2016-2021

Fort Yukon Community Plan

2016-2021

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Resolution

Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
(Formerly known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA)
P.O. Box 126
Fort Yukon, AK 99740
Phone: (907) 662-2581 OR 1-800-478-6822
Fax: (907) 662-2222

Resolution # 16-25

Adopting Community Plan

Whereas, this community plan is important to the future growth and development of the Fort Yukon; and,

Whereas, this plan was created through a public process which captured the values and goals of our community: and,

Whereas, this plan is a tool that help us manage change in our community: and,

Whereas, this plan is intended to coordinate future community development and service delivery; and,

Whereas, It is understood that this document was created for public use and will be made publically available and,

Whereas, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize And use this plan; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the parties of this resolution agree to work together to pursue opposed by the following parties:

Certification

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed and approved 6 in favor, 0 opposed by the following parties

Tribal Government — Date: 8-23-16

City Government — Date: 8-23-16

Community Vision

COMMUNITY VALUES

Land

Surface Resources

Strong Language

Strong Ethnic Identity

People

Respect

Strong Value System

Spiritual/Religion

Traditional Culture

Strong Government

Executive Summary

The Fort Yukon Community Plan was completed with the help of Tanana Chiefs Conference Village Planning and Development Program, Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government (GZTGT), City of Fort Yukon, Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation, and other entities in Fort Yukon. The community has been instrumental in developing a community plan through community planning meetings, surveys, and interviews. The plan was reviewed and adopted as an official document by the GZTGT on 08/17/2016.

Community Planning Process

Bonnie Thomas, Community Planning Specialist was hired by the Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government through a contract with Tanana Chiefs Conference Village Planning and Development Program to put the community plan together. Bonnie is originally from Fort Yukon, married to Randy Thomas, and together they have 4 children. Bonnie has an Associate's degree in Tribal Management, attended various colleges in the state The University of Fairbanks, Sheldon Jackson College, and also attended The American University in Tribal Law.

Community Plan Implementation

The Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government will implement this community plan by utilizing it as a living document. The community plan should be updated yearly and utilized to move the goals and objectives forward in order to develop projects and proposals. Implementation of the Fort Yukon Plan also opens up capacity building and funding opportunities, including the TCC Village Planning & Development Grant Development Specialist position, which provides funding for the Tribe to employ a community based grant writing specialist that works closely together to write a grant for the Tribe to carry out one of the top goals and priorities in the community plan.

History and Culture[1]

The Gwich'in Tribe inhabited the Yukon Flats area for thousands of years. Alexander Murray of the Hudson's Bay Company built the original Fort on Russian territory in 1847. Fort Yukon quickly became an important trade center for Gwich'in Indians who inhabited the vast lowlands of the Yukon Flats and the rolling hills of the Chandalar, Sheenjek, Porcupine and Black River Valleys. A mission school was established by 1862.

When the United States purchased Alaska in 1867, the Hudson's Bay Company continued operating, believing that the location was within the Dominion of Canada. In 1869, an American navigator traveled up the Yukon River and conducted sun sightings to prove that Fort Yukon was part of Alaskan territory. The Canadians then withdrew across the border.

Moses Mercer, a trapper with the newly formed Alaska Commercial Company, took over operation of the Fort Yukon trading post. He was joined by American missionaries and trappers. These were followed in tum by prospectors when small quantities of gold were found between Fort Selkirk and Fort Yukon in 1873. A post office was established in 1898.

The fur trade of the 1800's, the whaling boom on the Arctic coast (1889-1904), and the Klondike gold rush spurred economic activity and provided some economic opportunities for the Native inhabitants. Major epidemics of introduced diseases struck the Fort Yukon population from the 1860's until the 1920's.

Over the years Fort Yukon continued to serve as a mission and trading center. Archdeacon Hudson Stuck, who made the first ascent of Mt. McKinley in 1913, made Fort Yukon his headquarters and is buried in the Native cemetery. In 1914 the Episcopal Church established a hospital, which served the community until the mid-1950's. In addition to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the community is served by the Assembly of God and the Baptist church.

The first plane landed in Fort Yukon in 1921. In 1945 filling and grading began for the system of city streets that is in use today. A major flood in 1949 destroyed much of the settlement, and many of the residents moved their homes to the higher ground east of the original town site. The stores, school, post office, public offices, and the community center are now located there.

Most Fort Yukon residents are part of the larger Gwich'in Athabascan Indian population of Alaska, who occupy about 55,000 square miles of territory on the Yukon River drainage. Half the villages scattered across the Yukon Flats lie above the Arctic Circle. At the western end of the valley, the culture transitions to the Koyukon Athabascans.

[1] 1996 Fort Yukon City Plan

Location

Fort Yukon is located at the confluence of the Yukon River and the Porcupine River, which is about 145 air miles northeast of Fairbanks. More specifically, Fort Yukon lies at approximately 66.564720° North Latitude and -145.273890° (West) Longitude. (Sec. 18, T020N, R012E, Fairbanks Meridian.) Fort Yukon is located in the Fairbanks Recording District. The area encompasses 7.0 sq. miles of land and 0.4 sq. miles of water.

Wildlife

A wide variety of fish and wildlife are present around Fort Yukon. Mammals include moose, caribou, Dall sheep, black and brown bears, wolves, marten, lynx, beaver, muskrat, otter, weasel, and other furbearing animals. Over 150 species of birds and waterfowl migrate to this refuge to feed and nest (Northern Alaska Environmental Center, 2009). The Yukon River provides habitat for 18 species of fish including king (chinook), dog (chum), silver (coho) salmon, sheefish (inconnu), pike, Bering Cisco and other species of white fish, lamprey eels, burbot, and grayling also inhabit the lakes and streams nearby.

Critical habitat areas or sanctuaries in and around Fort Yukon include the Draaanjik area, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in the areas surrounding Fort Yukon and located within the Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge (Lynch, 2004). The American peregrine falcon is the only known endangered species within refuge. The Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge is also home to bald eagles, which were once on the endangered species list until 2007 when it was removed from the list of threatened and endangered species (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2016).

Vegetation

The primary vegetation in the area includes mosses, stunted black spruce, dwarf birch, sedge tussocks, and lichens. Vegetation is important to the permafrost tables, if removed it will lower the settling of the ground surface and erosion will result along the steams.

Wild and Scenic River Status

There are two Wild and scenic Rivers located within the Yukon Flats Refuge, which tribal members of the GZGTG utilize for subsistence activities and they are:

- Upper/Lower Beaver Creek, located approximately 35 miles down the Yukon River
- Fort Yukon Sheenjik River, located approximately 17 miles up the Porcupine River from Fort Yukon.

Wilderness

The northern boreal forest covers much of the Upper Yukon Porcupine region, carpeting most of the vast Yukon Flats and extending tendrils of forest into the foothills and valleys of the Brooks Range and surrounding uplands. Encompassed within this forest are diverse plant communities, including bottom land spruce poplar forests, lowland and upland spruce-hardwood forests, low-brush-bog and muskeg, and moist and alpine tundra.

The principal woody species found are white spruce (Picea glauca), black spruce (Picea mariana), white birch (Betula papyrifera), aspen (Populus tremuloides), alder (Alnus sp.), and willow (Salix sp.). A variety of shrubs, grasses, sedges, mosses, and lichens create a complete ground cover. Aquatic vegetation thrives during summer in the warm waters of lakes.

White spruce, birch, and balsam poplar are generally found along well drained hillsides or riverbanks. Away from the rivers and in poorly drained areas black spruce is often found interspersed with bog and muskeg vegetative communities. Along river bars, shrub thickets of willow and alder predominate creating excellent habitat for moose, snowshoe hare and other species.

Moist tundra communities contain sedge tussocks, herbs such as fireweeds and a variety of low growing shrubs and grasses, Alpine tundra provides habitat for caribou, Dall sheep, ground squirrels, and grizzly bears. Lichens, forbs, grasses, and shrubs are often found here clinging to barren, rocky, windswept slopes. Residents utilize certain species of this local flora, including berries, roots and other materials.

Soils and Topography

The Native Village of Fort Yukon is located on the Yukon Flats which is characterized as being a flat marshy flood plain dotted with numerous thaw lakes, sloughs, and meandering streams. The primary vegetation includes organic mat of mosses, grasses, tussocks, and lichens with stands of willow, spruce, aspen, and birch trees.

There are two dominant soil types in this region. The primary soil type is the water-deposited silts and fine sands. The subsequent soil type is the poorly drained soils found in many of the shallow sloughs and old stream beds. These soils are usually permanently frozen even at shallow depths and can pose severe problems when constructed upon. The Yukon Flats region is in a discontinuous permafrost zone, and the maximum thickness of the permafrost near the town site is 390 feet.

Climate

Fort Yukon winters are long and harsh, while the short summers are surprisingly warm. There is very little precipitation, and the surrounding region is considered an Artic desert. The Yukon-Tanana Plateau, south of the Yukon Basin, forms an effective barrier to the maritime air flows from the North Pacific Ocean. After rivers and marshes freeze, the plateau is a source for cold, continental Artic air. Extended periods of –50 to –60 degrees Fahrenheit are common, and –75 degrees Fahrenheit has been recorded. Daily minimum temperatures from November to March are usually below 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

Summer temperatures reach 80 degrees Fahrenheit each year, and a high of 100 degrees Fahrenheit has been recorded. The daily maximum average during July and August each year is more than 70 degrees Fahrenheit despite these high summer temperatures, daily variations can be extreme. Freezing temperatures have been recorded in every month of the year.

Governance/Public Administration

Tribal Government

The mission of the Tribal Government is to exercise governmental authority to promote economic and social development, advocate and secure tribal rights, to secure tribal lands, to enhance educational opportunities and to protect traditional cultural values with a unified voice on behalf of its tribal members.

The Tribal Council members are the governmental leadership of the Gwitchyaa Gwich'in Tribe consisting of seven (7) members and are elected by a majority of the tribal voters.

Tribal Government Programs

Tribal Operations Department

The Tribal Operations Department is responsible for assisting tribal members in establishing enrollment, maintaining the archives of organization materials, overseeing the ANA Grant Administration, and for the drafting of ordinances.

Tribal Court

In accordance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government Tribal Court oversees child custody issues (including State intervention), appeals & petitions. The Court is comprised of five (5) elected judges and a clerk.

ICWA personnel also provide case management for children in Tribal custody as well as overseeing Tribal foster homes and Tribal adoptions.

General Assistance Program

The General Assistance program is responsible for providing funds to qualified tribal members for specified basic needs (which may include food, clothing, shelter, and utilities, burial assistance may also be included as an essential need).

Elder Program

The Elder Program administers the Nutrition Program for the Elderly. Each weekday, a hot lunch is served to those of retirement age or older. For those elders unable to get to the dining room, the Elder Program will provide transportation to and from the Tribal office.

