi' choo that we live in this peaceful place called “Old Crow”



**Melissa Valja**  
*Natural Resources Planner*

### **Old Crow Flats Technical Working Group**

A meeting was held in Whitehorse was on September 13. There are many technical people on this working group that have much experience working in Old Crow and in the Flats. I am the co-chair of TWG with Bruce McLean of YG Environment. Please come talk with me, and look forward to community consultation in October and November.

### **North Richardson Sheep**

There are many parties to this planning process for a Management Plan, and preliminary issues are still being worked out. As you know, this has been on the table for almost 30 years, so it's important that we now proceed in a way that results in a plan.

### **Forestry Plan**

NR Dept. is working towards creating

a forestry plan. Many people have said it is time for this to happen. It will be important for all those affected by such a plan to have a say and affect its development. Please look forward to the different ways you'll be able to contribute. Thanks to those who filled out a forestry survey this summer.

### **Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement**

A group consisting of VGG staff and councilors, NYRRC Executive Director, Community Steward, Salmon Committee member and Biologist at Environmental Dynamics sat together and discussed the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund Conceptual proposals. Many of the proposals that were agreed to be pursued are biological in nature including successfully funded projects in the past, and some we'd like to see this year, as well as the Salmon Gathering of fisher people with the Gwich'yaa Zhee of Fort Yukon.

### **Community Energy Baseline**

Thank you to those who took part in the Community Energy Baseline conducted this summer. The draft report is now being reviewed, and will be presented to the community in November.

### **Climate Change Project**

There is a Climate Change project that the NYRRC, Community Steward, and I are working on. It would be to work with youth to create a mural, and to work with anyone interested on a Gwich'in English brochure promoting awareness on how to cut down Greenhouse Gas emissions.

I've advertised for any youth interested in attending an **International Youth Summit on climate change** prior to the United Nations Conference of the Parties 11 (COP11) in Montreal. I can help out with the application. Look to the website: [www.beyondkyoto.org](http://www.beyondkyoto.org) for more information.

Mahsi' Cho and good luck in your preparations for the winter!



**Tracy Bruce**  
*Executive Assistant*  
**GS**



Hello to all;  
This is my last monthly report from the VGG office. My last day of work is August 12, 2005. I have been working in the housing department since June 28, 2004. After graduating from Grade 12 at FH Collins.

I decided to come home for a year to spend time with my grandma, and to take some time off from school. I really enjoyed my time here, but I am happy about going back to school as well. I also enjoyed working here in the office, I learned quite a bit since my first day.

I worked with a few different people while I was here; Harold and Dorothy Frost, I thank them for teaching me a few things in the office. It was great working with you, along with Barry, Ronald, and

Brenda, and all the carpenters.

I started this position under the summer student program. When I had completed training I was then promoted to GS Assistant. In August of last year, I went to Whitehorse to take Excel level 1 training with Dana Naye Ventures, then again in September for level 2. This training helped me a lot with this position.

I haven't written a report since May, so I will let you know what happened since then. From May 20<sup>th</sup> – June 13<sup>th</sup>, I took holidays. Two days before I left I trained Brenda Kaye, as she will replace me on my leave in August. She will do great in this position. She filled in while I was on holidays. I went to Whitehorse for a few weeks, and then went off to Inuvik for one week. While gone on holidays, I went to 1 funeral, 1 wedding, 2 grads, and to my brother's baby's birth. So I was very happy to be home! I was back to work the next day arriving in Old Crow.

One week after I was home, I was asked to go to the CYFN GA in Pelly, Yukon. I was gone from June 24<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>. I learned a lot from these meetings, and I enjoy being at them. I would just like to thank Chief and Council for letting me attend.

All of July and August I was in the office. Brenda has been coming in the office in the afternoons since June for more training while I am here. Dana has been the back up receptionist for Brenda while in training.

We have mostly been working on cheque requisitions, updating the wash-room and housing files, filing paper work and training for July and August. I would just like to welcome Kathy and Brenda to the GS/Housing Staff. I know you'll do fine. That is all for me now. It was good to work along side of all of you in the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Office. Take care. Mahsi Cho!

