



# VGEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER  
of the  
VUNTUT GWITCHIN  
GOVERNMENT



November  
"Sheep Month"

*Divii Zrii*

Issue #06, Volume #02

November 2003

**WELCOME  
HOME  
AIDAN!**



### Proud Parents

Robert Kaye and  
Megan Williams with  
Aidan, born in  
Whitehorse on  
November 15th, 2003

**Aidan Williams-Kyikavichik,**  
7lbs, 13ozs at birth, flew home  
to Old Crow with his mom on  
November 21st

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**VGFN  
NEWS**  
NEWSLETTER  
of the  
**VUNTUT GWITCHIN  
GOVERNMENT**

VGFN News is the monthly  
Newsletter of the Vuntut Gwitchin  
First Nation Self-Government in Old  
Crow, Yukon, Canada.  
Contributions to VGFN News are by  
the employees of VGFN.

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**VGFN Chief & Council**

**Chief:** Joe Linklater  
**Deputy Chief:** Roger Kyikavichik  
**Councilors:** Glenna Tetlich  
William Josie  
Esau Schafer

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## **Cheryl Itsi-Charlie**

### **Director, Human Resources**

The Human Resource Department has been very busy with training programs for the community members. We sponsored the following areas to ensure that the community is trained to re-enter the workforce.

- Aviation Program
- 29 Summer Students
- Oil & Gas Ticket Upgrades
- Floor hand Program
- Driver Training
- Monitor Training
- Daycare Project
- Plumbing Program

If community members call requesting training, I will get them to set up the training so they play a part in getting their program prepared. So far it's been working and it has helped clients to feel good about the time they contributed.

The Dri Nin Tsul Dayhome (DNSD) is under the operation of the Human Resource Department. We cover funds for 2 part-time workers as well as maintain the building. We have 8 children registered in the dayhome. I supervise the workers that are employed at the DNTD. I will be posting for a part-time worker soon as 1 worker is leaving the community.

In December I will be leaving the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to take my children back to my home community of Fort McPherson. This is an important

journey for me and for my children as well. I would like to introduce my children to my family and community. It's been great working with the community of Old Crow. I want to thank the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation accepting me as part of their team and allowing me to grow professionally in my work and my personal life; I will always be grateful for what you have done for me. I wish you all the best for Christmas holidays and 2004.

I will leave you with some interesting statistics and information from when I attended the Improving Human Resource in Aboriginal Communities Conference in Vancouver, BC.

- By 2013 students will be training in #1 teacher/Education, #2 Healthcare/Nursing, & #3 Artist/Filmmaker

- Often times we focus on improving the person's weaknesses and ignore their strengths or talents. We all have talents and should focus more on using them. If they're good at it let them do more of it, e.g.: Tiger Woods.

- Set up an orientation program, so staff members know what is expected of them and you know what is expected of the staff member. Don't expect the staff member to "just know".

- Do an exit information session on staff that is leaving to find ways at how you can make the workplace a better place to work.

- Do things in your organization to

keep your skilled workers, because we're all competing for skilled workers. It will cost you 4 times as much to hire later on.

- Use your skilled & knowledgeable workers to train/mentor the younger generation. Otherwise, once they retire, you'll lose that valuable information as well.

- Training-Partner with another F.N. to get the biggest bang for your buck.

- Don't assume that applicant understands the job as you do. Make sure the candidate knows what the job is.

- Hire locally when possible; No housing costs, no travel costs, builds strong relationship with community, provides pathway for the community to participate in higher paying, skilled career type jobs.

- Get companies affiliated with VGFN to participate and sponsor events in the community, gives them good P.R. Also have them involved in career fairs for students. This encourages students to stay in school if they know they are needed later on.

- Don't assume that people know that training assistance is available, go out and communicate it.

- HR Managers must adhere to 11 different codes.

Revising Policy & Procedures should involve 2 representatives from Finance, because they are the ones that will be working with the policy most often.

## **Graham Baird**

### **Natural Resources Planner**

#### **Ni'iinlii' Njik Management Plan**

VGFN representatives have been meeting with Yukon Parks and Yukon Energy Mines and Resources to finalize the management plan. The management plan will be given to Cabinet for approval before the end of the year.

