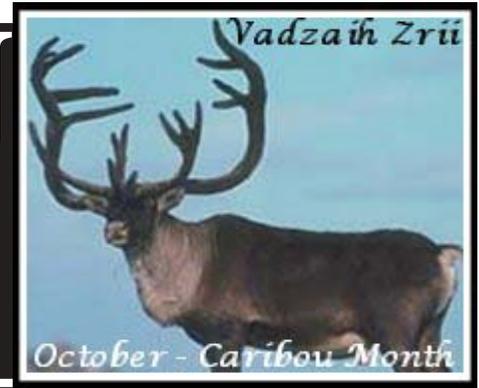


VGEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER
of the
VUNTUT GWITCHIN
GOVERNMENT



Issue #09, Volume #03

October 2004



Premier's Visit
Old Crow
October 18, 2004



IN THIS ISSUE

Premier's Visit	Pg 3	Tracy Bruce	Pg 10
Tracy Kassi	Pg 4	Barry Drury	Pg11
Tracy in Norway	Pg 5	Catherine Mbae	Pg11
Melissa Valja	Pg 7	Ida Tizya	Pg11
Mary Jane Moses	Pg 8	Majida Lord	Pg11
William Josie	Pg 8	Daryl Charlie	Pg11
Glenna Tetlich	Pg 9	Kim Rumley	Pg12
Wade Meszaros	Pg 9	Mabel Tetlich	Pg12
Loretta Itsi	Pg 9	Encouragement	Pg12-3
Joe Tetlich	Pg10	Trevor and Jane	Pg13
Harold Frost	Pg 10	Tammy Josie	Pg13
Florence Thomas	Pg 10	Paul Doehle	Pg13

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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.
Contributions to VGFN News are by
the employees of VGFN.

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**The Honorable
Dennis Fentie,
Premier**



Sheila Clark,
Executive Assistant
to Premier Dennis
Fentie.
Office of the
Premier.



The Honorable
Glen Hart,
Minister of
Community
Services Highways
and Public Works



**Joe and Honorable
guests sit and chat,
prior to meeting with
the Community
of Old Crow, in our
Communtiy Hall.**



**Interested Youth
come to say hello!**

Tracy Kassi
Membership & Enrolment Officer
Recreation and Education Assistant

Hello to everyone out there. I have finally found the time to write in this month's newsletter and I'm starting it from home, away from the phone ringing at my desk. Over the last couple of months my workload has kept me very busy. I also assist Roger with VGFN Recreation and of course, Enrolment.

Education

As some of you know I work in the Education department of VGFN and August was busy with the enrollment of some thirty students in post secondary institutions in the Yukon, British Columbia and Alberta! I think this must be one of our highest intakes of students in post secondary programs this year.

We have students in Aboriginal Police studies, First Nation Governance course, Geography, Renewable Resources Management, Social Work, Tourism Management, Forestry Management, Developmental Studies and College Preparation! Some are doing their 2nd or 3rd year, in fact, Cindy Dickson may be completing her Social Work program in December!! Way to go, Cindy!!

Also, in August, Chief Linklater appointed six people to sit on an Education Committee to hold the responsibility of handling all post secondary applications to review and make decisions on Living Allowance, Travel, Top Up, Books and Tuition. Members of the VG Education Committee are: Megan Williams, Wade Meszaros, William Josie, Donna Frost and myself. William is the Chair of the Committee.

Decisions are based on what the applicant has given to the Education Committee in their application and based on our Education/Training Policy. If you are interested in a copy of the Policy, please drop by the office and see me. This new Policy supersedes any other Policy that the First Nation had before, for Post Secondary funding.

One thing students must remember when applying to VGFN is that VGFN does not



fully fund the student 100%, therefore, encouraging the student to look for funds elsewhere. It's part of being a College/University student anywhere in Canada or the United States.

My job also consists of working along side with our CELC I, Mable Tetlich and CELC II, Kim Rumley. Both CELCs' are doing a tremendous job in their positions and are value people to have in the schools.

In early October, Roger and I had the pleasure of visiting Kim at her office in F.H. Collins and having lunch with our students. I asked some of the students, if they are happy to have a CELC in F.H. Collins, they replied, "yes". I could also see the benefit of having a CELC there with them. Our high school students definitely have somewhere comfortable to go and talk, or drop by during a break. Kim also has a running supply of snacks for the students. Most parents in Old Crow have received her newsletter on a monthly distribution; this is to give parents updates of certain activities that their child is in.

Roger and I continued to meet with various people that contribute to our high school students education, such as Yukon Learn, who provides tutoring services to people 16 years and older. They will be coming to Old Crow in the near future. Yukon Learn also wants to know if there are interested people in Old Crow, who want to learn how to be a tutor. This is a good opportunity for parents like us to learn certain skills when our children ask us to help them with Spelling & Math questions.

We also sat with Principal, Darren Hayes, and Vice Principal, Mr. Bunkis, one afternoon to talk about what we would like for our students. Kim, Greg Charlie and Ruth Carroll were also there. Ruth Carroll is the Gwich'in Language teacher at F.H. Collins. Ruth's request to VGFN was for funds to buy materials for sewing & traditional cooking. After an Education budget review on October 19th, we are able to allocate \$ 6000.00

into the CELC Area II's budget for Cultural Education, for this fiscal year. During our two-day visit with Education officials we were also invited to the Gadzoosda residence for their Thanksgiving Dinner, there we saw Dale, Miranda, Travis and Joey.

