A New Generation of Leaders Reflects on Implementation

Modern Treaty and Reconciliation Conference
November 14, 2017

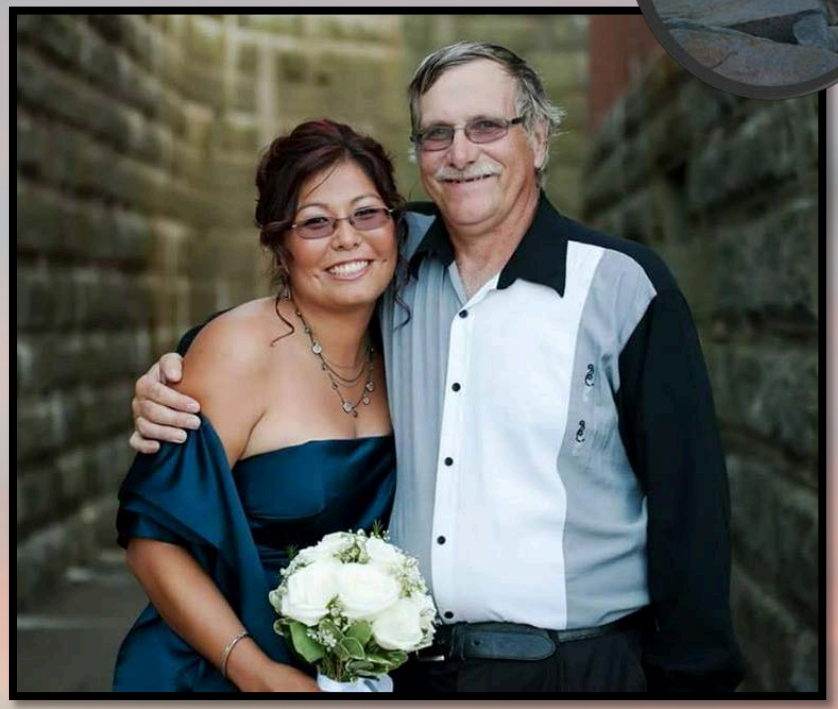
Presented by
Amy Amos, Executive Director

My Intro

Born in Inuvik, NT

Raised in Halifax, NS

Grandfather Kaye (Gwich'in)
Grandmother Stewart (Metis)



Grandfather Thompson (Scottish, Spanish)
Grandmother Martin (Irish, English, Italian)

Photo credits: Nick Westover, Shyann West, Amy Amos, Google

Presentation Outline

- The Gwich'in
- Traditional management
- Land Claim
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
  - Mandate
  - Interpretation of the "spirit and intent"
  - Strengths & Challenges
- Summary

Photo Credits: GRRB, Sarah Lord 2017

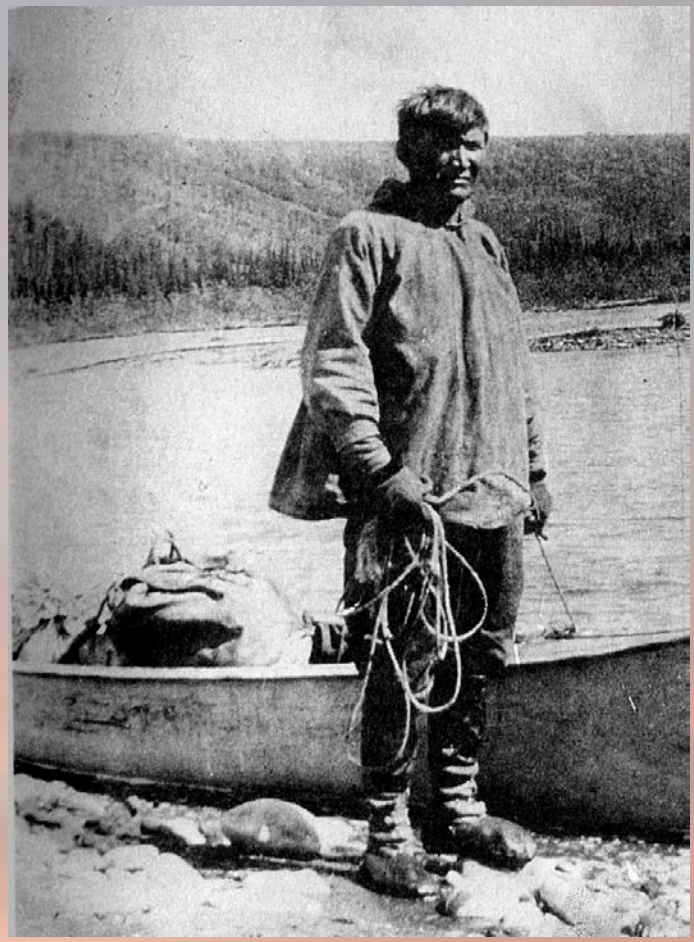
The Gwich'in

- One of most northern indigenous peoples
- Related to Athapaskans
- NWT, Yukon & Alaska
- NWT Gwich'in
  - 4 communities
  - Population: 3,440
- Hunt, trap, fish