#### **Bear Viewing Program**

Robert Kaye and the Yukon Park Ranger from Dawson were at the Fishing Branch River for most of October with instructor Phil Tympany to take part in the bear viewing training program. Yukon Parks transported building materials to the river for construction of a small cabin.

## **Sheep Hunting Proposal**

VGFN, Yukon Environment and Yukon Fish and Game Association have submitted a regulation change proposal to Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board that would allow two permits for resident Yukon hunters for sheep in the north Richardson Mountains. The hunting season would be from August 1 to September 15. Mount Dennis at Summit Lake would not be open to sheep hunting by any hunters. The sheep on Mount Dennis would be managed for non-consumptive use. YFWMB is collecting comments from the public. The North Yukon Renewable Resource Council will make the final recommendation on the proposal to the Minister of Environment.

## **Vuntut National Park**

The Superintendent of Vuntut National Park was in Old Crow during the last week of October for the annual public meeting to review programs and activities in the park and provide an update on the park management plan.

### **North Yukon Land Use Planning Commission**

The Commission held an organisational meeting in Whitehorse early in October. It will have office space in the Yukon Land Use Planning Office as a home and the YLUPC staff for support. The General Terms of Reference and a 6 month work plan have been completed.

## **Kathie Nukon**

### **Social Administrator**

In October 2003 there was no report for the following programs. I along with others attended the Community Conference on Sexual Abuse on Oct. 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Social Assistance**

In November there were twenty-four clients that received SA. The numbers are rising as we go into the winter months when there are fewer jobs. We would like in the near future to see these numbers drop.

The Budget and Decision sheet of which SA client get the pink copy has now been put on the computer, as a template. This work has been done with the help of the VGFN Information Systems Dept. We have made some changes. One example is we would like to change the name of the form to Temporary Social Assistance Application. This idea came to me from another Yukon First Nation. They have experienced that this simple name change has helped their people become less dependant on SA.

I have presented Chief and Council with the third and final draft for scrutiny and hopefully its approval for the change.

If the template is accepted, it would prove to be less writing and paperwork. Clients would sign the original, which would then be copied three times for Finance, Administration and for client's files.

To remind you, when you come in to apply for assistance, please declare ALL of your income for the month before. This is very important. Please bring in your bills, and receipts for bills you have paid.

On October 17, 2003 in a letter from Chief and Council it was instructed that SA clients pay a monthly rent of \$200.00. This money is to offset the cost of the upkeep of your units.

### **Adult Care**

We continue to provide Adult Care for Elders, but there are still some older Elders that require workers. Please call me if you would like to do light housekeeping for an Eder.

For more information and to look at the job description for an Adult Care Worker, please call, or see me.

### **Elder's Wood and Fuel**

From October 1<sup>st</sup> we have issued all eligible elders with either wood, or fuel. Elders who are entitled for each new month will receive one cord of wood, or 200 liters of fuel. I would encourage elders to buy a load of wood, or purchase fuel on the side, so you don't run out, especially in the colder months.

For December there will be one cord of wood delivered to most of the elders. Some of the elders will be receiving fuel, as well.

Right now, there is no wood in our stockpile. Hopefully, in the New Year there will be more wood contracts handed out for more wood for the elders. The focus for the wood has always been for the elders that do not have monitor heaters in their homes.

### **Aboriginal Healing Foundation Project**

As Community Coordinator for the VGFN AHF project I am being kept very busy by the committee. The committee consists of the Social Departmental staff. Our teleconferences with Heather Finton are every other Thursday in Roger's office. Heather is a consultant with R. L. Resources in Whitehorse.

The second quarter report for mid-November is complete. Roger Kaye, as Director, signed off this report. The first quarter was approved, which got us our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter funding.

Following are some of the workshops and speakers we are working to have come before the Christmas break.

The committee decided to invite Ann and Charlie Kasook of Inuvik to come to Old Crow on December 8 to 12. Ann and Charlie promote healing through singing. Ann is a survivor of the Residential School damage. The committee will plan on the activities for their visit.