Mr. Cassidy gave us a tour of the residence and introduced us to their new web site. I told Mr. Cassidy that he should think about adding a "guest book" to the site so that parents can send encouraging messages to their child(ren). The site was still under construction but do a search of the Gadzoosda residence on the Internet and it may be up and running by now.

On the second day, we wrapped up with a meeting with the Education working group. Present at this meeting were: Colin Kelly, Tina Jules, Lee Kubica, Greg Charlie, Kim Rumley, Roger and myself. This meeting was to give updates of what the working group is doing with our community's recommendations to better our education in Old Crow and in Whitehorse. There is a list of all our "wants" in a printed-paper entitled, *"Discussions of 1999 Strategic Plan and Future Actions and Priorities"*, available at the front desk at VGFN.

Improving Education is what everyone wants and is working towards. A lot of things are being worked on but we won't see immediate changes, just know that it's being worked on, is a relief. Some recommendations, call for Grade 12 to be in Old Crow. This is something that we all need to think about and discuss at public meetings. I encourage parents to speak out and let your concerns be known, either through public meetings or written letters to either Roger or myself. The next working group meeting is in Old Crow, November 19-21, 2004.

All in all, our meetings in Whitehorse were very productive. Parents, if you're traveling to Whitehorse, give Kim a call on the YTG toll free number, ask to be transferred to F.H. Collins and ask for

Kim. She would be happy to have you visit her office and it will give you a chance to see the high school where your child is attending. The students will be so happy to see you there!

This year at Chief Zzeh Gittlit School, Mabel has three people working at the School with our children. Derek Kapuschak is working his second year at the school, teaching the children about carving. Gloria Nukon is our new Sewing Instructor and Hannah Netro is our Elder-In-The-School. You can read more about the programs Mabel is coordinating at the school through her newsletter report.

Our Budget meetings with Education went well and so far we are within budget in our programs. Budgets are very important to our government and it is also a great learning experience for all the employees.

On an entertainment note, the Peters Drury Quartet will be doing a show at the school on November 24th, 2004. The department of Education from YTG is sponsoring their travel to Old Crow. Just for your information, the singer of the Quartet is Caroline Drury, daughter of our GS Director Barry Drury. I'm sure everyone will make them feel welcome to our community.

Enrolment

In the last month or so, I have had one request to withdraw and ten applications to enroll with VGFN, either for the first time or transferring back in. The process of these requests is done through Transfer Request and Withdraw Forms. Once received these are taken to Chief Linklater and his Council to review and make de-

Tracy Kassi

Tromso, Norway

In early May of 2004, I was asked by Ethel Blake, Executive Secretary to the Gwich'in Council International, to attend a Traditional Knowledge conference in Norway. Of course, I was excited to be asked and traditional knowledge is something I truly believe in, so my answer was "yes!" In July I received my confirmation that I was going to Norway in late September. So my researching began with looking at maps and through travel tips on the Internet. I hadn't traveled over-

decisions. Once a decision is received I write letters to the applicants with a copy of the decision form signed by Chief and Council. Upon my return to work on October 12th, VGFN began Advanced Information Systems training in Enrolment and Post Secondary databases. This was finally completed on October 22nd and I began to "catch up" on my other piles

The Peters Drury Quartet will be doing a show at the school on November 24th

of work. I should be up to date with my work by the end of the month. The new Database seems to be easier to work with. If you would like to see what it consist of and what I have for your individual enrolment file, drop by my desk and I will pull your file up on the screen to view. This database is protected, and can only be accessed by me.

Lastly on Enrolment, Air North is working on a registration form for VGFN Beneficiaries. Once completed this form will be sent to me to review and then the process of registering everyone will begin, for the special rate that will be given to VGFN Beneficiaries on Airline tickets. I have also asked IS Director, Paul Doehle to look into the creation of VGFN Enrolment cards. This process was started last year with Kia but was put on the shelf when she left the organization. More updates will be given either by posting or in the next newsletter. Massi

Recreation

Daryl Charlie has been hired as the new Part-Time Recreation Coordinator. Daryl seas in 14 years, so I was a bit nervous but once the day came to start traveling, I felt confident.

My travels began on September 24th with the flight from Old Crow to Whitehorse, with an overnight stay at Westmark. This gave me the last opportunity to do my finances before leaving the country to Europe. The next day, I left Whitehorse at 1:30 pm, to Vancouver, with a two-hour stop at Vancouver's International Airport; this is where I boarded a 747 British Airlines airline at midnight to London,

started on October 20th with the organizing of the Halloween events. He is keeping busy and will be posting his schedule once the Halloween events are over. Recreation is a huge job, in our community as everyone wants this and that to happen, BUT, we encourage those people also to put their words into action and help Daryl out with recreational events. I would like to welcome Daryl to his new position within the VGFN Government!

Film Work

Many of you know that Mary Jane and I have been working with the National Film Board on an internship. This Internship includes training in filming, lighting and sound. It has been very beneficial to the both of us. On October 22nd, Andrew Connors, a fellow Yukon filmmaker, called to tell us that our "Imprints Of Our Ancestors - Part 1 & 2" has been selected for a screening at the University of Oregon, USA. WOW! Also, while in Norway, I submitted our film to their International film festival. We will find out in December if that will be selected. More about Norway in another report in the newsletter!

So in closing, this is my contribution to this month's newsletter, I hope that I have made up for the two missed months I didn't contribute to. I will try to get my reports in. Thanks to IS department for doing a great job with the newsletter & web page! Keep up the great work! **Congratulations to Tammy for receiving Employee Recognition this month!**

England! This flight took 9.5 hours across Canada, over Iqulait and Greenland! This airline was so unique as you could watch the new, up to date movies, onboard and do some shopping!! Imagine that! The airline also had a little map on a screen in front of you to watch the flight as it flew on route to its destination!