Credit: Mavis Clark

Traditional Management

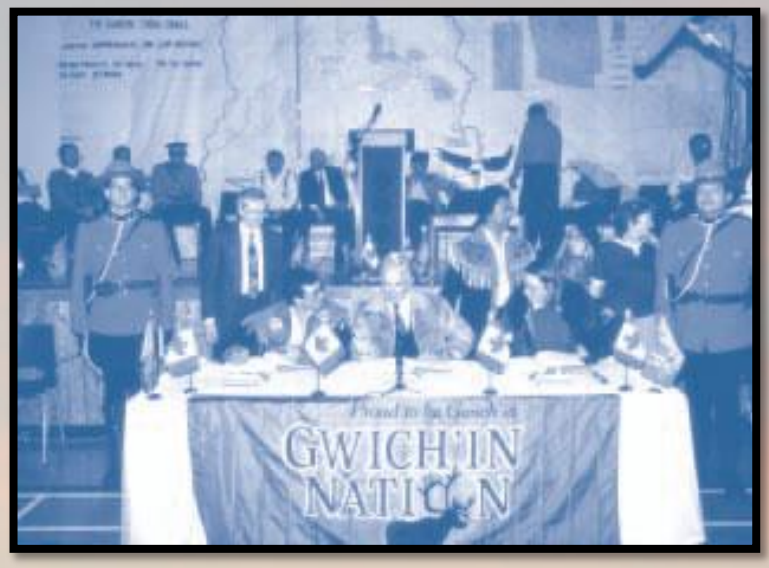
"*The Gwich'in are natural conservationists*" – Sterling Firth

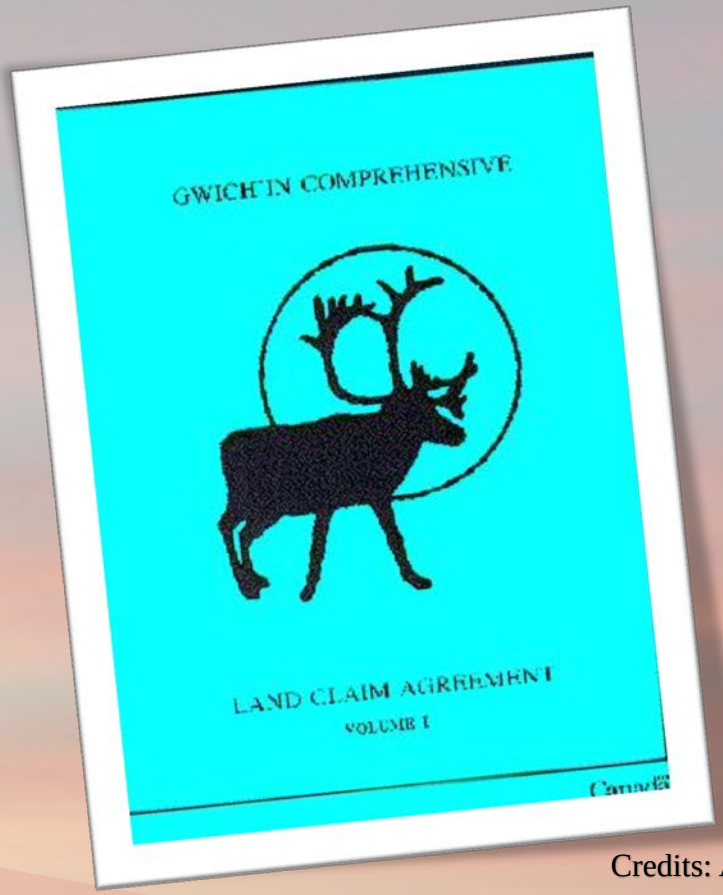


Photos (L-R): AANDC, GRRB, Kent Miller, GRRB, NWT Archives

Land Claim

The *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* was settled in 1992 (I was 10 years old living in Halifax)





Credits: AANDC website

Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board

Mandate: *To be the main instrument of wildlife, fish and forest management in the Gwich’in Settlement Area*

Map: GLUPB; Photos: Char: GRRB, Caribou: AANDC, Forest: GRRB

Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs)

Mandate: To encourage and promote local involvement in conservation, harvesting studies, research and wildlife management in their local community.

Ehdiitat RRC
Aklavik

Tetlit RRC
Fort McPherson

Nihtat RRC
Inuvik

Gwichya RRC
Tsiigehtchic

Photos: GRRB

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

Mandate: *To be the main instrument of wildlife, fish and forest management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area*

Map: GLUPB; Photos: Char: GRRB, Caribou: AANDC, Forest: GRRB

GRRB Board Structure

Order in Council appointments

Nominating Agency

Federal government

Territorial government

Eugene Pascal
Chairperson (GRRB)

Margaret Begg
Member (GTC)

TBA
Member (GTC)