**Kim Rumley**  
**CELC - Area II**

The School year commenced on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, we have a number of new students who have joined us at F.H. Collins and Porter Creek High School. Welcome to all of you, I hope you enjoy your high school experience. As your CELC – Area II, I am here to assist you in any manner in which you need help with. VGFN runs a snack program out of my office, so snacks are available to students. In addition to this, my office is available to use the computer, phone or just a place to come and talk on your break.

Everyone seems to be settling into the routine of school very well.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Randal Kendi and Linda Netro-Hendrie to the staff of F.H. Collins. Randal and Linda will be teaching the Gwitchin Language course second semester for all students grade 8-12 attending F.H. Collins this year. They are both working very hard in conjunction with The Yukon Native Language Center this semester to establish the curriculum for the course. Anyone interested in coming into the Gwitchin classroom to share traditional stories, teachings, or land-based activities should contact Randal at 667-8665.

The CELC – Area II Program is also looking for Gwitchin people to come into the school at lunch hours to assist with sewing, story telling and traditional cooking. If anyone is interested please call myself at 667-8665 ext. 248. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite any elders or parents who are down from Old Crow to pay us a visit at the school. If you call ahead we can arrange to have a luncheon or a small snack in a private classroom. **WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**

**1) Office Hours:** Right now my office hours Monday – Friday 8:30am-3:30pm. I can be contacted at 667-8665 (est. 248). Please feel free to call or drop in to see me at my office in F.H.

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Collins; I am here to work with the students, parents and spon-

sors.

**2) Updated Information:** I will be sending newsletters home on a monthly basis, if you would like a copy of your child's attendance on a regular basis please let me know and I will arrange to mail it home to you.

**3) Attendance:** Unfortunately we are already experiencing difficulties with our students attendance this year. It is very early in the year, and attendance is paramount to your child's success in school. Please encourage your child to attend on a regular basis, as it will make their school days a positive experience. Good attendance is key to them getting the information they require and it also prevents the students from falling behind.

**4) Dream Catchers Conference:** The high school students will not be attending this conference this year. The reason for this is due to the fact that once school starts we only have seven weeks to raise over \$10,000.00. It also causes the students to miss a lot of school early in the year. Although Dream Catchers is a very valuable experience with a lot to offer, we have set our sights on doing an Aboriginal Exchange with a High School in the United States. Currently I am in the process of working on preliminary details with a High School on the Island of Maui in Hawaii. We are looking to do the exchange in the spring or early summer of 2006. Once we have established a school in Hawaii to do the exchange with we will be applying for funding through YTG-Education, and a variety of other funding sources. In addition to fundraising I will be calling a parent/student meeting once we have confirmed who the exchange will take place with.

**5) Alcohol and Drug Services:** A confidential service is available to students who may be struggling with alcohol and drugs, compliments of Alcohol and Drug Services, YTG. This service is also available to students who just want to talk. ADS Counselors are at Porter Creek High School every Thursday from 10-2pm, you will be excused from class should you wish to go see a counselor. The teachers are not told where you are, only that it is an excused absence. ADS

counselors are at F.H. Collins every Tuesday, from 10-2pm, in the counseling area. Again this is an excused absence, and a completely confidential service. Parents if you have concerns about your child you can do a direct referral by calling Alcohol and Drug Services at 1-867-667-5208 or 1-800-661-0408. From time to time I also do referrals however, due to the confidential nature of the counseling once the referral is made I am no longer involved in the process. This is to protect the confidentiality of the student. Mahsi, for your understanding.

On that note, although we do not support underage drinking or the use of substances, the reality is that some of our youth are using. I often sit with the youth and discuss, safety plans, harm reduction strategies, and ways in which they can receive help.