I landed in London, England and then boarded another flight to Norway's capital city of Oslo. It was now, 11:30 pm and I was to catch another flight to Tromso.



This flight took 2.5 hours, so by the time I caught a taxi to my hotel it was 2:30 in the morning! Of course a trip cannot be completed without a couple of mishaps! Firstly, I forgot my debit card in the ATM machine in Whitehorse and I nearly lost my passport at the security check in at Oslo airport!! Thank goodness, everything worked out, whew!! Losing my passport there was the longest ten minutes I ever went through!! After tossing and turning all night, I woke up to sunning skies and my room overlooking the harbour of boats on the water! Ethel had booked me in a hotel that over looks the



harbour, so I saw a lot of fishing boats and cruise ships. Tromso is a city of 54,000

people and is situated on an Island! As I drove in from the airport to the hotel, the taxi drove through underground tunnels. It was pretty amazing. I took photos of the surrounding area and people I met at the conference. Tammy has added these to my report.

I arrived at Tromso a couple of days early so it gave me the opportunity to explore this new city and country. My view from the hotel included a bridge connecting to another island, lots of fishing boats, several crew ships that docked in and out each day, a bus terminal and various shops. So seeing the shops up ahead, I went window-shopping and got to know my way around. The people were very friendly when I asked questions. Most came up to me in the shops speaking their Norwegian language, and some thinking I was also Norwegian! After walking around the city for the day, I came back to the hotel for supper.

My supper that evening was Reindeer meat, but being in a new country they have their own cooking habits, my dinner came medium rare and that was hard to eat. When they finally took my plate away I had

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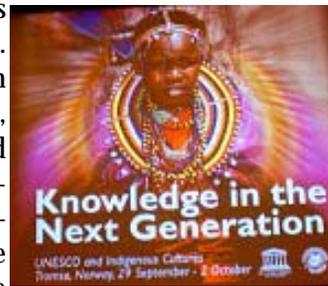
only carved around the edge



of my meat! Tasting the reindeer meat gave me a stronger taste than our caribou meat. For dessert, guess what I had?! **Salmon berries**!! They call them Cloudberries there, so I wasn't so far away from home after all! Of course, I had to explain why we call them Salmon berries.

Before leaving to Norway, I opened up a Hotmail account so that I would be able to email my family and friends at home. Of course, my first email was on the Gwitchin Forum! Home felt so near with viewing our web site every morning and evening. The funny thing was that when I signed or emailed friends, you were all just getting up or going to work and I was ending my day!

On the third day, it was time to attend the Conference. To my surprise this was a United Nations conference, entitled "Knowledge in the Next Generation". Presentations were related to Traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples all over the world. Presenters came from Greenland, New Zealand, South Africa, Hawaii and Norway. I was very impressed of what the presenters had to say. The presentation from the



Hawaiian hit an interest with me. I felt her passion as she spoke about her people and their view of traditional knowledge. She spoke of how her people used to give traditional knowledge so freely to researchers that visited their island and how that traditional knowledge was used financially benefiting to the researcher. Now she says, that they do not do this, but, only teach their traditional knowledge in their schools, to their own people. Now, they own their traditional knowledge and control it. One person from the

audience spoke up, he is a Christian who works in a third world country, he stated that he is there to help Indigenous people by helping them plant their medicine plants in the jungle. Of course, not

knowing everything and being a Christian, he asked for help from a



western company. In return, this company stole ingredients from this community to produce a medicine; to him this was disrespectful of what he was trying to do for these people.

Which brings me to wonder, people/researchers come to our country wanting to know about our traditional knowledge and then go back to the city to receive academic documents for their write up of what they collected from our people. They are publicly recognized, but what about us?! Should not we be highly recognized publicly for our own knowledge? I remember my nephew, Darius Elias, once bringing this up for discussion and it's true!! There have been so many researchers coming to our community over the last 50 years or so and they are still coming. At least, now we have control of what people take out of here through the members of the Heritage committee

and the Heritage Department of VGFN.

A quote from the President of the Saami Parliament, Sven-Roald Nysto, "Traditional knowledge refers to knowledge and skills developed outside formal education systems, and it is widely identified with indigenous peoples. Traditional knowledge is dynamic; it is passed down orally from generation to generation, and it enables communities to survive...Preserving the lifestyles and cultures of indigenous peoples will help preserve biological diversity and vice versa. A language mirrors its surroundings. And the way in which a culture classifies nature, is an important part of understanding that culture. Thus there are close ties between language, nature and culture." How true is that?!

This is what the conference was all about., Traditional Knowledge. I was given the opportunity to listen to worldviews of what Traditional knowledge meant to other indigenous peoples.

The Saami people were in practically interested in our way of life in Old Crow as we had some similarities with our lifestyles with the land and the caribou. I took more than twenty booklets of information with me and all were left in the hands of my friends all over the world. I still have to email a lot of them yet. I connected with many Saami people in Norway and received support for MaryJane and I's submission of "Imprints Of Our Ancestors - Part 1 & 2", to the Tromso International Film



Festival in January 2005! The President of the Saami Parliament even wanted me to contact him to say that I made the submission, so he could call his inside contacts to support it's selection for screening!! We'll know in December if "Imprints..." would be selected.

