

RESOLUTIONS

**Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
General Assembly 2022**



1. Education Support Increase

Resolution No. 2022 – 1 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The cost of living has increased;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

1. VGG increase the level of financial support including bursaries for post-secondary students.

2. Education Support Funds Owing

Resolution No. 2022 – 2 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. Some Vuntut Gwitchin students owe money;
- B. Some students have difficulty to pay the funds back and cannot obtain their educational goals when they are ready to continue;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

1. VGG release former students from their debts and a policy is developed for future students debts with an emphasis on accountability and community contribution.

3. Youth Summer Positions

Resolution No. 2022 – 3 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. Youth summer positions have been offered in the past to high school students;
- B. College and university students summer positions have not had the same level of opportunity;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. VGG reach out to college and university student and assist with summer jobs.

4. Nation Building Office Space

Resolution No. 2022 – 4 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The Nation Building offices are currently housed in a competitor’s building;
- B. Vuntut Limited Partnership owns/co-owns various office spaces

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. VGG work with VGLP to come up with a long-term solution for Whitehorse office space, subject to contractual obligations.

5. Wellness Investment Fund

Resolution No. 2022 – 5 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. Vuntut Gwitchin wellness is important for us to be able to move forward as a healthy community;
- B. Citizens are at different stages of wellness and could move forward with support and funding;
- C. There are many different opportunities for wellness including workshops, courses, training and retreats;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. VGG develop a wellness investment fund that citizens can apply to and receive funding to make progress in their personal wellness.

6. Vuntut Gwitchin Government Re-Organization and Strategic Plan

Resolution No. 2022 –6 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG) has completed a re-organization of the government structure and has undertaken the development of a 5-year strategic plan;
- B. The re-organization and strategic plan provide a strong foundation for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of VGG's administration, management and operations and delivery of programs and services for the benefit of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) citizens;
- C. Continuing with the implementation of the re-organization and strategic plan will provide certainty and stability for VGG moving forward into the future;
- D. VGFN has an upcoming election for Chief and Councillors;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. VGFN Chief and Councillors continue to implement the VGG re-organization and 5-year strategic plan in consultation with VGFN citizens during their upcoming term of office.

7. Vuntut Gwitchin Government Resume Talks with Chance Oil and Gas

Resolution No. 2022 – 7 – Tabled

WHEREAS:

- A. Chance Oil and Gas have 30 working permits in our Traditional Territory;
- B. Vuntut Gwitchin have many young people who desire to work in the oil and gas industry;
- C. Vuntut Gwitchin needs exposure to participate in YESAA process to gain experience for future education;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. Chief and Council be directed to meet with Chance Oil and Gas company to create a community consultation on Chance Oil and Gas.

8. Advocacy for Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit

*Resolution No. 2022-8 – Passed by
consensus*

WHEREAS:

- A. The Gwich'in have led efforts to protect the Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit for decades in accordance with Gwich'in Niintsyaa (Resolution to Protect the Birthplace and Nursery Grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd);
- B. The Caribou Coordination Department of Vuntut Gwitchin Government (now Caribou Advocacy Office) was created through a resolution of the General Assembly in 1995 to coordinate efforts in seeking permanent protection of Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit;
- C. At the 2022 Biennial Gwich'in Gathering held in our community, the Gwich'in Nation amended and reaffirmed Gwich'in Niintsyaa in accordance with developments in International law;
- D. Our efforts to protect Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit are most successful when we keep this issue in the forefront for political leaders and the general public by using diverse voices from the community and implementing community-led tactics;
- E. We are at a critical point in our efforts with oil and gas leases issued and U.S. law which mandates an Oil and Gas Program;
- F. Our efforts have to adapt to changes in political, legal and technical landscapes;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

1. Vuntut Gwitchin Government continues leading efforts to seek protection of Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit using legislative, technical, legal, corporate and public education strategies that reflect the changing political, legal and technical landscapes.

9. Remote Access to General Assembly and other public meetings

Resolution No. 2022 – 9 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. Many citizens live outside the traditional territory and do not have the funds or resources to travel to Old Crow for General Assemblies or public meetings;
- B. Many First Nations offer remote access to their General Assemblies via Zoom;
- C. There are many different opportunities for wellness including workshops, courses, training and retreats;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

1. Vuntut Gwitchin Government work on a policy for every General Assembly and VGG public meeting be offered via Zoom for citizens when technically possible.

10. General Assembly Structured Basic Agenda

Resolution No. 2022 –10 – Tabled

WHEREAS:

- A. There needs to be a structure for a basic General Assembly Agenda for all General Assemblies to provide continuity and so citizens know what to expect;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

1. Vuntut Gwitchin Government create with community consultation a checklist that can be used to create each General Assembly Agenda including budgets, departmental breakdown, entities, strategic lead reports, rules, conflict of interest;
2. All materials be accessible to citizens prior to the General Assembly.

