

(1994)

**YUKON REGION**

***FIRST NATION PROFILES***

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# YUKON REGION FIRST NATION PROFILES

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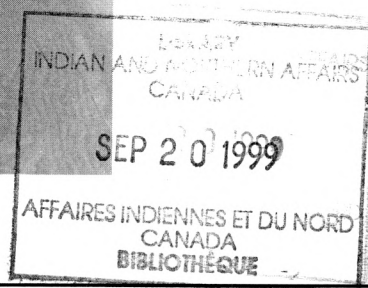
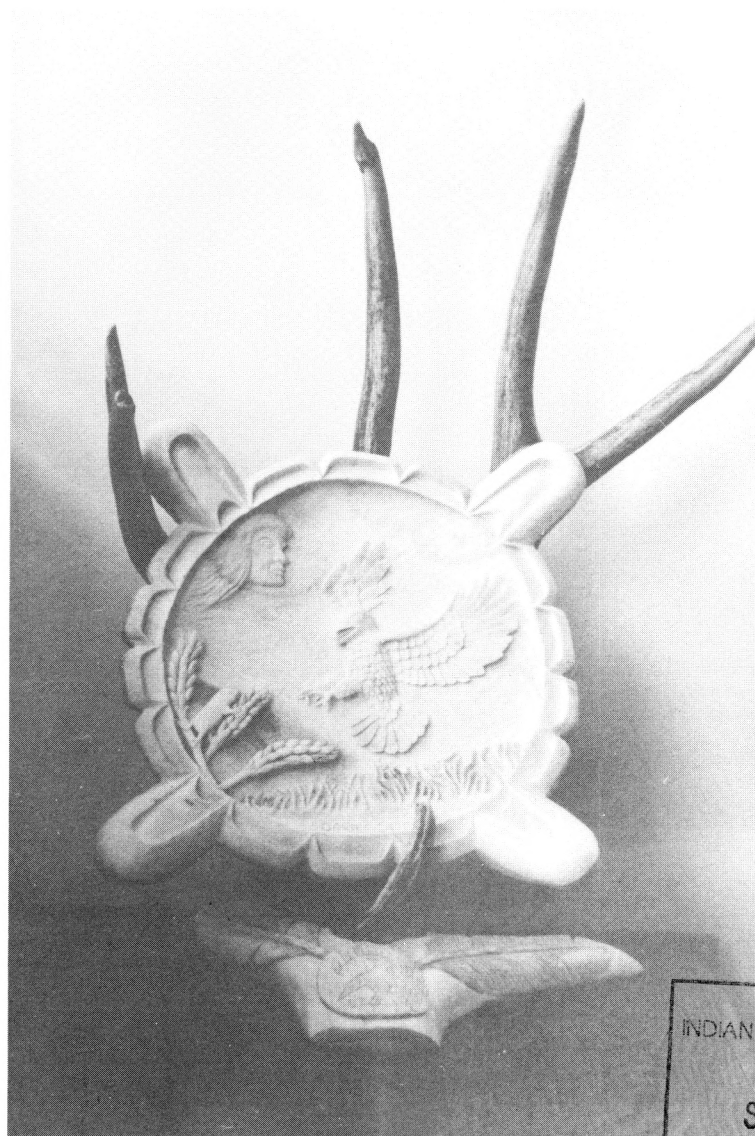


Photo on front cover:

The antler piece, entitled "Soaring Spirits" was carved by Allen Edzerza, an employee of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in Intergovernmental Affairs.

# **YUKON REGION**

## **FIRST NATION**

### **PROFILES**

Published under the authority of the  
Hon. Ronald A. Irwin, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Indian Affairs and  
Northern Development  
Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, 1994

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Department of Indian and Northern Affairs  
Indian and Inuit Affairs  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

This is the second publication of *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*. This book is a source of historical and background information about the First Nations in the region. It also outlines the role of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in each of the communities.

The information provided in *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles* is subject to change, and therefore addendums will be provided. The profiles are for reference use by the First Nations, government agencies and the media.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development would appreciate feedback on how to improve *Yukon Region First Nation Profiles*; therefore your comments are welcome. As well, the department hopes that the Profiles provide useful and accurate information about an area in which there is overwhelming interest.

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**FIRST NATION CHIEFS AND MANAGERS  
YUKON REGION**

<b>FIRST NATION</b>	<b>CHIEF</b>	<b>MANAGER</b>	<b>NUMBERS (PH. &amp; FAX)</b>
<b>Carcross/Tagish</b>	Patrick James Box 130 Carcross, Y.T. Y0B 1B0	MaryAnn Roy Exec.Director	821-4251 821-4802 FAX #
<b>Champagne/Aishihik</b>	Paul Birckel Box 5309 Haines Junction, Y.T. Y0B 1L0	Lena Smith-Tuton	668-6877 634-2288 634-2108 FAX # 667-6303 FAX #
<b>Dawson</b>	Steve Taylor Box 599 Dawson City, Y.T. Y0B 1G0	Margaret Kormendy	993-5385 993-5753 FAX #
<b>Dease River</b>	Kevin Carlick General Delivery Good Hope Lake, B.C. V0C 2Z0	Andrew Frayling Manager	(604) 239-3000 239-3003 FAX #
<b>Kaska Tribal Council</b>	Hammond Dick Tribal Chief P.O. Box 530 Watson Lake, Y.T. Y0A 1C0	George Miller General Manager	536-2805 536-2806 FAX #
<b>Kluane</b>	Joe Johnson Mile 1093, A. Hwy. Burwash Landing, Y.T. Y0B 1H0	Liz Johnson	841-4274 841-5900 FAX #
<b>Kwanlin Dun</b>	Lena Rose Johns Box 1217 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5A5	Millie Sam Band Administrator	667-6465 668-5057 FAX #
<b>Liard River</b>	Ann Bayne Box 328 Watson Lake, Y.T. Y0A 1C0 Dixon Lutz Hereditary Chief	Fran Byers	536-2131 536-2332 FAX #
<b>Liard Reserve #3</b>	Annie Pete, Deputy Chief Box 489 Watson Lake, Y.T. Y0A 1C0 Dixon Lutz Hereditary Chief	Michelle Tochacek	(604) 779-3161 779-3371 FAX #

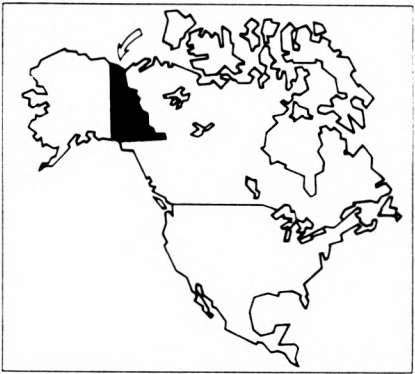
## First Nation Chiefs &amp; Managers (cont.) p. 2

<i><b>FIRST NATION</b></i>	<i><b>CHIEF</b></i>	<i><b>MANAGER</b></i>	<i><b>NUMBERS (PH.&amp;FAX)</b></i>
Little Salmon/ Carmacks	Eric Fairclough Box 135 Carmacks, Yukon Y0B 1C0	Viola Mullett	863-5576 863-5710 FAX #
Na-Cho Ny'a'k Dun	Robert Hager Box 220 Mayo, Yukon Y0B 1M0	Roberta Hager	996-2265 996-2107 FAX #
Northern Tutchone Council	Chiefs E.Fairclough R.Hager/P.VanBibber Box 111 Carmacks, Yukon Y0B 1C0	Hal Mehaffey Technical Advisor	863-5576 863-5710 FAX #
Ross River Dena Council	Norman Sterriah General Delivery Ross River, Yukon Y0B 1P0	Dorothy Smith Administrative Director	969-2278/9 969-2405 FAX #
Selkirk	Patrick VanBibber Eddy TomTom General Delivery Pelly Crossing, Y.T. Y0B 1P0	Alex Morrison	537-3331 537-3902 FAX #
Ta'an Kwach'an Council	Glenn Grady Box 5359 Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 4Z2	Shirley Adamson Chairperson	668-3613 668-6577 FAX #
Taku River Tlingit	Melvin Jack Spokesperson Box 132 Atlin, B.C. V0W 1A0	Charles McQueen	(604) 651-7615 651-7714 FAX #
Teslin Tlingit Council	David Keenan Chief Executive General Delivery Teslin, Yukon Y0A 1B0	Bev Morris Executive Director	390-2532 390-2204 FAX #
Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council	Robert Bruce Jr. General Delivery Old Crow, Yukon Y0B 1N0	Cheryl Sam	966-3261 966-3800 FAX #



**First Nation Chiefs & Managers (cont.) p. 3**

<b><i>FIRST NATION</i></b>	<b><i>CHIEF</i></b>	<b><i>MANAGER</i></b>	<b><i>NUMBERS (PH.&amp;FAX)</i></b>
<b>White River</b>	<b>Margaret Nieman Chief General Delivery Beaver Creek, Yukon Y0B 1A0</b>	<b>Emma Donnelly</b>	<b>862-7802 862-7806 FAX #</b>
<b>Council for Yukon Indians</b>	<b>11 Nisutlin Drive Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3S4</b>	<b>Judy Gingell (Chairperson)</b>	<b>667-7631 668-6577 FAX #</b>



**CARCROSS/TAGISH FIRST NATIONS**  
*Carcross, Yukon*

**ADDRESS:**

Box 130  
Carcross, Yukon  
Y0B 1B0  
Phone No.: (403) 821-4251  
Fax No.: (403) 821-4802

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Tagish and Tlingit

**GENERAL**

The Carcross area was originally inhabited by the Tagish people, who camped at the site of the present village to hunt caribou. As they began trading and inter-marrying with the coastal Tlingit people, they adopted the Tlingit way of life. Today, the First Nation is represented by both its Tagish and Tlingit heritage, and attempts are being made to maintain languages and cultural traditions.

Carcross developed as a stop-over place for gold-rush stampeders at the turn of the century. It is located at the end of Bennett Lake, where the White Pass and Yukon Railway established a station to pick up miners and equipment before travelling to Whitehorse or Skagway.

The residential school was established in 1901 by a bishop-missionary; the last school, **Choutla Residential School**, was built by the Canadian government after fire had destroyed the church school in 1956. Although government-financed after that time, the Anglican Church continued their operation of the school, and it was attended by native students from all over the Yukon. In October of 1993, the Choutla Residential School was demolished by the First Nations through a contract with DIAND, in order to restore the land to its original state.

After the school closure in the 1960's, most of the native population left the area to seek opportunities in Whitehorse and elsewhere. Today only one-third of First Nation members live in the Carcross region.

When the railway stopped operating in 1982, the South Klondike Highway became the lifeline of the community. Service is still the area's economic base.

The population of Carcross as of September 1992 was 375. The community of is directly administered by the Yukon Government. In March 1992 a local planning committee composed of three native and three non-native community residents was elected to deal with community planning issues.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Chief (or Acting Chief) and two Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Franchise is extended to First Nation members at the age of 16. The last election was held in April 1992. The term for Chief and Council is 4 years.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The membership code is under First Nation control. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nations' office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The First Nation is part of the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claim negotiations.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Willard Phelps, Minister of Health and Social Services, Yukon Party, Ross River Southern Lakes Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. distributes power from the Whitehorse Dam.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The all-weather South Klondike Highway (Skagway Road) provides access to Carcross.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fully equipped, with a chief and 10 volunteers. Water is supplied by reservoirs and wells.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, one corporal, two constables and various vehicles.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week



**BANKS:** Banking is done in Whitehorse

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** One 24-room hotel (rooms are not in service), a service station, a restaurant, and a general store are open year round.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:**

Administration Buildings 2  
Administration Annex  
Daycare Centre  
Cultural Centre 2  
Community Hall  
Garage  
Houses 73

**FIRST NATION LAND**

**ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: 64.75 Ha. on the south shore of Nares Lake

LAND SET ASIDE: 228.06 Ha. in and around Carcross and Tagish

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 -- Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	19
On Reserve	136
Off Reserve	<u>273</u>
Total	<b>428</b>

235 First Nations members have been reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The First Nations employ members and non-natives in their offices and in both First Nations-run or private businesses. Most non-First Nation employment is seasonal.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

**FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS**

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service

## **Social Development**

The First Nations receive and administer funds to supply social assistance to status members residing in a community. They have administered their social assistance program for the last decade. The program includes In-home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic and Special Needs. First Nations' members living in Whitehorse are funded directly through the Whitehorse office of Indian and Inuit Affairs.

## **Education**

The **Carcross School** services the community of Carcross from kindergarten to grade nine. Students attend high school in Whitehorse.

The Department funds the Carcross/Tagish First Nations directly for a position of Community Education Liaison Co-ordinator and for other related costs and services. First Nation members with registered status may apply for post-secondary educational support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building.

