

Yeendoo Diinehdoo Ji'heezrit Nits'oo Ts'o' Nan He'aa Declaration

Preamble In respect of the future generations as laid out in the *Ni'inlii Declaration* of the Gwitchin Nation and the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. In respect of the wealth of healthy animals, lands, and waters left to this generation as the birthright of the generations to come, we recognize and respect this with the *Yeendoo Diinehdoo Ji'heezrit Nits'oo Ts'o' Nan He'aa Declaration* in acknowledgement of our planet's climate crisis.

Whereas the Vuntut Gwitchin of Old Crow and our traditional territory have witnessed drastic changes in the land and animals which are only being confirmed by recent science, some of which reporting that the Canadian North's annual average temperature has increased by 2.3 degrees Celsius with profound implications for our people, community, lands, waters, animals, and way of life,

Recognizing our duty to the past, present and future generations of all living beings to continue to respect the truth of the land through the continuation of Gwitchin culture that teaches us how to live with this world in a way that provides us with healthy animals, lands, waters, ecosystems, and populations,

Acknowledging the traditional knowledge of our elders which is supported by the findings of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's "Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C" and that preventing the rise of global temperatures above 1.5 degree Celsius requires unprecedented reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions,

Considering Indigenous peoples' cultures and values are from the land itself and that populations of other local Arctic, coastal and agricultural communities are disproportionately more vulnerable to the adverse impacts of the changing climate and the first to experience them directly,

Concerned that Indigenous peoples voices and lands are not being heard while our responsibility is to our lands and current State-led responses to climate change around the world are not sufficiently responsive to the dire circumstances already being directly experienced and the implications for the health of animal populations, food security, as well as our communities emotional, cultural, and physical well-being

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Emphasizing that Indigenous peoples and local Arctic, coastal and agricultural communities have vast and unique knowledge systems, practices and technologies for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change as the worlds' most environmentally conscious inhabitants while our voices are missing from national and international public stages, and

Affirming the right of Indigenous peoples to self-determination, including Indigenous rights related to lands, waters and resources, and the imperative that Indigenous peoples be central to every effort for mitigating and adapting to climate change at local to international scales.

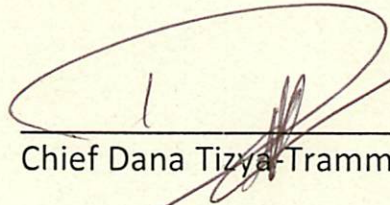
Therefore the Vuntut Gwitchin Council, gathered on May 19, 2019 at the village of Old Crow, Yukon within the territory of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and other concerned actors adhering to this declaration hereby:

Declare that climate change constitutes a state of emergency for our lands, waters, animals and people, and that we will accordingly utilize our local, national and international forums and partnerships to achieve meaningful progress towards the Paris Accord and the inception of an Indigenous Climate Accord that shall call for coordinated efforts with our relatives around the world, and

Call to Action local, national and international communities, governments, organizations and movements to respect the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples as well as established science and utilize all available powers, resources and abilities to coordinate and mobilize efforts to prevent the rise of global temperatures above 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrialized levels.

As hereby ratified and made effective by the Council of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in accordance with its responsibility under the Constitution of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to protect the history, culture, values, traditions and rights of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation:

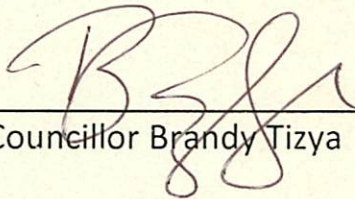
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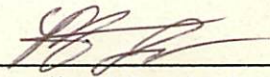
Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm



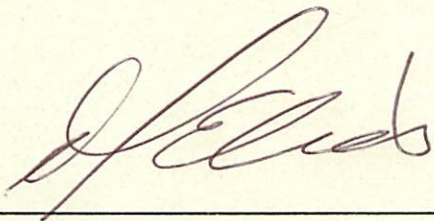
Deputy Chief Cheryl J. Charlie



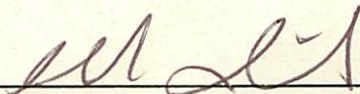
Councillor Brandy Tizya



Councillor Marvin Frost Jr.



Councillor Darius Elias



Witness