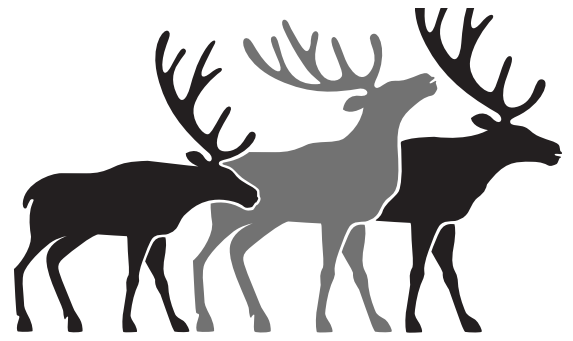


Gwich'in Council

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 where Indigenous peoples have 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 are 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.

Our Capacity-Building Initiatives

We are building our organization by:

- **Reaching deeper into our communities:** through hosting our own events and bringing Arctic Council events to the communities.
- **Practicing good governance:** through strategic planning and developing a Board Handbook.
- **Communicating more:** by launching a new website, providing articles for community newsletters, expanding our social media outreach, and increasing our presence at community events.
- **Building partnerships:** by working collaboratively with governments, other Indigenous organizations, academics, and the private sector; and by diversifying our sources of funding.

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ED ALEXANDER
SAM ALEXANDER
EVON PETER

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PAUL JOSIE

NWT

ETHEL BLAKE
JORDAN PETERSON

STAFF

GRANT SULLIVAN

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:** aims to develop best practice guidelines and build a circumpolar network of Arctic EIA practitioners.
- **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.
- **Diverging from Diesel:** identifies the true cost of diesel power generation when environmental and social impacts are included.
- **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.

Policy Initiatives

We provide input to national and international policy initiatives that affect Gwich'in internationally.

- **Arctic Policy Framework:** This new federal policy framework for Canada will reorganize and reprioritize federal activities in the Arctic. GCI has been participated in the “Canada in a Global Context” working group and has provided written submissions to the APF process, focusing on issues such as ANWR, Indigenous mobility, and climate change.
- **Ministerial Meetings:** GCI participates in biannual meetings of foreign ministers from the eight Arctic states, as well as ad hoc meetings of Environment and Science Ministers.

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.