## **Economic Development**

The Carcross/Tagish First Nations receive funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs are administered to provide for economic development enterprises, as well as subsistence, elders' fuel, and traditional and cultural activities. They operate Carcross Valley Services, a gas station/cafe on the outskirts of the town. Funding is also obtained from other federal or territorial government agencies.

## **Capital**

The Carcross/Tagish First Nations provide housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Contracts for construction of houses are usually let to the citizens of the First Nations. For example, in the winter of 1992-93, a contract awarded to a First Nations' member resulted in the building of 15 housing units. Capital funding is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs and CMHC. The funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

## **First Nation Government**

Indian and Inuit Affairs' funding is provided to the First Nations' Council to provide a central administrative base.

### **Community Infrastructure**

The Carcross/Tagish First Nations receive funding from Indian and Inuit Affairs for the maintenance of roads and community buildings, as well as for municipal and fire protection services.

In 1992, a sewage eduction truck valued at about \$100,000 was acquired by the First Nations under Canada's Green Plan. The sanitation system also includes out-houses, holding tanks (pumped out regularly) and a septic system for houses in the town. Garbage disposal is done by a contractor.

## CHAMPAGNE AND AISHIHIK FIRST NATIONS

### *Haines Junction, Yukon*

#### ADDRESS:

Box 5309

Haines Junction, Yukon

Y0B 1L0

Phone No.: (403) 634-2288  
or 668-6877

Fax No.: (403) 634-2108  
or 667-6303

#### CULTURAL AFFILIATION

Southern Tutchone of Athapaskan descent, Tlingit

#### GENERAL

Haines Junction is the first major community northwest of Whitehorse on the Alaska Highway. It is Parks Canada's administrative headquarters for Kluane National Park, a World Heritage Site.

In the past, Haines Junction was used by native people as a temporary staging area on trapping, hunting and fishing trips. The Southern Tutchone name for the area is **Dakwakada**, meaning "a high cache," which was erected near the present weigh scale station to store food and furs while native people were hunting and fishing in the area.

The area was a trade route for the coastal Tlingit and Chilkat Indians of Haines, Alaska who traded with the interior Indians from Dalton Post to Ft. Selkirk. The Southern Tutchone acted as intermediaries in trade between coastal and interior Indians. Many of these trails were used as guides for the Haines and Alaska Highways. Pioneer Jack Dalton also used the trade route which later became known as the **Dalton Trail** for his famous cattle drive to Dawson City.

After the building of the Alaska and Haines Highways, a maintenance camp was built at their junction. A small school was included in the camp for the children of highway workers. The commercial potential of the area was recognized by John and Sally Backe who built the first cafe and motel in the area. Haines Junction now has several tourist accommodations and services.

Haines Junction was predominantly a non-native community until The Department of Indian Affairs built houses for the members of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations just east of the town. Most of the homes for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' members were built at Haines Junction and Champagne until a community development plan included Canyon Creek as another centre for building homes. Some



residents now commute from Canyon Creek to Haines Junction for work and business. Other settlements or camps within the area include: Nesketaheen, Klukshu, Champagne, Hutchi Lake, Aishihik Lake, Kusawa Lake, Kluane Lake and Kloo Lake.

As of September 1992, the population of Haines Junction was 713. Resident First Nations' members make up approximately 25% of the population. The language distribution in the area is: 89% English, 1% Southern Tutchone, 1% French, 3% German and 6% others.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

For First Nations' administration purposes, the two First Nations of Champagne and Aishihik joined in 1970 and a single Chief was elected.

The First Nations' leadership is composed of a Chief and six Councillors.

## **QUORUM**

Chief and three Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Custom election, extending franchise to First Nations members 16 years of age and older. The Chief and Council are elected for a four-year term. The last election was held October 24, 1990. One First Nations Council member is elected to represent the communities of Haines Junction, Champagne, Aishihik/Canyon, Klukshu, Kloo Lake and Whitehorse. One elder and one youth representative sit on Council.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The membership code is under First Nation control and governed by the First Nation constitution. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nations' offices.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations were the first to ratify their Band Final Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements. The Agreements were officially signed in Whitehorse by Paul Birckel, Chief of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and John Ostashek, Yukon Government Leader on May 29, 1993. Legislation is now pending.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Bill Brewster, Deputy Government Leader and Minister of Renewable Resources, Yukon Party, Kluane Riding

## **TRAINING/EDUCATION**

The First Nations are directing their attention to obtaining programs to assist members in meeting the administrative demands resulting from the land claim settlement.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Long-term employment for members living in Whitehorse will be one of the main objectives of the First Nation in the coming years.

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The First Nations are increasing their efforts to meet the need for programs on alcohol, drug abuse and suicide prevention. They are also developing a wilderness treatment centre at Aishihik Lake. The First Nations are researching the establishment of a family violence prevention program.

## **CHILD WELFARE**

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations have an agreement with the Yukon Territorial Government to administer their child welfare program under the Children's Act.

## **MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT**

The First Nations are developing management training programs to enhance the skills of their staff at the First Nations office, and to meet the need for land claims administrative personnel.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Energy Corporation operates the dam at Aishihik Lake. There is a diesel generator for back-up.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** All weather road, Alaska and Haines Highways.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The fire department which is located at Canyon Creek, has a joint agreement with the Village of Haines Junction to supply fire and ambulance services to the residents. First Aid and CPR is taught to fire fighters.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, with one corporal and two constables, cars and a boat.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**BANK:** An agent operates a Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Monday to Friday, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** The First Nations have a laundromat and showers to service their members and the public.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building  
Carpentry Shop  
Garage  
Warehouses 4  
Washroom  
Central Heating Plant  
Community Building  
Youth Centre  
Community Hall  
Fire Hall  
Houses 96

### **FIRST NATION LAND**

#### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: None.

LAND SET ASIDE: 2819.254 Ha. in and around Haines Junction, and Champagne.

PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 34

### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE - AISHIHIK**

#### ***AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 (STATUS ONLY)***

On Crown land	76
On Reserve	3
Off Reserve	<u>52</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>

25 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 31, 1993.

### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE - CHAMPAGNE**

#### ***AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 (STATUS ONLY)***

On Crown land	227
On Reserve	2
Off Reserve	<u>277</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>506</b>

175 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 31, 1993.

### **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The First Nations employ many of their members through their company, Champagne Aishihik Enterprises Ltd. They are concerned about the lack of employment and service access for their members in Whitehorse.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION  
*FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Education
- \* Capital
- \* Social Development
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service
- \* Economic Development
- \* First Nation Government

**Education**

Students can attend grades K-12 at the St. Elias Community School. The northern Alaska Highway communities also send high school students to Haines Junction for grades 10-12. Some students attend high school in Whitehorse.

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nations for a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC) position and other related costs and services. First Nations' members may apply for post-secondary education assistance through the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council for Yukon Indians building.

**Capital**

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations provide housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs and CMHC. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets. The First Nations are constructing housing units near the Takhini River on the Alaska Highway during 1993-94.

**Social Development**

The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations receive and administer funds to supply social assistance to status members. The First Nations are funded for one full-time and one part-time social administrator and have administered their own social assistance program for the last decade. The program includes Basic Needs, Special Needs and Elders' Fuel programs.

A Child Welfare program is operated in Haines Junction and Whitehorse under an agreement signed with the Yukon Territorial Government. This program is under the Children's Act, allowing groups to contract for child welfare services.



## **Economic Development**

The First Nations receive funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS) and provide for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nations' members through community-designed and administered programs. Currently, the First Nations are in the process of developing the subdivision near the Takhini River bridge to provide housing for the members who live in the Whitehorse area.

The First Nations were operating under a five-year Alternate Funding Arrangement (AFA) which ended in 1993. Champagne and Aishihik were the first in the north to have their programs funded this way.

The commercial interests of the First Nations are managed by Taga Ku Corporation and Champagne Aishihik Enterprises Ltd.

## **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nations Council to administer its responsibilities to the First Nations' membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The First Nations have a constitution which deals with matters of membership, election of Chief and Council, general reporting procedures of the First Nation Council and staff to its general membership, and other functions, activities and responsibilities to fulfil the First Nations' objectives.

The Chief and Council have portfolios in the following areas:

### **FIRST NATION AFFAIRS/POLITICAL:**

First Nation Affairs, Land Claims  
Public Relations

### **SOCIAL PROGRAMS:**

Recreation, Child Care  
Social Development  
Family Support  
Community Health  
Drug and Alcohol Awareness

**ADMINISTRATION/GENERAL WORKS:**

Housing, First Nation Equipment  
Wood program  
Shop Maintenance  
Labour Relations

**EDUCATION**

**RENEWABLE RESOURCES:**

All matters dealing with hunting, trapping, fishing, forestry and parks.

**ELDERS' PROGRAM:**

All programs and concerns regarding elders.

The councillors are also responsible for the areas that elected them.

**Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Champagne/Aishihik First Nations receive funding for maintenance of roads and community buildings, and also for municipal and fire protection services.

The First Nation delivers chlorinated well-water by truck to residents. Some First Nations' residents receive piped water from the town system.

Sewage is piped for lagoon purification, then discharged into the Dezadeash River. Some of the First Nations' homes have septic tanks. The First Nation looks after garbage collection for its members. Garbage is collected by truck, and is disposed of in a Y.T.G. approved open dump site.

**LEGAL STATUS OF COMMUNITY**

Haines Junction is incorporated under the Municipal Act as a village with an elected council on which some First Nation members sit. The First Nation is primarily located east of the village of Haines Junction on Lot 30.

**DAWSON FIRST NATION\***  
***Dawson City, Yukon***

\* the legal name for this First Nation is "Dawson Indian Band".

**ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 599  
Dawson City, Yukon  
Y0B 1G0  
Phone No.: (403) 993-5385  
Fax No.: (403) 993-6553

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Han

**GENERAL**

The Han people have inhabited their traditional territory in the central western Yukon and eastern Alaska for several thousand years. Their lands span areas of the Yukon River from the mouth of the Stewart River to the mouth of the Klondike River, including Yukon River tributaries back to their headwaters.

The Han's first contact with European people occurred between the late 1700's and 1840's at the time when Russian and Hudson Bay fur traders were founding trading posts. As explorers, missionaries, and prospectors began to move into the Territory, the Han moved closer to trading posts and missions.

In 1887, a townsite was established at the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike Rivers on what was originally the site of a summer fish camp. The discovery of gold in 1896 brought in thousands of prospectors and grubstakers. By the turn of the century, this influx had pushed the native people from their village at the mouth of the Klondike River to the Moosehide Reserve, three miles from Dawson City.

In 1898 Dawson became the capital of Yukon, a city of 40,000 people with telephone, water and steamboat services.

When the gold rush came to an end in 1899, 8,000 people left Dawson. Major mining operations eventually took over most Klondike gold beds. Higher gold prices caused a minor boom in the 1930s. The last dredge was shut down in 1965. By then, the Yukon's economic centre had already shifted to Whitehorse, which became the capital in 1953. Dawson experienced a devastating flood in May 1980, prompting the construction of a dike along the Yukon River.

Moosehide and the surrounding area was designated a reserve in 1902. In the late 1950s the declining population in Moosehide caused the Han people to move to Dawson where they have become an integral part of the community. Today Moosehide is used mainly as a summer camp and traditional ceremonial area.

The city's population is 1,908 according to 1992 figures. The language distribution in the area is 90% English, 0.7% Kutchin/Han, 2.3% French, 2% German and 5% others.

Dawson is a bustling tourist centre in the summer, supported by placer mining activity in the surrounding area. It is also a mineral exploration service and supply centre. The Dawson First Nation takes an active role in the community and in the development of the town.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Any three members of Council

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Franchise is extended to band members 16 years of age and older. The terms for Chief and Council are three years. The last election was held in November 1990.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The First Nation has applied for and received funding to develop their membership code. Inquiries regarding membership should be referred to the First Nations' office.

## **LAND CLAIMS**

The First Nation is part of the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. Dawson First Nation is actively negotiating Land Claims and Self-Government Agreements.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable David Millar, Yukon Party, Klondike Riding



**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. operates a diesel generating plant in Dawson

**MAIN TRANSPORTATION:** All-weather Klondike Highway

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Dawson Fire Fighter's Association with 20 volunteers and two pumpers. First Aid and CPR is taught to fire fighters. The City provides fire protection to First Nation members living within city limits.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, one sergeant, four constables, vehicles and boat.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** There options for facilities are many and varied - including hotels, motels, gas stations, tourist entertainment, commercial campgrounds and food outlets within the Town of Dawson City.

**BANK:** Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Community Hall 2  
Cultural Centre 2  
Administration Building  
Carpentry Shop  
Warehouse  
Heating Plant  
Houses 72

**FIRST NATION LAND**

***ACREAGE AND STATUS***

RESERVE LAND: 64.75 Ha. at Moosehide Reserve, established 1900

LAND SET ASIDE: 417.09 Ha.