At the conference I met people from New Zealand, Greenland, Malaysia, Hawaii, Kenya, Tanzania, the Philippines and New York! I met a guy from New York. His name is Roberto

Borrero and to my shocking surprise, he knew Elaine Alexie and Donna Kisoun, two people I also know!! What a small world. Roberto works in the



American museum of Natural History in New York. A very interesting man and very talented, he organized a talent section of the conference so we could experience the different music and songs from around the world from volunteers that went up to the front to perform. My

friends from Tanzania, Kenya, Malaysia, the Philippines and New York all performed! Everyone enjoyed the cultural event.

I learnt a lot from the conference and discovered more how important our traditional knowledge is to our lives as Vuntut Gwitchin, this is the base of our identity and more as Gwich'in people across the north in Canada and the United States. I brought back a lot of written material from the presenters to share with the Heritage department. It's good to learn about what other countries are doing.

Thanks for taking the time to read my report. Also Mahsi Cho to Tammy for posting some of my photos for this report.

Melissa Valja
Natural Resources Planner

I hope this message finds everyone well as winter approaches and we do all that we need to do in preparation. It's nice to be out in cooler weather that really makes you feel alive, rather than the hot smoky weather of the summertime...

YESAA First Nations Caucus

This was held Oct.13-14 in Whitehorse at CYFN, along with a YESAA 101 training I took part in on Friday October 15, 2004. We were updated on Draft YESAA Regulations that have not been resolved such as, Class 2 Mining Activities, General Activities, Outdoor Recreational Activities, and Remediation of Contaminated Sites. Much time was given to the Yukon Government Proposal concerning assessment of Mining Exploration Activities and the YESAA Project Activity Regulations and the First Nations made proposed revisions to that. YESA Board Members Dale Eftoda (Chair), Steven Mills (Executive Committee Member) and Carl Sidney (CYFN appointed member) met with us. They informed us that the regions and office locations have been made public, with Dawson City being the office location for North Yukon.

They plan to have full implementation of YESAA by next April.

Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC)

The Yukon Government has reached consensus with the First Nations and completed the appointment of the PWPC. Marvin Frost will be our community's commission member, nominated jointly by VGFN and Yukon Government. The Yukon Land Use Planning Council will soon be contacting the new members and agencies to establish start-up and orientation meetings.

Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR) & Mining's Reclamation and Closure Policy

There was a joint meeting between Natural Resources and the RRC with Kevin Brewer and Bill Dunn of Yukon Government's EMR about their development of a Mine Reclamation and Closure Policy. This was held in Old Crow on Thursday Oct. 21. They are developing this policy and met with us to get feedback on their initial ideas, and are hoping to soon develop the Technical and Financial Security Guidelines. There will be a detailed workshop to look at this at the Geoscience Forum in Whitehorse in November, and preparation of policy for

Cabinet Approval in December.

EMR-Oil and Gas Best Practices

Also held in Old Crow was a meeting with Kirstie Simpson of Oil and Gas Branch. Robert Bruce representing the RRC and I met with her on Tuesday Oct. 26. She is starting to develop Best Practices for the oil and gas industry based on the recommendations that came up from the North Yukon Land Sale consultations. Most of this has lead to thinking about environmental effects from oil and gas industries and ways to prevent them, without considering social and economic impacts and cumulative effects. Kirstie hopes to find Best Practices for these after hearing that many think they are as important as environmental effects. She would like to get many different groups and agencies involved in finding Oil and Gas Best Practices.

Mahsi Cho, and please come ask me questions, give me suggestions or tell me stories!



Mary Jane Moses
Heritage Researcher

On October 4-5, 2004, I attended to a Canadian Conservation Institute workshop on Storage planning for Cultural Facilities that was held at the Beringia Interpretive Center in Whitehorse. The two-day workshop was facilitated by presenters from CCI of Ottawa. The module synopsis discussed the process of storage planning and design, including space analysis, layout requirements, scheduling, and costing processes. Damaging agents such as temperature, relative humidity, pollution, contaminants, fire, theft, pests, and water were looked at. Information on determining the different techniques for the different collection types, choosing suitable storage materials and selecting storage furnishings was also provided.

Upon completion of this module, participants would learn about and have a basic understanding of the importance of drafting written preservation and storage plans for their cultural facilities, identify and understand the causes of deterioration of collection materials, create plans for new or upgraded storage spaces,

[planning for 10 years ahead] determine appropriate storage techniques for the different collection types and choose the suitable storage furnishings and finishes and work through a group exercise in the process of storage planning and design, including scheduling, space analysis and structural requirements.

I began working on one of the tasks of printing out transcripts from the oral history database in order to research and gather relevant information around "land uses" in the VG traditional territory and entered this information onto data sheets, which would then go onto polygons on a map. This work being done by Megan and myself is for the Land Use Planning Commission. We had a huge task to work through and we did it within our timeframe. So most of this month has been busy for me in doing just that. The task I'm working on now is entering all information from the data sheets into the computer onto an Access format where information can be accessed on pull down menus.

The Heritage Department, along with four members of the Land Use Planning Commission staff had a workshop to verify polygon mapping with the Elders

on October 28 and we had a successful turnout. We accomplished a lot in the one-day. Mahsi' to the Elders for your input.

As part of our ongoing internship with National Film Board, we do shooting film footage here and there in the community on an ongoing basis. Tracy Kassi and I are following the Health and Fitness Pilot Project activities in Old Crow for the winter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Old Crow for your continued support whenever we are out shooting footage.