Vacant since Sep 15/16

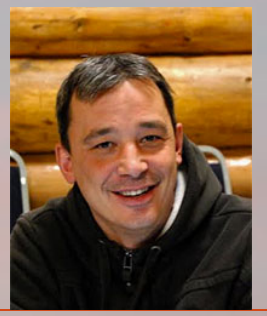
TBA
Member (GTC)

Vacant since Jun 15/10

Burt Hunt
Member (DFO)

Doug Doan
Member (CWS)

Jozef Carnogursky
Member (GNWT)



TBD
Alternate (GTC)

Vacant since Oct 19/16

TBD
Alternate (GTC)

Vacant since Oct 19/16

Sarah Jerome
Alternate (GTC)

Ron Allen
Alternate (DFO)

TBA
Alternate (CWS)

Vacant since May 13/13

Tracy Davison
Alternate (GNWT)

Photos: GRRB

Main Powers of the Board

- Approve plans for management, conservation areas, and parks
- Approve species at risk listings
- Define commercial use & activity
- Establish policies & regulations
- Have an independent research capability
- Limitation of harvest
- Provide advice to government

Credits: GRRB

Interpretation of the “spirit and intent”

Photo: GRRB

Spirit and intent

- Mange responsibly to ensure there are resources for future generations
- Do it in an inclusive manner and honor traditional values

Credits: GRRB

Key provisions

- S.12.8.23g: Establish a consultation policy
- S.12.8.37: Board & Government to work together
- S.12.8.38: Provides Boards research mandate
  S.12.8.40: Research shall directly include RRCs
- S.12.9.5: Board shall consult with the RRCs

Credits: GRRB

Interpretation

- Need to step back & look at big picture
- Communities are the “eyes & ears”
- Decisions and advice should be made with advice from the communities
- Relationships are fundamental

Credits: GRRB

Strengths

Photo: GRRB

Guiding Principles

GCLCA:

- Consultation policy
- Strategic plan
- Research priorities
- Management plans
- Annual work plans
- Operating Procedures

Traditional Values

Photo: GRRB

Traditional Values

Photo: GRRB

Board Structure

Photos: Liz Wright

Our Team

Our Chair

Our Office Manager

GWICH'IN COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIM AGREEMENT

FOR HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
IN RIGHT OF CANADA

FOR THE GWICH'IN

Government of the
Northwest Territories

Government of the
Northwest Territories

CHIEF

SIGNED IN FORT MCPHERSON, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, ON April 22, 1992

WITNESSES

Mrs Mary Kendi

Julie-Ann Andre

Jennie Smith

Strong Relationships

Photo: GRRB

Challenges

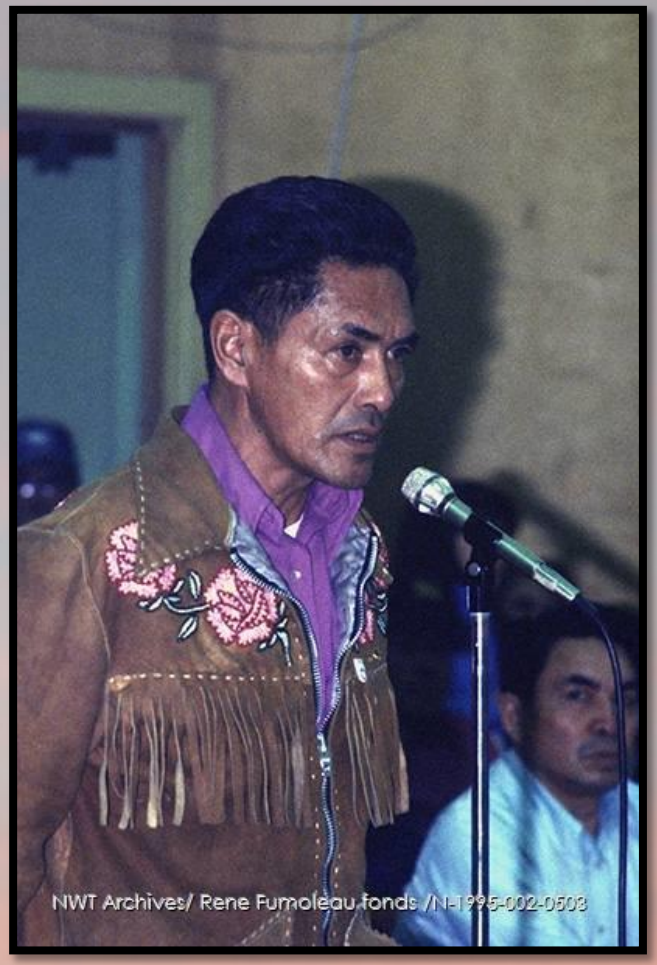
- Interpretation of provisions

- To resolve interpretation questions:
  - Board discussion
  - Seek advice from previous & current leaders
  - Seek legal advice
  - Seek community input

Photo: GRRB

Summary

- Remember why we're here
- Look at the big picture
- Read in between the lines
- In order for it to work, need strong relationships and processes in place



Photos: GRRB (background), NWT Archives (insert)

Hai Cho, Mashi Cho, Thank You!

Photo: Jozef Carnogursky