Charlene Belleau and Const. Bruce Coles of Alkali Lake, BC will be coming to Old Crow on December 11 to 14 to give a presentation on the issue of the Residential Schools. Charlene and Bruce

spoke at the Sexual Abuse Conference in Whitehorse. After hearing them speak, some committee members who were in attendance at the conference thought they would be the ideal pair to come to Old Crow to give us information on the Residential School issue. Both Charlene and Bruce will also be available for one-on-one counseling, as well. More information will be posted on their visit. Charlene and Bruce are very busy people and are in very high demand. We are fortunate they can come to Old Crow on short notice.

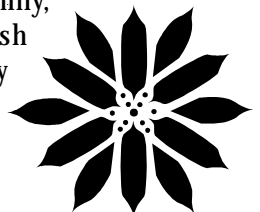
Other activities the project has assisted in are helping the group of kids that went to the Dreamcatchers conference in Edmonton, purchasing healthy snacks for the health fair, healthy snacks for the National Addictions Awareness week and taking delegates to the conference in Whitehorse.

In January we have planned on having Bertha Blondin and her helper come to do one-on-one counseling for community members. Also, we are looking at bringing Joe Migwans, Traditional Parenting facilitator from the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre in Whitehorse. Joe asks a female facilitator and two elders from the community to assist him in the workshop when he comes. Joe is open to come to Old Crow the first and last weeks in February 2004 and is also open to come in March. The committee will decide when it is a good time.

I would like to invite suggestions from the community, as to what you like to see in the way of healing. My job then would be to bring your ideas to the committee meeting.

Mussi cho to everyone for another great year. We are continuing to make progress, as the team for our First Nation. With the new and the old we can look towards a bright future for ourselves and for our children and youth.

In closing my family, William and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.





**Mary Jane Moses**  
*Heritage Researcher*

On October 01, 2003, I began my duties in the position of Heritage Researcher. As the Heritage Researcher, I will be responsible for researching, collections management and will be acting as a liaison for filmmakers and media.

My duties are to maintain and update the oral history collection, facilitate researchers in accessing relevant information in collection, facilitate VGFN research projects, assist with VGFN curriculum projects, provide transcription and translation services as necessary, work with the language consultant as necessary, act as a contact for film makers and media in the traditional territory, track approved film and media projects i.e.: ensure that agreement restrictions are met and

providing information to the community regarding approved film and media applications as necessary.

I previously had been working on the 4-year Oral History Project, which prepared me unknowingly for this position. I'm glad to have helped out documenting and being a part of the team gathering information for the all-important Oral History Project.

Besides being the Heritage Researcher, I work on filmmaking, Tracy and I spent a lot of our time in the edit suite putting together part 2 of "Imprints of Our Ancestors" It's very challenging work, but fun. I enjoy working with a talented and creative driving force, Tracy; she's a good teacher.

Tracy Kassi and I had the privilege and opportunity to be invited to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> Global Visions Documentary Film

Festival that was held in Edmonton from Nov 5-9 2003. Due to flight schedules, we only stayed 2 nights in Edmonton however it was great and our friend Shirleen chauffeured us around. Everyone should remember Shirleen; she was one of the lead coordinators for the Oral History project. We met some people in the film industry and have also been invited to sit as northern representatives on an aboriginal film board called Dreamspeakers. I thank VGFN and Global Visions/Dreamspeakers for supporting us and enabling us to be in attendance at this film festival. I also thank the people of our community for your ongoing support towards us making films about our own Gwich'in people and showing the rest of the world our unique way of life up here in northern Yukon.

**Roger Kyikavichik**  
*Deputy Chief*

I want to thank all of my supporters for the 2003 Chief & Council Election. I will do my best for the community for next three years and most of all for our young people, our future, Massi Cho.

Since the election, the Council has been meeting with other departments within our Government to get updated as to where each department is and where they are going. I'm looking forward to working with everyone within our Government to better serve our people. Your support and your comments are needed in the work that we do so we can better serve the community. Staff need support from leadership as well the community. This is important so they can implement their work plans and goals.

