



Vuntut Gwitchin Government

**Status Report on Resolutions of the
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation 2017 General Assembly
October 2018**

Background and Purpose

As set out in Article VI, Paragraph 3(c) the VGFN Constitution (as last amended September 23, 2016), the powers, duties and responsibilities of the VGFN General Assembly include “determining general policy guidelines and directions for the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Council for the forthcoming year”.

The purpose of this report is to provide all Citizens of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) with a written update on the status of Vuntut Gwitchin Government’s (VGG) consideration and implementation (where appropriate) of the policy guidance and direction provided by the resolutions of the 2017 VGFN General Assembly which was held in Old Crow, Yukon at the Chief Zeh Gittlit School August 10-12, 2017.

Please note that with respect to the resolutions of the 2017 VGFN Special General Assembly which was held in Old Crow, Yukon at the Community Hall November 23-24, 2017, Chief and Council will provide a forthcoming status report to the Citizens.

Status Reports

The 2017 VGFN General Assembly passed a total of 22 resolutions. In this report, the status of VGG’s consideration and implementation of the resolutions are indicated as either *Complete* or *In Progress*, and in both cases a brief summary of any VGG efforts and conclusions to-date is provided.

Resolution No. 2017-02 - Engagement with the Oil & Gas Industry	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG has established the <i>Vuntut Gwitchin Government Oil and Gas Engagement Policy</i> (May 2018). The purpose of this policy is to establish a respectful, transparent and meaningful framework to guide the engagements of VGG with industry proponents in relation to Oil and Gas Activities and Oil and Gas Dispositions in a manner that supports and upholds the objective of Sustainable Development.• VGG has resumed discussions with Chance Oil and Gas Limited (formerly Northern Cross) in accordance with the <i>Vuntut Gwitchin Government Oil and Gas Engagement Policy</i> and most recently culminating in the joint development of the VGG- Chance Communication and Engagement Plan (May 17, 2018).• VGG is in the process of establishing an oil and gas intergovernmental forum with Government of Yukon, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun for the purpose of facilitating the development of a positive relationship through increased cooperation and collaboration between the parties in relation to the administration and management of oil and gas rights disposition, royalties, exploration, development, production, abandonment and reclamation of oil and gas activity in the Traditional Territories of the First Nation parties.

Resolution No. 2017-03 - Elders Council (Office and Budget)	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussions between Chief and Council and the Elders Council have led to a mutual understanding of the role that the Elders Council wants to fulfill. Specifically, the Elders Council indicated that it is their wish to not occupy a formal VGG office but instead to serve in an advisory role to Chief and Council as requested or as may be necessary. VGG will continue to support this relationship between Chief and Council and the Elders Council, including the consideration of any budgetary needs of the Elders Council.

Resolution No. 2017-04 Protection of 1002 Lands (Outreach to Inupiat)	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">VGG and our partners have made efforts to reach out to the Inupiat who reside within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and who have demonstrated support for oil and gas exploration and development in the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd. VGG's efforts will continue in this regard, including our participation in an upcoming technical meeting to be held in Kaktovik.

Resolution No. 2017-05 Gwich'in Council International (GCI)	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cindy Dickson was appointed to the vacant Vuntut Gwitchin position on the GCI board. Cindy joins existing Vuntut Gwitchin board member Paul Josie.VGFN 2018 General Assembly recently passed Resolution No. 2018-13 directing Cindy and Paul to call an immediate meeting of the GCI board and its Gwich'in members to clarify GCI processes and to ensure that VGFN citizens have the opportunity to participate in Arctic Council working groups, through developed and approved work plans.

Resolution No. 2017-06 Traditional Replicas	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG Heritage has communicated with the VGG Whitehorse office about the logistics of having replicas on display and sharing media. The replicas will require a display case but the focus now is on having media available for office visitors and Heritage is able to provide Vuntut Gwitchin locally produced and partner produced films for this purpose.

Resolution No. 2017-07 Fluent Speaker Wages	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fluent speakers working for VGG Heritage have received a raise. Research has been done into how other governments provide wage increments for fluency. Options will be presented to the VGG Management Committee in 2018-18 fiscal year.

Resolution No. 2017-10 Support and Services for VGFN Citizens in Whitehorse	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No strategic plan has been done to address the health and social needs of VGFN beneficiaries living in Whitehorse, with a focus on homelessness, addictions and mental health.• VGG has not provided any financial support for implementation, since the strategic plan has not been done.

Resolution No. 2017-11 Support for Citizens in Whitehorse	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG Health & Social Services has not looked into running a halfway house or something similar to support citizens who are struggling in Whitehorse.• VGG Health & Social has not significantly changed its support to citizens living in Whitehorse since the passing of this resolution.

Resolution No. 2017-12 Gwich'in Cultural Society	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG has reviewed and considered this resolution, and has determined that it contains no actionable item for VGG. VGG is committed to finding ways to support any non-profit organization that is established by citizens for the purpose of practicing Gwich'in culture and traditions.