I see a lot of people out enjoying the nice weather we have been having. Enjoy the outdoors but **stay safe**. It's not that safe yet to be way out on the ice in front of the mouth of Crow River. I hope people will take precautions.

I have never "jiggled for loche" in a long time and this past weekend I went out with my family. It was fun! Georgie put his baited hook into the water hole and in a few minutes he got a "bite" and he pulled out a medium sized red salmon. I never heard of anyone catching a salmon with a hook before but nevertheless, hmmm, it was delicious.

William Josie
Director of Natural Resources

Good day to all. As you can see ole man winter is finally here, and I like that. My report will be short this month, even though my calendar was packed with meetings, workshops and travels.

During the period October 5 - 7, I attended the Leadership Board Meeting on behalf of Chief Linklater. We covered issues such as:

- Workers' Compensation Board
- Assembly of First Nation
- YESAA
- Yukon Land Use Planning Board
- YIDC
- Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council
- CYFN Finances & Programs
- Yukon Entrolment Commission, and
- CYFN Consitutional Summit

At this time, I would like to congratulate my friends, Darius and Tina on their recent nuptial.

On behalf of my family, I wish them well into their future.

The Premier of Yukon, Dennis Fentie, visited Old Crow on October 18th. At 3 p.m. the Premier and his entourage had a meeting with Chief and Council. The following topics are some of the issues discussed:

- Health and Social
- Education
- Corrections
- Municipal Services
- Economic Development
- Housing
- MOU on Governance in Yukon, and
- Nine Year Review

The Premier held a community meeting later in the evening.

On October 21st, NR and NYRRC met with Bill Dunn and Kevin Brewer from the Mineral Development Branch at YTG's Energy, Mines and Resources. YTG does not have a mine reclamation and closure policy. These two gentlemen are presently developing one, and are con-

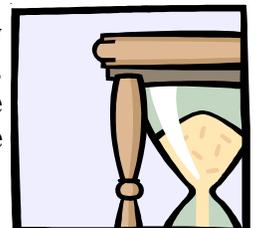
sulting before they produce a draft. A draft document should be ready by November 21st.

The number of chum salmon that made it up to Nii iinli Njik this year is 19,300. Our escapement goal was 13,000. Again, I want to thank the fishing people of Old Crow for not fishing.

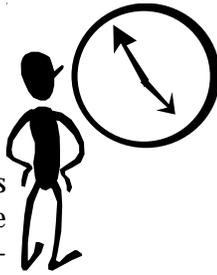
From October 22 to 25, I had the opportunity to accompany Conservation Officer, Sharon Keaton on one of her annual Dempster Highway patrol. It gave me a great appreciation of the job she has to do. I was just glad I had the opportunity to join her. With that I wish you all well and enjoy our beautiful weather with skidooing or dogteaming.

If you have any questions on any of these issues, please contact me or come in, or give me a call.

Mahsi Cho!



Glenna Tetlich
*Director of Health
& Social
Programs*



One of the focuses this month in the Health & Social Department is team building. As most of you are aware some of our staff members are fairly new in their positions, and they are doing an exceptional job so far. It is crucial that we support each other and work together as a team to ensure better service to our community.

We also have started working on developing and revising policies. You will begin to see some changes in the way programs have been administered in the past. A lot of the policies are outdated and ineffective and in many cases there was no policies developed. It is extremely im-

Wade Meszaros
Community Wellness Worker

October has been a busy month with people out harvesting, winter preparations and lots of building activity.

I have had an increase in people coming in for personal counseling now that things are starting to slow down.

The pre-treatment classes started in September but have come to an end due to lack of commitment and desire to follow the program.

Anybody who wants to go out for alcohol and drug treatment can contact me and we can begin by having one-on-one counselling sessions. If we have enough people to put a group together we can agree on an evening that will work best for everyone.

The next treatment program in Whitehorse will be; January 10th to Feb. 3, 2005 for Men only. The next treatment program for women will be February 28 to March 24, 2005. Only those men and women who complete the pre-treatment program will be eligible to have their treatment covered by Health and Social.

We have two aftercare programs running once a week. One for men and one for women. Both are going well. In the future we hope to develop an A.A. group

portant that we have these documents to guide us as we deliver programs and services to our citizens. We continue to have our regular staff meetings once a week as well all departments are working on revising and updating job descriptions. Some of us are currently taking the AIS training (aboriginal information system) which is another tool using the computer to enter data. This is a very effective method that will save us a lot of time rather than the old way of manually doing things.

There are some programs such as the Tobacco strategy and HIV that are being worked on in the H&S department. It takes time to research, plan and coordinate. There are always the funding issues to contend with. For some programs, proposals have to be written and submitted to different agencies and then we have to wait for the response. One of our goals

that will also run once a week.

Starting October 25th I will be going into the school one day a week to present topics to the students related to morals and values i.e., respect, honesty, thankfulness, telling the truth and so on.

I will have guest speakers come in and talk to the children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

In November, we will be having a workshop November 22,23 and 24th called "The Challenges of Parenting" please keep an eye open for posters and upcoming announcements.

Mahsi Cho.



at the leadership level is to work towards integration of services and team building. One of the ways in which we started doing this is through our regular Director's meetings that we have once a week. A lot of good ideas come out of these meetings and in some cases are already being implemented.

The health & fitness program is about to start. This is a pilot project for Old Crow and if it is successful it can be a model used in other northern communities. To follow through with the plans of the project for the next three years we need commitment from the child and involvement from the parents/guardians. A meeting will be announced soon to discuss this in more detail, there will be opportunity for people to ask questions. Please watch for postings in the community or contact Jane and Trevor if you are interested in having your child involved.