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

***AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)***

On Crown Land	168
On Reserve	4
Off Reserve	<u>376</u>
Total	<u>548</u>

233 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

## **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The First Nation is concerned with high unemployment among its members. Much of the work is seasonal, notably in fisheries and tourism. Therefore, long-term employment is one of the main objectives of the First Nation in the next few years, mainly through Chief Isaac Incorporated, its economic development arm.

## **PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

### ***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service O & M
- \* Political Leadership

### **Social Development**

The First Nation receives and administers funds to supply social assistance to status members. They have administered their own social assistance program for the last decade. This has included In-home Adult Care, Basic Needs, Special Needs and Elders' Fuel. The First Nation has used social assistance funds to employ status members on projects to upgrade community buildings at the Moosehide Reserve.

### **Education**

The Robert Service School serves the community of Dawson from grades K-12. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for a Community Education Liaison Coordinator position and other related costs and services. First Nation members may apply for post-secondary educational support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council for Yukon Indians' building.

### **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). They provide for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for members through community- designed and administered programs.

Other revenues for First Nation Economic programs are supplied by federal and territorial government agencies or by the First Nation's company, Chief Isaac Incorporated.

Chief Isaac Incorporated, controls all of the First Nation's businesses. The Chief and Council members are the company's Chair and Board of Directors. The company manages investments in the **Ice House**, a retail seafood outlet in Whitehorse, and **RAB Energy** (Northerm), a window manufacturing business which is also in Whitehorse. These investments provide opportunities to sell technology and set up employee training programs.

**Han Fisheries** operates from its processing plant in Dawson on the Yukon River, employing primarily First Nation members. Chief Isaac Incorporated owns 95% of the fishery (Yukon Indian Development Corporation owns 5%).

Han Fisheries operates from five to six months a year. Fish are processed for 10-12 weeks during the summer and fall. Processed frozen salmon is marketed in the US through a fish broker. Salmon roe is also processed and sold to American and Japanese markets. Up to 20 First Nation members are employed during peak fishing seasons.

In the summer of 1992, **Han Natural Products Ltd.** gained national and international attention with its mushroom-harvesting venture. Chief Isaac led and developed this activity to include exports to Japan, Europe and other interested buyers. The company expects to expand to include other natural products.

Chief Isaac Inc. also owns a large commercial building in Dawson and operates a soda fountain and laundromat there. Space is leased to the First Nation Council.

In the early 90s the First Nation built a Community Hall, which serves as a meeting place for various functions.

### **Capital**

The Dawson First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to the First Nation membership and to provide a central administrative base.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Dawson First Nation receives funds for operation and maintenance of community buildings and for fire protection services. All other services are provided by the Town of Dawson City.

Some First Nation residents receive a piped supply of chlorinated water from the city system. Outlying homes use private wells. The sewage system consists of piped collection, which is microscreened and drained into the Yukon River. Garbage is disposed of in a dump, with collection done by local contractors hired by the Town.

### **Political Leadership**

The political leadership is organized into the portfolio system. Chief and Councillors have responsibility for various areas including First Nations Affairs/Political, Land Claims, Social Programs, Finance, Housing, Economic Development, Town of Dawson City.

**DEASE RIVER FIRST NATION**  
***Good Hope Lake, B.C.***

**ADDRESS:**

General Delivery  
Good Hope Lake, B.C.  
V0C 2Z0  
Phone No.: (604) 239-3000  
Fax No.: (604) 239-3003

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska and Tahltan

**POLITICAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska Tribal Council

**GENERAL**

The original inhabitants of the area were the Kaska Indians from the northern areas and the Tahltans from the south and west. The current community was a camp area used during the migration of the bands in search of seasonal food sources.

The community of Good Hope Lake is a small, native settlement on the Stewart-Cassiar Highway, in the remote north-central part of British Columbia. With the closure of Cassiar Mine in 1992, Good Hope Lake residents became anxious about the maintenance of essential services, and began to lobby both the provincial and federal governments for help. The two governments have been attempting to ensure that services of some type are available in the community, and are working with the First Nation people to help establish such services as emergency medical and evacuation measures.

Traffic along the highway has been growing annually; it is hoped that tourism will become a major part of the local economy.

The Dease River First Nation was originally part of the Liard River First Nation, but acquired separate status under DIAND in 1989. Although located in B.C., the First Nation is served through the Yukon Region of Indian and Northern Affairs.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and three Councillors



## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

The First Nation Council is elected every two years by the general membership. The last election was held in December of 1991. There is a move towards a more traditional hereditary/custom system.

## **QUORUM**

Three members of Council

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Dease River First Nation does not have a membership code at present.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Dease River First Nation is not part of the Council for Yukon Indians Comprehensive Land Claim Settlement. It is expected that Dease River First Nation will negotiate their land claims and self government agreements through the B.C. Treaty Commission, established in September of 1992.

The First Nation has completed talks with the B.C. provincial government regarding allocation of parcels of land with full reserve status. These lands, about 160 hectares, are partial repayment for use of existing reserve land as a highway thoroughfare.

## **GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Jim Fulton, NDP, Prince George-Peace River Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Two diesel generators supply the community with power.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The chip-sealed all-weather Cassiar Highway bisects the community. Watson Lake is 140 km north, and the former Cassiar mine and town is 30 km south of Good Hope Lake. There are no services left in Cassiar.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The First Nation has purchased a fire truck with funding from Indian and Inuit Affairs. First Nation members have received training in firefighting and volunteer their service in fire protection.

**POLICE:** The nearest RCMP detachment is in Dease Lake.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked three times a week to Good Hope Lake.

**BANK:** None - the nearest bank is in Watson Lake.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Service station and grocery store in Good Hope Lake, campground nearby at Boya Lake Park.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building  
Warehouse  
School  
Fire Hall  
Community Hall  
School  
Houses 42

### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	67
On Reserve	10
Off Reserve	<u>54</u>
Total	131

5 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

### **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The Dease River First Nation has limited access to economic opportunities due to its geographic isolation - the larger centres of Whitehorse, Yukon and Terrace, B.C. are both more than 500 km away.

Tourism service industry and the First Nation office offer some employment. Most First Nation members have a traditional subsistence lifestyle. About 10 members are employed through the First Nation office, gas station, store, and local school.

### **FIRST NATION LANDS**

Dease River First Nation has negotiated a specific claim which sets out approximately 400 acres of reserve land. All agreements with the provincial and federal government are complete as well as the necessary surveys.

### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: 160 Ha. in and around Dease River  
LAND SET ASIDE: Approx. 1 Ha. in and around Good Hope Lake  
PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 5  
RESERVES: 1

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION  
*FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services

**Social Development**

The Dease River First Nation administers social assistance to their members. This includes In-Home Adult Care, Basic and Special Needs, and Elders' Fuel. The Department of Indian and Inuit Affairs has occasionally added administration cost reimbursements.

**Education**

The B.C. Government transferred control of the former Stikine District #87 school adjacent to the old highways camp to the First Nation. This facility includes three large classrooms, an auditorium, and a library/home economics room. With funding from DIAND, the Dease River Band Council renovated and upgraded this facility, and the school opened for classes in September 1992.

Students from kindergarten to grade twelve are enrolled in the school. Funding was also provided by DIAND for the renovation of a teacherage.

The First Nation currently employs a full-time Principal/teacher and an additional full-time teacher. The school also has its own Administrator and a School Committee of 4 community residents.

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for costs associated with the Band-operated school and for the position of Community Education Coordinator. First Nation members may apply for post-secondary educational support from the First Nations' Education Program in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

**Economic Development**

There are two operating firms in Good Hope Lake, both in the service/tourism sector: a gas station/garage and a grocery store - **Good Hope Lake Services**. Most other services were offered in Cassiar before the mine closed in mid-1992. With traffic along the highway growing annually, it is hoped tourism will become a major

contributor to the local economy.

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs are administered to provide for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community-designed and administered programs.

### **Capital**

The Dease River First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Program Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Indian and Inuit Affairs' Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The First Nation is continuing to develop the First Nation Council, its policies and guidelines, and to organize its staff. The Council works as a group to establish policies for the First Nation.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Dease River First Nation receives contributions for municipal and fire protection services, roads and electrical power.

Water for the village is supplied by three wells. Houses near the wells are on a direct pipe system while those further away receive water deliveries by truck. The sanitation system includes out-houses, septic tanks and leeching pits. Garbage is picked-up twice weekly by the First Nation's truck and taken to the community dump.

**KLUANE FIRST NATION**  
***Burwash Landing, Yukon***

**ADDRESS:**

Mile 1093 Alaska Highway  
Burwash Landing, Yukon  
Y0B 1H0  
Phone No.: (403) 841-4274  
Fax No.: (403) 841-5900

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Southern Tutchone of Athapaskan descent, Northern Tutchone.

**GENERAL**

The Shakwak Valley has been inhabited for over 10,000 years, and is the homeland of the Southern Tutchone people who had stop-over camps throughout the area during the Indian seasonal migration in search of food.

Two Jacquot brothers, Louie and Gene, built a trading post at Burwash Landing in 1904. Most of the native people used this area for a summer stop, but after the Jacquots built some cabins in the area, they moved closer to the post and began to lead a more stationary life-style.

The construction of the Alaska Highway in 1942 led Indian and Inuit Affairs to make Burwash Landing the administrative centre for First Nations in the Kluane area.

The community is mainly native. About 12% speak Kutchin.

The settlement is administered directly by the Yukon Territorial Government.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and two Councillors at large, an elder councillor and a youth councillor.

**QUORUM**

Any three members of Council

**METHOD OF ELECTION**

All members living in Yukon who are age 16 and over are eligible to vote in the Kluane Peoples Assembly. The term for Chief and Council is two years. The last election was held in September 1992.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Kluane First Nation has developed a membership code which is in their constitution. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nation's office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Kluane First Nation is participating in the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. The First Nation is now doing preliminary work to prepare for negotiations.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Bill Brewster, Deputy Government Leader and Minister of Renewable Resources, Yukon Party, Kluane Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Power is supplied by diesel generators.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The paved, all-weather Alaska Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Burwash Landing has a fire chief, six volunteer fire fighters, a pumper truck and water tanks.

**POLICE:** The Burwash Landing area is served by the Haines Junction detachment 100 km away (one corporal, one constable and one native special constable).

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is delivered twice a week.

**BANKS:** There is no banking service in Burwash Landing.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Burwash Landing: resort/hotel, restaurant, gas station.

## **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Garage  
Warehouse 4  
Community Centre  
Washroom  
Drop-In Centre  
Administration Building  
Houses 38



**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	63
On Reserve	0
Off Reserve	<u>77</u>
Total	<b>140</b>

111 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993. Of the First Nation members living off-reserve, most reside in Whitehorse.

**FIRST NATION LAND**

**ACREAGE AND STATUS**

LAND SET ASIDE: 312.13 Ha. in and around the communities of Burwash Landing and Destruction Bay.

RESERVE LAND: None.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The economic base is primarily subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping which supplies about 80% of the food for Burwash Landing residents.

The employment rate is less than 50%. Most are employed seasonally in tourism or full time through the First Nation office.

Many members have left the community to find work elsewhere.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION**

***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services

**Social Development**

The Kluane First Nation receives and administers funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The First Nation has administered its own social programs for over a decade. These programs include In-home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic and Special Needs.

The Kluane First Nation's Bill C-31 Impact Study suggested that by 1993 between 55% and 60% of the total First Nation membership would be Bill C-31 reinstates, however the demographic profile indicates that this figure is closer to 80%. The Council expects this population increase to create greater demands on programs and administration.

### **Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation directly for school supplies and the services of a part-time Community Education Liaison Coordinator. Students at Burwash Landing are bussed to the Destruction Bay School, which serves grades kindergarten to 8.

Students must move to Haines Junction or Whitehorse to complete their education. First Nation members with registered status may apply for post-secondary educational support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building.

### **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funding provides for subsistence, elders' traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises.

As part of the Kluane First Nation's plans for economic development, it has identified the necessity to access training and educational needs, and to identify funding sources.

The First Nation operates some businesses, including a small general store for its members' use, and a cottage industry which produces jam.

Future business proposals include a laundromat/store, wilderness recreation and guiding, and a campground/RV park.

The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community designed and administered programs.

### **Capital**

The Kluane First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets, as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

First Nation Band Support Funding is provided to the Council to administer its responsibilities to First Nation membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The Council has portfolios in the following areas:

Executive Director and Finance

Renewable Resources

Elders' Programs

Social Development

Economic Development/Capital Projects/Infrastructure

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Kluane First Nation receives funding for maintenance of roads and community buildings, as well as for municipal and fire protection services.

At Burwash Landing, there are nine wells supplied by the waters of Half-breed Creek and Kluane Lake. Water is either delivered by truck or hauled by bucket.

The sanitation system is a combination of out-houses, septic fields, and holding tanks. Tanks are emptied regularly; septic fields are pumped out as needed.