Other Tribal Programs include: Housing, Realty, Natural Resources, Transportation, Education, etc.

City Government

The City of Fort Yukon conducts its affairs under a manager form of government. City Council members are elected at large to staggering three year terms. Elections are held annually, which are overseen by the City Clerk. The mayor of Fort Yukon is elected by the council to serve a one-year term. An appointed City Manager reports to the city council, which works to balance budgets with the city Treasurer. The City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the city, as well as recommending long-term initiatives to the City Council. The manager supervises and oversees duties and responsibilities of all city personnel. The City Council holds public meetings every 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Gwitchyaa Zhee Village Corporation[2]

The Gwitchyaa Zhee Village Corporation was officially incorporated on July 23, 1973 under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971, which is referred to as ANCSA. This corporation promotes the economic, social, cultural, and personal wellbeing of all Natives enrolled into the Native Village of Fort Yukon. Our Corporate Vision is to Grow GZC as an Economical Sustainable Business Serving Shareholders Interests in Line with our Gwich'in Values. Let us work towards our vision together. The corporation paid its first dividend in 1984.

For the first five years after our articles were filed, we were subject to the approval of Doyon, Ltd. Doyon was to oversee our budgeting as the regional corporation was to offer guidance.

Fort Yukon is the address of the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation, where Walter J. Peter was the first registered agent. We had five initial Board of Directors, Jonathon Solomon, Walter J. Peter, Richard C. Carroll, Paul Solomon Sr., & Nancy James. It is noteworthy to state that Donald Peter was the notary and John C. Sackett, was the approving residing president of Doyon, Ltd.

The Corporation is responsible for opening up lands in our village for growth. In the mid 1970's the Angle Pond Subdivision was formed and our village extended with home sites. Since then we have extended this subdivision. Today, our water and sewer system services this area.

We have obligations to complete 14C1, 14C2 & 14C3 transfers. According to the ANSCA rules, we were to identify and convey title to surface rights. The 14C1 was reviewed in the early eighties; these lands were to be given to occupancies in 1971 as a primary place of residence, primary place of business, subsistence campsite, and headquarters for reindeer husbandry. For many years our village corporation worked on these projects, then in 2008 we finally got the 14C1 claimants' list to BLM. These sites were surveyed, and in 2015 twenty six claimants received title to their claims, which leaves twelve more to finalize.

[2] Information compiled by Frannie Hughes 2016

In 1994 a Land Transfer Agreement was signed with the Native Village of Fort Yukon, which transferred a warranty deed of 103,680 acres to the Native Village of Fort Yukon. This was believed to protect our lands from debtors and taxation, yet retaining certain rights in the lands.

The Corporation opened the GZ Fuel, a gas station quick mart in our village in 2003. Today, our business is sound, offers employment, and paid for our dividends in 2012. In the early 2000's, our Corporation acquired the BLM Barrack's, which is utilized as summer rentals.

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

The Chiefs, Elders and other members of Tribal governments of the Yukon Flats Region established CATG in 1985. CATG is comprised of the 10 villages in the Yukon Flats including: Arctic Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Canyon Village, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Fort Yukon, Rampart, Stevens, and Venetie. CATG is recognized as a non-profit Tribal consortium for the purposes of administering federal, state, and private foundation grants and contracts.

The organization is the largest Tribal employer in the region, providing 50 jobs with an over 70% local hire rate and managing an annual budget exceeding $5 million. Based in Fort Yukon, CATG has been very successful in improving health care, advocating for tribal rights and working towards a sustainable economy, which is compatible with the subsistence lifestyle.

CATG is comprised of Four Departments: Administration, Health, Education, and Natural Resources.

Borough Government

There is no organized borough government in the Yukon Flats region. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is located south of the Yukon Flats and the North Slope Borough boundary is north of Arctic Village.

Public Utilities

Water and Sewer

The City of Fort Yukon manages the water and sewer for the community. Water is derived from two wells and is treated and stored in an 110,000-gallon tank. A combination of piped water, water delivery, and individual wells serve households. A flush/haul system, septic tanks, honey buckets, and outhouses are used for sewage disposal. Approximately half of all homes are plumbed. The piped water system and household septic tanks were installed in 1984. The City received funds to begin repairs to the piped water system and to construct a piped gravity sewer system to serve 250 residents and the local businesses. This project was to eliminate residential septic systems and outhouses. This project was completed in phases to work near strategically located lift stations. In 2011, the community extended the piped water system gravity and gravity fed septic system to the new subdivisions with a 325,000-gallon water tank.

Solid Waste

The City of Fort Yukon manages all solid waste facilities in the community. The Gwitchyaa Gwich'in Tribe assists with recycling and backhaul within the community's landfill.

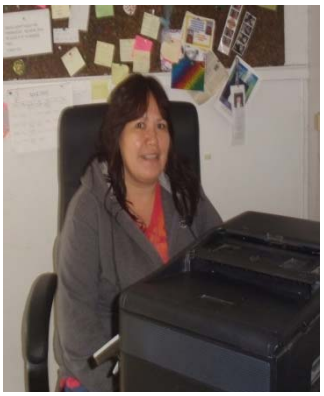
Communications

Radio

KZPA Public Broadcasting provides public service announcements. With the State of Alaska cutting the budgets in half, KZPA will be seeking funding and needs the support of the community and other villages surrounding Fort Yukon to keep the radio program up and running.

Bonnie Thomas- Volunteer DJ

Hans James- Station Manager



Vicky Thomas- Office Manager

Internet and Phone

TelAlaska provides telephone and Internet services to the community. GCI also provides Internet and cell phone services. The Internet service provided lacks high-speed Internet and is sometimes unreliable. Fiber optics was recently introduced to the region, which is still a work in progress. Companies of interest for fiber optics are Star Band, Hughes Net, and AT&T. Fiber optics were installed via a buried cable to the Yukon Flats Health Center and CATG's administration.

Energy

(Bulk Fuel & Electric)[3]

In 1949, the Fort Yukon Utility Company, a private system, was established to provide electricity. In 1955 the U.S. Air Force built an aircraft control and warning site and has since extended the White Alice Communications Network to the village. In 1985 the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation purchased the utility company, for which Gwitchyaa Zhee Utilities

[3] http://energy.gov/indianenergy/articles/fort-yukon-gains-heat-and-insight-biomass-project

provides electric power to the community. Community consumption can easily overload the generators, a developing need to upgrade the voltage for future expansion. With a new power plant being constructed, other outdated infrastructure within the community must be upgraded to meet the new electronic operated power control panels.

Tribal Energy Grant Program funding and support have helped pave the way for Alaska Native Villages and other tribal communities to pursue energy visions and goals that are keeping with their cultural values, their goals for self-determination, and their aspirations for future generations. The community has secured solar panels for the Tribal Administration building and would like to extend this new source of energy to the school and health buildings. Fort Yukon currently utilizes a greenhouse project with solar panels as a learning venture.

Fort Yukon Biomass Project (Ongoing)

The new power plant has a “biomass chipped system” which requires further funding as the environment changes, thus needing a sustaining method of energy.

Public Facilities

There is a city owned Laundromat the community uses. Most private homeowners do have their own washers and dryers in their homes. The community needs a place for visitors and travelers to have water/shower facilities. A vehicle was area is also needed.

City of Fort Yukon

The City provides and manages the water and sewer system, which includes 5 lift stations and a main office for that department. The City also has a liquor store, for which its profits provide funding for community projects.

Police Department

The Fort Yukon Police Department is also funded from the liquor store sales. However, most of the funds come from the City of Fort Yukon. Presently, Fort Yukon does not have a Village Police Safety Officer. However, funding is available for up to 2 to 3 officers. There is a need for more officers and the ability to provide the community with 24-hour police/public safety coverage.

The City also owns City Games, which provides Bingo and Pull Tabs, of which these profits also fund community projects.

The City of Fort Yukon has submitted a request for funding to provide public safety services in the old clinic facility. They are proposing to renovate these to include: a Jail holding facility, police officers, fire department, washeteria, and a place to hang out for the homeless in the front waiting area. The building and foundation is in place. The City just needs funding and support to make it happen. Further funding for these public services are a community need. The location is a good strategic site with access to services.

GZGTG Tribal Office

The Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government has a 7-member council, where the Chief and second chief are elected positions. The Executive Director follows plans and directives for the staff. See Governance Section for Department Information.

Recycling Center

The recycling Center Building is used to provide clothes and necessities for other members of the community. The need to recycle is great, as the village is a compact place where the community must decide what to do with goods while remaining respectful to the environment and air. Recycling bins need to be advertised. Community members need to be educated and reminded to be responsible.

Yukon Flats Health Center

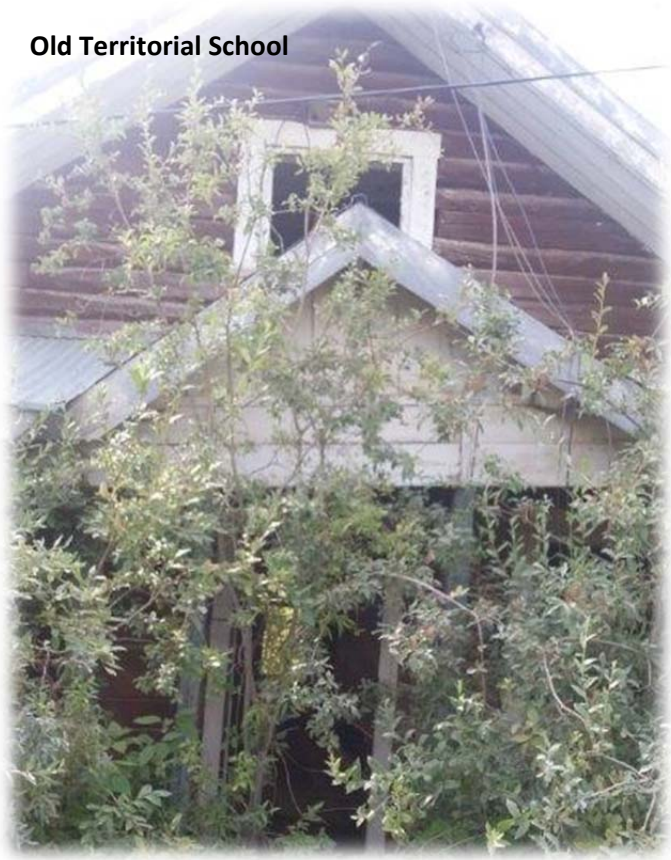
The Yukon Flats Health Center is the new health clinic built in 2007 and provides health services to the community and surrounding villages for dental, health, and behavioral health services. Wellness programs are ongoing and continue to be available.

Emergency Services

The Yukon Flats Health Center provides emergency services, utilizing an ambulance to pick up sick patients, where the EMT Squad rotates on call schedules. The City of Fort Yukon is interested in starting a search and rescue squad, where the office will be housed in the old clinic facility if funding is approved. The community is in dire need of a public safety facility to house emergency vehicles and expand the police department.