Loretta Itsi
*Home and Community Care
Coordinator*

Good Day to you all!!!

Elder's tea is held once a week on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 over at the Gathering Place. Elders that are in need of a ride are picked up and those capable of walking are encouraged to walk over.

We have been serving tea and assorted snacks followed by a movie and singing of hymns. Some days the nurse may be in attendance to do blood pressure test on the Elders. This week, the nurse will be giving out the flu shots.

Most Elders have been enjoying this time out of the house and are attending on a regular basis. We encourage more Elders to drop by for tea.

Until next time, all take care!

Joe Tetlich
Justice Coordinator

This is a short report on what's happening in regards to Justice issues. We have been looking at filling the position of Native Court worker (NCW) for a while now and the position is still vacant. For the interim I will be assisting anyone that needs to get information on Court dates or if anyone needs legal advice. I will be able to direct you to the proper Department. It is also important that you get in touch with me if you are going to Court in November. We are always very busy a couple of days before Court and it would be comforting for you if you can get legal advice before that time.

We are now setting up office back down at the community hall. There are sufficient funds for the NCW program and we need to utilize these funds or it will be sent back. We will be getting into a rental agreement with Government Services and in turn we will get the office fixed up. Please feel free to get in touch with me if you need assistance.

If you are ordered to pay a fine or do community service work by the Courts then my advice is to get it done, before Court, in that way we can close your file. The next Territorial Court date is set for



November 16, 2004. If you are in need of assistance then we need to book an appointment for Legal help also.

On October 20th, 2004 the Justice Committee coordinated a dinner and meeting. This was to explain the role of the committee and to also get feedback from the community on any concerns or questions that they have. We had a very good turnout for the dinner and the meeting. A lot of good discussions came out of the meeting. The end result was a suggestion that we continue these types of discussions monthly. The next meeting will be during Alcohol Awareness week at the end of November.

We are also developing a policy and procedures manual that will be followed by the Justice Committee or anyone that is interested in sitting on the Old Crow Justice Committee. Just on another note I have been volunteering on Tuesday nights to open the gym for the children. If anyone wants to take turns opening up on that day give me a call.

In closing, I would like to caution everyone who is traveling out on the land to be careful and **always** tell someone where you are going and when you are expected back. To be extra careful, travel with someone at all times.

There are five new houses' under construction, #315, 230, 887, 835, and 949. Our objective at this time is to put the roof on the houses before full blown winter sets in. So far there's roofing on unit #'s 230, 949, and 835. For unit #887 the roof is being constructed, for unit #315, the material has been ordered and the work will start immediately.

I attended a workshop on September 27, 2004 in Whitehorse along with Barry Drury. This workshop was on "How to Develop Community Policy". This was a good informative workshop that we could bring to the Housing Symposium set for November 9-10, 2004.

The housing inspector was here from Oct 12, 2004. The housing inspec-

Florence Thomas
Housing Committee

Drin Gwiinzii,

I would like to take this opportunity to say to the community that I will be sitting on the Housing Committee, and will be working along with Government Services.

I would like to see more people both young and old participate and join me and Alvie Josie. This would be a learning experience for anyone. Our priority is a house for each family. The committee will give you information and we also like to get information from the community as well, have a nice day!



Tracy Bruce
Administrative Assistant

Hello all;

First of all remember the Housing Symposium is on November 9-10, 2004 at the community hall! Please make sure you try and make it to this meeting, as we would like to hear your suggestions! We have two housing committee member's, they are Florence Thomas, and Alvie Josie.

I am doing well in the office, and I am keeping busy with my work.

Until then, take care!

Harold Frost
Housing Manager

Here's my report for September & October, 2004.

First I must apologize for not submitting in September, however it's been a busy season for everyone! The five washroom additions are near completion, and most of the tenants has moved back home. These units are #880, 885, 415, 710, and 605.

The new housing projects are in different stages at this time as we have had difficulty with materials and other various aspects of housing needs.

tion went well and there was some minor adjustments. Overall, the boys are doing a find job.

The Department will also be doing Chimney Cleaning this year. Be on the watch for William Smith and Harlen Nukon!

The water tank cleaning will be posted soon, since it is winter now and we will get the Elders tanks cleaned out first. If for some reason this does not happen then it will have to postponed until the spring. Thanks for your understanding.

This will be all I have to report until next time, take care!



Barry Drury
Director, Government Services.

I hope everyone had a great September. Government Services and Housing continues to work on many projects, including further work on four homes under construction.

We have contracted to complete chimney cleaning for each residence in Old Crow, and we will begin water tank cleaning soon as well.

The schedule for chimney cleaning is, one cleaning as soon as possible then a review of a cross section of home chimneys in one month to ascertain when cleaning may be required again.

GS, has been assured by YTG that a new and much improved fire alarm system will be installed in Old Crow, after April 1, 2005.

Our housing committee is hard at work researching ideas and suggestions for the upcoming community housing meetings in Old Crow. We find it necessary to postpone the VGFN housing symposium because of the short time the housing committee has had available to complete its work. Therefore we will be posting the dates when we know for sure. We anticipate that the meetings on the two days will be the same meeting, only held at different times during the day or evening hopefully to allow more of you to attend.

A special thank you to the citizens who have taken the time to put forward housing suggestions in writing or in person.

Florence Thomas and Alvie Josie are two community members who are on the Housing Committee. We would still appreciate more members. Being on this committee is a very important responsibility. We would especially like to have a youth representative 18 - 24 years old and as well as a good cross section of the community.