**6) Lunch Hour Activities:** Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Randal Kendi and myself will supervise traditional sewing classes at lunch hour at F.H. Collins. These classes will commence on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006, they will be held in the Old Home Economics Room beside my office. All sewing supplies will be supplied. If you are a grade 12 student this is the perfect opportunity to start working on your traditional regalia for Native Grad in the spring. We encourage all students to come out and work on a project, whether it is just to learn to sew, or to make something for yourself or as a Christmas gift. Hope to see you there. Parents are welcome to drop in at lunch hours to participate in this program.

I am currently looking for someone to instruct a sewing class at Porter Creek high School twice a week, for our students at Porter Creek so if someone is interested and has transportation please contact myself as soon as possible. Mahsi.

**7) Elder in the School Program:** I am currently working with VGFN and Department of Education to try to secure funding for the Elder in the School Program. Yukon Territorial Government has funding available which was not used up last year to run Elder in the School

Programs. Therefore we decided to attempt to secure funding in order to provide this program to our High School Students. Due to the fact that both High Schools are in Kwanlin Dunn Traditional Territory, out of respect I have approached KDFN for support in trying to implement this program at both High Schools. KDFN Chief and Council are supportive of this initiative and I am hoping to have something in place by mid-October. This program would be available to all First Nation students attending high school.

**8) North American Indigenous Games:** In July of 2006 Team Yukon will be traveling to Denver, Colorado to participate in NAIG. Team trials and identification camps have commenced. I have been encouraging our students to try out for the various events. To date, we have had VGFN youth try out for Basketball and Archery, there will be rifle trials September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005 our very own Pauline Frost-Hanberg will be coaching this sport. Badminton trials will be held October 15, 2005; Boxing is TBA, as well as Swimming. IF anyone is interested do not hesitate to come and fill out forms in my office and I will get them into the Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle. Please come out and try our as this is an amazing experience. **GO TEAM YUKON!**

**9) Food For Learning & Bus Passes:** VGFN continues to run a snack program for all students attending F.H. Collins. In addition to this all Porter Creek High School Students have been supplied with four food passes for the school cafeteria at PC, these are to last until Christmas, in January we will issue new passes. Bus Passes are issued to all students living outside the catchment area; this means a student living outside of Riverdale or Porter Creek and who cannot access a school bus service from their area. We currently have seven students receiving bus passes.

**10) Tutoring:** There is free tutoring available to any Old Crow students who wish to receive assistance with their studies. Many of our students took advantage of this program last year and found it be very helpful in assisting them to pass the courses in which they were having difficulties with. Don't be ashamed to ask for help even the most intelligent people still require help from time to time. Asking for help makes you successful. Tutoring will be available at lunch, after school and on weekends.

**11) Home Boarding Program:** Many of our students are living with families or friends so that they can reside in Whitehorse and receive their Grade 12

education. The Home Boarding Program is a joint program where YTG Education pays \$270.00 per month, and VGFN pays \$190.00 per month to the adult who owns/rents the home. These sponsors do not receive anymore funding than this; the maximum they can receive is \$460.00 per mth/per student. This is a huge responsibility that friends and family take on, so please remember to support them and lend a helping hand when needed. I would like to thank the many people who open their homes to our students, as you are all so kind, generous and caring, without your support our students wouldn't be able to fulfill their educational goals. Mahsi Cho.

Enclosed you will find consent forms, these forms are required by law for myself to assist your child in case of an emergency. There were several situations last year in which our students required immediate medical attention, because I had consents I was able to get them to the hospital and have them receive the medical attention they required. Please fill out your child's YHCIP number and Status number as well.

In closing I invite students, parents and sponsors to call with any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Mabel Tetlich**  
**CELC - Area I**

Good day everyone! Once again fall is here and you must be busy preparing for the winter.

I began work on August 22, 2005. I've been busy as usual with planning, meeting with teachers and school supplies.

Chief Zzeh Gittlit School opened on August 30, 2005. The students were excited to back at school. It is so nice to hear their voices again.

This year the teachers are; Mrs. Hume – grades 7 – 9 class, Mrs. Hoogland – grades 5 & 6 class, Mrs. Montgomery – Gwitchin teacher for all grades, Miss. Garret – Grades 1 –4 class, Mrs. Hume in the afternoons – K-4 & K-5. Gary Vokey the principal teaches grades 7 –9

math class in the afternoon. Recently there was a letter sent home regarding some changes in the school with teachers.