**KWANLIN DUN FIRST NATION\***  
***Whitehorse, Yukon***

\* This First Nation is composed of both Kwanlin Dun and Ta'an Kwach'an members.

**ADDRESS:**

Box 1217  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 5A5  
Phone No.: (403) 667-6465  
Fax No.: (403) 668-5057

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Northern and Southern Tutchone, some Tagish. \*The First Nation is made up of two main groups: Ta'an Kwach'an from the north and Kwanlin Dun from the south.

**GENERAL**

Before the establishment of Whitehorse as a central settlement, native people of the area set up camps near the present city as part of their annual migration in search of seasonal food sources. The Ta'an Kwach'an people were concentrated more along southern Lake Laberge, as far as Hootalinqua, and the Takhini area. The two Whitehorse-area First Nations were combined to form the Kwanlin Dun Indian Band in 1956 to provide for ease of administration.

Whitehorse developed because of its location at the start of the navigable waters on the Yukon River upstream from Dawson City. When the White Pass and Yukon Route sternwheelers plied the Yukon River in the first half of the century, aboriginal people were employed to cut fuelwood for the boats' boilers. This employment led to the establishment of a small settlement on the east bank of the Yukon River, which in turn attracted more native people to the area. Since that time, the village was relocated to the Marwell area and finally, beginning in 1986, to the McIntyre subdivision.

Beginning with the gold rush of 1898, the city experienced a series of booms and busts mainly related to mining and highway construction activities. In 1953, the Yukon Territorial Government office moved to Whitehorse from Dawson City. Y.T.G. has since then become the largest employer in the area, lending a fair amount of stability to the economy. In recent years, tourism has grown at a rapid pace to become a major factor in the local economy.

Today Whitehorse has a population of about 23,000 people. Approximately 25% of residents are aboriginal people from various Yukon First Nations, mostly Kwanlin Dun. The language distribution is: English 89%, French 2.7%, German 2.1%, Tagish/Kutchin (or Kwach'an, Gwitchin) 0.4% and 5.8% others.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Chief (or Deputy Chief) and four Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Franchise is extended to First Nation members 16 years of age and over. Elections for Chief and Council are held every four years. The last election was in March 1993.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation has received funding to establish a membership code.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation is a participant in the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. Kwanlin Dun is now actively negotiating Land Claims and Self-Government. Ta'an Kwach'an has been negotiating its CYI Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement separately since 1988, and is presently involved in active negotiations for Land Claims and Self Government Agreements.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Tony Penikett, NDP, Whitehorse West Riding, Leader of the Opposition

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Whitehorse Rapids Electrical Dam supplies power to all residences within city limits.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** All-weather Alaska Highway, Whitehorse International Airport. All-weather Klondike Highway to Skagway, Alaska.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The First Nation is serviced by the City's fire department which has 20 permanent fire fighters, Chief and Deputy, approx. 15 volunteers at two fully equipped firehalls - downtown Whitehorse, and Takhini. All fire fighters are trained in rescue and emergency techniques.

**POLICE:** RCMP headquarters with 1 staff sergeant, 2 sergeants, 5 corporals, 28 constables, and 4 special constables, equipped with 12 vehicles, 2 boats and 2 snowmobiles and 2 trailers.

The Division's aircraft section consists of 1 staff sergeant, 1 sergeant, 1 mechanic, and 1 aircraft (DeHavilland twin otter). The aircraft section is based in Whitehorse.

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation receives funds from the Solicitor General for its own crime prevention force of two constables from RCMP headquarters as well as one officer.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in or flown-in and is delivered daily.

**BANKS:** The Whitehorse area is served by five major Canadian chartered banks. Automatic banking machines are also available.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** All essential services are provided in the Whitehorse area. The McIntyre Subdivision is serviced by the City of Whitehorse's water and sewage systems. Maintenance of roads is shared with the City of Whitehorse. There is a pumphouse located at Lake Laberge to supply fresh water.

#### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building	
Administration Building (Mt. Mac)	
Carpenter Shop	2
Workshop	2
Garage	2
Warehouse	3
Houses	212

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Reserve	28
Off Reserve	487
On Crown Land	<u>602</u>
Total	1117

358 members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

#### **FIRST NATION LAND**

##### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LANDS: 129.5 Ha. at the lower end of Lake Laberge.

LAND SET ASIDE: 276.56 Ha. in and around City of Whitehorse, Lake Laberge, Marsh Lake

PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 31

RESERVE: 1



**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION  
*FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Economic Development
- \* Education
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government/Band Support
- \* Policing
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services O & M

**Social Development**

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation receives and administers funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs to supply status members with social assistance. They have administered their own social program for over 10 years, including In-Home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, Basic Needs and Special Needs.

**Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funding provides for subsistence, elders' traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community-designed and administered programs.

**Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the Kwanlin Dun First Nation directly for related costs and services and for Community Education Liaison Coordinator positions. Students attend public schools in Whitehorse.

Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

**Capital**

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of them.

### **First Nation Government/Band Support**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to carry out its responsibilities to its membership and to provide a central base for administration.

The Political leadership is organized on the portfolio system. Chief and Councillors have responsibilities for various areas, including:

Land Claims, Finance and Communications.

Recreation, Education, Rural Concerns.

Policing, Health, and Recreation.

Social/Health, Economic Development, and Land Claims.

Education, Policing, and Rural Concerns.

Housing, Economic Development, and Communications.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Kwanlin Dun First Nation receives funding for roads and community buildings, as well as for municipal and fire protection services.

Garbage collection is done by the First Nation for its members.

**LIARD RIVER FIRST NATION\***  
***Watson Lake, Yukon***

\* the legal name for this First Nation is "Liard River Band"

**ADDRESS:**

Box 328  
Watson Lake, Yukon  
Y0A 1C0  
Phone No.: (403) 536-2131  
Fax No.: (403) 536-2332

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska of Athapaskan descent

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Kaska Tribal Council

**GENERAL**

The original people of the area, the Kaska-Dena, were seasonal migrants travelling within their established territory hunting and gathering food supplies. Their territory included the upper Liard, Frances, and Highland rivers and extended into the upper Pelly drainage in the north to the Dease River in the southwest.

As European explorers crossed the eastern mountains into Kaska lands, trade quickly developed. The establishment of trading posts in the 1800s altered the migration patterns of the natives who began to settle nearby.

Lower Post was the main settlement, although Watson Lake and Upper Liard soon became important centres.

Shortly after the Second World War, the Department of Indian Affairs began building central settlements for native people. Upper Liard was established as the main community for the Liard River First Nation.

Watson Lake has since become the regional service and business centre for the area, with forestry and energy exploration adding to the economic growth. The lead-zinc mine at nearby Sa Dena Hes opened in 1991 and employed many aboriginal people until its recent closure in 1993.

Watson Lake is an incorporated town with a 1992 population of 1,845. Many First Nation members live within Watson Lake town limits, or on the outskirts of the town in the communities of Two-mile and Two and a Half Mile villages.

Upper Liard, an unincorporated village, has a total population of about 130. Over 85 residents are First Nation members.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Liard River First Nation's leadership is made up of a Chief and four Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Chief and two Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Members of the Liard River First Nation elected their first-ever elected Chief and Council in October 1992. Prior to that, the band had a hereditary chief system, under which the Deputy Chief and Councillors were appointed. The position of hereditary chief remains. The Chief can vote on both the Liard River First Nation and Liard Reserve #3 Councils.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Liard River First Nation has received funding to develop a membership code.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Liard River First Nation is participating in the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. They are now in the preparatory stages of negotiations for Land Claims and Self Government.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable John Devries, Minister of Economic Development, Yukon Party, Watson Lake

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Electrical Co. Ltd. distributes power from the diesel generating plant in Watson Lake.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The paved all-weather Alaska Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Watson Lake has a fire chief, 15 volunteers, equipment and a 4,546-litre water tank. Smaller communities have fire extinguishers and shovel and axe caches.

**POLICE:** The Watson Lake RCMP detachment has one sergeant, one corporal, five constables and one native special constable. The detachment serves all surrounding communities.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked or flown in three times a week.

**BANKS:** The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce operates a branch in Watson Lake.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Most facilities are available in Watson Lake, including a women's transition home. The Upper Liard Resort in Upper Liard has six rooms, a lounge, cafe and native crafts store.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Washroom	2
Wellhouse	
Community Building	
Community Hall	
Administration Building	
Garage	
Warehouse	
Community Building	2
Houses	101

### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Reserve	152
Off Reserve	389
On Crown Land	<u>270</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>811</b>

165 of the above members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993. The population figures include the Liard Reserve #3 membership in Lower Post, B.C.

### **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Employment opportunities are fairly limited, due to few jobs and a lack of training or experience on the part of people seeking employment. Nearby Watson Lake offers more chance of employment, causing some migration away from traditional First Nation lands.

**FIRST NATION LANDS****ACREAGE AND STATUS**

LAND SET ASIDE: 263.89 Ha. in and around Watson Lake.

RESERVE LAND: None

PARCELS OF LAND SET ASIDE: 23

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION*****FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services

**Social Development**

The Liard River First Nation receives and administers funds for social assistance. They also receive funds for a social services worker and they have administered their own social program for over a decade. The program includes In-Home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic Needs.

**Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the Liard River First Nation for school supplies and for the position of a Community Education Liaison Co-ordinator. In previous years a group home was also financed, but it was closed when it was no longer required.

Students attend elementary and high school in Watson Lake. Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

**Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funds provide for subsistence, elders' traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The First Nation's goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community designed and administered programs.

The First Nation runs a coin-operated laundry in Upper Liard Village. Proposed business ventures include a general store/cafe/gas station, a native crafts store, a small engine repair shop and other small enterprises that will promote a self-sustaining First Nation economy.



### **Capital**

The Liard River First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets, as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and to provide a central administrative base.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Liard First Nation receives money for the operation of water, sewer and fire protection services, and for the maintenance of community buildings and roads. The Watson Lake Town Council previously received funding to administer municipal services to First Nation members living within town limits.

Water is delivered to the native communities by a private water-trucking company, three times a week. In Upper Liard, 10 wells have been drilled for individual homes. Sewage facilities include septic holding tanks, sub-surface tile fields and out-houses. Newer houses use septic holding tanks exclusively since concerns were raised about water contamination from out-houses. Holding tank contents are pumped into the Watson Lake municipal sewer/lagoon system. The First Nation administers its own sanitation service.

Most First Nation residences receive water from a First Nation-operated trucking system. There are also numerous private wells. Under Canada's Green Plan, DIAND provided funding for a treatment and storage building, an intake into the river, and a delivery truck to provide safe drinking water. The building is large enough to park and load the truck inside, an important feature during severe winter weather. The total project cost was about \$1 million.

**LIARD RESERVE #3**  
**Watson Lake, Yukon**

**ADDRESS:**

Box 489  
Watson Lake, Yukon  
Y0A 1C0  
Phone No.: (604) 779-3161  
Fax No.: (604) 779-3371

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska of Athapaskan descent.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Kaska Tribal Council

**GENERAL**

The original inhabitants of the area, the Kaska-Dena, were seasonal migrants travelling within their established territory while hunting and gathering food supplies. Their territory included the upper Liard River area from the Cassiar mountains in the west, to the Simpson Mountains in the east.

As European explorers crossed into Kaska lands, trade quickly developed. Early trading posts, though short-lived, had the effect of changing the migrational patterns of the native people. As the trading posts became more permanent, the Indian population began to settle, first in Lower Post and later in Watson Lake. A major residential school was built in Lower Post in 1953 which served the southern Yukon and north-eastern B.C. until the 1970s.

In 1961, the five Kaska First Nations in the area were amalgamated into the Liard Indian First Nation and a central settlement and administrative base was established in Upper Liard. In 1985, it was decided by referendum that the First Nation should break into three independent groups. Although the Dease River First Nation has recently gained full status as a separate First Nation, the Liard Reserve #3 group has not yet gained formal separate status from the Liard River First Nation.

Today, Lower Post is an unincorporated community on reserve land and is administered by the province of British Columbia on crown land. There has been discussion among First Nation members about possible consolidation of all lands in order to eliminate jurisdictional overlap.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The leadership of Liard Reserve #3 is composed of a Deputy Chief (elected by the membership of the Liard River Band) and two Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Chief and two council members

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

The Deputy Chief and Council are elected by the membership of the Liard River Band, of which Liard Reserve #3 is a part. Members of the Liard River Band voted in their first-ever elected Chief and Council in October 1992. Prior to that, the band had a hereditary chief system, under which the Deputy Chief and Councillors were appointed. At present, the hereditary chief is Dixon Lutz. He has a vote on both the Liard River Band and on the Liard Reserve #3 Councils.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Liard Reserve #3 has not yet separated from the Liard First Nation, nor has it completed an independent membership document.

## **LAND CLAIMS**

Liard Reserve #3 is not participating in the Council for Yukon Indians Comprehensive Land Claims settlement, but it is negotiating settlements with the federal and B.C. governments.