Yukon Flats School District

The present school was built in 1958 after the state closed the old Territorial School and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) School. A new school was built in 1999 after a fire completely destroyed the old school.



Old Territorial School

The Alaska State Legislature established the Yukon Flats School District on July 1, 1976. At that time, assets to be used by the District were turned over by direct transfer or by use permits from the State of Alaska. The District is operated under the exclusive oversight management and control of the locally-elected seven-member School Board. The School Board has governance responsibilities over all activities related to public elementary and secondary education within the jurisdiction of the Yukon Flats School District.

The State of Alaska established a system of public schools to be administered by the Department of Education and Early Development, who then established the Yukon Flats School District in 1976 with Alaska Regulations 14.08.031. These regulations divided the unrecognized boroughs into 19 Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA) school districts that exist today. The Yukon Flats School District public education for children in grades K-12.

The Yukon Flats School District (YFSD) main office is located in Fort Yukon and serves 7 villages in the Yukon Flats with a total of 264 students (Preschool-12th FY2011) and 31 teachers. Fort Yukon School has an enrollment of 117 students (Preschool-12th FY2011) and 14 teachers.

The community has a vocational center with adjacent dorm rooms. It is important to utilize these facilities as the school system is limited to vocational training. Fort Yukon is the Hub of surrounding villages.

Students during cultural awareness week

Post Office

The U.S. Postal Service is not in full function for the entire community, hours have been reduced and 2 positions have been eliminated due to the budget cuts. This is hard on the postmaster, which leaves the Postal Service transporting in a relief clerk. The Postmaster position is currently open; hours of operation are 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Monday – Friday. The community wants a full time Postmaster and a clerk to keep up with the mail and continue providing services to the community. Housing is needed for the postmaster.

Economy

Population Demographics

Fort Yukon is the largest community on the Yukon Flats and serves as a regional center for the surrounding communities of Beaver, Venetie, and Birch Creek. According to the 2010 Census, the population is 583. Tribal enrollment for Fort Yukon, which includes some non-residents, was 1612 in 2015.

Local Stores and Businesses

AC Store

The Alaska Commercial Company has been based in Fort Yukon since the early 1950's. The original store was called the Northern Commercial Company and later changed to the Alaska Commercial Company and is known as the AC Store. They provide food, clothing, and hardware for the community. Fort Yukon, as with other rural communities in Alaska, works hard to make ends meet in the face of the high cost of living. Thus, the community of Fort Yukon relies heavily on hunting, fishing, and gathering to offset these costs.

Employment

The City of Fort Yukon, GZGTG, CATG, Alaska Commercial Company (ACC), and the Yukon Flats School District (YFSD) are the primary employers in Fort Yukon. Tourism is becoming increasingly popular; Fort Yukon experiences spectacular Northern Lights during winter and has 24 hour daylight during the summer months. One resident holds a commercial fishing permit.

The AFS/BLM operates the Upper Yukon Zone under a facility that is active only during a high summer fire season and is also used as an emergency firefighting base and deployment site. The U.S. Air Force operates a Long Range Radar Site which is operated under a contract through Arctec Inc.

Subsistence

Trapping, Native handicrafts, and hauling firewood provide supplemental income for residents of Fort Yukon. Residents rely heavily on subsistence foods to offset the high costs of goods sold in the one and only store in Fort Yukon (ACC). Salmon, whitefish, moose, bear, caribou, and waterfowl provide most meat sources. Many residents have small gardens in their yards and take advantage of the long summer growing hours and rich soil for growing excellent fresh vegetables.

Infrastructure

Housing

The Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government receives NAHASDA funds from HUD for its Housing Program. The Tribal Government constructs between 1-3 new houses each year for low-income Tribal members, in addition to providing rehabilitation services to existing homes. The Tribal Council serves concurrently as the Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Housing Authority. The 2015 Projects included NAHASDA Self-Help and Rehabilitation and an Ice Rink and Warm-up shack

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the total housing units numbered 317, and vacant housing units numbered 92. Vacant housing units used only seasonally numbered 37.

Realty Department

The Realty Department is responsible for the administration of Restricted Native Allotments, wills, and probates.

Transportation

Fort Yukon is accessible by air and barge during the summer months. Riverboats and skiffs are used for recreation, hunting, fishing and other subsistence activities. The Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government assists the community by providing transportation services. The transportation department oversees the sale and delivery of gravel for residential purposes, repair of roads in its inventory, and has implemented a transit system.

Barge

Yukon Barge is locally owned by Gerald James, who provides barge service up and down the Yukon River. Crowley Marine and Ruby Marine also service Fort Yukon.

Airport

The airport, which consists of a float plane facility and a 6,010 foot long gravel runway, is owned and maintained by the ADOT/PF. The airport is also equipped with runway lights and navigational aids. Multiple air carriers service Fort Yukon seven days a week year-round.

Right of Way and Roadway Ownership

The memorandum of agreement between the Tribe and City is an agreement where the City of Fort Yukon maintains the estimated 37.5 miles of road in Fort Yukon. Roadways outside the city limits located on Village Corporation lands are owned by the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation. There are no State Roads in the area.

A review of low-altitude aerial photography of the community overlaid with property lines indicates that Fort Yukon's principal street, East 3rd Avenue is contained within a 60-foot right-of-way (ROW) inside the town-site and a 30-foot ROW east of the town-site. No ROW is designated for East 3rd Avenue from the town-site boundary west to the Barge Landing Site. Other streets within the town-site have 20-foot to 75-foot ROW's designated, with a 55 feet predominant standard within the eastern portion of the town-site and 30 feet with the western portion.

Geometric Elements

The City of Fort Yukon reported that all of the roads delineated on the community road map are about 20-30 feet wide. Inspection of the roads and reviewing aerial photographs indicates that they are for the most part, accurate. Virtually all of the streets appear to have been constructed within their rights-of –way. Many streets have benefited by engineered horizontal alignments.

Existing Structural Elements

Surfacing and Sub base Material

The City of Fort Yukon reports that the streets are constructed upon three to four foot thick gravel embankments. The gravel is mixed with a substantial amount of silt, producing extremely dusty conditions, especially during the summer. The City of Fort Yukon considers the dust problem to be serious enough to qualify as a potential health hazard. In 2015 the State of Alaska installed air filters to count dust particles along Spruce St. This has been a very serious problem for the young and elders, especially when summers have smoke from wildfires; the air quality is very dangerous.

Drainage

A series of ditches and culverts were installed in 1995 during the construction of the dike/levee project to help improve the seasonal drainage and to remove flood water. Below is list of culverts needed in the community to adequately drain storm and flood waters:

- Airport Way from East 3rd Avenue to Spruce Street
- East 3rd Avenue Airport Way to Spruce Street
- Spruce Street from E 3rd Avenue Airport Way.
- Clinic Road from Spruce Street Airport Way.
- Sled Road William Loola St to East 1st Avenue

The community does not have an adequate drainage system, the ground sits with water after the snow melts, there is a need for the Corps of Engineer to restructure infrastructure towards proper drainage as many homes still have active outhouses.

Bridges

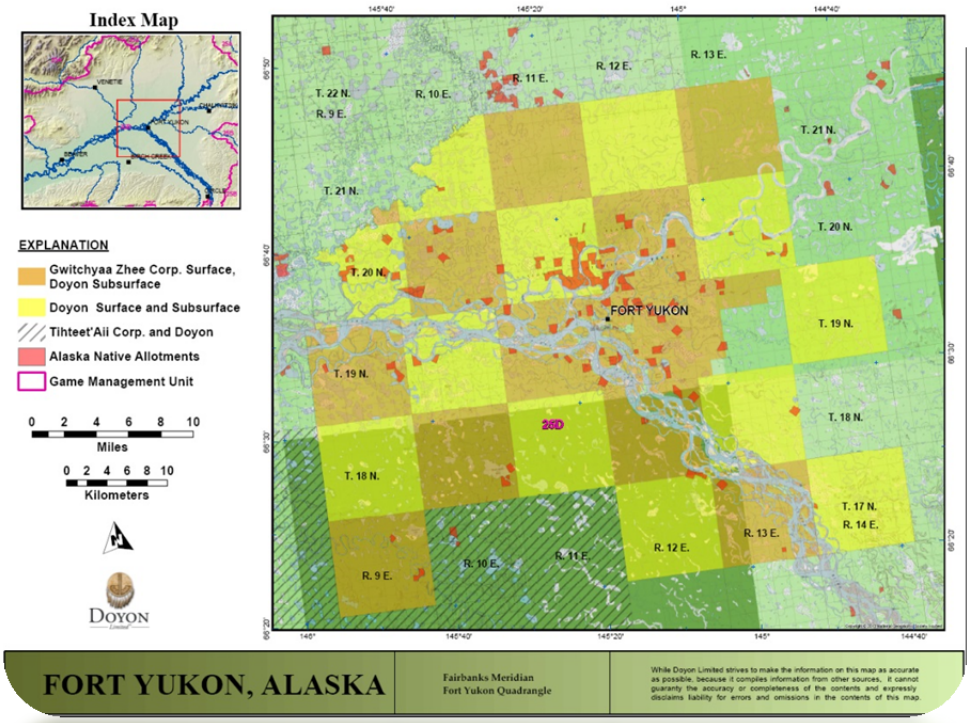
There is one existing bridge (Ivar's Bridge) located on Ivar's Road and is approximately 150 feet in length and 10 feet wide over the Sucker River. Ivar's bridge was constructed in 1990 with 5 foot diameter culverts and concrete. GZGTG has received funding through the FHA and various organizations to remove the old bridge and construct a new bridge. GZGTG is currently in the planning and design phase and anticipates beginning construction in 2016.

Land Ownership

Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation

Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation, the local Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) village corporation, owns the surface lands on and adjacent to the Fort Yukon LRRS: Cache Site. Doyon Limited, an Alaska Native Regional Corporation owns the subsurface lands on and adjacent to the Fort Yukon LRRS: Cache Site. Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation and Doyon Limited acquired rights to the surface and subsurface land, respectively, through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act that was enacted by Congress on December 18, 1971. Surface lands were transferred to Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation through an interim conveyance dated 1983 or 1985, and a final conveyance from the Bureau of Land Management dated June 27, 2007 (Patent No. 50-2007-0573).

The Native Village of Fort Yukon was officially incorporated in 1959. Surface land ownership in the Fort Yukon area consists primarily of ANCSA-conveyed lands owned by Gwitchyaa Zhee Corp. and Native allotments. Gwitchyaa Zhee Corp. owns 214,600 surface land acres, of which approximately 617 surface land acres are on and adjacent to the Fort Yukon LRRS: Cache Site, and .50 surface land acres impacted by the Fort Yukon LRRS: Cache Site.