The new heating system will be fully complete in our community hall in November.

Please contact me or the Government Services / Housing staff if you would like to discuss any matter of concern, or suggestions as to how we can provide better services to you.

Mahsi Cho.

Catherine Mbae
Director of Finance

Staff

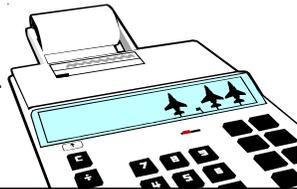
Majida Lord has joined the finance department staff as of October 18, 2004 and we are excited to have her on board and look forward to working with her. Please join me in welcoming her to the staff of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. She will be responsible for the Accounts Receivables.

Work

I held budget review meetings with each department during the week of October 18, 2004 and October 22, 2004 and the meetings went very well and we had the opportunity to discuss the progress to date of various programs and projects, spending to date and review our forecasts to the end of March 2004.

I have included the Income statement for in this report to September 30, 2004. More discussions of the budget will be in the citizens' public meeting sometimes in November 2004.

Thank you



Ida Tizya
Finance Payroll Clerk

Hello to Everyone

Well winter is finally here I hope that everyone is enjoying the out doors, and getting ready for the long winter months.

I would like to welcome Majida Lord to the Finance Department. She will be working in the account receivable position. There is always work to be done in the Department of Finance. I'm keeping myself busy at all times.

Congratulations to my niece Myranda Charlie on receiving her award from F.H. Collins you did a great job. Keep up the good work you are doing and in the long run it will all pay off. Also to Jay Charlie congratulations on receiving your award from Government of Yukon. I am so proud of you both.

This is all until the next report. Have yourself a nice day.

Mahsi Cho

Majida Lord
*Accounts
Receivable
Clerk*



Hello, everyone!

I am very pleased to have accepted the position as Account Receivable Clerk for VGFN Finance Department. Thank You to all that welcomed me to my new position. I would really like to Thank Catherine for considering me and for all her patience with me during training.

I'm currently in my second week and I'm enjoying the new challenge. I look forward to being a productive part of the team at the Finance Dept.

Take Care to all, and have a safe -n- Happy Halloween!

Daryl Charlie
*Recreation
Coordinator*

Drin Gwiinzii
Everyone!

I was hired as the Recreation Coordinator on October 22nd. I began with preparation for the Halloween Party on Saturday October 30th. I am very much interested in this challenging position. There is a definite need for the Recreation Department to be active in Old Crow.

I look forward to the following months ahead to understand what the community recreation priorities are. I also look forward to working with different organizations and governments to achieve a positive active role in the community.

I encourage everyone to participate in all community activities, for our children. My office is at the Youth Center, telephone number 867-966-3238

Should you require further information about upcoming events or are interested in volunteering, please contact me. I am working part-time, hours are very flexible, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please call or drop in the youth center.

Until next time, participation develops great health, ACTIVE, determination, and take care.



Kin Rumley
CELC – Area II

Good Day.

October has proven to be an extremely busy month, having said that it has also been a great month and I am getting orientated to my new position as CELC – Area II for VGFN here at F.H. Collins High School.

October 13th-17th, 2004 Norma Kassi and myself traveled to Edmonton, Alberta with eleven of the High School Students for the purposes of attending the 2004 Dreamcatchers Conference. The Conference was an incredible experience for all of us, and I would like to take this opportunity to commend the students on how well they did in Edmonton. They represented their First Nation with great pride, and took advantage of many of the excellent educational workshops offered.

In addition to this I would like to thank our volunteer chaperone Norma Kassi for her contribution of time, energy, skill and support to the high school group. Massi Norma, it is very much appreci-

ated by all.

I am very proud to announce that our very own Dale Kakfwi has won a very prestigious award from the Elks organization here in Whitehorse. Dale was nominated for being an excellent student and strong community member. On October 17th, 2004 he was announced the winner of this award, and will receive monies to put towards his Post Secondary Education!!!!!!!!!!!!!! WAY TO GO DALE, WE ARE ALL VERY PROUD OF YOU! Next time you see Dale, give him a pat on the back and let him know how proud we all are of him.

The students are really busy with school and upcoming Mid-terms; they are all working extremely hard to be successful in their academic studies. Many of them are starting to get very homesick, for their families, food and comforts of home. So any messages from home, meat and care packages are greatly appreciated. It is also very amazing to see their faces light up when someone from home comes to visit.

The Gwitchin Language class will be going on a field trip to Aboriginal Lan-

guage Services, language center in November to participate in a one-day workshop on the Gwitchin Language. Ruth Carroll and myself will be escorting the youth to this workshop. Consent forms will be sent home at a later date.

Reminder to all parents please send in your consent forms for the School Based Teams, these forms allow myself to attend and advocate on behalf of our youth, if you do not wish to have myself attend these meetings on your behalf. Please let myself, Roger or Tracy know.

We will be hosting a Gwitchin Entertainment night in November (date T-B-A) so if anyone from home will be here in November and wishes to help out or perform please let me know.

The Student Christmas party is planned for the first Friday in December (yes I know we just got through Halloween!). I wanted to do it early in the month so it won't interfere with exams etc.

That is all for this month, I hope everyone is doing well and snuggling down for winter. Take care all and feel free to contact myself anytime.

Until next month, take care.

Mabel Tetlich
CELC Area 1

Good Day everyone.

Chief Zzeh Gittlet School

For the month of October, students were involved in many areas of learning and experiencing different projects in the school and out side of the school.

