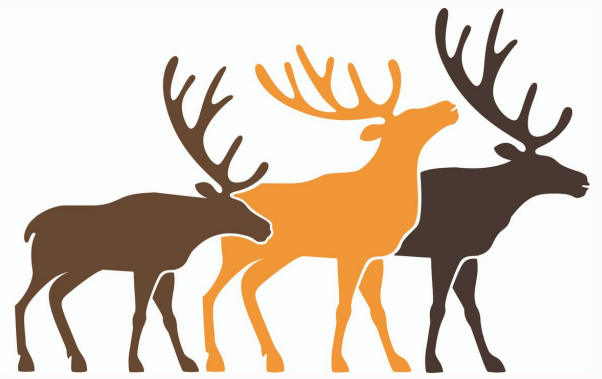


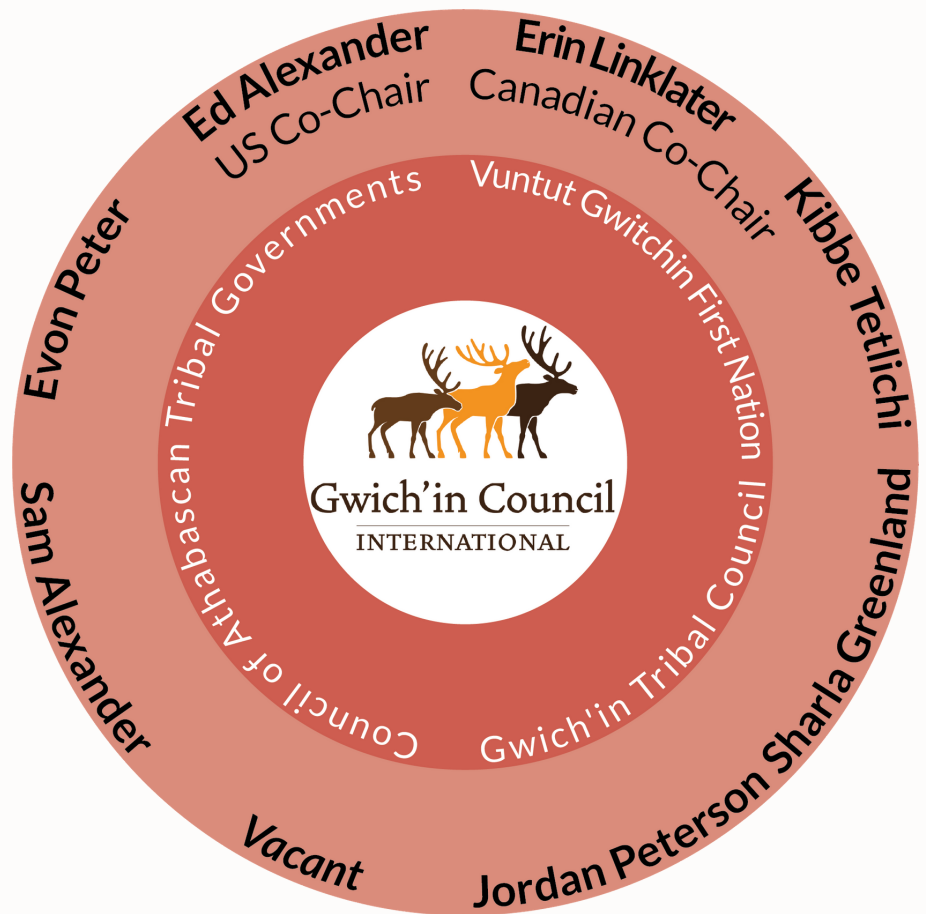
August 2020

# 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.

We provide input to national and international policy initiatives that affect Gwich'in internationally, including to Canada's Arctic and Northern Policy Framework; Ministerial Meetings with foreign ministers from the eight Arctic states; and briefings with senior Arctic Officials from USA and Canada.



## Who We Are

GCI's membership consists of two representative bodies in Canada and one in the United States: Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), who represents the beneficiaries of the Gwich'in Land Claims Settlement Act in the NWT; the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN), a self-governing First Nation in Old Crow, Yukon; and the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments (CATG), for the eight Gwich'in communities in Alaska.

Our mission is to amplify the voice of the Gwich'in Nation on sustainable development and the environment at the international level to support resilient and healthy communities.

GCI is a not-for-profit organization based in Yellowknife, Canada. It has one full time staff member and a volunteer Board of Directors (diagram above).



Permanent Participants in Iceland, Nov 2019

## Our Projects

We focus our engagement within the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF), and the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPPR). Some of the projects we are involved with are:

The **Arctic Community Energy Planning and Implementation Toolkit**, which provides online and print resources for community energy planning to facilitate getting communities off costly and environmentally damaging diesel generation. An updated Toolkit is on our website.

The **Arctic Renewable Energy Network Academy (ARENA)** program provides training on renewable energy through on-site visits, mentoring, project support, and training.

The **Arctic Food Innovation Cluster** is looking at ways to enable and enhance innovation and food security in our communities, and learn from practices around the Arctic. First steps include a regional food inventory.

**ECONOR IV**, the fourth Economy of the North Report is in development, and will prepare a circumpolar overview of the economy, socioeconomic conditions, and sustainability issues in the Arctic. We want to look at what a Caribou Economy means to Gwich'in.

**Local2Global**, a multiyear project to increase mental health supports in communities, developed digital stories that are making their way around the Arctic.

**Arctic Wildland Fires** – within CAFF, we are looking to improve understandings of fire impacts in the Arctic, especially as they cross regional and national boundaries, and bring Indigenous knowledge and practices for discussion in managing fires. At EPPR, we want to better coordinate responses to wildland fires and explore international cooperation and contracting of crews.

”

*The Gwich'in Nation is a critical voice in matters affecting the Arctic and have generations worth of knowledge about their traditional territory that is valuable today.*

- Erin Linklater, Co-Chair



Want to learn more?  
Facebook  
@GwichinCouncil

Devlin Fernandes  
Executive Director  
gciadmin@gwichin.nt.ca  
778-884-0152