

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM CHIEF NORMA KASSI

December 14, 2011

To our citizens in Whitehorse: this is a happy occasion and a good opportunity to keep all our people together at this time of year.

We can sometimes be challenged by some of the things we face however we constantly have to look forward in a positive light.

Some of you are here in Whitehorse for educational purposes, some of you are here to enhance your sports and athletic abilities, and some of you here are for employment. Keep on pursuing your dreams; we need you; our nation needs you.

Further, you have to believe in your heart that you are a very important part of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation as in our Constitution you have every right to be a part of every program, every project, including leadership roles, these of which are instituted by our people.

In this upcoming year we will be looking at increasing the post secondary education budget and to come up with a communications strategy for all our students from elementary to the post secondary levels to help maintain open support systems for each of our students here and abroad.

My focus has always been to increase the skill of our individual citizens in every way so that we can become independent and self sufficient because, we are coming to a time of great change with the global economic crisis which is now effecting us here in our government with increased pressures for Own Source Revenue (this means we are pressured more and more to make our own

money from within our homelands) and in order to take control and do this.. we must be prepared, we must be educated. We must have strong leaders forward.

There are many reasons why we have to work hard at choosing love, kindness and respect instead of negativity to focus more on taking care of ourselves and our family and build all the skills we possibly can, within our own children so that they can be proud of who they are and where they come from and hold the tools to stand up to an ever changing world.

Chief and Council are facing some challenges but I want to let you know that no matter what, our Government because of its staff, remains strong and solid.

Further, always remember you are not an "outsider": in my eyes, you are one who belongs and you have the right within the **life circle** of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation constitutionally and as family. Our traditional territory will always remain yours. Of all the Nations of the world, it is the ones who stick together, work together for our future generations are the ones who will succeed in everyway. This we can do.

Christmas time has always been a time of being with friends, family, sharing what we can with each other even if it's not a physical gift but gifts of kindness: a smile and hug and of recognizing how close we are to each other as Vuntut Gwitchin.

We have a lot to celebrate as we have each other, our homelands and it's abundances of resources. We have our life and our friends whom we treasure dearly. It is my special hope that you proceed with your goals in life in a positive way and that this

upcoming New Year will be truly be successful for each and every one of you.

With this message I want to wish you all a very happy, sharing caring and healthy holidays. Take care of each other and as we go through the festive season bring home our brothers and sisters who are on the streets, share a meal with them in the spirit of the season and show them that we care with all our hearts.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!!

In Creators Love,

Chief Norma Kassi  
Vuntut Gwitchin Government