## **GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Jim Fulton, NDP, Prince George-Peace River Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. operates a diesel generating plant in Watson Lake which services Lower Post.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** Paved all-weather Alaska Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Watson Lake supplies all fire-fighting services.

**POLICE:** The nearest RCMP detachment is in Watson Lake.

**BANKS:** Banking facilities are in Watson Lake.

**POST OFFICE:** There is no mail delivery to Lower Post; mail is trucked to Watson Lake three times a week.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** There are no public facilities in Lower Post because of the small size of the community.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:**

First Nation Hall/Offices

Community Hall

Garage

Workshop

Daycare Centre

Warehouse

Houses                      45

Youth Centre

Water Treatment Building

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE:**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1992 (STATUS ONLY)*

On Reserve                84

Off Reserve               0

On Crown Land        65

Total                      149

36 of the above members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December, 1993. It is difficult to acquire figures for Liard #3 as members are still included in the Liard River Band membership list.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Unemployment is high among First Nation members in Lower Post. The economy is subsistence-based, with some resource-based activity in the area. The First Nation office employs six people, and programs create much of the remaining income.

**FIRST NATION LAND**

*ACREAGE AND STATUS*

**RESERVE LANDS:** Liard Reserve #3, established in 1961.

**OTHER LANDS:** Settled provincial Crown land at Lower Post.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION  
*FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services

**Social Development**

Liard Reserve #3 receives and administers funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs to provide members residing on reserve with social assistance. Funding is provided for a social services worker. The First Nation has been administering its own social program, including Adult In-Home Care, Special Needs, and Basic Needs.

**Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds Liard Reserve #3 for school supplies, bus costs, and for the position of Community Education Liaison Coordinator. All area students attend the local elementary school and travel to Watson Lake for secondary school education. Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

**Economic Development**

Liard Reserve #3 receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). This funding provides for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises.

The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community designed and administered programs.

Future prospects for local business ventures include a service complex (garage, store, and cafe), a small logging company, a road maintenance contract with the B.C. government, a hunting lodge and other tourism/service industry-related businesses.

**Capital**

The Liard Reserve #3 provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets, as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and provide a central administrative base.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. Although half of Liard Reserve #3 First Nation members live on provincial Crown land, Indian and Inuit Affairs also funds their infrastructure. The First Nation receives funds for community buildings, maintaining roads and for providing water, sewer, and fire protection services.

Most First Nation residences receive water from a First Nation-operated truck delivery system. There are also numerous private wells. Under Canada's Green Plan, DIAND provided funding for a treatment and storage building, an intake into the river, and a truck to deliver safe drinking water. The building is large enough to load or park the truck inside, an important feature during severe winter weather. The total project cost was about \$1 million.

The sewage system includes out-houses, tile fields and holding tanks. New houses have holding tanks only. The Liard River First Nation has been contracted to pump out the Liard Reserve #3's holding tanks. They are emptied into the Watson Lake lagoon treatment system.

The First Nation collects garbage for members and hauls it to a community landfill site.



**LITTLE SALMON/CARMACKS FIRST NATION**  
***Carmacks, Yukon***

**ADDRESS:**

Box 135  
Carmacks, Yukon  
Y0B 1C0  
Phone No.: (403) 863-5576  
Fax No.: (403) 863-5710

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone of Athabaskan descent.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone Council

**GENERAL**

Carmacks is located about 180 km north of Whitehorse on the Klondike Highway. Its 1992 population was 456. The language distribution is: 83% English, 4% Northern Tutchone, 2% French and 11% others. Much of the population is native, as Carmacks has been a major centre for local First Nations for many centuries.

Before the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, the area was a campsite on a main trade route used by the coastal Tlingits and the northern and interior Kutchin. As non-natives poured into the area, a roadhouse was built by George Carmacks. A sternwheeler service port quickly followed.

Most of the area's native people migrated to town as river traffic ceased. They settled on land set aside for them on the north bank of the Yukon River, where the main community still stands. When the Klondike Highway was completed in 1950, Carmacks became a major service centre.

Quality coal was found in the area and several mines were in operation until 1981.

Today the economy is still largely service and tourism-oriented. Mining and exploration augment community revenues.

Carmacks became incorporated as a village in 1984, and is run by a municipal council on which First Nation members sometimes sit.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

**QUORUM**

Any four members of council.

**METHOD OF ELECTION**

Franchise is extended to First Nation members over the age of 16. The Chief and Council are elected for two-year terms. The last election was in February 1993.

**MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The First Nation does not control its own membership code.

**LAND CLAIMS**

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation is part of the Council for Yukon Indians land claims negotiation team.

**GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Danny Joe, NDP, Mayo-Tatchun Riding

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** A transmission line runs from the Whitehorse dam, administered by Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. There is a local auxiliary diesel generator.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** Paved all-weather Klondike Highway. The unpaved all-weather Robert Campbell Highway is a secondary route.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fire chief and 10 volunteers with pumper-truck, hoses, ladders, breathing apparatus, portable pump, two 6,700-litre water tanks - one in town and one in the native village.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment with a corporal, a constable and a native special constable.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**BANKS:** The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, is open once a week in the summer and twice a week in the winter.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Facilities of all types are available to the public.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building  
NNDAP Office  
Workshop  
Garage        2  
Daycare Centre  
Well House/Washroom  
Community Hall  
Airport Lake Cultural Centre  
Houses        86

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	216
On Reserve	0
Off Reserve	<u>201</u>
Total	<b>417</b>

65 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Employment opportunities in the Carmacks area are limited, though as many as 50% of band members may be employed in the summer. Five members work for First Nation businesses, while 22 work directly for the First Nation office.

**FIRST NATION LANDS**

*ACREAGE AND STATUS*

RESERVE LAND: None.

LAND SET ASIDE: 488.99 Ha. in and around Carmacks area

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 26

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION**

***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

Social Development  
Education  
Economic Development  
Capital  
First Nation Government  
Community Infrastructure and Services

## **Social Development**

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation receives and administers funds for social assistance. The First Nation has administered its own social programs for a decade. This has included In-home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic Needs.

## **Education**

The **Tantalus School** serves the Carmacks area for grades K-12. The higher grades were introduced in 1986, and since then the number of students graduating has increased noticeably.

The Department of Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation directly for related costs and services, as well as the position of Community Education Liaison Coordinator.

Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building.

## **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funds provide for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for their members through community designed and administered programs.

Other revenue is supplied by other federal or territorial government agencies or by the First Nation's own economic development arm, the Carmacks Development Corp. The First Nation corporation owns and operates the **Northern Tutchone Trading Post** at the north end of the bridge. It is a general store that sells handmade native crafts as well as hunting/fishing licences. The Trading Post also has a post office. This venture and the First Nation office create employment for members.

Future business possibilities are being studied, and negotiations have resumed with Western Copper Holdings for joint ownership in a mine only 25 km. from Carmacks. A chipper has been installed in the new Administration Building, as part of the Alternative Energy Program. The First Nation has hired a local businessman as an economic development advisor to assist in future planning and the proper management of present concerns.

## **Capital**

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

## **First Nation Government**

Indian and Inuit Affairs' Band Support Funding is supplied to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to First Nation membership and provide a central administrative base.

The Chief and Council have portfolios in the following areas:

Economic Development

Recreation

Finance

General Concerns

Housing

## **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation receives money for operation of water, sewer and fire protection services, and for the maintenance of roads and community buildings.

Water and sanitation services in the village have been getting upgraded to a system of piped water with septic fields and drainage.

The older homes, mostly on the river flats, have had problems due to the high water table and overcrowding. The new houses are being built higher up on a plateau above the river, offering better drainage and more space.

Garbage is hauled by the First Nation for members to a community land-fill.

**NA-CHO NY'A'K DUN FIRST NATION\***  
***Mayo, Yukon***

\* the name this First Nation will use when their settlements have passed through Parliament is "The First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun"

**ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 220

Mayo, Yukon

Y0B 1M0

Phone No.: (403) 996-2265

Fax No.: (403) 863-5710

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone of Athapaskan descent

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone Council

**GENERAL**

Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun First Nation inhabits land in and around the village of Mayo. Mayo is located 407 km north of Whitehorse and is surrounded by mountains, numerous lakes, rivers and creeks. The village is situated on the flood plain of the northern bank of the Stewart River, 5 metres above the water level. The area is susceptible to flooding during runoff, but is protected by dikes. The hills and mountains in the area are overgrown with small timber that is cut and hauled to be used locally as firewood.

Historically, Mayo was a fur trade centre; presently there are approximately 78 traplines in the area. When gold and silver were found in local creeks, Mayo Landing emerged as a shipping port and served the mining industry, until a road was built in the 1950s. When the port declined as a result of decreased river traffic, Mayo became a prospecting base for mineral exploration in the surrounding area, rather than a service base.

Mayo's economy includes retail outlets, motels and two transport companies. The tourist trade is beginning to take root in the community, with more public facilities including wilderness, fishing and touring businesses, opening up.

The town functions as a distribution centre for the neighbouring communities of Elsa and Keno, although few people have remained in these towns since the United Keno Hill silver mines closed in 1989. During the winter, only about 18 people remain in Keno.

According to 1992 statistics, the resident population of Mayo is 462. The language distribution is: 83% English, 1% French, 1% German and 15% other.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation's leadership is composed of a Chief and five Councillors

### **QUORUM**

Chief and two Councillors

### **METHOD OF ELECTION**

In the present constitution the Chief, Deputy Chief, and elder are elected by the general membership, and three Councillors are elected by three designated family groups.

### **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The First Nation membership document was approved in September 1987. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nation's office.

### **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The First Nation Final and Self Government Agreements were initialled in June of 1992. The agreements were presented to the First Nation's members for review and ratification in May of 1993. Following that, both the Land Claim and Self Government Agreements were officially signed by Robert Hager, Chief of Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun, Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian and Northern Development, and John Ostashek, Yukon Government Leader, in the signing ceremony of May 29, 1993 in Whitehorse. Legislation is now pending.

### **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Danny Joe, N.D.P., Mayo-Tatchun Riding

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. operates a hydro-electric station with a standby diesel generator.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** All-weather Klondike Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** One pumper plus one 1,000-gallon tanker, 16 volunteers.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, one corporal, two constables, and one native special constable position, vehicles and boat.



**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**BANK:** The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce has an agency operation three times a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Silver Trail Bakery and Cafe, Holly's Place Deli, general store (Mayo Caselot), Mayo Variety store, service stations, Health Centre and Nursing Station, two motels, two Bed and Breakfast facilities, and tourist businesses (tours, fishing and wilderness programs), RV Park, public library.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS:**

First Nation Office/Administration Building  
Houses                      66  
Drop-in Centre/Daycare Complex  
Garage                      2  
Warehouses                2  
Heating Plant

**FIRST NATION LAND**

**ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND: 129.48 Ha. at junction of Stewart and McQuesten River (established 1904?)

LAND SET ASIDE: 298.37 Ha. in and around Mayo and Stewart Crossing.

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 35

RESERVE: 1

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE:**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 - Yukon Region - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	178
On Reserve	0
Off Reserve	<u>235</u>
Total	413

162 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION**

***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Education
- \* Social Development
- \* Capital
- \* Economic Development
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure & Service O & M

The First Nation operates under an Alternative Funding Arrangement.

## **Education**

First Nation members attend school at J.V. Clark School in Mayo. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for the services of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator, and for related costs and services.

Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

The First Nation wants more control over its education system, particularly for improving cultural aspects.

## **Social Development**

The Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The First Nation also receives funds for one social service worker, and has administered its own social assistance program for a decade. This includes In-Home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, Basic Needs and Special Needs programs.

For several years before 1986, the First Nation separate society ran a group home for children, with funding provided by I&IA. Indian and Inuit Affairs now provides per diem funds for children in Yukon government care.

The occupancy level at the Mayo Group Home has decreased in recent years, primarily due to priority placement of children in foster homes rather than group homes. The placement of children continues to be the responsibility of the Yukon government. The First Nation is presently negotiating with the Yukon government for transfer of this responsibility.

The First Nation has completed a Bill C-31 Impact Study.

## **Capital**

The Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs and CMHC. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

## **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Funding is provided for programs, including subsistence, elders' traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community designed and administered programs.

The Silver Trail Bakery and Cafe is a First Nation-owned company.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The primary administrative responsibility lies with the First Nation Manager who directs all personnel, financial issues (other than large capital projects) and program management , with the exception of land claims.

The First Nation prepared an administrative policy manual in 1987 which outlines the responsibilities of the Chief, Council, First Nation staff and general organization. Council members are appointed portfolio responsibilities shortly after an election.

The current portfolios are:

Land Claims

Social Programs

Capital Programs (including housing)

Finance and Administration

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Na-cho Ny'a'k Dun First Nation receives funding for maintenance of roads, and community buildings and for the operation of sanitation, water and fire protection services. The First Nation also receives funding for services performed by the town of Mayo.