Questions are always welcome, and I feel this is one way of learning or getting involved with your Government. We always said and keep saying: drop by for coffee and as your Leader, I will make time for you, to listen and share.

This very short, but in the next newsletter I will have better report as to what I will be doing for the community as your Leader.

Massi Cho

**Karen Rinker**  
*Homework Tutor*

Have you ever heard the expression the "the mail must go through" - It means rain, sun, snow or sleet the person carrying the mail must do their duty! Well, that is how I felt as I went from house to house in our recent snap of cold weather.

Old Crow has its challenges, but is also so very rewarding. I am now working with 13 different children and I enjoy seeing their happy faces as they share with their parents their newly learned skills.

Today I would like to let you peek into some homes and share my joy.

At this house I tell the parents, "Patti again has moved your daughter up another level in her Reading Recovery Program." They are very happy! In another house I see the wonder and challenge a young man has as I give him free rein to explore a laptop all by himself.

Sit on the floor with me as we blow up a red balloon and start batting it from child to child to child, and then the parents get involved as we learn the color "red." Come with me into this beautiful warm house where the mother and father both sit at the table with me as I explain that all learning comes from the Creator, and we want to do our work to please

Him; neatly and accurately.

How about putting your hands on your head and start saying "Sunday", pull your ears and say "Monday." Now touch your shoulders and say "Tuesday" go to your waist, your knees, your ankles and finally your toes and say "Saturday", when you run outside and play. Maybe that is enough exercise for some of you! SMILE!!

Now lets peek into some elder's homes. We will explain a newspaper article, pray for their grandchildren away at school, and even show them a slide show on the laptop donated by Yukon Learn for this project.

Besides going to homes I now go to the Youth Centre and tutor each week. It started out with just one student who has been real faithful, but at the last session there were 3 boys all wanting to learn the new skill Mr. Mac Cara introduced. It is chess, and they are learning to think ahead quickly and this is good! I got beat once by one young man. But only once!!

We are starting a new Parent - Child program called Mother Goose in the future. If anyone is interested in facilitating this please let me know. Until next time; I hope you enjoyed your little tour.

**Esau Schafer**  
**Councilor**

First I would like to say "Hi" to everyone. I hope that you are all in good health.

I thank you all for giving the support in being one of your leaders as a councilor. Now that the election is over the review on all programs is in process with Chief and Council.

As a new member to this position there is a lot of information we need to learn but so far we're doing good. This will take us a few weeks, at least. Once we have established our roles in leadership I am looking forward to working for the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

I do not have much to report on right now but my next time around I will have more for you. I wish you all a safe holiday. Once again, thank you.

**Paul Doehle**  
**Director, Information Systems**  
**Old Crow's Website**

New on Old Crow's website: the new Elders page by Tammy Josie -Good job Tammy- and the new Events Calendar. The Events Calendar contains information on Vuntut Gwitchin Government meetings, staff travel and various community events in Old Crow.

Next, for Old Crow's website, Tammy will be upgrading the Education section of our site. She will be redesigning the education page with stories and new pictures from the Chief Zzeh Gittlit School here in Old Crow.

**Server Upgrade**

We have added more memory and larger hard drives to our computer server. This was done to accommodate the ongoing installation of security patches for our server software.

**Kai Rannik**  
**IS Technician & Trainer**

Hello All,

October and November have been busy months for me. I took three weeks off in October to visit my family in Ontario. It was good to see the fall colours at home.

The central event in Old Crow for November was the election, affecting everyone in all departments in various ways. In IS, this means we have new users to set-up with computers and to train. I'm hoping to run another round of computer training in the New Year. In the mean time we are solving problems and concerns as they arise. As Tammy is learning more about a computer technician's work, she has not only been

accompanying me when I go to assist staff, but also handled some situations on her own. She is quickly gaining an understanding of the types of problems that an IS Technician faces and resolves in a day. Tammy has a good understanding of

computers and works well with people. Both of these traits are important in a computer technician. Tammy shows a lot of potential in this field.