The sewing and industrial arts will take place every Friday starting on October 7, 2005. This project gives the students a sense of their roles and responsibilities. They also get to learn, practice and feel good about them selves when they complete a project.

Presently the students from grade 7- 9 classes are fundraising to attend the Dream Catchers Conference in Edmonton. Watch for postings of activities and thank you for your continuous support.

The school cabin camp on fishing and hunting went very well. Thank you to

every one who participated. Students enjoyed this camp, like they do every year. Especially when they're out on the land, they are eager to learn what is demonstrated in front of them.

They have so many questions about their Gwitchin way of life and what it really means to them individually.

I look forward to a positive year at our school. I wish the students that are attending F.H. Collins in Whitehorse work at your studies, make healthy choices and keep your head up.

Until next time, take care and here's a thought for the day; Keep our land, culture and future.

**Louise Creyke**  
**Manager, Health & Social Programs**

I am finally back home and love the thought of seeing and visiting with everyone. It gave me the opportunity to see what I missed out on. On the other hand I'm blessed with a wonderful husband, three children and a three-year-old grandson. In the meantime, other than being here to support my mother and my family I will do my best in the job I've taken on. I took a year off from the Social Work Program in Prince George, so this will

be good experience. Through all of this no doubt I will encounter many trials. But I know your support is there and I look forward to working with the community.

Its important to set goals and one of mine which is essential in the social field is while assisting people, making sure others less fortunate are taken care of. I started working on August 29<sup>th</sup> as the Health & Social Programs Manager. I will be assisting the Director with administration duties, administering the Social Assistance Program; making sure Home and Community Care through Renee

Frost and CHR Marion Shafer is delivered. Most of all I look forward to working as a team member. I will give more information as time goes on and if you have any concerns please don't be afraid to call me. I am enjoying my work, the staff and look forward to a successful time here.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate new and returning students who chose to further their education. Your education will build mountains of success, and ensure a healthier community.

**Terri L. Jones**  
**Community  
Wellness  
Counsellor**



As the Community Wellness Counsellor, I am responsible for providing counselling to individuals and families with regard to addictions and make referrals to Alcohol and Drug treatment centres for persons wanting to learn new living/coping skills along with making healthier choices for their lives.

I have five years experience working part time in a non First Nations treatment centre in the Okanagan Valley. I have also worked full time in the Alcohol and Drug Counselling department of a

Friendship Centre, which provides services to First Nations persons living away from their home reserves. For six and a half years following that, I worked as the Addictions Counsellor on two reserves in BC; a semi remote community called Tachet, 100 km's northwest of Burns Lake, BC for Lake Babine Nation and then for a neighboring reserve to my own, Westbank First Nation across Okanagan Lake from Kelowna, BC.

I am registered with Okanagan Indian Band although I have relatives throughout the Okanagan territory, as my paternal Grandfather was a wondering man. I grew up in home where alcoholism was normal and presenting a perfect family image was what the community we lived

in believed we had. From that point to now I have had many life experiences including children, marriages, twenty years of addiction practice, fourteen years sober and twenty years clean of drugs, formal education and personal healing.

I am excited about working for you, the community of Old Crow, especially excited about assisting with the development of the "on-the-land treatment program". In my years of experience working with First Nations people on their healing journey, I believe that a community based/driven healing program would best support person in healing life changes.

I look forward to meeting you, and Promoting Change.

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

I would like to first welcome all the new employees to the Health & Social team, hope you all enjoy yourselves in your new positions. To everyone else hope you are enjoying the season and that you all have a good fall harvest.

With the summer months gone we are getting busy with new initiatives within the Justice Department. I will brief you on a number of issues that we are working on.

