



# VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

## Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation celebrates action taken to protect *lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit*

**(Old Crow, Yukon – January 20, 2021)**

Vuntut Gwitchin Government is celebrating the immediate action taken by President Biden to protect *lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit* (The Sacred Place Where Life Begins).

Today, President Biden is signing an Executive Order which places a temporary moratorium on all oil and natural gas leasing activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This is an important first step towards the permanent protection of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the critical calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd and sacred lands to the Gwich'in.

### Quotes

“The President’s support honours the Gwich’in way of life and his swift action sends a clear message that the voices of the Elders of our Nation, and the lives of the children and grandchildren of our Nation, matter. On behalf of our Nation, Hai choo’ to President Biden and Vice President Harris for making this a priority. There is still a lot of work ahead, and we will not stop until our sacred lands are permanently protected, but today we are taking a moment to breathe a sigh of relief.” **Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**

“Mahsi’ cho K’eegwadhat, Hai’ cho President Biden for supporting the Gwich’in Nation. I am feeling so very relieved and elated on the news that President Biden is taking action to protect *lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit*. Today, I am remembering our ancestors, all of our partners, and those who never gave up. This moment belongs to all of us and I know we will all be taking some time to celebrate today and to reflect on the journey which has led us here.” **Lorraine Netro, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**

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