I also have several projects I've been working on, all in various stages of completion. This month I've designed a logo for the new OC Fitness Centre, which I've incorporated into some prototype membership cards. I'm also working towards ensuring that all forms used within VGFN are available in electronic form. This not only helps to establish a consistent appearance within all VGFN materials, but also saves employees time and reduces external printing costs. Most recently I've added a new Oil Monitor Loan Form for Elders homes and an updated version of the old Budget and Decision Form for Social Programs (currently under review).

December holds more training and general problem solving as we approach the Christmas holidays. Enjoy the snow!

**Tammy Josie**  
**Computer Support Technician**  
**Trainee**

Good day to all, hope your day is exceptionally good.

I really enjoy my position here at VGFN, I have learned a lot here under the direction of Paul Doehle and Kai Rannik. For

the month of November; IS has been quite busy with upgrades, the website, and computer support throughout the building. At times it's demanding and somewhat confusing, but all in all I love learning how to handle the situation.

Working in all departments has definitely broadened my outlook here at the Sarah Abel Chitze Building, I'm getting to know everyone as individuals. As most may notice the new pictures of the community and all our wonderful surroundings are

being updated on the Old

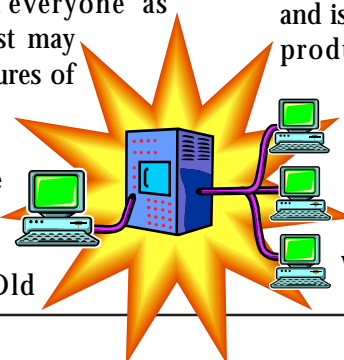
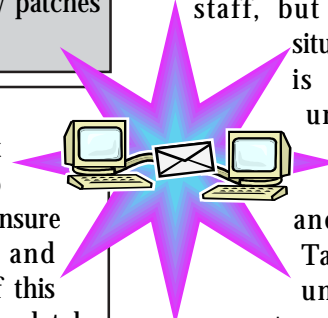
Crow Website. We take in great responsibility for the site and do the best to our knowledge to ensure the safety of our people and community. My favorite part of this job is when I'm sent to go and take pictures; many many pictures must be taken to capture that one good shot.

I've started my initiation into the technical field and will now be following my trainers to each computer problem; this is for your information, in case you wonder why I'm standing around and just watching. I also started Motor Vehicles Registration here in the building, just stop by my office at anytime during the day and I will be pleased to assist you. Human resources has been looking for people to go for their Class4 license, you have to have your Class5 to be eligible for this generous offer.

The Elders Page has been completed and is now online. To see the finished product, go online at [www.oldcrow.yk.net/elders.htm](http://www.oldcrow.yk.net/elders.htm).

I thank you for your patience at this time and welcome your comments.

Hope you all have a wonderful day and take care.



## Tracy Kassi

### Enrolment/Membership Officer

Hello everyone, hope all is well with you all out there. I assume everyone is thinking of Christmas and saying how fast days are going. Happy decorating to all of you out there and have fun!

November has proven to be a very busy month of me that has involved two work related trips out of Old Crow. My first absence from my desk was on the week of November 3<sup>rd</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup>, where Mary Jane and I attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> Global Visions/Dreamspeakers Film Festival in Edmonton, Alberta! This was a very exciting trip for me and Mary Jane as our video, "Imprints Of Our Ancestors" was chosen for a screening. Thank you for Shirleen Smith for submitting our video to the organizers. Anyway, November 6<sup>th</sup> was the night our video went on the big screen and boy, what an emotional night that was for me because I saw my late mother-in-law up there. It was really nice, as she truly loved this land and her people. Afterwards, there was a question and answer period; this gave the audience an opportunity to ask Mary Jane and I questions about our film and of course, Old Crow. We did pretty well and received good reviews of our film. We also have been asked by the President of Dreamspeakers to sit on an Aboriginal Arts & Film Organization to represent the North! Big stuff happening for your filmmakers this year! We are now in the Edit Suite, "Gwaanduk Studios", working on Part 2 of "Imprints Of Our Ancestors". Things are moving along and we will have Richard Lawrence, filmmaker

from Whitehorse to come work with us on the week on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Richard will be helping us polish up our work on Part 2. It's always good to have another set of professional eyes to look at our work. Thank you to everyone that has supported Mary Jane and I in our film work.