During the past few years, a major project to bring water and sewer systems to First Nation residences has been underway. The project is funded by the Village of Mayo, Yukon Territorial Government, and Indian and Inuit Affairs.

**ROSS RIVER DENA COUNCIL\***  
***Ross River, Yukon***

\* the legal name for this First Nation is "Ross River Band"

**ADDRESS:**

General Delivery  
Ross River, Yukon  
Y0B 1P0  
Phone No.: (403) 969-2278/9  
Fax No.: (403) 969-2405

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kaska of Athapaskan descent.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Kaska Tribal Council

**GENERAL**

Ross River is located 360 km northeast of Whitehorse near the junction of the Campbell Highway and the Canol Road, in the Tintina Trench beside the Pelly River. Ross River is a community of about 400 people, 70% of whom are native. The Canol Road intersects the town; native residences are mainly on the eastern side and non-native on the west.

The original native people of the Upper Pelly River area used the Ross River site as a seasonal camp. As prospecting and mining grew in the area, Tlingit control of trade among the Kaskas was broken. A trading post was established near the present site in 1903.

Construction of the Canol road and pipeline in the 1940s opened the area to overland traffic. Government offices were established after the Second World War in Ross River. In 1952, a split occurred in the First Nation and half the members went south to join the Liard River First Nation. The Ross River First Nation was officially recognized by Indian and Inuit Affairs in 1966.

Ross River is an unincorporated community directly administered by the Yukon government. There was an attempt made to have Ross River become a self-administered hamlet, but this was stalled when the Council became worried about First Nation control of land within the proposed village boundary.

The language distribution in Ross River is: 63% English, 7% Kaska, 2% French, 3% German and 25% others.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Ross River Dena Council's leadership is composed of a Chief, an Elder Councillor and three Councillors

### **QUORUM**

Three members of council

### **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Franchise is extended to First Nation members at age 16 for election of Chief and Council. Elected terms are for three years. The last election was held in June 1993.

### **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Willard Phelps, Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister of Justice, Yukon Party, Ross River Southern Lakes Riding

### **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

A draft code was not acceptable to Indian and Inuit Affairs. The First Nation is continuing to work on a final version.

### **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Ross River Dena Council is a participant in the Council for Yukon Indians Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** A transmission line from the Whitehorse Dam is administered by the Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. There are also three standby diesel generating units.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** Unpaved all-weather Campbell Highway from Carmacks to Watson Lake.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Volunteer department with pumper, hoses, breathing equipment; water supply is the Pelly River.

## FIRST NATION PROFILES

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**POLICE:** An RCMP detachment with one corporal, one constable, and one native special constable, equipped with snowmobiles, a boat and two vehicles.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week to the post-office.

**BANKS:** CIBC has an agency operation in Ross River, open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** A hotel (23 rooms), gas/service stations, and a licensed restaurant are open for public use. There are two general stores in the community, one of which one is operated by the First Nation.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funds provide for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for members through community designed and administered programs.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building

Workshop

Garage 2

Group Home

Community Hall

Drop-in Centre

Cultural Centre

Warehouse

Houses 76

Washroom

### **FIRST NATION LAND**

#### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE: None

LAND SET ASIDE: 44.72 Ha. in and around the community of Ross River, set aside between 1965 and 1992.

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 16

### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

#### **AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 (STATUS ONLY)**

On Crown Land 273

On Reserve 0

Off Reserve 100

Total **373**

29 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

## **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The economy of Ross River is based mostly on trapping, forestry, guiding, mineral exploration expediting and First Nation office employment. Half of all employed First Nation members are employed by the administration office.

## **PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

### ***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services O&M

## **Social Development**

The Ross River Dena Council receives funding from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The Council has administered its own social program for over a decade. This includes In-home Adult Care, Elders' Wood, Basic Needs and Special Needs.

## **Education**

The Ross River School serves the community from grades K-10. Students must finish high school in Watson Lake or Whitehorse.

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the Council directly for the services of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator and for related costs and services. Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support from the First Nations' Education Program in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

Yukon College also operates a Community Learning Centre offering technical and trades courses for adults. There has been continual growth in attendance.

## **Economic Development**

The Ross River Dena Development Corporation is the Council's business development arm. This First Nation-owned company owns and operates a general store.

The Council wants to expand the tourism business to include a wilderness touring operation. Surveys show that although the number of tourists visiting the area is small (2% of the Yukon total), the average stay is 15 days.



## **Capital**

The Ross River Dena Council provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

## **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the elected Council to administer its responsibilities to its membership and to create a central administrative base.

The Chief and Council have portfolios in the following areas:

Political/First Nation Affairs

Social Development

Economic Development/Capital

Education/Recreation

Land Claims/Uses

## **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Ross River Dena Council receives funding for maintenance of roads and community buildings, and for the operation of sanitation, water and fire protection services. Water is delivered by truck three times a week from a new filtration well to all houses in the community.

The sanitation system includes individual and group septic tanks, subsurface tile fields and out-houses.

**SELKIRK FIRST NATION**  
***Pelly Crossing, Yukon***

**ADDRESS:**

General Delivery  
Pelly Crossing, Yukon  
Y0B 1P0  
Phone No.: (403) 537-3331  
Fax No.: (403) 537-3902

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone of Athapaskan descent.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL AFFILIATION**

Northern Tutchone Council

**GENERAL**

The Selkirk people originally led a nomadic life, migrating annually in search of food sources in the lower Pelly River area. When Fort Selkirk was established in the 1860s, First Nation members began settling there because of the availability of jobs and facilities.

Pelly Crossing was originally a ferry crossing and construction camp for highway workers, but lost its economic base when construction ended in the '50s. After the Klondike Highway was built, Fort Selkirk was abandoned. The First Nation was first moved to Minto and finally to the present location of Pelly Crossing by DIA in an effort to centralize and for administrative expediency.

Currently, there are about 270 people living in Pelly Crossing, most of them native. The language distribution is: 64% English, 36% Kutchin. Pelly Crossing is a community administered by the Selkirk First Nation Council.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation's leadership is composed of two Co-Chiefs and four Councillors

**QUORUM**

Any four members of Council

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Selkirk First Nation has developed their membership code and it is now part of their constitution. Inquiries regarding membership should be referred to the First Nation's office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Selkirk First Nation is a participant in the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. Selkirk First Nation is now actively negotiating a settlement.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Willard Phelps, Minister of Health and Social Services, Yukon Party, Ross River Southern Lakes Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Two diesel generators are run by Yukon Electrical Company Ltd.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The all-weather Klondike Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fire chief, six volunteers, pumper-truck, portable pump, 4,500-litre water tank, protected river water-hole.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment with one corporal, one constable, one boat, one vehicle and two snowmobiles.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

**BANKS:** All banking is done by mail or phone.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Gas station with store, garage.

## **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building

Cultural Centre

Arena

Youth Centre

Garage 2

Workshop

Community Hall (including 2 suites reserved for Yukon government officials)

Washhouse

Houses 77

Warehouse

Carpentry Shop

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	254
On Reserve	2
Off Reserve	<u>206</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>462</b>

130 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The employment opportunities in Pelly Crossing have always been limited, with little economic activity in the area. The only long-term employer is the First Nation office, with about 20 employees. Selkirk First Nation is looking at ways to stimulate the economy and to improve the employment rate through education and small business assistance.

**FIRST NATION LAND**

*ACREAGE AND STATUS*

RESERVE LAND: None.

LAND SET ASIDE: 310.82 Ha. in and around Pelly Crossing

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 22

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION**

***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Services O & M

**Social Development**

The Selkirk First Nation receives and administers funds for social assistance. The First Nation has administered its own social development program for over a decade. This includes In-Home Adult Care, Elders' firewood and Basic and Special Needs Assistance.

**Education**

Students can attend grades K-12 at the Eliza Van Bibber School in the community. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the Selkirk First Nation directly for related costs and services, and for the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator (CELC).

In May of 1993, two grade 12 students graduated from the school for the first time in its history. Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

The First Nation foresees the need for higher education and job training, in order to administer programs and develop the community economy as its adult population increases.

### **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). The funding provides for subsistence, elders' and traditional and cultural activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community designed and administered programs.

The First Nation Council is increasing its emphasis on the importance of proper management skills training to enhance long-term economic development.

### **Capital**

The First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to its members. Capital funding is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs and Yukon Government. The funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to carry out its responsibilities to membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The Council structure has changed, with the creation of the two Chief system, both who handle different duties. One Chief is responsible for administration and day-to-day affairs, while the other handles long-term planning in areas such as land claims.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Selkirk First Nation receives funding for the operation of water, sewer and fire protection services, and for the maintenance of community buildings and roads. The community of Pelly Crossing has 50 private well/septic tank systems. Other families haul water from neighbours' wells and use out-houses for sanitation. There is no reservoir.

Garbage is hauled to the local dump by the First Nation for members. The First Nation Council is considering upgrading and re-designing the village layout for increased efficiency, safety and health.

**TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION**  
***Atlin, B.C.***

**ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 132

Atlin, B.C.

VOW 1A0

Phone No.: (604) 651-7615

Fax No.: (604) 651-7714

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Tlingit - West Coast

**GENERAL**

Atlin is in northern British Columbia, approximately 100 km. south of Jakes Corner in the Yukon. It has a population of approximately 500. The town of Atlin has existed since 1898 with mining as its prime economy. The beautiful mountains surrounding Big Atlin Lake make this community one of the most scenic areas of the region. Its nickname is "Little Switzerland."

The Tlingit people came from the Alaskan coast into Teslin, Atlin and Carcross - and had some influence in the Tahltan area of B.C. The original Tlingits travelled from Juneau, Alaska along the Taku River basin in search of fur to trade with the Russian traders of Alaska. Some of the Tlingits settled in the Atlin area. The Tlingit traditions and culture brought over from the coastal region are strongly practised by the Atlin people.

The Taku River Tlingits were known as the Atlin-Teslin Indian Band until a separation in 1964. Teslin people joined the Teslin Tlingit Council. Most Atlin-area First Nation people remained with the Taku River Tlingits, although some joined the Carcross/Tagish First Nations.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Spokesperson, an Advisor, and four Clan Directors. Both the Spokesperson and Clan Directors follow the advice and direction of the Elders Council.

**QUORUM**

Spokesperson and two clan directors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Under the Clan system, all directors are appointed by their respective clans, no elections are held.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The Taku River Tlingit First Nation has developed its own membership code. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be referred to the First Nation's office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The First Nation is not a participant in the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. Active talks with respect to land claims/self-government negotiations with both federal and B.C. governments are being held. The Taku River Tlingits had been part of the Trans Boundary Claim Sub-Agreement, allowing them to negotiate on a First Nation to First Nation basis.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Power is supplied by B.C. Hydro from a diesel generating station in Atlin. A hydro transmission line runs past the reserve.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** A 100-kilometre all-weather gravel road joins Atlin to the Alaska Highway at Jakes Corner, Yukon.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Volunteer fire department, pumper truck with 6,300 litre water tank.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment in Atlin

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is delivered three times a week. The post office has a box service. A local delivery firm also provides a courier service.

**BANK:** Banking is done in Whitehorse.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** The facilities in the community include: 3 motel/hotels; 1 service station/garage; 2 private campgrounds; 1 government maintained campground; 1 laundromat; 1 liquor store and 3 cafe/restaurants, 2 bed and breakfast establishments, 2 grocery stores, one general store, government office and a visitor information centre.



## **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Houses        31  
Administration Complex  
Education Office  
Daycare Facility  
Community Centre

## **FIRST NATION LAND**

### ***ACREAGE AND STATUS***

RESERVE LAND: 1,278.20 Ha. - in and around Atlin

LAND SET ASIDE: 1.569 Ha. - in and around Atlin

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 4

RESERVES: 10

## **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

### ***AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 (STATUS ONLY)***

On Crown Land	19
On Reserve	83
Off Reserve	<u>237</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>

174 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

## **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Employment is almost completely seasonal, with the exception of First Nation office work. Many First Nation members leave the area in order to find work in the Yukon or southern B.C.

## **PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

### ***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service

## **Social Development**

The First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. They are funded for one social service worker, and have administered their own social development program for about a dozen years. This has included In-Home Adult Care, and Basic and Special Needs programs.

## **Education**

Students can attend kindergarten to grade 9 in the community. Secondary school students move to Whitehorse or Vancouver to further their education. Indian and Inuit Affairs provides funding to the First Nation for the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator and related costs and services.

First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building.

## **Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). A \$3.6 million Alternate Funding Arrangement was signed in November 1992, giving the First Nation more control over the setting and administering of its finances. The Taku River Tlingit Clan Directors are now responsible for developing and managing a full range of programs for its members, such as social development, capital works, community services, financial management, and in education, guidance counselling services and the provision of student supplies.