The last Territorial Court was on August 23, 2005. This was done through the phone. At that time we diverted seven clients to the Old Crow Diversion program. It is important to note that this is a choice that individuals enter when charged with an offence. After inform-

ing the client of the program and their roles and responsibilities, an agreement is signed. We are always looking at the program as a positive initiative, which is geared towards leading a happy and healthy lifestyle. Over the five years I have seen a very positive change in the community and changes in individuals that I have had the pleasure to work with. Keep up the good work. The next court date is November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

We are looking at the possibility of a community dinner in the near future, followed by a presentation and discussion to inform the community of what's happening in the department, and how you can be a part of the decision making process.

In the coming months we are also looking at the **Administration of Justice** and how the community members can have their input. Our first task is to

set up a caucus group and we envision a member from each department and a Youth/Elder from the general public.

I also assist the probation officer with clients that have community service work or are on a condition. If you are charged with an offence and do not know what to do please come in and see me, and I will direct you through to the proper department. It is also important to note that it is the clients responsibility to make appointments with me if they are on conditions or if they have a court appearance order. Do not wait until court day to make appointments.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please come to the office. We are always open to new ideas. Until next time, be careful during freeze up and always travel with a friend or let someone know where you are going and when you are expected back.



**Renee Frost**  
**Home & Community Care**  
**Coordinator**

My name is Renee Frost. I am on a term position with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, as Home and Community Care Coordinator, effective August 29, 2005.

VGFN Health and Social Department is responsible to design and deliver the Home and Community Care Program to its members and community and to try to empower our citizens rather than increase dependency.

In order to create a program that reflects our community's strengths and helps meet community needs, we want to make sure that it does not become "over-bureaucratic" or impose rigid communications and a reporting structure. We

want to ensure that quality care is provided within a community-led and culturally appropriate framework.

This initial program components will include: a Home Support Program, regular community lunches (meals-on wheels and hot lunches at school) elders programming and transportation for clients with mobility difficulties to health appointments and events.

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Home and Community Care Program is based on a holistic approach, which recognizes that a person's needs are social, emotional, physical, and spiritual in nature. These factors are all considered when planning takes place with clients and how their health needs can best be met.

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation will

provide service to anyone in the community who has physical, emotional, mental or social need for assistance in order to continue living independently and safely in our own community.

I am in my fourth week of employment, still learning and becoming familiar with the program. All jobs within my department are advertised through the Human Resources Office and interviews are done according to policy.

Advertisements will soon be posted for Cook and Cook's helper. I am planning a "Hot Lunch" for the school and "Meals-On-Wheels" for Elders. We are always in need of "Homecare Workers". Register with Human Resources Office if you are interested. We encourage you to take care of our Elders.

In closing I wish all hunters luck and be careful out there. Happy harvesting.



**Dustin Davis**  
**Physical Education Teacher**

I am pleased to make my first submission for the VGFN newsletter. My name is Dustin Davis and I am the new physical education teacher for the school and Recreation Manager. Furthermore I am the instructor for the Old Crow Health and Fitness Pilot Project that was delivered last year by Jane and Trevor. As you can see, I will be heavily involved with the youth of Old Crow.

VGFN has made a considerable commitment to the health of the community by hiring a certified teacher with a background in outdoor education. You can support your government's efforts in a few ways.

\* please support and participate in upcoming activities in the community that promote fitness. (hopefully a schedule will be posted in the near future)

\* if you are the parent of a child attending school, please provide a pair of inside shoes for use in the gymnasium. This is very important for safety reasons and also so that your child can fully participate in a more structured physical education program.

\* please feel free to contribute ideas and expertise to my efforts at bringing quality activities to the youth and adults alike of Old Crow.

\* please be patient. I have been in Old Crow for just a short time and will require a little more to get activities up and running.

**Susan Drury**  
**Intergovernmental Officer**

In early September Cheryl Itsi-Charlie returned to her position as Director, Human Resources, while I continued to work on projects that I started while as Acting Director in HR. My to-do list includes: finishing the job descriptions; assisting supervisors with a new process to conduct performance reviews; finalizing personnel and administrative policies and procedures; presenting the VGG strategic plan to the community and assisting departments in creating work plans from the strategic plan; and assisting VGG departments with integrating services.