Environmental Concerns

Flooding

With the exception of the eastern portion of the village, Fort Yukon is subject to flooding. No floods have ever occurred due to summer rains, but occur during the spring breakups and are usually caused by ice jams on the Yukon River. Damage caused by the floods is a result of the large thick ice slabs that the water carries in as well as the water itself.

TCC villages have experienced periodic flooding with notable events in 2009 and 2013 that damaged property in Eagle, Circle, Fort Yukon and Galena. Annual flood damage varies, with damage caused by a mix of high floodwaters and ongoing riverbank erosion. Climate change will likely continue to increase the overall frequency and severity of floods in Interior Alaska.

Military Debris

The military debris is located at a location referred to as the Fort Yukon Long Range Radar Station (LRRS): Cache Site. Debris consisting of military-style ration containers and military-style rations are protruding from the east bank of the southern end of Yllota Slough. Ration containers and rations are occasionally scoured out of the bank by ice movement during spring break-up, where they end up in the base of Yllota Slough. The metal containers that house the rations are partially rusted and deformed by the scouring action of ice in Yllota Slough during spring break-up, resulting in many small holes and sharp edges. Site visitors are at risk of lacerations from sharp, jagged, rusty metal containers when traversing the slough blank when fishing, hunting, trapping, or firewood gathering.

With assistance from NALEMP, Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government Natural Resource Department plans to relocate the debris to a safe, permitted, and permanent landfill, and rehabilitate the Cache Site.[4]

[4] Please review the Fort Yukon Strategic Project Implementation Plan for more information.

Community Well-being

Events

Many communities celebrate the lengthening of daylight hours across the Interior by hosting spring carnivals. During the first week of April, TCC communities such as Venetie and Fort Yukon welcome friends and relatives from neighboring communities to their annual spring event. The week is filled with a variety of events including potlaches, fiddle dance, games and contests.

Churches

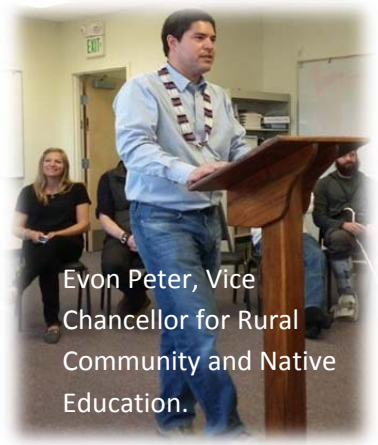
The St. Stephens Episcopal Church is one of the 3 churches in Fort Yukon. They are in need of a new parish hall to hold after church events or potlatches for special events. They do not have the funding and would like community support.

The Assembly of God Church has been in Fort Yukon since the 1947. They are engaging in the community with the local children and hold events that include our youth. This continues during each season.

The Baptist Church is also another option for spiritual healing. They also are doing well and continue having services.

Episcopal Church

Additional Educational Opportunities



Evon Peter, Vice Chancellor for Rural Community and Native Education.

The University of Alaska's Fort Yukon Learning Center offers programs for all villages in the region, including undergraduate college courses leading to an Associate of Arts degree. Most undergraduate college courses are taught with the intention of leading to an Associate of Arts degree. Most courses are taught by audio-conference with local facilitators. Other courses are taught locally.

The Interior Alaska Campus offers Occupational Endorsement, Certificate, Associate and Baccalaureate degrees via distance delivery and local intensive courses. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) and Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP) funds most of the students taking distance courses. The Yukon Flats School District (YFSD) also funds duel credit for High School Students and sponsors courses to enhance the skills for all high school students in the Yukon Flats area.

SWOT Analysis

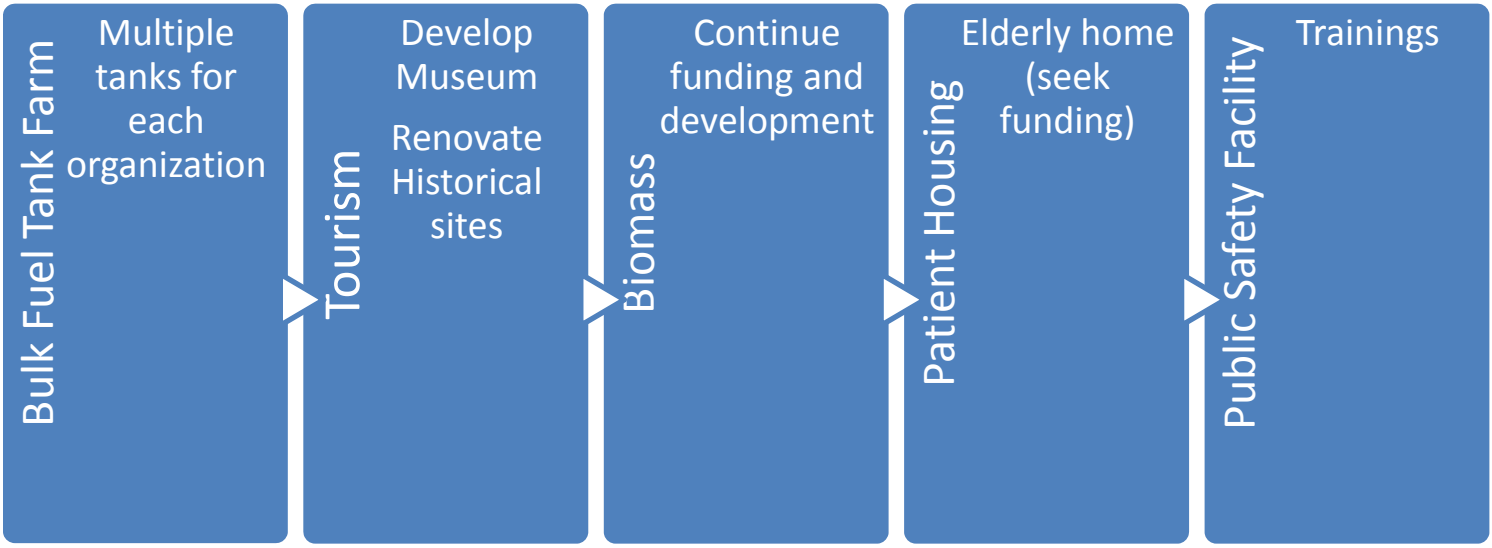
Strengths
Hub for Yukon Flats Advocacy
Running Water/sewer
Safety
Local Radio Station
Cultural values
Local police/VPSO
Subsistence
Job opportunities
Values
School District
River use
University/vocational
Local gardens
Language Center

Opportunities
Search and Rescue/ Expand public safety
Crimes Prevention
Local Trainings/ Educational training
Tourism
To enhance youth encouragement
Culture Camp
New Subdivision
Centralize Networking
Enhance Local businesses
Summer Youth Program
Garden opportunities
Power Plant
Entrepreneurship/small businesses
Facilities available
Language
Local Drivers Licenses available
Search for Alcohol/drug facilities

Weaknesses
No Elders Home
Need Centralized education by tribe
Health Management Postal Service
Lack of dust control/roads
No gravel sites
Lack of safe homes and foster parents
Tribal court system/leadership
Teacher housing
Social programs unorganized
Fire break
No museum
No elder support to youth
Close old landfill/open new one
Flood control
Only one local store
Costs are too high in village
Lack of networking

Threats (external factors)
Public communications systems
Need Customs/Border Patrol
Heating fuel, gas, propane costs
Preservation of Arts and Crafts
Monopoly on Fuel, Store, Airlines
TCC/CATG telling tribe what to do
State/Federal funding cuts Social Service
Resource Development
Marijuana Law
Climate Change
Lack of Planning
Students leaving to other schools
Flooding
Trespass Issues
Organizational growth
No input from elders
Youth advocacy
Increase fishing & hunting regulations
Outside Land sales

Top 5 Goals for next 5 Years



Community Priorities

Goal: Promote growth of Fort Yukon's local economy.

Strategy: Encourage and promote Small Business Development

Action Item: Develop Economic/Business Development plan for the Yukon Flats subregion.

Action Item: Research the feasibility of opening a co-op store owned by Fort Yukon community member

Action Item: Develop a Fort Yukon tourism business plan.

Strategy: Support local education and training.

Action Item: Ensure community participation in promoting and developing workforce development training.

Action Item: Ensure education assistance programs and scholarships are advertised consistently to encourage more residents to seek a higher education.

Strategy: Create and fill sustainable jobs within the community that utilize the skills and talents of residents.

Action Item: Encourage local community members to receive training required to fill vacant positions within the community.

Action Item: Support new, innovative ideas to build the local economy.

Action Item: Explore opportunities to develop natural resources.

Goal: Provide more housing opportunities.

Strategy: Build a living facility for the Elders in the community.

Action Item: Research the feasibility of operating an elder's home in the community.

Action Item: Look for funding opportunities to help assist with the cost of an elder's home.

Strategy: Support the construction and rehabilitation of new homes in the community.

Action Item: Survey the community to better understand the number of houses needed to help support teacher housing, foster parent housing, and public safety housing.

Action Item: Research funding opportunities.

Action Item: Encourage the construction of rental homes in the community.

Goal: Support the healthy development of the youth in the community.

Strategy: Encourage the youth to learn local subsistence practices through the mentorship of adults.

Action Item: Encourage youth and elder engagement.

Action Item: Teach survival skills to future generations.

Action: Research funding for cultural and educational youth activities.

Action: Encourage the community (local teachers, parents, and students) to engage in cultural activities.

Strategy: Create a sustainable system for organizing youth events.

Action Item: Work with community organizations to develop a list of volunteers who would be willing to donate their time and skills to teaching and monitoring youth events to be updated each year.

Action Item: Develop a calendar of events for indoor and outdoor youth activities.

Goal: Improve health services to ensure community health needs are met.

Strategy: Ensure existing health clinic staff receives ongoing training necessary to successfully complete job duties.

Action Item: Ensure customer services and patient advocacy are high priority for staff.

Action Item: Review and enforce existing health clinic personnel policies to ensure proper conduct from staff.

Strategy: Encourage and support the expansion of Health Services.

Action Item: Research and develop a plan to increase Mental Health, Physical Therapy and Holistic health services by the Tribe.

Action Item: Research and develop a plan for a sleep off center.

Action Item: Utilize Telemedicine and Telecommunications to better serve community member's needs.

Action: Research better internet opportunities to help support the technology needed to support telemedicine and telecommunications.

Strategy: Encourage and support the expansion of public safety opportunities.

Action Item: Expand and develop local housing, holding cell, and additional infrastructure to enhance public safety and search and rescue opportunities.

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Northern Alaska Environmental Center. (2009). *The Wildlife.* Retrieved 08 12, 2016, from Northern Alaska Environmental Center: http://northern.org/programs/arctic/yukon-flats-national-wildlife-refuge/the-wildlife

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Appendices

Current Council Members as of 05/03/2016

Seat A: First Chief – Nancy James

Seat B: Second Chief – Tony Peter

Seat C: Member – Frannie Hughes

Seat D: Member – Ryan Strom Sr.