Resolution No. 2017-13 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG Health & Social Services has been strongly advocating for better Mental Health supports in Old Crow. We have not been doing this at the political level, but rather through contact with staff at Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services.• Yukon Government has recently committed to having 1 counsellor live and work in Old Crow for two-three weeks on, and two weeks off. They will be renting one VGG house and using VGG office space. When she is away, two other counsellors will be in Old Crow. One is a child and families counsellor. This will start at the end of September 2018.• VGG Health & Social Services Department is planning on implementing a Wellness Committee to help plan for land based treatment and other programming in Old Crow.• VGG Health & Social Services can help families of MMIWG access other services not yet available in Old Crow.

Resolution No. 2017-14 Social Assistance	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People who receive Social Assistance from VGG may apply for employment or training at any time and are encouraged to do so.

Resolution No. 2017-15 Increase Minimum Number of VGLP Directors	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGLP now has 5 director positions filled (Greg Charlie, Robert Bruce Jr., Gary Njootli, Karen McArthur, and Peter Frost).

Resolution No. 2017-16 Administration of Justice	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG has renewed negotiations with Canada and Yukon towards an Administration of Justice Agreement ("AJA") beginning in February 2018. VGG continues to advance the mandate provided by the 2009 Justice Conference which proposed to take a staged approach to AJA negotiations with a focus on enforcement of VGFN laws, community-based dispute resolution and diversion, community-based crime prevention and healing processes, and training to support these priorities. VGG will continue to advance this mandate through continued negotiations with Canada and Yukon.

Resolution No. 2017-18 Restructuring the Government	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG is currently undertaking a number of initiatives aimed at creating a more efficient and effective government. This includes our ongoing Constitutional review, Elections Act review, investments in VGG staff training, exploring contract opportunities that present cost savings for VGG, creating a data and statistics position to record and measure outcomes and progress, and ongoing FTA negotiations where we are seeking increased funding to better address the costs of our core governance functions and activities.

Resolution No. 2017-19 Elder and Youth Representation Chief and Council	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG is currently undertaking a review of our Constitution, and potential changes to the structure and composition of Chief and Council can be considered within this review.

Resolution No. 2017-21 Extending the Crow Mountain Road	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG has reviewed and considered this resolution, and has determined that extending the Crow Mountain road to Second Mountain is not feasible primarily due to costs associated with the proposal and the existence of higher priority capital projects in the community at this time.

Resolution No. 2017-22 RCMP Special Constables/Public Safety Officers	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG has reviewed and considered this resolution, and have now established a more regular and collaborative working relationship with RCMP where crime prevention and community engagement are to be addressed. VGG will continue to explore options around special constables or other similar RCMP initiatives.

Resolution No. 2017-23 VGFN Funding and Spending Policy for Compensation Funds	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG is in the process of establishing a Disbursement Committee and corresponding terms of reference. The Committee will be responsible for disbursing designated program funds on behalf of VGG in a transparent and responsible manner.• It is contemplated that the Committee will be chaired by the Finance Director and includes Citizen Representation. It is also contemplated that the Committee will make decisions regarding the disbursement of funds under the following programs: (a) disbursements from the Vuntut Gwitchin Trust and Vuntut Gwitchin Business Trust, (b) Post-Secondary Education, (c) Youth Enhancement Fund, (d) Scholarships, Bursaries, Grants, (e) Employee incentives/Long service awards, and (f) general funding requests.

Resolution No. 2017-24 Vuntut Development Boards	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG has reviewed and considered this resolution, and has determined that the policy direction provided is not clear or specific enough to be actionable by VGG. VGG recommends seeking further information from 40782 Yukon Inc .

Resolution No. 2017-25 Vuntut Gwitchin Business Trust Trustee Appointment	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vacancies on the board of the Vuntut Gwitchin Trust and 40782 Yukon Inc are now filled. One vacancy on the board of Vuntut Gwitchin Business Trust remains and with the General Assembly as the protector it is the responsibility of the General Assembly to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

Resolution No. 2017-26 Air North Scholarship/Bursary & Training Program	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG has referred this resolution to the current Vuntut Gwitchin members of the Air North board (Ron Daub and Greg Charlie) for any update, and no update was available to VGG at the time of compiling this report.

Resolution No. 2017-27 Loss of confidence in Leadership	
Status:	<i>Complete</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief and Council has reviewed and considered this resolution. In response, and in light of a lack of a functioning Review Council, the Chief and Council acted on this resolution in consultation with the Elders Council and members of past leadership to address communication issues between member of the Chief and Council. These efforts have resulted in a much improved working relationship and communication.

Resolution No. 2017-29 Records Management Position	
Status:	<i>In Progress</i>
Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VGG has reviewed and considered this resolution, and has confirmed that records and document management can be more effectively done. VGG is continuing to explore options to address this issue, and are seeking new funding in the FTA for core governance functions and activities including those related to records management.