Programs provided for include: subsistence, traditional, cultural and elders' activities, as well as economic development enterprises. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community-designed and administered programs.

**Taku River Tlingit Holdings Co.** is the economic development arm of the First Nation. It plays a major role in the First Nation economy, and in the preparation for a land claims settlement.

Businesses held by the company include a sawmill and construction division; also they administer non-profit maintenance and social development programs. For a small commission, the company will help independent small businesses.

## **Capital**

The Taku River Tlingit First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

## **First Nation Government**

Funding is provided to the First Nation to administer its responsibilities to the general membership, and to provide a central administrative base.

## **Community Infrastructure**

Community Infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Taku River Tlingits receive funding for operation of water, sewer and fire protection services, and for the maintenance of community buildings and roads.

Water delivery service is supplied to First Nation residences since the First Nation constructed a pumphouse with a water intake system from the lake, completed in 1993. The intake system, and pumphouse also includes a water treatment system; the construction projects used \$400,000 in Green Plan funding, which also provided a water truck for delivery.

Garbage disposal is in an open dump. The First Nation provides a collection service by truck to members.

**TESLIN TLINGIT COUNCIL**  
*Teslin, Yukon*

**ADDRESS:**

Box 133  
Teslin, Yukon  
Y0A 1B0  
Phone No.: (403) 390-2532  
Fax No.: (403) 390-2204

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Tlingit

**GENERAL**

The present location of the Teslin Indian village was a traditional summer camp site. Tlingit people came over from the Alaskan coast into Teslin, Carcross and Atlin, B.C. and had some influence in the Tahltan area of B.C. The original Tlingits travelled from Juneau, Alaska along the Taku River basin in search of fur to trade with the Russian traders of Alaska. Some of the Tlingits settled in the Teslin area at Nisutlin Bay around the Taylor and Drury trading post site.

After the Alaska Highway was built in 1942, the community of Teslin became more permanent.

The Tlingit tradition and culture, brought over from the coastal region, is strongly practised and taught today by the Teslin Tlingit Council citizens. This tradition influenced the change in the structure of the First Nation government and in elections.

Teslin Tlingit Council citizens live mainly in the southwest section of the village of Teslin, though with the arrival of Bill C-31 members the population has expanded into the Fox Point area. The Teslin community has a resident population of 465, according to 1992 population figures.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Clan leadership is composed of a Chief and five Councillors

**QUORUM**

Any four members of Council

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

In 1988 the Tlingit Council passed a constitution which included adoption of a more traditional system involving the elders of the five clans. The elders each pick a representative at the Council level. The chosen five appoint a Chief and Deputy Chief, and the remaining three are councillors.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The membership code is under First Nation control. Inquiries regarding membership should therefore be directed to the First Nation's office.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

The Teslin Tlingit Council completed negotiations with the Governments of Canada and the Yukon for its Final Land Claim and Self Government Agreements on November 6, 1992. Ratification of both Agreements has been approved by all Clans within the Teslin Tlingit Council. Both Agreements were officially signed by David Keenan, Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council, Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian and Northern Development, and John Ostashek, Yukon Government Leader, on May 29, 1993. Legislation is pending.

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Willard Phelps, Minister of Health and Human Resources, Yukon Party, Ross River Southern Lakes Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. distributes main power from Whitehorse Dam. Generator backup.

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** All-weather paved Alaska Highway.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Volunteer fire department with pumper, hoses, ladders, etc. St. John Ambulance First Aid and CPR is taught to fire fighters.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment, one corporal, two constables, cars and boat. Teslin has always been strongly supportive of the Tribal Police Program, and may become a participant.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is trucked in three times a week.

## FIRST NATION PROFILES

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**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** All facilities are available, including two motels, gas stations, tourist commercial campgrounds and food outlets. The First Nation operates a coin laundromat and showers servicing its members and the public.

**BANK:** Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce commutes to the community every second Wednesday for services between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Buildings 3  
Long House (Cultural Centre)  
Workshop  
Washroom  
Community Hall  
Recreation Centre  
Drop-In Centre  
Houses 114  
Garage  
Warehouse

### **FIRST NATION LAND**

#### ***ACREAGE AND STATUS***

RESERVE LAND: 185.88 Ha. - in and around Teslin

LAND SET ASIDE: 2,597.20 Ha. - in and around Teslin

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 19

RESERVES: 3

### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

***AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)***

On Crown Land 73

On Reserve 181

Off Reserve 240

Total **494**

192 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of Dec. 30, 1993.

### **PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

#### ***FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY  
THE FIRST NATION**  
*FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS*

Social Development

Education

First Nation Government

Capital

Community Infrastructure O & M

Economic Development

**Education**

The Teslin School serves students from grades K-9. Students move to Whitehorse to complete high school. About 20% of First Nation members complete grade 12. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for related costs and services and the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator. Status First Nation members may apply for post secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse. As of the 1991/92 term, five Bill C-31 members were being funded. The First Nation plans to focus on obtaining further education and training programs for members, to meet administration demands and other related job needs resulting from a land claim settlement.

**Capital**

The Teslin Tlingit Council provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs and CMHC. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

**Social Development**

The First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The First Nation has administered its social program for some time. This has included In-Home Adult Care and Basic and Special Needs programs.

**Economic Development**

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs provided for include economic development enterprises as well as subsistence, elders and traditional and cultural activities. The goal is to develop long-term employment for First Nation members through community-designed and administered programs.



In Teslin, the largest employer is the First Nation office. Most businesses in and around Teslin are owned by non-natives. The First Nation has committed itself to a restructuring of its economic development system. The plan is to establish a First Nation-owned company to organize First Nation businesses and opportunities, offer assistance to individuals opening small businesses, and to provide training for management positions. The First Nation is also considering Teslin's tourism potential.

The increase in the Teslin First Nation size and growth due to Bill C-31 member may aid the economy - the market size is growing and many new members are bringing skills and experience to the First Nation.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to members and to provide a central administrative base. Indian and Inuit Affairs provides funding for Indian Management Development to enable the First Nation to develop Comprehensive Management Development plans and to provide specific management training and development for Chief and Council, senior First Nation management, First Nation staff and the First Nation electorate. The First Nation Council makes major decisions as a group, and does not use a portfolio system.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Teslin First Nation receives funding for maintenance of roads and community buildings, and for the operation of water, sewer and fire protection services. The First Nation organizes delivery of chlorinated water by truck from a well at the townsite. Some First Nation residences receive a piped water supply from private wells.

Sewage collection facilities for most of the village and Reserve #13 is through a piped sewer system. Mains drain to two lift stations with holding tanks; trucks take sewage to two anaerobic and two aerobic cells with capacities for 2.5 million and 3.5 million litres. Some First Nation homes have outhouses instead of being on the town system, although plans have been finalized for an extension of the existing system.

Garbage disposal is in an open dump with truck collection supplied by the First Nation for its members.

### **LEGAL STATUS OF COMMUNITY**

Teslin is incorporated under the Municipal Act as a village with an elected council, on which some First Nation members sit.

**VUNTUT GWITCHIN TRIBAL COUNCIL**  
***Old Crow, Yukon\****

\* the name that will be used when their settlements have passed through Parliament is "Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation"

**Address:**

General Delivery

Old Crow, Yukon

Y0B 1N0

Phone No.: (403) 966-3261  
966-3037

Fax No.: (403) 966-3800

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Kutchin of Athapaskan descent.

**GENERAL**

The existence of people in Old Crow has been traced back 30,000 years, and according to archaeological evidence it may be the earliest civilization in North America.

The native people of the Old Crow area originally settled at Fort Yukon at the mouth of the Porcupine River in 1840, because of the trading posts on the river. When the Canada/U.S. border was established in 1867, the Vunta Kutchin people moved to Rampart House, a trading post just inside the border.

The present location of Old Crow, further north from that site, was chosen because of its unique hunting and fishing location, near major spring caribou crossing places - also it had been a gathering spot for families going down the Porcupine to trade. Until the 1950's people wintered in small camps along the river, however, after the building of a store and a public school at Old Crow the present community became a year-round settlement.

The community is about 800 km north of Whitehorse, inside the Arctic Circle. It is accessible only by air, or by boat in summer from Fort Yukon, Alaska.

Because of its isolation, the community of Old Crow has been somewhat protected from the "outside" influence of western culture. First Nation members have resisted pressures of the more dominant society in an effort to maximize preservation of their way of life.

A new national park has been created in the Old Crow Flats region, named **Vuntut National Park**. The park's creation was part of the settlement of the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive land claim, signed on May 29, 1993. The park will be managed cooperatively with the Vuntut Gwitchin, whose ownership also extends to the Flats outside the park's boundaries.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Vuntut Gwitchin leadership is composed of a Chief and four Councillors

## **QUORUM**

Chief (or Deputy Chief) and two Councillors

## **METHOD OF ELECTION**

Franchise is extended to First Nation members aged 16 and over. The term for Chief and Council is two years. The last election was held in November 1992.

## **MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The First Nation has not yet developed its own membership code.

## **LAND CLAIMS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT**

This First Nation was the first to complete negotiations for First Nation Final and Self Government Agreements on May 31, 1992. The ratification vote of May 5, 1993 was 97% in favour of accepting their land claim package. Both Agreements were officially signed by Robert Bruce Jr., Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council, Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and John Ostashek, Yukon Government Leader, on May 29, 1993. Legislation is pending. The

## **GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Johnny Abel, Yukon Party, Vuntut Gwitchin Riding

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. supplies power via a diesel generating plant.

**MAIN TRANSPORTATION:** Supplies are shipped by air freight.

## **FIRST NATION PROFILES**

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**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Six volunteers, tanker and pump. Fire fighters are trained in First Aid and CPR.

**POLICE:** RCMP detachment with one corporal, one constable and one native special constable.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is flown in three times a week

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Old Crow Co-op store, restaurant, limited accommodations at Nukon Cabins.

**BANK:** Banking is done at a Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce branch located in the Old Crow Co-op. The CIBC has an agency operation contract with the Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council, and the hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### **CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building  
Housing Units        102  
Community Hall  
Fire Hall  
Workshop  
Warehouse  
Garages                2  
Cultural Centre  
Drop-In Centre

### **FIRST NATION LAND**

#### **ACREAGE AND STATUS**

RESERVE LAND:    0  
LAND SET ASIDE: 37.46 Ha. in and around Old Crow  
PARCELS SET ASIDE:    12

### **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1993 - Yukon Region (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land    228  
On Reserve        0  
Off Reserve       156  
Total                **384**

105 First Nation members were reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

### **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

The Vuntut Gwitchin have a traditional subsistence-based economy. The main income is from trapping, hunting and fishing in and around Old Crow Flats, to the north of town.

Wage employment is derived from First Nation-run businesses and projects, seasonal government jobs, housing construction and maintenance, First Nation administration, janitorial and co-op store positions.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION  
*FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS***

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service

**Social Development**

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. It has administered its own program for more than a decade, which has included In-Home Adult Care, and Basic and Special Needs programs. The First Nation is also funded for one half-time social service worker position.

In July of 1991, a vote was taken to prohibit alcohol in the community.

**Education**

The **Chief Zzeh Gittlit School**, operated by the Yukon Government, offers grades K-10. Most students move to Whitehorse to complete high school. Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation for costs and services, and the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator.

Status First Nation members may apply for post-secondary education support through the First Nations' Education Program in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building.

The First Nation plans to focus on training and further education for members, to meet demands in administration and other employment related to land claims settlement.

**Economic Development**

The First Nation set up the Vuntut Gwitchin Economic Development Corporation to oversee the Community's economic future.

The Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council also owns the Old Crow Co-operative Association, and a 50% share in Nukon Cabins Ltd. The co-op runs a store. Firms privately owned by First Nation members include several service and craft-oriented businesses.

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs provided for include economic development enterprises, as well as subsistence, traditional and cultural activities. The goal is to develop community-designed and administered programs.

### **Capital**

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through the Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs and CMHC. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets, as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation Council to administer its responsibilities to members, and to provide a central administrative base.

Funding for Indian Management Development and Comprehensive Community Based Planning is provided to enable the First Nation to develop Comprehensive Management Development plans, and to provide specific management training and development for Chief and Council, senior First Nation management, staff and the electorate.

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The Vuntut Gwitchin Council receives funding for operation of water, sewer, and fire protection services, as well as maintenance of community buildings and roads.

Because Old Crow is so isolated, Indian and Inuit Affairs also helps fund the cost of air-freight and materials associated with capital projects and community infrastructure, under the Special Access Funding program.

An artesian water well was drilled in 1982, yielding good quality water. Water is delivered to households by truck.

**WHITE RIVER FIRST NATION**  
***Beaver Creek, Yukon***

**ADDRESS:**

General Delivery  
Beaver Creek, Yukon  
Y0B 1A0  
Phone No.: (403) 862-7802  
Fax No.: (403) 862-7806

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION**

Upper Tanana.