**11. Review Council:
Budget, Office Space,
Staff**

Resolution No. 2022 – 11 – Tabled

WHEREAS:

- A. Review Council is an important part of our government;
- B. Review Council has no budget, staff or training to function properly within Vuntut Gwitchin Government;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. Vuntut Gwitchin Government establish the Review Council with a budget, office and staff within 6 months;
- 2. General Assembly will appoint 2 members, New Council will appoint 2 members and the Elders Council will appoint 1 member.

**12. Monthly funding
allowance to be
deposited on time**

*Resolution No. 2022 –6 – Passed by
consensus*

WHEREAS:

- A. Currently, the monthly funding for students is not being deposited on time (by the last day of the month or the first day of the month) in order for students to pay rent on the first of each month to their respective landlords;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. That VGG education deposit monthly funding by the last day of each month or by the first of each month (the latest) in order for students to pay their rent and bills

13. Youth Traditional Pursuits Funding

Resolution No. 2022 – 13 – Tabled

WHEREAS:

- A. Young hunters are already providing for their family and community, kids as young as 8 are hunting;
- B. Young hunters are not feeling supported and need funding for gas, gear, food, repairs;
- C. Traditionally young hunters provided for their community;
- D. We always put emphasis on land and youth;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. Eligibility for Vuntut citizens for full traditional pursuits funding be changed to 13 years old and up;
- 2. VGG work with the school to get traditional pursuits to gain academic credits for students.

14. Elders Council Establishment

Resolution No. 2022 –14 – Tabled

WHEREAS:

- A. Elders Council is an important part of our Government to function;
- B. Elders Council has no budget, staff, training or office;
- C. We need our Elders Council back, every area needs an Elder;
- D. Elders need to be able to attend meetings;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. VGG set up Elders Council with a dedicated budget, training, staff, meeting space.

15. Traditional Pursuits Funding Increase

Resolution No. 2022 – 13 – Tabled

WHEREAS:

- A. Traditional pursuits funding encourages citizens to be out on the land to live a traditional lifestyle;
- B. Inflation is impacting the costs of getting out on the land and keeping up our traditions;
- C. Lack of funding is a barrier for people spending time on the land with their families, loved ones and community;
- D. One of the original intents of land claims was so our people can get out on the land;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. VGG increase the amount of traditional pursuit funding to \$2000 for youth, individuals and families.

16. Recovery Program/Aftercare

Resolution No. 2022 –14 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. A significant number of Vuntut Gwitchin Citizens have pursued health, wellness, and alcohol and drug treatment programs;
- B. There is no recovery and aftercare program in our community;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. We citizens of Vuntut Gwitchin request that individuals who are employed with camps are safe, qualified and on their own healing journey;
- 2. We request the development of after care in our community by our community.

17. Education funding review policy

Resolution No. 2022 – 13 – Tabled

WHEREAS:

- A. VGG’s education funding policy currently does not fund full-time students during the summer semester even when an educational institution recognizes the student as a full-time status;
 - B. The education funding policy defines a full-time student as: FULL-TIME STUDENT IS A PERSON ENROLLED IN THREE (3) OR MORE COURSES (9 CREDITS) PER TERM OR ENROLLED FULL-TIME AS DESIGNATED BY THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THE STUDENT IS ATTENDING;
 - C. This policy currently gives false hope and misinterpretation to students when it comes to the summer semester;
 - D. Students should not be denied education due to a reliance on federal funding sources funding that does not support summer studies;
 - E. As a Self-Governing First Nation, we need to work towards self-sustainability and invest in our people now, not just future generations, and not rely on government funding.
- 1. VGG’s education policy to be reviewed and clarify funding limitations as well to make it possible for students to be funded outside federal funding sources and bursary criteria for our students’ education.
 - 2. The policy review considers how to lower barriers for students to access funding support

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

18. Naming of new Elders Complex

Resolution No. 2022 – 13 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The elders complex is built on the area where Victoria Blake’s home was;
- B. Victoria was an elder of Old Crow;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. The elders complex be named in remembrance and in honour of Victoria Blake (Charlie).

19. Emergency Housing for VGG Employee/Beneficiary

Resolution No. 2022 –14 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. VG Citizens are currently employed by VGG and have no housing;
- B. It’s urgent that immediate housing for families of VGG employees are made available;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. VGG immediately make available housing to homeless employees, even at the safe house; ideas include wall tent housing or a flex space at the Porcupine Work Camp;
- 2. VGG acknowledges the urgency of the situation.

20. Ski Lodge / Ski Program

Resolution No. 2022 – 13 – Passed by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The cross-country ski program has been an integral part of health and wellness;
- B. The ski lodge is in disrepair and not up to the national building code standard with no functioning restroom or living accommodations for our volunteer staff and support;

THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation resolves that:

- 1. VGG maintain this as a public facility accessible to the youth and families interested in pursuing skiing and outdoor pursuits;
- 2. VGG identify resources to bring the building up to acceptable standards for occupancy immediately;
- 3. VGG health and social services in collaboration with the Youth Council define programs and services including the establishment of a certified or qualified ski program.