Seat E: Member – Gerald Alexander

Seat F: Member – Michelle Vandyke

Seat G: Member – Robert Flitt Jr.

Elders Traditional Chief: Simon Francis, Sr.

Resolution supporting a "Detox Center" in Gwichyaa Zhee (Fort Yukon)

Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
(Formerly known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA)
P.O. Box 126 3rd & Alder Street
Fort Yukon, AK 99740 **1-800-478-6839 (nvfy)** www.fortyukon.org
Phone: (907) 662-2581 Fax: (907) 662-2222

RESOLUTION 2016 – 19

Resolution supporting a "Detox Center" in Gwichyaa Zhee (Fort Yukon)

WHEREAS: the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government (formally known as Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA) is the federally recognized Native Governing body for the community of Fort Yukon; and,

WHEREAS: the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government is entrusted with protecting the health, safety and well-being of our Tribal Members and we have identified the need to further develop and strengthen our commitment to protect tribal members; and

WHEREAS: our tribal members often leave our villages to go to Fairbanks for Treatment for Alcohol and /or Drug related issues, seeking resources and support for their healthcare; and

WHEREAS: our tribal members feel isolated being away from their village with no access to resources available to them for treatment of Alcohol and/or drug abuse; and,

WHEREAS: it would be beneficial for our tribal members to be treated here in Fort Yukon, so they can participate in Cultural Activities, and have familiar village community interactions; and,

WHEREAS: there is a Behavioral Health Department within the Council of Athabascan Tribal Government Health Center; and,

WHEREAS: there is a need for a community "Detox Center" to be established and adequately staffed here in Fort Yukon.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government direct staff to collaborate with the Council of Athabascan Tribal Government, Tanana Chiefs Conference and other entities for a Community "Detox Center" to be established here in Fort Yukon.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government on the 21st day of April 2016 by a vote 6 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Tony Peter
~~Nancy James, 1st Chief~~
Tony Peter 2nd chief

Tribal Operations Officer

Resolution supporting a "Detox Center" in Gwichyaa Zhee –Poll Vote

Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
(Formerly known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA)
P.O. Box 126 3rd & Alder Street
Fort Yukon, AK 99740 **1-800-478-6839 (nvfy)**
Phone: (907) 662-2581 Fax: (907) 662-2222

POLL VOTE # 3

For Resolution 2016 – 19

A Resolution in supporting a Detox Center in Gwichyaa Zhee (Fort Yukon)

Nancy James, 1st Chief	YES	NO	
Tony Peter, 2nd Chief	YES	NO	
Frannie Hughes, Seat C	YES	NO	
Ryan Strom , Seat D	YES	NO	ABSENT
Gerald Alexander, Seat E	YES	NO	
Michelle VanDyke, Seat F	YES	NO	Michelle Vangie
Robert Flitt Jr., Seat G	YES	NO	

Comments:

Resolution supporting Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in living center

Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
(Also known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA)
P.O. Box 126
Fort Yukon, AK 99740
Phone: (907) 662-2581
Fax: (907) 662-2222

RESOLUTION 15-17

GWICHYAA ZHEE GWICH'IN LIVING CENTER

WHEREAS, as our elders often leave our village to go to Fairbanks, seeking resources and support for their healthcare and housing; and

WHEREAS, then our elders often feel isolated without easy access to, and information to participate in cultural activities and the familiar village community interactions; and

WHEREAS, there is a high need for a Community Elders Living Center to be built and adequately staffed in Fort Yukon.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Council direct staff to collaborate with the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Tanana Chiefs Conference and other entities for an Elders Living Center in Fort Yukon.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government on the 17 day of August, 2015 by a vote 6 for, Ø against, and Ø abstaining.

First Chief, Nancy James — Date: 8-18-15

Tribal Operations, Dorene Mahler — Date: 8-18-15

Public Services	City of Fort Yukon	Native Village of Fort Yukon	Other Providers	State/Federal Agency
Police	XX			
Fire Protection	Volunteer Fire Department			
Water Utility	XX			
Sewer	XX			
Landfill	XX			
Cable-Television	XX			
Games Operation	XX			
Liquor Store	XX			
Public Works	XX			
Auto Repair	XX		Local Providers	
Levee and Flood	XX			
Road Maintenance	XX	X		
Development Permit Program	XX			
Washeteria	XX			
Tribal Operation		XX		
Reality Services		XX		
Social Services		XX		State of Alaska
General Assistance		XX		
Natural Resource		XX	CATG	
Environmental		XX	CATG	
Employment		XX		
Transportation		XX		
Elderly Program		XX		
Clinic and Health			CATG	
Public School			Yukon Flats School District	
Dental Program			CATG	
Mental Health			CATG	
Electric Power			G-Z Utilities	
Radio KZPA			Gwandak Public Broadcasting, Inc.	
Magistrate				State of Alaska
Airport Construction/Updates				DOT & PF
Airport Maintenance	DOT & PF contract			DOT & PF
Communications			Interior Telephone CO.	
Fuel	XX		G.Z. Fuel, Crowley, Everett's Air	

Equipment owned by the City of Fort Yukon

City of Fort Yukon

P.O Box 269 – Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740
907-662-2379 or 662-2479
Fax 907-662-2717
citymanager@fortyukon.us

2015-2016 EQUIPMENT LEASE RATES

EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION	HOURLY RATE	DAY RATE
324 D Excavator w/ripper	$200	$1000
D7 Dozer w/ripper	$200	$1000
930 G Loader w/forks	$200	$1000
D-4	$200	$1000
IT 14 Loader w/forks	$175	$875
12 YD End-Dump Truck	$150	$750
10 YD End-Dump Truck	$125	$625
H160 Grader	$200	$1000
Fiat 65 B Grader	$200	$1000
Cement Truck	$300	$1500
F800 Boom Truck	$150	$750
Water Truck	$200	$1000
Flat-Bed Pick-Up	$150	$750
Pick-Up Truck	$50	$250
Compressor-Large tag along	$100	$500
Generator/Welder	$50	$250
Water Pump 2", 3", 4"		$50
Water Pump 6"		$200
Jetter	$50	$250
Plate Compactor		$50
Small Cement Mixer		$50
Vacuum Truck 1000 gallons	$150	$750
Space Heater		$50
Electrofusion Machine		$50
Fuel Truck 2000 gallons		$150
Trailer 8X12		$100
Office (City Blg) 9'X12'	$100	$216 Monthly
Basic Utilities provided – Internet and cleaning services additional		
Office (City Blg) 8.5'X17'	$100	$289 Monthly
Basic Utilities provided – Internet and cleaning services additional		
RCC Building 1500sf	$100	$2250 Monthly
NO Utilities included in this price and will be the responsibility of the lessee		

ALL DAY RATES ARE BASED ON AN 8 HOUR DAY
ALL WEEK RATES ARE BASED ON 40 HOUR WEEKS

Equipment Owned by Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation

Quantity	Equipment
1	Cat 12 Grader
1	10-Yard Dump Truck
1	Chevy Flat Bed
1	JD 450 w/backhoe
1	18 sack Cement Mixer
1	JD Loader 544
1	Tanker 2400 gal.
1	Auger Truck - large
1	Crane ¾ - 1 yard
1	Sky Worker Truck
1	JD 24 Forklift w/bucket
1	Snow Blower
1	Steam Cleaner
1	D-8 Cat 1994
1	12-Yard Dump Truck

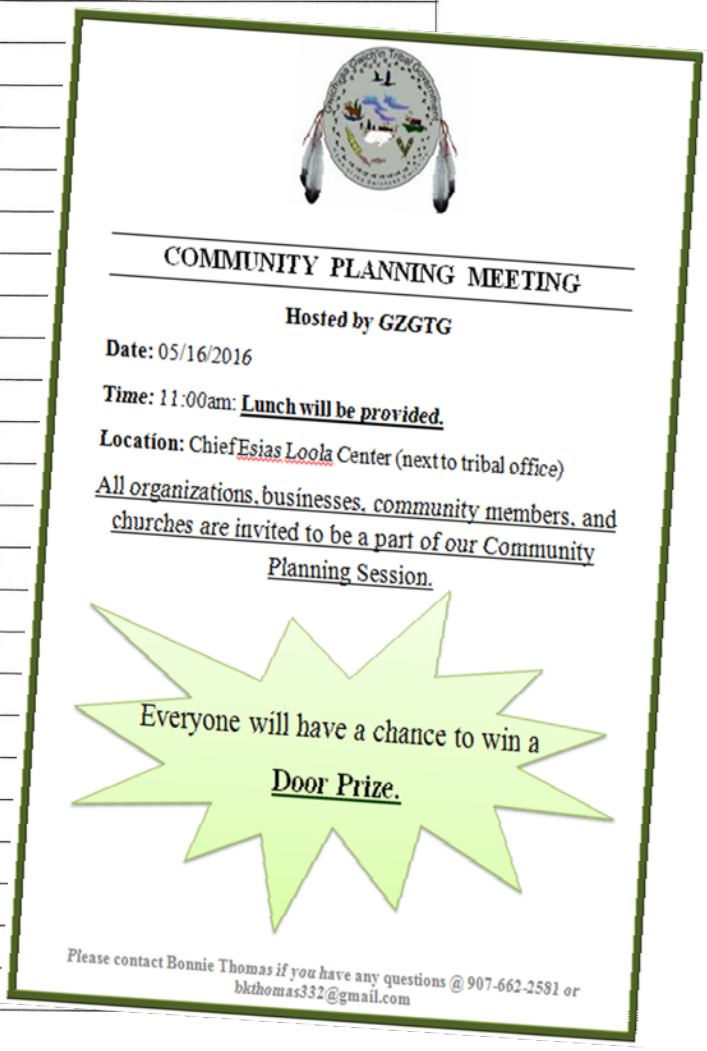
DCED RAPIDS Community Capital Project Database -- October 27, 2011

Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description	Project Stage	Agency Cost	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DCRA	2011	Funded/ Complete	Multi-Purpose Community Services Center	Preliminary	$300,000.00	$3,000,000.00	4/19/2010-6/30/2015	Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Council
AEA-AEEE	2010	Funded/ Ongoing	Fort Yukon Central Wood Heating DESIGN - BIOMASS	Preliminary	$210,000.00	$350,657.00	Grant Term Date 9/30/10	Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation
DOT&PF	2010	Funded/ Complete	Airport Improvements	Preliminary	$0.00	$6,500,000.00	Beg Date: 3/1/09, End Date: 6/30/14	
DOT&PF	2010	Funded/ Complete	Snow Removal Equipment Building	Preliminary	$0.00	$1,500,000.00	Beg Date: 4/19/09, End Date: 6/30/14	
Denali	2010	Funded/ Complete	Fort Yukon Regional Energy Planning	In-Progress	$258,300.00	$4,598,071.00		Alaska Village Initiatives
AEA-AEEE	2009	Funded/ Ongoing	Fort Yukon Community Wood Heating - BIOMASS	Contract	$22,500.00	$1,640,110.00		Gwitchyaa Zhee Corp.
ANTHC	2009	Funded/ Complete	Construct a new water storage tank and sewer service to serve approximately 40	Construction	$7,595,593.00	$7,595,593.00	Start 06/01/2010 End 11/01/2004	ANTHC Full

			homes in Zone 6, Fort Yukon, Alaska.					
ANTHC	2009	Funded/ Complete	Sewer service in Fort Yukon, Alaska.	Construction	$2,125,755.00	$2,125,755.00	Start 06/01/2010 End 11/01/2004	ANTHC Full
ANTHC	2009	Funded/ Complete	New water treatment plant and water system upgrades in Fort Yukon, Alaska.	Construction	$1,795,632.00	$1,795,632.00	Start 06/01/2010 End 11/01/2004	ANTHC Full
ANTHC	2009	Funded/ Complete	Water and sewer service lines in Ft. Yukon, Alaska	Construction	$300,000.00	$300,000.00	Start 11/01/2004 End 06/01/2010	ANTHC Full
ANTHC	2009	Funded/ Complete	Water service in Ft. Yukon, Alaska	Complete	$60,000.00	$60,000.00	Start 10/15/2009 End 11/01/2009	ANTHC Full
DCRA	2009	Funded/ Complete	Purchase Heavy Equipment for Public Works	Completed	$50,000.00	$50,000.00	Appropriation Date 4/13/08, Lapse Date 6/30/13	City of Fort Yukon

1st Community Planning Meeting-Sign in sheet and Agenda

Name	Name
Brianna Gray	Paul Sherfelt
William Flint Sr	Warren Carver
Arlene Petty	Jackie Carron
Shirley Fields	Rene Ward
Jared Petty	Nellie Ward
Michael Hardy	
Drafton Solomon	
Andrew Firmin	
Shawn Phillips	
Pastor Jeremiah Niemuth	
Pastor Joshua Niemuth	
Yungma Peter	
Mary Nathaniel	
Christine R. Fredericks	
Ron Englishoe	
Cindy Sherfelt	
Michelle Watchman	
Marty Williams	
Gerald Alexander	
Judy Alexander	
Linda Fulds	
Alfred Peter	
Diana Peter	
[illegible]	
Jason Carroll	
Jamie-Lance Bowie	
Ronnie James	
Tony Peter	
Amelia M. Wance	
James Kelly	
Pat Stanch	



COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING

Hosted by GZGTG

Date: 05/16/2016

Time: 11:00am: **Lunch will be provided.**

Location: Chief Esias Loola Center (next to tribal office)

All organizations, businesses, community members, and churches are invited to be a part of our Community Planning Session.

Everyone will have a chance to win a

Door Prize.

Please contact Bonnie Thomas if you have any questions @ 907-662-2581 or bkthomas332@gmail.com

2nd Community Planning Meeting Sign in sheet

6/13/16

Sign in Sheet

Fort Yukon Community Planning Sign-In Sheet

Name	Email Address/Phone Number
Brenda Krol	6662-5191
Nancy Shewfelt	6662-2581
Mayor Joe	6662 5283
Michael Hardy	6662-2581
Richard Carroll II Mayor	662 5147
Adlai	773-5503
Jared Peter	662-5572
Shirley Fields	6662-2581
Christine Rafael	
LINDA KALKINS	662-5229
Janice J. Dennis	6662- -2515
Anita Solomon	662-3070
Roxanne Crandall	
Jackie Carroll	6662-5596
Vernon Hatt	5720
ANDREW FIRMIN	5196 2581

*Please provide your email if you would like updates on the community plan

3rd Community Planning Meeting Sign in sheet

7/14/16

Fort Yukon Community Planning Sign-In Sheet

Name	Email Address/Phone Number
Christine Fields	
Shirley Fields	
Nancy Shewfelt	
Jordan Alexander	
Paul Solomon III	
Ronnie James	
WALTER SOLOMON	
Roxanne Chundra	
Shawn Phillips	
Sandra Shupe	
Maggie [illegible]	
Dena Drake	
Phillip Solomon	
Gerald Petersen	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
Ron English	
Stephanie [illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
William Shallow	
[illegible]	

*Please provide your email if you would like updates on the community pla

Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
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Phone: (907) 662-2581
www.fortyukon.org
1-800-478-6839 (nvfy)
Fax: (907) 662-2222

Community Planning Workshop

Thursday July 14

11:00 a.m.

Chief Esias Loola Tribal Hall

Lunch Provided

We will be going over the 5 top strategic projects

Hosted by CATG

4th Community Planning Meeting Sign in sheet

Final Community Planning Workshop

Reviewing The Final 5yr Community Plan

August 16, 2016

12pm - 2pm

At Chief Ezias Loola Tribal Hall

Lunch Will Be Provided

Fort Yukon Community Planning Meeting 08/16/2016

Name	Organization
Carrie Sheenfeet	GZGTG Tribal Member
Christine Rifredi	
Michelle McGovern et al	Observers
Toslayki Inone	Observer - Josiah Int'l University
[illegible] Maggie	Observers
Shawn Phillips	City
Nancy Sheenfeet	GZGTG
Chase Bonestrahn	FYPD
Michael Hanby	GZGTG ED
Julie Matlin	CATG USFWLS
Shirley Fredgr	GZGTG
Cindy Sheenfeet	GZOTG
Angeline Peter	
[illegible]	

Public Comments Notes

There is a need for developing a Chamber of Commerce which will consist of one member from each organization to work on projects and continue updating the information as these projects progress.

BioMass Project will need to add an education plan which will train people on the new BioMass system to maintain the equipment and keep members of the community in training.

State funding is depleting, need to continue working together to make our priorities and projects successful.

We have a good community and we are proud of all of the accomplishments that we have done in the past, we need to make a statement that We Are Gwich'in and are here to make a difference in our village. Our leaders need to be sitting at the table and stay informed of what's going on around us also we need to continue using the radio for more Public relations on the radio.

Economic Development is important to the needs of our community, how the influence of alcohol and drugs works against preserving our culture. How can we deal with this? One idea was to start education our young kids now that alcohol and drugs are not a good choice, possible involve the school district to create under the educational part of the school system, there must be a way to involve the youth at a very early age.

Indirect Rates are used to distribute funds to all TCC villages, make sure we get our fair share.

Leadership from our organizations is not doing what they should be, make sure you elect people that will make a difference in the community, demand results!

The housing issue is a big problem, we have to work on our basic needs, the garden project is just starting and teaching our people to grow our own food is a positive outlook in the community.

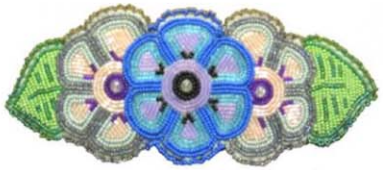
There are barriers that we will have to deal with, we really need to work on developing our tribal jurisdiction for young people to keep their records straight and clean, develop an incentive to make them feel better about themselves. Possible have a education forum with the tribe leading the way.

CATG EARLY HEAD START BROCHURE

What is Early Head Start?

Early Head Start is a comprehensive program designed to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of young children and promote healthy family functioning. EHS was created by the U. S. Congress in the reauthorization of the Head Start Act in 1994. Program services include:

- Quality early education in and out of the home.
- Parenting education
- A variety of health and mental health services
- Nutrition education
- Family support



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CATG Early Head Start

Mission Statement

CATG Early Head Start works with families to promote healthy prenatal outcomes, enhance the development of young children and to promote healthy and productive families within our Yukon Flats communities. Early Head Start will put our infants and toddlers, as well as their families, on a path towards success – ready to learn and contribute to our community. We will create an atmosphere of co-operative learning and care through consistent and competent home visits and socializations providing responsive guidance for families and children.

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
Early Head Start
PO Box 397
Fort Yukon, AK 99740
Toll Free 1-866-764-3267
Phone 1-907-662-3266
Fax 1-907-662-3278

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

Early Head Start Program

Joesias Firmin and Jeremy Fernandez Jr. of Fort Yukon

Supporting Our Families, Our Communities and Our Culture…….Together.

Toll Free 1-866-764-3267

CATG YUKON FLATS HEALTH CENTER BROCHURE

About YFHC

The Yukon Flats Health Center provides professional, confidential, and culturally appropriate health, dental and behavioral health services. Through a variety of services the YFHC promotes healing, personal growth, and healthy living for the individual, family, and community.

HOURS OF OPERATION

To make an appointment, please call 662-2460.

Yukon Flats Health Center
8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m., 1:00-5:00 p.m.
(The YFHC is closed from 12:00-1:00 p.m.)
Monday - Friday

Saturday Clinic Hours
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fort Yukon
After Hours Emergencies: 907-662-2462

VILLAGE INFORMATION
Village Clinic Hours
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

After Hours emergencies for Villages:
1-800-478-7425

Village Clinic Contact Information
Arctic Village Clinic - 587-5229
Beaver Clinic - 628-6228
Birch Creek Clinic - 221-2537
Venetie Clinic - 849-8712

MISSION STATEMENT
Our mission is to promote healing, personal growth, and healthy living for the individual, family, and community.

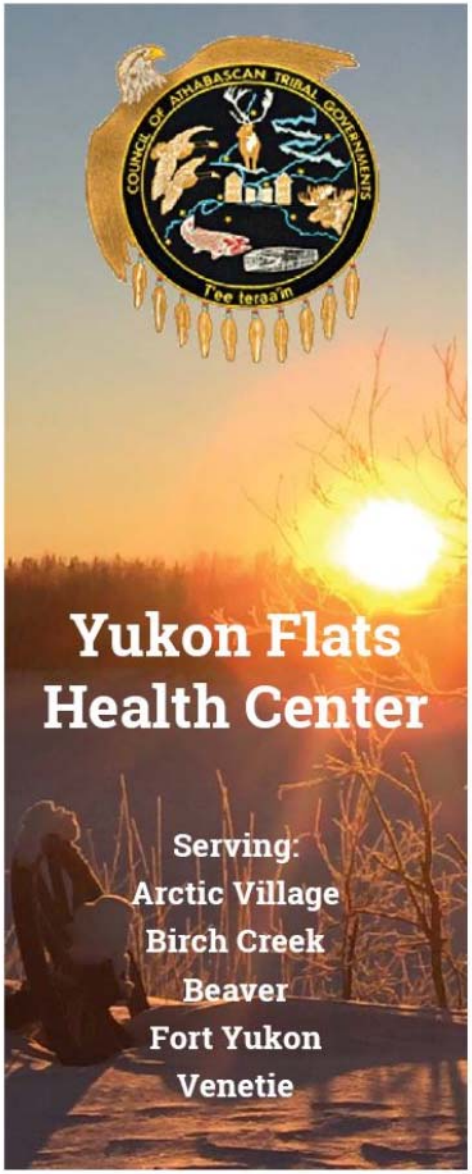
CONFIDENTIALITY
Yukon Flats Health Center staff respect the confidentiality rights of patients receiving services. All health services provided and written information are confidential as required by state and federal laws as well as YFHC policy. Unless you've given written permission, information about you will not be shared with anyone except under the following general conditions:

- Information from records as requested through a valid court order naming a specific individual
- Child abuse or abuse of a vulnerable adult as identified or suspected
- State of emergency that requires disclosure of information to medical personnel
- If you threaten to harm someone

"Better health means a stronger community."

www.catg.org
907.662.2460
800.478.7425
907.662.2709 (fax)

Yukon Flats Health Center
PO Box 309
Fort Yukon AK 99740



CATG YUKON FLATS HEALTH CENTER BROCHURE (continued)

WHO WE ARE

Yukon Flats Health Center is a rural community clinic with a small staff. Staff members are direct service providers that include a part-time family physician, three Physician Assistants, a part-time Dentist and both medical and dental support staff. The Yukon Flats Health Center is not a hospital nor does it operate a traditional emergency room. For these types of services and for advanced diagnostic services patients must be seen either in Fairbanks or Anchorage. The YFHC offers primary health care, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, diagnostic and radiology services.