**GENERAL**

The area has been inhabited for over 10,000 years and was a homeland for the Upper Tanana people who made stop-over camps during seasonal migration in search of food. Beaver Creek was originally a camp for teams surveying the Canada-Alaska border from 1907 to 1913.

Prospectors soon followed, and mining remains of major interest today. In 1955 the Canada Customs post was built (approximately 32 kms. from the border by road), a post office was established in 1958 and the community began to develop.

Today, Beaver Creek is strongly linked to the Alaska Highway and the seasonal stream of tourists generated by the highway. The Highway had an enormous impact on the native population, which is only being recounted in the recent past. The town is mainly non-native with a total 1992 population of 114. The language distribution is 82% English, 12% Tanana and 6% others.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The First Nation leadership is composed of a Chief and three Councillors

**QUORUM**

Any two members of Council

**METHOD OF ELECTION**

All members living in the Yukon over 16 years of age are eligible to vote in the White River elections. Terms are two years in length. The last election was held on July 5, 1993.



**MEMBERSHIP CODE**

The White River First Nation does not control its own membership code.

**LAND CLAIMS**

The White River First Nation is part of the Council for Yukon Indians' Comprehensive Land Claims Settlement. It is now preparing for negotiations.

**GOVERNMENT OF YUKON TERRITORY**

M.L.A.: The Honourable Bill Brewster, Minister of Renewable Resources,  
Yukon Party, Kluane Riding

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**ELECTRICITY:** The community is supplied with power by diesel generators

**MAIN RESUPPLY:** The paved all-weather Alaska Highway

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Beaver Creek has a fire chief and volunteers serving the community with a pumper truck and a 6,819 litre tanker; 4,546 litre tank in fire hall.

**POLICE:** The Beaver Creek area has an RCMP detachment of one corporal and one constable.

**POST OFFICE:** Mail is delivered to the community three times a week.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** four motel/campgrounds, two restaurants, and three service stations.

**BANKS:** The CIBC Bank operates twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m.

**CURRENT INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS**

Administration Building	
Warehouses	2
Houses	13

**FIRST NATION LAND*****ACREAGE AND STATUS***

RESERVE LAND: 0

LAND SET ASIDE: 35.174 Ha. - in and around Beaver Creek

PARCELS SET ASIDE: 12

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

*AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1992 (STATUS ONLY)*

On Crown Land	40
On Reserve	0
Off Reserve	<u>73</u>
Total	113

1 First Nation member was reinstated under Bill C-31 as of December 30, 1993.

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Some full-time employment is available through the First Nation office, as well as seasonal work in the tourism industry. Many members are self-employed, hunting and trapping for subsistence.

**PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE FIRST NATION**

*FUNDED BY INDIAN AND INUIT AFFAIRS*

- \* Social Development
- \* Education
- \* Economic Development
- \* Capital
- \* First Nation Government
- \* Community Infrastructure and Service

**Social Development**

The White River First Nation receives funds from Indian and Inuit Affairs for social assistance. The program includes In-home Adult Care, Elders' Fuel, and Basic and Special Needs Assistance.

**Education**

Indian and Inuit Affairs funds the First Nation directly for related costs and services and the position of a Community Education Liaison Coordinator. Students can attend kindergarten to grade 8 at the **Beaver Creek School** and complete secondary school in Haines Junction or Whitehorse. Status members may apply for post-secondary education support from the First Nations' Education Program located in the Council for Yukon Indians' Building, Nisutlin Drive, Whitehorse.

**Economic Development**

Beaver Creek is a Canada Customs Port of Entry, and exists primarily as a tourist and transport/communications centre.

The First Nation receives funding under the Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS). Programs are administered to provide for economic development enterprises, subsistence, elders' needs, and traditional and cultural activities.

A small native crafts store is operated in Beaver Creek.

### **Capital**

The White River First Nation provides housing and a variety of municipal-type services to members. Capital funding is provided through CMHC and the Program Planning and Allocation Unit of Indian and Inuit Affairs. This funding provides for the planning, design and construction of First Nation assets as well as financial resources for the operation and maintenance of these assets.

### **First Nation Government**

Band Support Funding is provided to the First Nation to administer its responsibilities to First Nation membership and to provide a central administrative base.

The Chief and Council have portfolios in the following areas:

Executive Director and Finance

Renewable Resources

Elders' Programs

Social Development

Economic Development/Capital Projects/Infrastructure

### **Community Infrastructure**

Community infrastructure for First Nations is funded by Indian and Inuit Affairs. The White River First Nation receives funding for maintenance of roads and community buildings, as well as municipal and fire protection services.

The water/sewer system at Beaver Creek is a combination of wells and out-houses for some residences and a storage tank with a common septic field for the remainder.

White River members haul their own garbage to the community dump.

## APPENDIX

## **COUNCIL FOR YUKON INDIANS**

The Council for Yukon Indians (CYI) was established late in 1973 to represent both status and non-status Indians in the negotiation of a joint land claim. At this same point, both the Yukon Native Brotherhood (YNB) and Yukon Association of Non-Status Indian (YANSI) were occupied with their own separate responsibilities, and had neither the time nor the resources to undertake negotiations. In 1980, a historic occasion in the history of Canadian Indian political development took place when the YNB and YANSI rejected the provisions of Indian Act and amalgamated under the name of the Council for Yukon Indians. The CYI assumed all the functions of the two former organizations. It also provides programs related to social housing, legal matters and education.

## **ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT**

### **Introduction**

For Canada's Aboriginal peoples -- Indian, Inuit and Métis -- self-government answers two deeply felt needs: to regain control over the management of matters that directly affect them and to preserve their cultural identities.

The Government of Canada has, for several years, worked to develop a new relationship with Aboriginal peoples in Canada. It has responded to Aboriginal aspirations with a number of initiatives aimed at increasing self-reliance and autonomy.

### **Constitutional Process**

In 1982, when the Canadian Constitution was patriated, several provisions within it related to Aboriginal people, including Section 35 which recognized and affirmed existing Aboriginal and treaty rights. Four constitutional conferences were held between 1983 and 1987 to attempt to further define those rights.

The first amendments to Canada's Constitution were agreed to at the 1983 conference. These included recognition of rights arising from land claims and a commitment to include Aboriginal people in constitutional conferences dealing with their rights.

In the conferences that followed, Aboriginal self-government emerged as a dominant issue. A federal proposal for a self-government amendment was the focus of the 1987 conference. It proposed to recognize, within the Constitution, the explicit rights of Aboriginal peoples to self-government, and would have been implemented through negotiated agreements among the federal and provincial governments, and the Aboriginal communities concerned. The proposal did not receive sufficient support from provincial governments and Aboriginal groups.

In 1990, another attempt at constitutional reform, including Aboriginal constitutional reform, was blocked following the failure to ratify the Meech Lake Accord. Despite this, the Prime Minister, in September 1990, reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to increasing Aboriginal capacity for self-government within the framework of the Canadian Constitution and announced "a thorough review of the fundamental place and role of Aboriginal peoples in contemporary Canada."

Probably one of the most significant achievements in this area involved last year's efforts at further constitutional reform, during which Aboriginal leaders were, for the first time, active participants in efforts to draft a new constitution.

Although public consensus was not reached on the Charlottetown Accord which followed, the process resulted in real progress in redefining the role of Aboriginal people in Canadian society.

### **Community-based Self-government**

The federal government's policy on **Community-Based Self-Government Negotiations** was announced in April 1986. Community self-government agreements are non-constitutional initiatives negotiated within the framework of the existing Constitution. They substantially increase local control and decision-making and provide significantly more scope for community government than is possible under the *Indian Act*.

The objective of community self-government negotiations is to develop a new relationship between First Nations communities and the federal government by working out practical new arrangements for Indian government at the community level.

The negotiation process, entirely community-driven, is based on a number of principles. Negotiations are conducted in accordance with Cabinet-approved guidelines. Self-government agreements are tailored to meet the unique political, social and cultural circumstances of each community and lead to significantly greater accountability by First Nations governments to their own people rather than to federal authorities.

A broad range of topics -- such as institutions and procedures of government, membership, legal status and capacity, land and resource management, and financial arrangements -- can be negotiated, and can include other key aspects of community life such as education, health, social and welfare services, culture, environment and the administration of justice.

The federal government has no blueprint or model for community self-government. It develops policy options in response to concrete proposals from communities in the negotiations process.

The community makes the decision to negotiate self-government agreements, and generally, the negotiation process follows these basic steps:

- Consultations and discussions are held with the community.
- The federal government, the community and the provincial government (as appropriate) begin work on a framework which includes the issues to be negotiated as well as a schedule and workplan for the negotiations.



- Following the establishment of a framework agreement, substantive negotiations begin on the details of a proposed self-government arrangement. The resulting agreement is then submitted to the community and the federal Cabinet for formal ratification.
- Once ratified by the community and the federal government, legislation is drafted which will give effect to the new arrangement.
- Finally, once legislation is passed, the process of implementing the self-government agreement begins. This process can take place over a number of years.

Currently, there are two examples of community self-government legislation: the *Cree Naskapi (of Quebec) Act* and the *Sechelt Indian Band Self-Government Act*. The former was passed in 1984 and applies to nine bands in northern Quebec; the latter was passed in 1986 and applies to the Sechelt Band in British Columbia. Both provide very different examples of community self-government and are the result of intensive work over several years. Both were enacted before the official policy statement on community self-government negotiations.

At the national level, some 44 First Nations are involved in 15 community self-government projects which should lead to new arrangements.

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This is one of a series of information sheets produced by the Communications Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. For information sheets on other topics, contact:

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## **A CHRONOLOGY OF THE CYI COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIM**

1970 - The Yukon Native Brotherhood (YNB) is formed to represent status Indians;

1972 - The Yukon Association for Non-Status Indians (YANSI) is formed;

1973 - The Council for Yukon Indians is established late in 1973 to represent status and non-status Indians in the negotiation of a joint land claim. CYI's land claim proposal, entitled *Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow*, is accepted by the Federal government for negotiation;

1980 - YNB, YANSI and CYI amalgamate to form a single entity, and retain the name Council for Yukon Indians. An Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) is reached between CYI and Federal and Territorial negotiators. The AIP is subsequently ratified by the Federal and Territorial governments, but rejected by the CYI General Assembly. Insufficient land quantum, the requirement for extinguishment of aboriginal title, and the absence of provisions respecting self-government are the primary reasons for its rejection;

1985 - The Federal *Task Force to Review Comprehensive Claims Policy* recommends changes to the federal land claim negotiating policy, including a recommendation of concurrent negotiation of self-government agreements;

1986 - The federal government announces its revised Comprehensive Land Claims Policy, incorporating many of the recommendations of the Federal Task Force Report, including provision for the negotiation of self-government agreements;

1987 - As negotiations resume, a new mandate for the negotiation of the CYI Comprehensive Claim is issued by Federal Cabinet under the revised Comprehensive Claim Policy;

1989 - In March, a new Agreement-In-Principle is ratified by Canada, the Yukon Territory and the Council for Yukon Indians. Its provisions include:

- \$242.6 million in compensation;
- 16,000 square miles of Settlement land over which aboriginal title is retained;
- participation on various land and wildlife boards and committees;
- subject matter to be addressed during the negotiation of individual Yukon First Nation Self-Government Agreements;
- federal ratification also provides for the negotiation of an Umbrella Final Agreement or UFA to include provisions common to all Yukon First Nations.

1991 - The Yukon First Nations ratify, in principle, the Umbrella Final Land Claim Agreement at their General Assembly;

1992 - On May 30, 1992 the UFA is initialled by negotiators for CYI, the Federal and Territorial governments. The UFA provides a common framework for the negotiation of separate land claim and self-government agreements with each of the 14 Yukon First Nations;

1992 - Between May and November, negotiators initial Final Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements on behalf of Canada, Yukon Territory, and the first four Yukon First Nations (Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council, Na-Cho Ny'A'K Dun First Nation; Champagne and Aishihik First Nations; and Teslin Tlingit Council);

1993 - On March 17, the Yukon Territory Legislative Assembly passes enabling legislation, ratifying Yukon First Nation Final Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements. The bills, entitled An Act Approving Yukon Land Claim Final Agreements and First Nations (Yukon) Self-Government Act are accompanied by the Vuntut Gwitchin Agreements;

In May, The Vuntut Gwitchin Tribal Council ratifies its Final Land Claim and Self-Government Agreements. It is the last of the first four Yukon First Nations to complete ratification, clearing the way for Federal Cabinet approval for the drafting of Yukon Land Claim and Self-Government legislation for presentation to Parliament.

On May 29th, in an outdoor ceremony in Whitehorse, the political representatives of Canada, the Yukon Territory, and four Yukon First Nations officially meet to sign the First Nation Final (Land Claim) and Self-Government Agreements. Canada and the Yukon Territory, together with the Chair of the Council for Yukon Indians, also sign the Umbrella Final Agreement.

