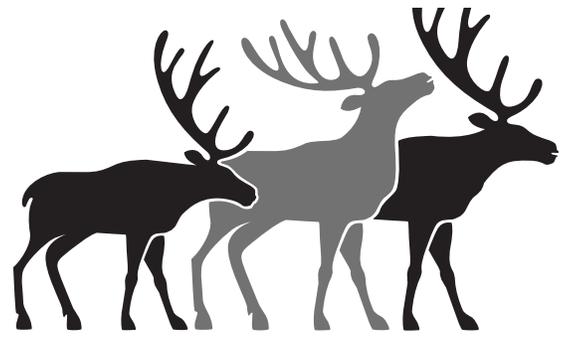


# Gwich'in Council

---

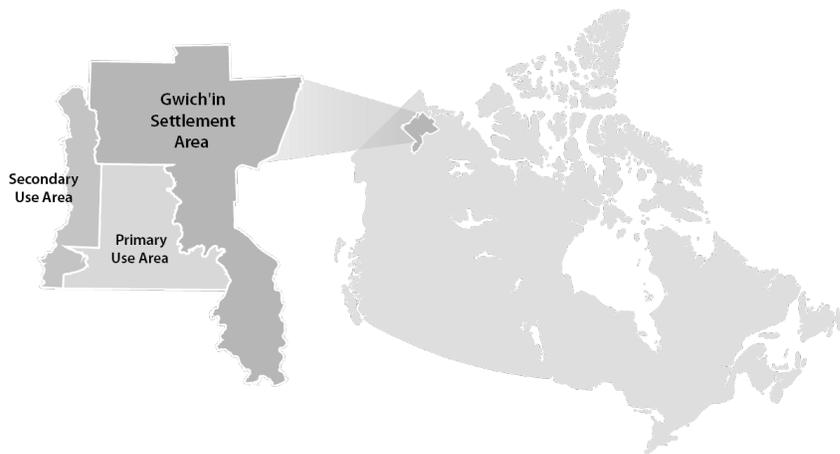
## INTERNATIONAL



Gwich'in Council International (GCI) represents 9,000 Gwich'in in the Northwest Territories (NWT), Yukon, and Alaska as a Permanent Participant in the Arctic Council; the only international organization to give Indigenous peoples a seat at the decision-making table alongside national governments.

GCI's membership consists of two representative bodies in Canada: Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), who represents the beneficiaries of the *Gwich'in Land Claims Settlement Act* in NWT and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN), which is a self-governing First Nation in Old Crow, Yukon. GTC and VGFN joined by seven federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes. GCI supports Gwich'in by amplifying our voice on sustainable development and the environment at the international level to support resilient and healthy communities.

GCI is a not-for-profit organization with an office in Whitehorse, Yukon. It has one full-time staff member and a volunteer Board of Directors.



**AK**

**COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN  
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

**YT**

**VUNTUT GWITCHIN  
FIRST NATION**

**NWT**

**GWICH'IN TRIBAL  
COUNCIL**

### Point of Contact



**Grant Sullivan**

gsullivan@gwichin.nt.ca  
+1 (867) 678-5760

### Our People

Gwich'in are a people of the caribou. The Porcupine Caribou herd has sustained our communities and shaped our culture.

In Canada, Gwich'in have settled land claims and the Vuntut Gwitchin have achieved self-government.

## Our Projects

We focus our engagement within the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF).

- **Arctic Renewable Energy Futures Toolkit:** provides online and print resources for community energy planning to facilitate getting communities off costly and environmentally damaging diesel generation.
- **Best Practises in Arctic Environmental Impact Assessments:** The goal of this project is to ensure that environmental considerations specific to the Arctic are explicitly addressed and incorporated into the planning, design, and decision-making for large-scale economic projects by identifying existing best practises, promoting the integration of traditional and local knowledge, and building a network of Arctic EIA practitioners.
- **Arctic as a Food Producing Region:** aims to increase food production in the north for the north by exploring economic and legal aspects of food production in the Arctic.
- **Arctic Renewable Energy Network Academy:** provides training on renewable energy through on-site visits.
- **Arctic Energy Summit:** took place in Helsinki, Finland September 18-20, 2017. The Summit addressed energy in the Arctic as it relates to small and off-grid community energy solutions; oil and gas development; renewable energy; regulation and financing; and transportation and transmission.

## Our Capacity-Building Initiatives

We are building our organization by:

- **Reaching deeper into our communities:** by launching a new website, provide articles for community newsletters, expanding our social media presence, and community events.
- **Practicing good governance:** through strategic planning and development of a Board Handbook.
- **Building partnerships and resources:** by working collaboratively with other Permanent Participants to establish The Álgu Fund; working collaboratively with governments, other Indigenous organisations, academics, and the private sectors; and by diversifying our sources of funding.

### WHY FOCUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY?

Gwich'in Council International is focusing on renewable energy at the Arctic Council, in order work collaboratively with our neighbours to find renewable energy solutions for the Arctic by sharing knowledge, developing best practises, and building resources.

Our communities in both Canada and Alaska currently rely on diesel power generation and a switch to renewables will help our communities to:

- Increase our energy security by providing reliable sources of energy generation;
- Generate economic benefits by diversity the economy and creating jobs;
- Reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, which have a negative impact on our Arctic environment.