WHO WE SERVE

We offer services to all residents and visitors of the Yukon Flats villages. In order to register for services patients must provide the following:

- State issued ID/Drivers License
- Birth Certificate
- Tribal/CIB card
- Social Security card
- Insurance card

VILLAGE-BASED SERVICES

CATG operates 4 village clinics that are staffed by community health aide practitioners (CHAs).

SERVICES

Primary Health Care

- Emergency Care - providers on-call 24 hours
- Well-Child and Well-Women annual exams
- Adult screening, acute & chronic illness exams
- Preventive health services
- Prenatal care
- Child & adult immunizations
- Home visits for elders and disabled
- Physicals for sports, employment & licensing
- Patient education

Diagnostic Services

- On-site testing
- Full service lab
- Electrocardiograms
- Hearing screening test
- PAP & STD screening

Radiology Services

- Digital x-rays

Pharmacy Services

- Prescription medications
- Full-service mail order prescriptions (CAIHC)

Tele-Medicine Consultations

- Phone or video medical consultation

Diabetic Services

- Screening for Diabetes
- Healthy nutrition/lifestyle counseling
- Diabetes education

Dental Services

- Dental exams
- Preventive dental care
- Operative dental care
- Pediatric visits for pre-school children
- Dental education
- Digital x-rays

Community Health Aide(s)

- Village-based medical screenings & exams
- Patient education
- Home visits for elders and disabled
- Referrals to YFHC, CAIHC, or to ANMC

Behavioral Health Services

- Mental health and substance use assessments
- Individual counseling including support services
- Group or family therapy
- Crisis intervention/stabilization
- Screening, brief invention and referral services
- After-care counseling
- Prevention programs and educational activities
- Itinerant services to villages

Transportation

- Medicaid travel assistance
- TCC contract health travel assistance

Daa Łaraadaa: We Go Forward

Evaluation Report 2014-2015

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

About the *Daa Łaraadaa* Project

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Govenments' (CATG) education project, *Daa Łaraadaa: We Go Forward,* is a three year grant - from the U.S. Department of Education. The project is funded from 2013 to 2016.

The *Daa Łaraadaa* project helps students earn industry credentials and endorsements, certificates and degrees from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the following career pathways:

1. Business
2. Education
3. Construction Trades
4. Health & Human Services
5. Tribal Management

Fire Science, Emergency Services, and Technical Trades are emerging career pathways.

The *Daa Łaraadaa* project activites include:

- Scheduling courses with partners Interior Alaska Campus and the Yukon Flats Center
- Tuition assistance to students
- Student Seminars and new Student Orientations
- Outreach to each village in the Yukon Flats region
- Ongoing communication with each student
- Tutoring, job counseling, and mentoring
- Paid internships

The *Daa Łaraadaa* project goals are

1. Implement and develop the Career Pathways model in the Yukon Flats to strengthen the tribal workforce.
2. Operate a culturally appropriate supportive learning environment.
3. Increase tribal member employment placement in the Yukon Flats region.

Native American Career & Technical Education Program

NACTEP

- Project Year 2 -

Award # V101A130034

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I think this program is awesome, people doing good, helping our people to succeed and get a higher education.

NACTEP Student

Daa Łaraadaa Project Update

The *Daa Łaraadaa* project was originally a two year project under the U.S. Department of Education (USDoE). Project Year 2, which is covered in this evaluation report, includes student enrollment for Fall 2014, Spring and Summer 2015, and administrative activities through September 2015. During Project Year 2, NACTEP staff continued to assist project students with tuition, intensive courses, and Student Seminars. The student services position, vacant for most of the *Daa Łaraadaa* grant cycle, was filled in June and immediately began outreach to regional villages. The first NACTEP Student Orientation was held in August with 19 new project students attending. This was an important session for many tribal members who havelimited opportunities to meet in person with NACTEP staff. The Orientation was a strong start for each student's educational journey with direct tutelage from NACTEP staff.

Project Year 2 continued under the leadership of NACTEP Director Michael Hardy (pictured left first photo) through the spring 2015 Student Seminar. CATG Executive Director Patricia Stanley (second photo) assumed directorship of the project until a permanent director, Charleen Fisher (third photo), was hired in August. Miranda Solomon (fourth photo) has been the NACTEP Administrative Assistant since 2012. James Johnson III is the student services consultant (bottom photo).

In September, CATG NACTEP was awarded a Year 3 continuation award for the *Daa Łaraadaa* project. In addition, supplemental funding was awarded that will provide for three additional intensive courses: Computer Business Applications, Photovoltaic Systems, and Wildland Fire. The supplemental funding will purchase tools for project students to train in Power Plant Operations at the Alaska Vocational Education Center. The supplemental funding also covers stipends for Tribal Managment student practicums.

Further, Year 2 carryforward funds expands NACTEP's outreach to regional secondary school students and includes direct involvement for select students in the state and nationwide Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO). This is an important effort given the high unemployment of young males in the region (see next page). Outreach and involvement of secondary students will be headed by a full time CTSO Coordinator.

About CATG & Yukon Flats Region

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments is a consortium of ten tribal governments lead by the Council of Chiefs from the villages of Arctic Village, Beaver, Birch Creek, Canyon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Fort Yukon, Rampart, Stevens, and Venetie in the Yukon Flats region. CATG was formed in 1985 as part of a grassroots effort to promote self-governance and create strong, economically healthy communities in the Yukon Flats. Over the past thirty years, the organization developed three departments – Education, Health, and Natural Resources with a branch for administrative oversight. CATG has four delegates on the Gwich'in Council International (GCI), which is one of the six designated Permanent Participant groups that meet with the eight Arctic Nations on the Arctic Council.

The 2009-2013 American Community Survey estimates the population of the villages in the region at 1,154 with 493 employable adults between the ages of 20-44. The unemployment rate for males in this age group averages 59% and is weighed heavily by males under 30 with 67% for males aged 20-21 and 76% unemployment for males aged 25-29. Of the 177 individuals currently employed in the region, an average of one-half to three-fourths work in government jobs (Alaska Community Data Bank Query available at: http://commerce.state.ak.us). The region's primary Gwich'in and Koyukon Athabascan Indian populations make a living through a mixed subsistence-cash economy, and rely heavily on hunting and fishing in combination with cash income from a handful of local full-time, part-time or seasonal jobs. Regional villages are spread over 35 million acres within Northeast Alaska, with traditional lands known today as the Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge and the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

The CATG holds PL93-638 Self-Governance Compacts and Annual Funding Agreements with the Indian Health Service, and operates the Yukon Flats Health Center, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management / Bureau of Indian Affairs. These compacts have enabled CATG to build local capacity and take on more responsibility to conduct land management through the hiring of full-time and seasonal employees.

Between 2009-2013, the American Community Survey shows 4% of the region's residents earned some level of a post-secondary award or degree. The CATG is dedicated to seeing this percentage increase and encourages tribal members to pursue further education through CATG NACTEP.

Update by Objective

The *Daa Łaraadaa* project has three goals and eleven objectives. For reporting, ease of reading, and discussion, the grant objectives are categorized by three topic areas under each goal:

Goal 1: To continue to implement and further develop the Career Pathway model for career and technical education within the Yukon Flats to strengthen the tribal workforce.

- Career Path Focus - Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.4

Goal 2: To build and operate a culturally appropriate supportive learning environment within the Yukon Flats that encourages employment and degree attainment.

- Student Services Focus - Objectives 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4

Goal 3: To increase community member placement in skilled positions with the Yukon Flats.

- Employment Focus - Objective 3.1, 3.2, 3.3

NACTEP Student Data

To arrive at the figures on student enrolllment and graduation, this report was dependent on data collected and stored by CATG NACTEP. Data collection currently occurs in two ways, first NACTEP student documents (the student application, tuition payments, FERPA agreements, student transcripts, awards and other relevant documents) are digitized, and second, student records are kept electronically in an Excel Spreadsheet by semester and project year. This worked satisfactorily when there was only one year of data, however, multiple Excel years of files have duplicate entries and inconsistent data entries which make it difficult to compare and aggregately report on student statistics and track student progress. Digitized student data is kept in a password protected computer at the CATG Education Department office in Fort Yukon.

Career Path Focused Objectives

Career Path Focus

Objective 1.1: Continue to implement the five established and new Career Pathways that address the needs of CATG region employers and lead to high growth and high wage employment. Objective 1.2: Identify and build 2 additional Career Pathways into the program as identified by stakeholders and students.

CATG NACTEP continues to partner with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Interior Alaska Campus' (IAC) Yukon Flats Center to enroll students in the five Career Pathways listed on the cover of this report. Three emerging Career Pathways were offered in Project Year 2 - Technical Trades, Fire Science, and Emergency Management Services.

Objective 1.1 and 1.2 outcomes are on track.

Update by Objective

Career Path Focused Objectives

Objective 1.4: Schedule and deliver courses in partnership with IAC to Yukon Flats students so that 50% will obtain a credential by the end of the program. The CATG NACTEP Director works with the Yukon Flats Center Coordinator of the IAC to provide courses to students. In Project Year 2, four intensive courses were planned and offered through IAC; there was one in Computer Applications, and three in Tribal Management. The Computer Applications intensive was in response to a fall e-survey where students self-rated their ability to use computers, use popular computer software programs and online university-based programs.