Some of these tasks will involve working with administrative staff members who will provide valuable information and feedback on procedures.

I look forward to completing the tasks I've already started - tasks that take much time to work through and complete, as well as working on new tasks. For now, I'm situated in the HR Office, which helps in updating Cheryl with information on hires/changes that occurred when she was gone, and getting her feedback and suggestions on tasks I'm working on.

**Dorothy Frost**  
**Administrative Director, Chief and Council**

**Executive Assistant**

This is just a short note to introduce and welcome, Alisa Kelly our new Executive Assistant for VG Chief and Council. Alisa will work directly with the Chief and Council and executive staff, to ensure the administrative aspects of the job are carried out in a timely and professional manner.

If there are any matters, which relate to the job summary below, please copy Alisa in that regard at [ea@vgfn.net](mailto:ea@vgfn.net).

**JOB SUMMARY**

Working closely with Chief & Council and the Administration Director, (Executive Office) the executive assistant will provide general administration and secretarial services to the Chief & Council which will cover filing, mailing and courier arrangements, responsible for word processing memos, letters, emails, documents and reports; reception duties including receiving and screening calls, and email, making appointments, travel arrangements, preparing for meetings, maintaining filing system, and other related duties, and answer routine enquiries.

The executive assistant will also assist in the bi-weekly time sheet submissions

by monitoring and tracking of approved employee time. Raise all purchase orders and process payments to vendors, contractors and suppliers. Draft responses to routine correspondences for the Chief & Council. Take dictation in shorthand and/or audio. Type general correspondences, including letters, memos, faxes and reports etc. Manage and co-ordinate, including arranging and booking internal and external meetings. Plus any other duties to ensure the smooth and coordinated running of the C&C organized business.

**Good day to all**

The past few months have been extremely busy with day-to-day administrative duties including the special projects that we were mandated to do by our General Assembly.

Chief Joe Linklater and I sat down and spoke to all the 15 Resolutions and have categorized them into the various departments and are now in the process of dealing with each and every one of these important mandates.

Currently we have in a working progress the following, but not limited to:

- VGFN Constitution
- Enrollment eligibility
- Housing policy
- Economic Development Corporation
- By-Laws

**Two pieces of Self Government Act Legislation:**

Finance and the Administration Act  
Chief Joe Linklater's itinerary for this month is as follows; Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you require additional information in this regard.

- October 3-4 ,Education Conference
- October 5, Education Caucus
- October 11-13, National Aboriginal Economic Development Board
- October 17-18 Yukon Forum
- October 19-20 Dawson Caribou summit
- October 25-27: CYFN leadership

Our Special GA, which is slated for May, is still on the table and we will finalize the dates soon and inform the public.

A Chief and Council public meeting will be held on the 11 of October, with a supper to begin the evening at 6:00pm. This is an opportunity for the public to come together and express your ideas, concerns and to pose any questions you may have for the Vuntut Gwitchin Government to explore on your behalf. We look forward to meeting with you again.

As always I am available either by phone at 966-3261 extension 236 or via email at [drfrost@vgfn.net](mailto:drfrost@vgfn.net) to answer any questions you may have or to listen to the valuable contributions that you may have for our Government.

Meeting with Paul Doucette Legislative Aide to Judy Biggert (R) IL  
From left to right: Mike Milewski, Margaret Mesier, Vicki Milewski, Paul Doucette, Kim Blake, Andy Keller



**Kim Blake**  
**Caribou Coordinator**

Hello Everyone;

My position as summer student went very well. I was busy most of the summer planning to send delegates down to Wilderness Week in Washington this month, and just familiarizing myself with everything. We also sent a delegate to Charlotte, NC to speak to citizens there.

When arranging the Wilderness Week trip, I had to book the travel from Old Crow to Washington return, booked the hotels, distributed meal allowances, and itineraries. I was in constant contact with the Wilderness League in Washington on current dates. While arranging all this, I also was applied for funding from the Yukon Government and the Federal Government to cover the cost of this large group of delegates.

