



# November 2020 Update

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. The Arctic Council is a forum for cooperation, collaboration, and interaction, and has six working groups advancing projects, partnerships, and networks.

We provide input to national and international policy initiatives which 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.



## Key Activities

GCI participates in various working groups, Arctic Council events, and activities to advance our mission and work (see above). In the past quarter, we've been active in meetings, webinars, and project work.

## Meetings

Some of the meetings we've participated in September-November 2020 are:

- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group
- Emergency Prevention, Planning, and Response (EPPR) Working Group
- Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) & COVID-19 Briefing
- Canada's Arctic Council Advisory Committee
- USA Senior Arctic Official & staff
- Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) and Marine Mechanism discussions
- Yukon First Nations Wildfire & Natural Resources Canada



Webinars – Past

**Arctic Resilience Forum** – Gwich'in speakers have shared insights, experiences, and lessons learned on Indigenous Youth Leadership (*Jordan Peterson* October 7<sup>th</sup>) and Renewable Energy (*Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm* Oct 21). Recordings are available here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqgfggQsv9jRm\\_f-E9tcCQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqgfggQsv9jRm_f-E9tcCQ)

**Reconciling Ways of Knowing** online dialogues are advertised through Facebook, and GCI covered the cost of Gwich'in members who wanted to attend. Recordings available here:

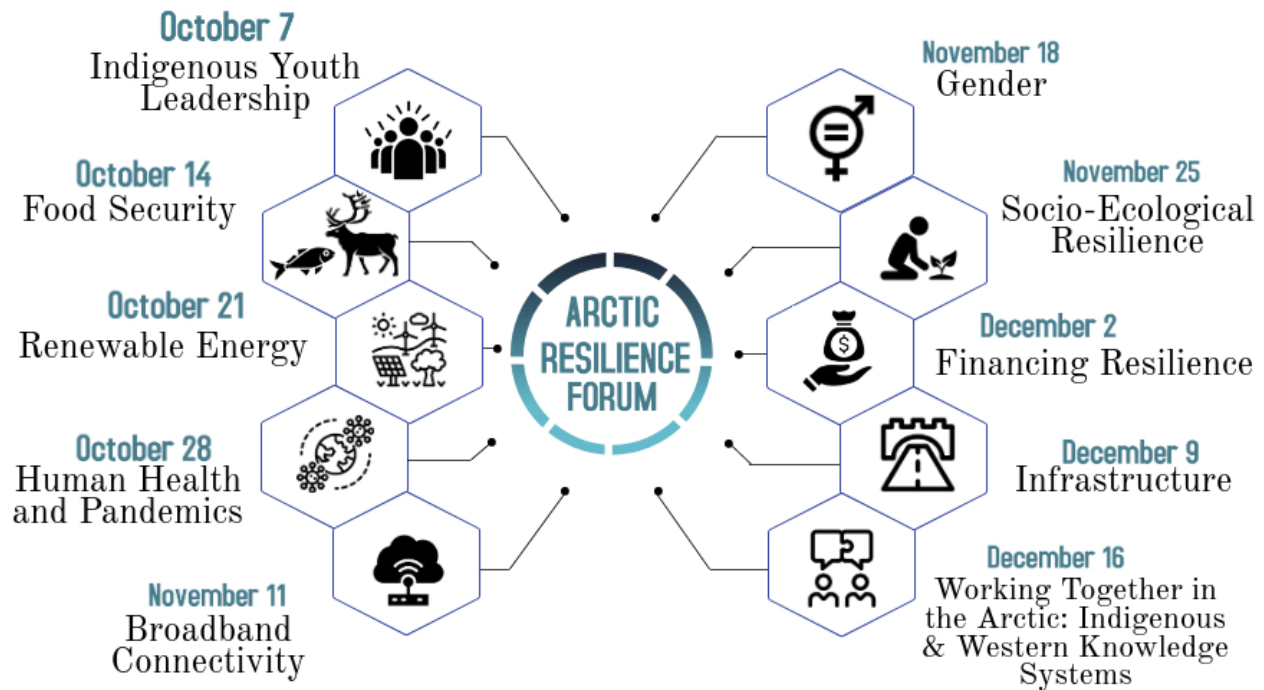
- Braiding Ways of Knowing: <https://www.waysofknowingforum.ca/dialogue3>
- Two-Eyed Seeing & Beyond: <https://www.waysofknowingforum.ca/dialogue-4>

Webinars – Upcoming

Panelists, states, and organizations from across the Arctic are coming together to discuss how to respond and adapt to changing circumstances through the Arctic Resilience Forum. Information & registration here:

<https://www.belfercenter.org/event/arctic-resilience-forum>

- November 18: **Gender** and Resilience in the Arctic
- November 25: **Socio-Ecological Resilience**
- December 2: **Financing Resilience**
- December 9: **Infrastructure** and Resilience in the Arctic
- December 16: Working Together in the Arctic: **Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems**, featuring GCI Board member *Evon Peter*



The Arctic Resilience Forum 2020 is hosted by the Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and co-organized by the Councils Sustainable Development Working Group and the Arctic Initiative at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center. Graphic by Gwich'in Council International. All events are free and online 1130am-1pm EST.



## Outreach and Opportunities

COVID-19 has impacted how activities are conducted, but there continue to be ways to get involved.

**Gwich'in writing and photography contest** – what makes you proud to be Gwich'in? Submit original writing and up to three photos, with chance for publication and cash prizes.

<https://gwichincouncil.com/contests>

**One Health online course**, via University of Alaska Fairbanks: <https://www.edx.org/course/one-health>

**Gwich'in engagement survey** – we want to build our network, and know when and how to share employment contracts, academic and learning opportunities, conference opportunities, and ways to get involved. Fill out our survey [HERE](#).

**GTC Board position:** GTC is looking for participant representation on the GCI Board. Apply by Nov 30.

## New and Exciting

Work is underway on new initiatives. Stay tuned to our Facebook page, or participate in the survey, to stay up to date.

- 1) **Local 2 Global:** dialogue and films about suicide prevention and wellness. This Arctic Council project is coming to Inuvik NT this winter.
- 2) **GCI Youth Ambassadors:** we're developing a program this winter to recruit and attract youth to our work, provide opportunities and mentorship, and empower youth as leaders in the Arctic.

We are pleased to release our [2019-2020 Annual Report](#). Download it from our website or contact us to be sent a copy.

## Contact Us

Devlin Fernandes, Executive Director,  
Yellowknife Canada

[GCI.executivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:GCI.executivedirector@gmail.com) // 778-884-0152

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GwichinCouncil/> // <https://gwichincouncil.com/>