On November 24 – 30<sup>th</sup>, I will be attending the Aboriginal Information Systems Level 1 training in Whitehorse. This is training that is required if the First Nation purchases this system. It is a system that I think would be beneficial to the First Nation. For one example, in Education the system will pick up if the student is getting funds from another department; the same will be done with Social Assistance. The training will be based out of CYFN and the Yukon College.

Between the days I was away, I have been busy corresponding and dealing with high school and post secondary students. I took over the position from Kimberly Blake in August, as she had made plans to go back to school. The first couple of months were very busy as everyone was registering in getting back to school or enrolling. Now January is fast approaching and I expect the same thing will happen. Some days there is not enough time to do everything that's laid on my desk, as I do work for various projects, but it's a challenge!

One of the other projects that I have been involved with is the The "OC" Fitness Center! The building has new paneling, a painted floor, running water and a new monitor! All this was provided

by the Old Crow Recreation Society and the VGFN Government Services department! Now the focus is on getting some equipment for the Center. So far, we

have two pieces in there. If you have a piece of equipment or weights you want to get out of the house, you can have them stored here or better yet donate them to the Fitness Center! We hope to open the center in a matter of a couple of weeks but we'll see. December seems to be a busy month for Old Crow. The "OC" Fitness Center will be by Membership only, so watch out for postings in the near future of when registration will happen.

The Youth Health & Fitness Project is underway again and this year we have Leigh Hunsinger heading the project. Welcome Leigh to Old Crow! Some of you may have heard her on CROW FM, when we did a fundraiser for the project. She did pretty well and will have her own radio show in the near future. It is important though that parents make an effort to help her out in the project as last year we have Philippe & Amanda. Massi Cho.

CROW FM is getting vocal again with a series of radio shows coming up. This past Saturday we celebrated CROW FM's first anniversary, with an open house at the Youth Center, 50/50 draw, Door prizes and a radio auction! We are fundraising to upgrade our transmission from 5 watts to 10 watts and this will cost us \$1000.00. The radio station is now under lock and key because this fall a thief stole some CDs and CD players. That was very disappointing for the Old Crow Radio Society because we worked hard on getting this little station for Old Crow, but CROW FM will tune along and hopefully get donations of CDs in the future. Maybe we'll just have more radio auctions! If you would like to have your own show, contact myself, Cheryl, Carl or Megan at VGFN.

Lastly, I would like to say so long to Cheryl and her family next month. Cheryl will be moving home to Ft. McPherson next month for a short while. Good luck and best wishes on your move. Let me tell you girl, I will surely miss you and all your bright ideas. Maybe I'll see you over there one day before you come back, eh Teresa? Take care and God bless.





**William Josie****Director, Natural Resources**

First of all I would like to thank everyone that supported me in the recent Election. I am honored.

Since the Election, Chief and Council has been receiving updates on all activities within our Government. These updates will continue into December.

Starting on November 24th to the 28th, Alex Van Bibber and Stephen Frost Sr. will be hosting a "Trapper's Education Course" on behalf of Yukon Trapper's Association. I encourage our young people to participate in this course.

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board will be in Old Crow on Nov. 24, 2003, to consult with citizens regarding proposed changes to the Yukon Wildlife Act. Two proposals will be of interest to Old Crow, the proposed limited license hunt of Richardson Mountain Sheep, and the proposed second one-week closure on the Dempster Highway to let the leaders pass.

The Yukon Salmon Committee will be holding a meeting at Whitehorse from Nov. 25th to the 28th, 2003. Planning for the upcoming "Yukon Panel" meeting in Anchorage is on the agenda.

On Dec. 04, 2003 representatives from YTG's Forest Management Branch will be in Old Crow to update us on the forest policy framework and their efforts in developing made in Yukon "Forest Act".