I had the pleasure of attending the Wilderness Week in Washington with the ten other delegates. The delegates were Chief Joe Linklater, our MLA Lorraine

Peter, Elder John Joe Kyikavichik, youth Myranda Charlie, Vernon Kyikavichik, Darius Elias, Greg Charlie, Florence Thomas, Mary Jane Moses and myself. Chief Linklater had also invited youth Michael Francis from Ft. McPherson.

This was an experience that I will never forget. Traveling across the country and into the United States was very tiring but the reward was getting there and seeing what past and present delegates experience when down in Washington.

During the week everyone met at the Wilderness League's office for the daily meetings and briefings. There was a huge rally that brought over 3000 people out in support of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This was held on the lawn of Capitol Hill. We hope that we have made a difference with the senators and their knowledge of the Vuntut Gwitchin people is greater.

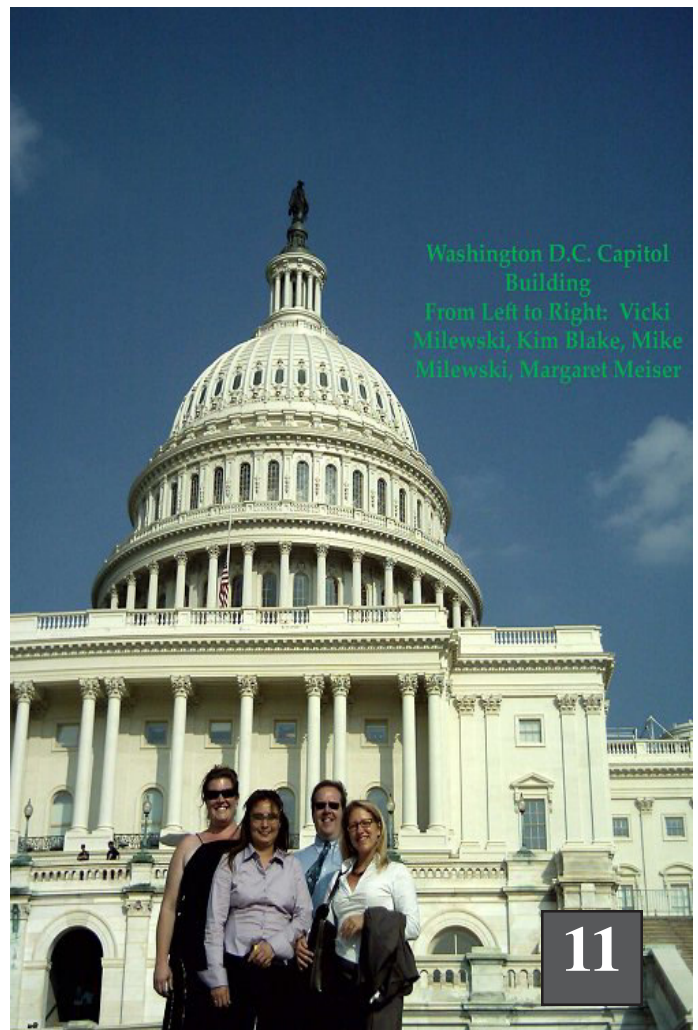
I acknowledge the people from the past and present for their great work and dedication and hope that we are able to save

this great land and preserve our culture for generations to come.

Soon after returning back to the office, I started working on a work plan to submit to an agency for funding. With this funding I will be working with the youth on public speaking. I hope to get the youth more involved in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Campaign.

The Senate vote was to be in September while we were all down in Washington, but it got changed because of the disasters that have occurred in the United States. The date that has been forwarded for the vote is end of October, early November. I urge everyone to write a letter to a Senator. I can fax these letters to the appropriate targeted Senators. We need all the support we can get to save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Porcupine Caribou herd.

If you have any questions for comments regarding the Caribou Coordination office, please call me (867) 966-3261 Ext. 229 or email me at [kblake@vgfn.net](mailto:kblake@vgfn.net). Mahsi for your support.