Indoor culture began on October 1st, Mary Tizya teaches traditional cooking, Gloria Nukon and Hannah Netro teaches sewing to the grades 4 – 9 girls. At the moment they are working on small projects. Derek Kapuschak teaches industrial arts to the grades 4 – 9 boys. These events take place every Friday.

The canvas boat project took place and was completed. Peter Josie and Joel Peter were the instructors on this project, taught to the grades 4 - 9 students.

Dream Catchers Conference

The conference took place Oct 15 – 17/04. Three chaperones and nine students attended this conference. Students fundraised to attend this event

that took place in Edmonton, Alberta. The conference offered youth different topics put on by role models from across Canada.

I would like to thank the people of the community for your support and donation to make this trip possible for the youth.

Halloween party at the school in the afternoon took place on October 29,2004.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:
Respect and honor parents.



Encouragement Column
From Health and Social Programs

Parrot Talk

“All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty” (Proverbs 14:23, niv).

A man bought a parrot at an auction after some heavy bidding. “I hope this bird talks,” he told the auctioneer.

“Talk,” the auctioneer replied. “Who do you think has been bidding against you for the past ten minutes?”

Sad to say, we seem to be living in a day when a person's word has less and less value. Once upon a time a man's word was his bond. Not any more I'm afraid. For many people today their word doesn't mean a thing. We're pretty adept at parroting what we think people want to hear.

I remember one of my college **Con-**

Trevor and Jane
Health and Fitness Coordinators

Sunday are Family Fitness Days at the ski-lodge starting at 1pm. We have snowshoes and ski's to outfit all sizes. This is a time to come out with friends and family and share the good feeling of being out on the winter trails getting some exercise. Bring healthy snacks to share at the ski-lodge afterwards. Hot drinks provided.

Jane and Trevor have been spending the month of October working on the ski trails and many hours were spent brush cutting and grooming. It has been

great to get snow so early. The trails have a really good base now and with a few more inches of snow we should be able to set tracks and have beautiful ski trails. In the meantime we are encouraging snowshoeing.

The Old Crow skiers have a long and successful history. Today's health and fitness program is designed to use skiing, as well as other out door activities and gym sessions as a means to improve fitness, self esteem and HAVE A GREAT TIME! We love to be out on the land "under are own steam" and to share that

with others.

We will be hosting an open house, Saturday Nov. 6 at 3pm at the youth center. At this time we invite who all are interested in the HFP to come out and meet Jane and Trevor, and learn more about the program and register for this winter.

Phone number at the ski lodge is 966 - 3016. Happy Trails.



Tammy Josie
Computer Support Technician

October 1, 2004

I was on special leave to finish up my treatment program that I started in July 2004. I departed Old Crow on this date. It was a Live-In program and was completed on Friday October 8, 2004. We had to stay the weekend due to program ending Friday afternoon.

During that weekend, Darius and Tina had their Wedding celebration, and I was there to take pictures of the event on October 9th, 2004. The wedding was absolutely beautiful and the pictures can be viewed on Old Crow's Official Website.

AIS
Aboriginal Information Systems staff

was in Old Crow this month to do installation of their program modules and training with individual staff in VGFN, including administrators, Paul Doehle and myself. Staff will provide more information in their reports to you.

VGFN
The Sarah Abel Chitze Building was shut-down on the evening of October 13th, 2004 due to the power outage that day. I came in to turn off all LAN room equipment.

Newsletter
I had September's government newsletter out on time. The on-line edition was put on hold while I was out on my special leave. Is on-line now for all people to see what we have been doing here in our administration building. Once again, if

anyone has a theme idea for next months cover page, please come in and see me, Tammy Josie, VGFN News Editor.

Photography
This month saw a lot of picture taking. First, the Elias / Dickson wedding (images on www.oldcrow.ca then up at the school for Halloween activities day, at the hall, pumpkin carving and then the final event, the Halloween party! I would like to thank everyone who let me take pictures of them at this time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated by me and the community of Old Crow to remember this years Halloween costumes!

Mahsi Cho for taking the time to read my report Until next time, take care and keep warm!

tinued from PG 12..... professors teaching us that a person's character could be measured by what value he or she put on their word. People who don't keep their word simply cannot be trusted.

Fortunately, however, of one thing we can be certain, God always keeps his Word and always keeps his promises. To be Christ-like, we need to do the same! For after all, it's what we do, not what we say, that says the most of all.

Suggested prayer: "Dear God, please make me a man/woman of my word so I can always be trusted to say what I mean, mean what I say, and do what I say I will do. And thank you that your Word can always be trusted. Thank you for hearing and answering my prayer. Gratefully, in Jesus' name, amen."

Paul Doehle
Director / Systems Administrator

New (AIS) Software
We have now completed the installation of the Aboriginal Information Systems (AIS) software on VGFN's computers. The software is comprised of modules, which connects various VGG departments to a central Vuntut Gwitchin Citizen database and our AccPac accounting software.

The first set of modules we installed were the Citizenship Database, the Social Assistant, and the Post Secondary Education modules. Installation and training has been completed. A Housing module is scheduled for installation in the first part of 2005.

Old Crow's Website

We have moved the files for Old Crow's website on the Internet to a new server. We have a new forum board as well and have changed the URL address to: www.oldcrow.ca

Staff
Congratulations to Tammy Josie, on her award, a new Data Watch. Tammy was presented with the watch by Deputy Chief, Roger Kaye, and was in recognition of her promotion to Computer Support Technician. Tammy's grandmother, Edith Josie was there for the presentation.