On Dec. 8th Bob Hayes and Gary Stewart from Ducks Unlimited will be in Old Crow. They will update the community on work they done this pass summer and other projects the community may be interested in.

The Yukon Panel will be meeting in Anchorage during the week of Dec. 8th. They will be allocating the 1.2 million (US) to various projects along the Yukon River and tributaries to restore and enhance salmon habitat and stocks.

The Porcupine River Working Group, which consists of representatives from VGFN, NYRRC, YSC and DFO, will be having a meeting on the afternoon of Dec. 16, 2003. We will be reviewing activities from the 2003 season and also discussing activities for the 2004-fishing season.

With this I wish you all well, and remember if you have any questions please don't hesitate to visit me in my office. Thank-You.

**Barbara Abel****GS/Housing Assistant Trainer**

Hello everyone;

I hope all are enjoying the winter months and staying warm with your families!

Just a short report to let you all know what I am doing at the VGFN office. I am working under the Director of Government Services training their new Government Services/Housing Assistant, Renita Kakfwi.

It is good to be back in the office after a semester of schooling in Whitehorse. I do not know how long the training will last, but I should be here for another couple months after the holidays.

I am also a back-up worker for Tina Dickson, Executive Assistant. I work for her in the Chief and Council office when she is away.

With that, I would like to wish you all a safe winter and a very happy holiday season.

**Elsie Hume****CELC Area II**

News From Whitehorse!

Majority of the students have settled in to their routines and doing fine. Parent/Teacher interviews were held at FH Collins at the end of October, which I attended on behalf of our students. Most got good reports while others need more time to adjust. Hopefully, we'll see improvement in the next report.

Fourteen students and myself had one traditional dinner together so far. I cooked up moose meat and all the trimmings. Richard Hume donated the moose meat. I would like to make this a monthly activity. Students find these dinners a good time to socialize and relax. I am looking for more donations in the way of caribou, moose, rabbit, ptarmigan, etc.

Recently, the First Nations Basketball team from FHC went to Prince Rupert to participate in an annual tournament. Congratulations to six of our boys for being chosen to go on this exciting event! The boys were all very excited. We'll share the results at a later date. Thank you to VGFN Chief and Council for donating \$5000.00 towards this trip. If any of you happen to be in Whitehorse please give FHC a call to see when they'll be having their practice. Come and watch. They are excellent players!

Hi to all and keep in touch with our students, encourage them to do well.

**Marla Kaye****Accounts Receivable Clerk**

Good Day to the Community of Old Crow

The weather sure is getting cold and bitter. I hope you are all keeping warm and cozy.

It has been a great opportunity to work in the VGFN Administrative Building. So far working in the Finance Department with Ida and Catherine has been absolutely fun and also sometimes a challenge. I have been enjoying my time here in the Department and I am hoping in the future I can work in this same atmosphere.

My job ends the end of December. After that I am attending a Youth Business Program in Whitehorse starting January to March 2003, which I am really looking

forward to and excited to start something new. On completion of the course I will have a break for 2 or 3 weeks and then I'm off to Vancouver for a seven month course, so my year is pretty much full. I will be returning to Old Crow and hopefully get a little shop open for myself, that is my plan.

I want to say welcome home and also congratulations to Robert and Megan on the birth of Aidan Williams-Kyikavichik born on November 15, 2003. It is so good to have you home. Baby Aidan I am so proud to be your Auntie... love you so much sweetie.

Well I hope everyone have a nice winter; take care when you are out on the land.

Massi Cho



**Mabel Tetlich**  
**CELC Area 1**

Good day everyone!

For the month of November 2003, as a CELC I have been co-ordinating a number of projects. Traditional cooking takes place every Wednesday and Friday mornings, taught by Mary Tizya to all grades except for Kinders. The children enjoyed their classes.

Maureen Vittrewka and Derrick Kapuschak arts and crafts class takes place every Wednesday and Friday afternoons to all grades, except Kinders. Nancy Flitt is their back-up worker for all indoor culture classes.

I also work with Karen Rinker on homework tutor projects: keep up the good work.