**Vicky Josie**  
**VDC FIRE CREW**

As usual it's good to be back working with forestry on the fire crew. May is the month where the fire crew test the equipment to make sure it's in working order. It is also the month when the crew, Vicky Josie, Crew boss and the crew members, Harvey Kassi, Stephen Charlie and Freddie Blake start training for the physical test.

This year, we had to fax filled out Fire Permits to be signed by the Dawson District Officer. I hope that it could work out so that the fire permits would be written and given out in Old Crow.

I had faxed a list of items that we could use at the Forestry building to Vuntut Development Corporation. Made calls to the stores for the items we needed and Maxine, VDC went to pick it up and send it via Air North.

Peter Charlie decided to take this summer off, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, was his last day of work. I asked Freddie Blake if he'd like to work this summer because we needed to replace Mr. Charlie. Freddie started on

Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, Harvey and Stephen helped him get his forestry bags and what he'd need to pack as a I.A. crew member.

The Raven crew did an inventory of the equipment and gas cache. The pumps and chainsaws were tested, cleaned and tagged. The 4-wheelers and outboard motors, were checked for oil change, greased and filled with gas. They went thru the rest of the equipment for repairs, cleaning and then tagged.

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, a patrol plane arrived to pick up three people and Harvey Kassi stayed to catch Air North the next day. Later on during the day, Freddie Blake, Stephen Charlie and I did our physical test. When Harvey arrived the next day, he also did his physical. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, we were dispatched to Eagle Plains to join Guy Couture, the IC for OC 01. I had to drive a crewcab with a load of equipment to Eagle Plains. We laid out hose to the edge of the fire, and blackened 10 ft., while the Bravo Crew did a back burn. The Bird dog and bombers arrived to slow down the fire towards the road. The morning of June 21<sup>st</sup>, we had a situation that was dealt with, a report was written

and filed. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Guy called the OC 01 under control, we then demobbed the fire. I drove back to Dawson as soon as we finished our work on OC 01.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, was my first time to be on I.A. as the IC, checking out a smoke report, but found nothing. It was a great learning experience because I never did it before. I hope to get more of this kind of experience before being in position when the smoke report is real. To do sceneries of what steps are taken when called to a fire would be a great way to practice.

Another important training I learned was how to do different I.A. loads for a truck, light and medium helicopter. Freddie and I did our hover exit while in Dawson, and we passed. The last important thing we learned was how to set up a sprinkler system on fire DA 13 for the miners. We also set up a sprinkler system on DFO's cabin on fire DA 19. One last thing I learned was, what needs to be in an I.A. briefcase.

It was a good year to learn a lot more on how to prepare to I.A. a fire.



**Denise McHale - YTG**  
**Community Recreation Consultant**

**Canada Winter Games Update**

The Community Relations Division is a part of the larger Canada Games Host Society. We are working with communities this summer to develop community driven initiatives. The Community Relation Division was established to foster and promote public enthusiasm about the Games, throughout the Yukon and to bring the spirit of the Games to all residents, volunteers, visitors and participants. The Division sees a means to achieve this by empowering rural



Yukon communities to develop local initiatives. These

initiatives are community driven and supported, so that rural communities will be the success behind their own initiatives.

Many communities have been visited this summer to start identifying potential ideas that will be later formed into plans for the fall of 2005. Some communities may have already met Lindsay Agar, the Community Liaison, Teena Dickson, the Community Relations Manager, Piers McDonald, the Host Society President or Dave Austin, the Community Relations Vice President. These people are in place to empower communities and help support initiatives so that communities can suc-

ceed!

Several communities have already brought forward many great ideas such as; Sport clinics, Torch relay events, community Mascot visits, community bus transportation during the Games, tourism opportunities and schools programs. These are just a few of the ideas that communities have suggested so far, however new ideas and initiatives are welcomed. The Community Relations division looks forward to working with your community to assist you in developing your communities ideas to promote the games over the next 18 months.

The Community Relations team is available to meet with your community to discuss ideas and help support initiatives into action. Please feel free to contact the Host Society Staff through our Toll Free Number: 1-877-393-2007 and ask for Teena Dickson or Lindsay Agar to further discuss your community.