

STANDING COMMITTEES

Under Section 2(1) of the Vuntut Gwitchin Governance Act (VGGA), the Council shall establish, **by resolution**, one or more standing committees so that every department of the government is within the purview of a standing committee. Each standing committee shall be chaired by a member of Council. Under Section 3 and 4 of the VGGA, every proposed Act shall be considered by a standing committee before it is presented to Council and the Standing Committee shall ensure that the public has adequate opportunity to review and provide comment.

- Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Corporate, Municipal and Community Intergovernmental Affairs
- Education, Health and Social
- Natural Resources, Heritage, Tourism, Economic Development
- Human Resources, Information Systems, Communications

Standing Committees

Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs

(Finance portfolio)

- Financial accountability for VGG and C&C department, including yearly VGG budget and financial statements
- Financial legislation – Appropriation Acts, Management Committee
- Governance – implementation of Vuntut Gwitchin Governance Act and amendments to same
- VGFN Constitution including annual General Assembly
- Whitehorse Satellite Office
- Liaison to CYFN: awareness of territory-wide issues; committee representation
- Liaison with Old Crow Member of Legislative Assembly
- Intergovernmental Affairs: Yukon Forum, Intergovernmental Forum, Intergovernmental Relations Accord; NY Economic Development partnership. Liaison to Premier's office and federal Ministers
- Self-government implementation: Financial Transfer Agreement (FTA) and negotiations with Canada on appropriate self-government funding levels, including Gross Expenditure Base (GEB) re-negotiation, Administration of Justice, Program and Service Transfer Agreements; 9 Year Review of Final and Self-government Agreements, including implementation of accepted recommendations
- National and International Liaison, GCI; liaison with Prime Minister's Office
- Financial Policies and Procedures
- Community concerns on above related issues

Corporate, Municipal and Community Intergovernmental Affairs

(Government Services portfolio)

- Corporate Affairs: caribou lobby, NST- Emergency Medical Response, Emergency Measures planning including evacuation (community & government offices); prevention & suppression of fires; voluntary fire department
- Municipal Affairs: street lighting, roads, water & sewer, fuel deliver (local & AN fuel hauls), animal control, garbage collection service including spring and fall cleanup, dump maintenance
- Community Intergovernmental Affairs (YG Highways, Education, RCMP, Parks Canada, Yukon College etc)
- Community resident safety, prohibition, crime prevention and enforcement
- Community Planning: Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, Housing: construction & maintenance, liaison with Housing Committee; Capital Infrastructure: Sarah Abel Chitze Bldg, Community Hall, Youth Centre, Multi Purpose complex, warehouse, arena, tank farm
- Related resolutions, policies and procedures
- Strategic Planning for department
- Community concerns on above related issues

Education, Health and Social

(Education and Health & Social portfolios)

- Local, secondary and post-secondary school issues
- Employment Training Officer - promote local training/skill development, work with Northern Cross human resource department
- Education Reform
- Land-based experiential learning
- CDF: Skills exploration project with Yukon College/Educ/Social
- Yukon College: Industrial Safety, Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG), workplace Hazardous materials Information System (WHMIS), and Rigging & Hoisting, H2S Alive (Sour Gas)
- ESO Area II (KimR) working on YMCA potential student exchange
- Day Home – life long learning
- Social Assistance (YG rates review, reciprocal agreement consultation)
- YG Legislation: Children's Act Review
- Home and Community Care, elder concerns, community wellness, family support
- Community Health Rep: education and promotion of various health bundles
- Community Wellness Worker: IRS-Common Experience Payment
- Family Support Councillor: finalize with YG and hire
- Health & Fitness: CDF: project Winter Wellness Project
- Recreation Co-ordinator: position vacant; establish pilot to work with Dustin