10 people attended the Dream Catcher Conference from C.Z.G.S. Massi – Cho to every one who supported the fundraising. Without you, we couldn't have made the trip possible.

Thank you letters were sent out and notices will be posted also a scrapbook will be displayed; watch for the signs.

We also have Northern gift certificates, which are given to students who have successful attendance each month.

Xmas Concert will take place on Dec 16/03. The last day of school for the holidays is on Dec 17/03. Back to school on Jan 5/04.

I'm presently working with Patti Tetlich on the Breakfast for learning program. We hope to expand the program in the New Year.

Thought for the day: The northern lights dancing create a mood of happiness.

**Catherine Mbae**  
**Director of Finance**

Good day to everyone in town!

I hope you are all enjoying the new weather we have. It seems we had a long fall and winter just got to us a few weeks ago. The cold dark winter days of living North of the Arctic Circle are here, but looking at the brighter side of things, after December 21, the days start to get longer and soon it will just be cold winter days!

During the first few days when the skidoos started running and driving around, it was too noisy for me, I wondered from my house how come to plane is landing so many times these days ...only to see a skidoo passing by!

I hope we are all looking forward to winter activities like snow shoeing, dog mushing, trapping and skiing and of course the Christmas and New year events!

**Work and Staff**

It has been extremely busy here at work the last couple of months. I did budget reviews with all departments in October 2003. This involves review of spending for the 6 months to September 2003 and doing forecasts for spending for the next 6 months to March 2004.

It is almost another year-end in relation to returns to Canada Customs and Revenue Authority (the T4s and T1204s) and this will keep us busy for a couple of weeks to prepare to get the returns in. We start early since the office is closed for the last 2 weeks of December. Marla is learning to do the background for preparing T1204s and is doing a great job!

Edna is expected back in the office on 1 December, 2003.

Keep well.



**Ida Tizya**  
**Accounts Payable/  
Payroll Clerk**

Hello Everyone:  
Hope you are all well  
and in good health.

I would like to welcome the two new councilors that got elected, Esau Schafer and Glenna Tetlich, and the re-elected Chief Joe Linklater, councilor William Josie and Roger Kaye. I look forward to working with you.

The months of October and November were quite busy; there is always something to do at the Finance Department. Due to the Christmas Holidays the Finance Department will be very busy, so you all have to be patient with me.

Marla and I will be in the Finance Department from Nov 24- Dec 10/03 Catherine will be attending a workshop and then going on personal leave. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call us at the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation office.

Enjoy the Christmas Holidays!

**Carl Charlie**  
**Land Resources Manager**

I wish to congratulate our elected Chief and Councilors for the coming three-year term and do your very best for our community. Thank you to all who supported me for the election.

I attended a Porcupine Caribou Management Board meeting at the end of October in Ft. McPherson. We discussed the Dempster Regulations and made some recommendations and will bring you up to date on them for the December newsletter. We had a public meeting one evening to listen to the public's concerns and comments. There were some people who liked the regulations and other people who didn't like them at all. The board as a whole agrees that we need to make recommendations for the betterment of the herd as it has been declining for the past decade or more. If you have any comments or concerns please come to the office and let me know.

October was a pretty slow month because of the elections before and after. Hopefully everything will fall into place for the future. I am continuing working on the Cat train road from the Dempster to Old Crow. Regulations need to be put in place this project.

Other than that I wish you all a safe and happy winter.

"Plant your own garden  
and decorate your own soul instead of waiting  
for someone to bring you flowers.  
And you learn that you really can endure,  
you really are strong  
and you really do have worth."

Excerpt from "In Her Sea"  
by **Veronica A. Shoffstall**

Contributed by Glenna Tetlich



# December 2003 Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Electrician in Town	2 Gwitchin Immersion Classes at Chief Zzeh Gittlet School	3	4 Community Hall Dinner, 5pm Public Meeting, 6pm	5	6
7	8 Plumber in Town	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Riverbank Committee Consultation	16 School Christmas Concert, 5pm	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Children's Christmas Tree at Community Hall, 7pm	25 Mery Christmas!	26 Boxing Day	27
28	29	30	31 Happy New Year!			