Objective 1.4 outcomes are difficult to measure with current data collection methods. CATG NACTEP continually accepts new students, so determining 50% of these students is a moving target. At the end of Project Year 2, there were 117 project students from October 2013 through August 2015. This means that 58 students would need to earn a credential at this point in time. Another issue is that credentials other than 3 to 9-credit industry certifications or Occupational Endorsements usually take students much longer than two or three years as most students hold a full time job and attend school part time.

Student Services Focus

Student Services Focused Objectives

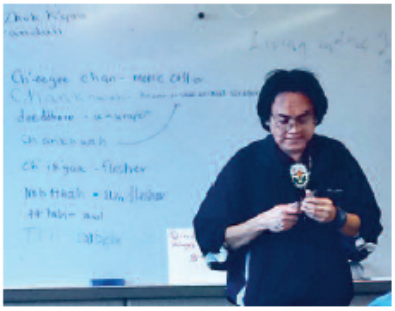
Objective 1.3: Provide assistance to at least 50 students each semester who are actively seeking career-enhancing credentials in one of the identified Career Pathways.
Tuition assistance was provided to 72 distinct students in Project Year 2. Following are students served each semester for Project Year 2 (students may have enrolled in more than one semester):

Fall 2014 - 38 students
Spring 2015 - 65 students
Summer 2015 - 11 students

Objective 1.3 outcomes are on track given that the two semesters average 51 students. Some students do not take courses in the fall semester as they are hunting most of September, as noted ancedotally and in student e-survey responses.

Objective 2.1: Increase student success and employability through semester-based seminars for 20 active students each semester.
Student Seminars are held in fall and spring semesters. In Project Year 2, twenty-three students attended the two seminars which provided information on study skills, managing vocational or academic programs using Degree Works, resume writing, cultural and leadership activities, and networking with other regional NACTEP students. Pictured on the following page are students listening to encouraging words from Al and Loni Stevens (left) and Paul Williams Jr. (right) teaching Gwich'in to Seminar Students.

Update by Objective



Student Services Focused Objectives

Objective 2.1 outcomes could be improved. Attendance at Student Seminars has been low with only 23 students attending two separate sessions. With the hire of a new NACTEP Director with years of experience in education and a student services consultant, the fall seminar has a more academic focus. In addition, a new NACTEP student orientation was held. Pictured at right is Ed Alexander, the Yukon Flats Coordinator, as he helps a student to register for courses at the Orientation.

Objective 2.2: Increase student persistence and completion through outreach for on-site student support services and recruitment in 5 villages each year. The CATG NACTEP project was without student services staff for nearly all the first two project years. This could be due in part to the turnover in the NACTEP Director and inability to hire a qualified student services staff member. In summer 2015, a contracted student services consultant was hired, and traveled with the NACTEP Administrative Assistant to the five villages of Circle, Stevens Village, Arctic Village, Venetie, and Chalkitysik to recruit and inform students of the program. Over 20 students applied to NACTEP and 19 of these new students attended the NACTEP Orientation.

In Project Year 1, there were 57 students taking courses. Of these students, 23 or 40% persisted in their postsecondary education to Project Year 2.

Objective 2.2 outcomes are behind in providing student services. The results of recruitment efforts from travel to five of the ten regional villages is a sign that tribal members are eager for career education. NACTEP students should be tracked by completion rate, and course needs identified so NACTEP can provide intensive courses when possible, especially for the difficult English and Math courses. Having a new student data managment system and a student services consultant on board should improve services to students in Project Year 3.

Update by Objective

Student Services Focused Objectives

Objective 2.3: Institute consistent communications with each active student to provide ongoing support and outreach in community-based, skill-based mentoring and advisory communications with each student each semester.
The two NACTEP staff, the project director, and administrative assistant accepted applications, helped students enroll, notified students of intensive courses, and communicated via email and Facebook. Advisory communications occurred between the student and his or her UAF/IAC advisor.

NACTEP staff comment that it is often difficult to contact students in the project and more so when they are not taking classes. Not all students regularly check email, or have regular access to email. Some have land lines, and others have mobile phones or no phone. Inconsistent communication has also proved difficult for student services. Increasing the rigor of student orientations and seminars should help improve communication between NACTEP staff and students. See Objective 3.3 for further discussion.

Objective 2.3 outcomes are on track. A log to keep track of communications with students was developed in Fall 2013 but has fallen out of use.

Objective 2.4: When necessary provide students with tutors and or tutorial services, job counseling, and mentoring from staff, consultants, community members and peers.
During Project Year 2 some students used UAF and/or IAC tutorial services. In a fall e-survey, students indicated they would like a tutor and some have indicated they would know someone who could help them as a tutor. Assigning students a specific mentor is not occurring. Job counseling is occuring at Student Seminars through guest speakers from specific Career Pathways.

Objective 2.4 outcomes need work. The student services consultant can work to connect students with tutors. Further, students need frequent reminders of NACTEP services which can increase with strengthened communication. An e-survey taken by Orientation attendees indicate 100% of the students registered for courses during the session; 57% of attending students had been accepted into a Career Pathways program, and they were taught how to use univeristy-based software. A follow up e-survey indicates that over 40% of these students would like a tutor, and 86% need more help to use university-based online software.

Update by Objective

Employment Focused Objectives

Employment Focus

Objective 3.1: Keep regional employers abreast of upcoming tribal member training completion.

Village populations are small, consequently tribal members know when students in a village earn a credential. For university certificates and degrees, an annual graduation is held at the Yukon Flats Center. In addition, the CATG Newsletter provides the names and training or award earned of tribal members.

Objective 3.1 outcomes are on track.

Objective 3.2: Each student, as part of their career preparation will participate in a 6 week on-the-job training or internship experience in their career field.

Two students were interns at CATG during Project Year 2 with interships in IT and Early Head Start. These internships lead to full-time employment for these interns. Plans are under discussion at CATG NACTEP for students enrolled in a career practicum to simultaneously undertake an internship.

Objective 3.2 outcomes need work to involve more project students in internships.

Objective 3.3: A minimum of 60% of those who complete a credential in their training program will obtain or retain job placement and/or continue on to the next level of career path training or higher education.

Currently, the data collected on NACTEP students do not inlcude ways to track students over time. There are digital and paper copies of student records, but no systematic way to review them. The prior NACTEP grant developed an ACCESS database for the program. It was discontinued and an Excel spreadsheet was developed. Neither method was used over the last two project years.

Objective 3.3 outcomes are difficult to measure, as communication with students is challenging and NACTEP student records are not flexible enough to track students. More work is needed through communication to effectively track and assist students. An e-survey (see GPRA measure 4.d) indicates 50% of the students responding intend to earn a Bachelor's Degree.

GPRA Measures

GPRA Performance Measure 4.a

The percentage of postsecondary students who attain a degree.

In Project Year 2, one NACTEP student earned an Associate Degree in Tribal management. Added to the five students from Project Year 1, six students earned a degree, or 5% of the CATG NACTEP student body of 117 students, as of August 2015.

GPRA Performance Measure 4.b

The percentage of postsecondary CTE students who attain an industry-recognized credential or certificate.

In Project Year 2, 18% of project students earned an industry credential or Certificate: 5 students earned industry certification as an Emergency Management Technician; 6 students earned an Occupational Endorsement in Fire Science; 2 students earned a Certificates in Construction Trades and 1 of the 2 students earned a Certificate in Tribal Managment equals 14 credentials earned.

GPRA Performance Measure 4.c

The percentage of postsecondary CTE students who are retained in postsecondary education or transfer to a baccalaureate program.

In Project Year 1 there were 57 distinct students taking courses. Of these students, 23 or 40% persisted in their postsecondary education to Project Year 2.

GPRA Performance Measure 4.d

The percentage of postsecondary CTE students who are placed in military service or apprenticeship programs, or who are placed or have been retained in employment, including high-wage, or high-demand occupations or professions.

Surveys were sent to all 117 NACTEP students inquiring on employment. Of the 24 (or 21%) of the students responding, 14 (or 61%) indicate they are employed in the region. Nearly 50% of students surveyed indicated they intend to earn a Bachelor's Degree.

Evaluation Findings

This evaluation has identified four findings on project implementation:

1 NACTEP staff consistently provide educational opportunities for tribal members.
2 A data collection tool is needed to accurately report and assist NACTEP students.
3 More student support and outreach is needed.
4 Investigate compacting / self-determination for the NACTEP grant.

1 NACTEP staff consistently provide educational opportunities for tribal members.

Although there was turnover in project managment and implementation without a student services staff for much of Project Year 2, new students continued to enroll in the CATG NACTEP program, 40% of Project Year 1 students persisted to Project Year 2, and 14 of those 72 students earned a credential. The CATG Director and the NACTEP Administrative Assistant kept the program running consistently until a full-time Director was hired.

Recommendation: NACTEP and CATG staff need to focus on the hire for the CTSO Coordinator as it is often challenging to hire a qualified person to work in the Yukon Flats region and planning for Spring Semester 2016 must begin as soon as possible.

2 A data collection tool is needed to accurately report and assist NACTEP students.

As mentioned at the beginning of the update on objectives, reporting on multiple years of student data is challenging. This issue is under discussion with the new NACTEP Director and it appears that the CATG data management system can assume the data needs of the NACTEP program.

Recommendation: CATG staff, the NACTEP director, student services, and the evaluator need to work together as soon as possible to create the Student Managment System for the project. Then the NACTEP Administrative Assistant needs instruction on data entry and upkeep of student data. Reports should be printed and distributed for discussion at the monthly evaluation teleconference.

3 More student support and outreach is needed.

The Student Orientation and Student Seminars are helping project students become comfortable using technology. In addition, more laptops are available from NACTEP for project students to use. With the increasing availability of online access and instruction in online communication, the interaction with

NACTEP students can also increase. The frequent e-surveys conducted by the evaluator have an increasing number of students responding. Survey results show that students want more interaction with NACTEP staff. One student comments on the importance of the NACTEP Administrative Assistant:

> *I love how Miranda is so involved in her work and contacts every student about school. She gets me all excited about going back to school. I could not have done it without her!*

Another student has a comment and suggestion for the NACTEP program:

> *NACTEP staff are resourceful, kind, and considerate regarding all NACTEP students. The chance to go back to school has been rewarding both personally and financially. To continue on I would like to focus more on collaboration with other NACTEP students in order to establish a NACTEP Student based* network *within similar or related fields...then students can help other students and new students with their courses and any difficulty with computer electronics or instructors and other issues as they come up.*

Recommendation: With the recent hire of an external student services consultant, and soon to be developed student management system, a timeline and specific tasks should be developed to help students succeed. Further, the use of frequent e-surveys should continue to keep and foster a steady stream of communication and information from students to help make the program most beneficial for project students.

4 Investigate compacting / self-determination for the NACTEP grant.
CATG is a frontrunner in compacting with the Federal government as noted in the About CATG section.

Recommendation: Contact CATG's legal council and investigate possible compacting with USDoE.