- Recreation Society: non-profit society, liaison
- Elders Complex (research and needs assessment)
- Justice: YG Legislation – Corrections Act review, Summary Convictions Act amendments
- Liaison on Administration of Justice with Matt/Lorraine
- Related resolutions, policies and procedures
- Strategic Planning for departments
- Community concerns on above related issues

Natural Resources, Heritage, Tourism, Economic Development

(Natural Resources portfolio)

- Liaison to NYRRC, VHTA
- Land and resources capacity development
- Lands management: oil and gas, traditional territory access, water uses (Eagle Plains Water License), game guardian (patrols, enforcement, education, data collection, VG Legislation (Lands & Resources; Fish & Wildlife; Decision Document Permit Enforcement) **note**: NR rep should sit on Matt's AJA Committee, Land Registry, Land Use Planning Regions (North Yukon, Peel Watershed, Dawson)
- Porcupine Caribou: harvest management, PCMB, FN liaison, Dempster issues)
- Liaison with Parks Canada (Vuntut National Park)
- International Polar Year
- Energy issues: demand side management, recycle
- Heritage: languages, arts & culture, VRC
- Special Management Areas: implementation of management plans – Old Crow Flats, Fishing Branch
- Yukon Legislation: Parks & Land Certainty Act, Wildlife Act
- North Yukon Tourism Strategy: encourage & promote tourism development
- Community Economic Development: encourage and promote growth local business; Regional Economic Development
- Related resolutions, policies and procedures
- Strategic Planning for department
- Community concerns on above related issues.

Human Resources, Information Systems, Communications

(HR, IS portfolios)

- Information Systems (website development, job postings)
- Communications (community, VGG, Legislation, etc)
- Web Links: Air North Cargo policy; Canada Post food mail, etc
- Human Resources: building government capacity, promoting VGG as a career, community demographics as it relates to future employment and strategic human resource planning;

- Pilot project with short term hires with TH FN
- Yukon Literacy: plain language and document design (essential skills in the workplace) training;
- Vital Communities: Tools for Change – various workshops to build skills
- VGG Strategic Plan: 2004 - 2008
- Students/Youth: summer student employment; identify career paths, training needs
- Motor Vehicle Services
- Related resolutions, policies and procedures
- Strategic Planning for departments
- Community concerns on above related issues

Draft Process:

Standing Committees are structured as such:

- Each standing committee is chaired by a Councilor
- To have senior department official(s);
- administrative support for taking minutes
- invite an elder
- Standing committees shall meet once a month January to November; or as often as priority issues arise
- Meetings to be scheduled at a time to encourage community participation
- Meetings to be posted on the web, and promoted via posters in prominent locations
- Committees may, by majority vote, go in-camera when it is deemed to be in the best interests of the citizens. In-camera meetings may be scheduled after the public meeting or at a separate time.
- VGG government honorarium rate applies to non-employee members.

The general duties of the standing committees are as follows:

- All committees are considered to be advisory in nature on matters that affect VG citizens and Old Crow residents.
- No committee has the power to pledge the credit of the First Nation and Government or commit the First Nation or Government to any particular action.
- No member shall give specific direction to any staff member at any committee meeting, except the VGG staff member, or through the Executive Director. Committees shall review and make recommendations on all legislation, resolutions and policies which deal with a subject matter of which the committee is in charge before the matter is presented to council;
- The Chair or a member will write a report or submit minutes of the meeting to Council within two days of the meeting.

Council Chair:

- to become fully aware of current programs and services within their portfolios (what is being done, not being done, what is inefficient/irrelevant)
- prioritize issues before their Standing Committee
- set a realistic agenda
- recommend to C&C new government (political) initiatives/priorities brought forward by citizens through public meetings
- advise other Standing Committee Chairs if an issue is raised that does not pertain to their portfolio, at the same time, advising the citizen that your Standing Committee is following its agenda. The idea is to be helpful and not send the person away feeling dismissed. Ensure the appropriate Chair/Citizen meet to discuss the issue/concern.