

Transportation

Need a ride? Please call the Tribal Office at:
662.2581, 662.2779 or call Cell # 662.5104 or 662.5105

Acknowledgements

The Gwichyaa Gwich'in Tribal Government would like to thank all volunteers and donations that made this gathering possible. "Mahsii Choo!"

Contact Us

Gwichyaa Gwich'in Tribal Government
P.O. Box 126
Fort Yukon, Alaska
99740
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The Gwichyaa Gwich'in Tribal Government would like to welcome all of you to our community. Have a good time and we hope all of you have safe and happy gathering. Let's leave the gathering feeling like we have moved forward in meeting the ultimate goal of the mission statement "To be able to drink water directly from the Yukon River".



Biennial Gwich'in Gathering 2010

Welcome to Gwichyaa Zhee

hosted by the
Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in
Tribal Government

The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in invite you to the
2010 Gwich'in Gathering
in Fort Yukon, Alaska.
July 18-24, 2010

The Theme for the Gathering is
**"Unity Through Our Cultural/Traditional Values For
Our Sovereign Success"**

July 19, 2010 – Social Health Issues
July 20, 2010 – Physical Health Issues
July 21-22, 2010 – Environmental Health Issues
July 23, 2010 – Gwich'in Steering Committee

Everyone is Invited to the Gathering!!

The Gathering started in 1988 in Arctic Village, Alaska
by the late Elder, Myra "Choo" Kyikavichik of Old Crow, YT

If you plan on traveling to Fort Yukon, please bring
your own tent, sleeping bag and eating utensils.

Housing will be available for all Elders and for people
not equipped to sleep in a tent.

If you need Housing please call the Tribal Office (907.662.2581)
so we can assist in arranging accommodations.

For additional information,
please contact the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
or visit us online at:
www.fortyukon.org
Mah'sii Choo

Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
P.O. Box 126, Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740
Phone (907) 662-2581, 2779, 2685, toll free 1-800-478-6839
www.fortyukon.org

The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government

(formerly known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon)
The Gwichyaa Gwich'in Tribal Government (GZGTG) was chartered
by the federal government in 1940 as the (Indian Reorganization Act)
IRA council. GZGTG currently has 1074 members, and is governed by
a seven-member elected council. The council activities are supported
through grants and contracts for social and development projects,
and the provision of BIA services related to education, social services,
employment, housing, and tribal operations.

During 1993, the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government and the
Gwichyaa Zhee Corporation signed an agreement to transfer 103,680
acres to the tribal government. The transfer agreement allows the
Corporation to continue to receive economic benefits from the land.

According to the I.R.A.'s Annual report, the land was transferred due to
the fear of loss of corporate ownership and the return of land ownership.
The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government is a strong advocate for
the designation of Indian Country and tribal rights in the region.

Council of Athabaskan Tribal Government (CATG)

CATG was established in 1985 by the Chiefs, Elders and other members of
tribal governments of the Yukon Flats Region. Based in Fort Yukon, CATG
has been successful in improving health care, advocating for tribal rights
and working towards a sustainable economy, which is compatible with
the subsistence lifestyle. The most visible part of CATG is the Yukon Flats
Health Center (YFHC), which operates under contracts to the Alaska Area
Native Health Service.

The YFHC provides primary care and 24-hour emergency support services
to other residents in the sub-region. In addition CATG assists Tanana Chiefs
Conference (TCC) in coordinating other health programs in the region
such as the Community Health Aid Program (CHAP), the Community
Health Representative (CHR) program, Emergency Air Ambulance, and
Mental Health/Alcohol services.

The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government Council:

First Chief – Michael S. Peter

Second Chief – Edward Alexander

Gary Lawrence

Christina Rifredi

Nancy James

Louie Fairchild

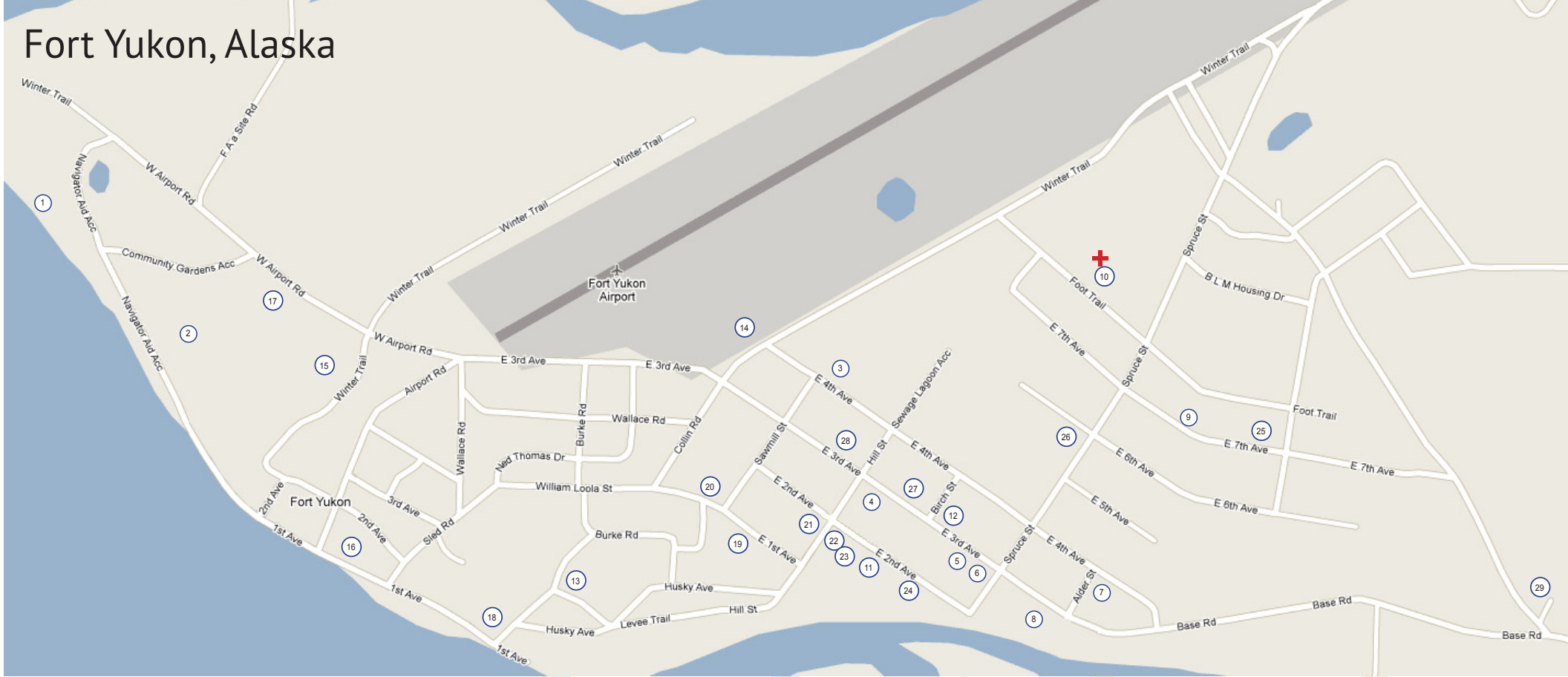
Carol Shewfelt

Elders Traditional Chief – Simon Francis, Sr.

Gwich'in Gathering – Fort Yukon, Alaska – July 18 - 24, 2010
"Unity through Our Cultural / Traditional Values for our Sovereign Success"
Tentative Agenda

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
TOPIC	Travel Day	Social Health Issues	Physical Health Issues	Environmental Health	Environmental Health	Gwich'in Steering Committee and Resolutions	Travel Day
BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING AT THE TRIBAL HALL (Except for Wednesday, July 21st, when breakfast will be at Diana & Clayton's)							
9:00-10:15	Customs Agent in Fort Yukon, July 17-19	OPENING PRAYER/MEMORIAM	*Traditional Knowledge-Develop Plan Position	*Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Plan	*Global Warming & Climate Change Panel of Elders & resource people	*Gwich'in International Council (GIC) -Build Relationships *Resolutions	
10:15-10:30	BREAK						
10:30-11:00	Press Protocol - Use Radio	*Youth/Elders Recognition *Honor Our Leaders	*Language/Cultural	*Moose, Caribou, & Salmon Issues	*Recycle *Clean Water Act	*Seat Appointment for Leadership on Arctic Council and GIC	
11:00-12:00	*Talking Stick-Background & Usage	*Gwich'in Steering Committee Report 1988 Resolution Board & Staff Ariat Art	*Introduce UN Policy of our language of Indigenous People & Human rights	*Norma Kassi Cross Border Food Security Strategies 1-Hour Presentation	*Alternative Energy	REVIEW ACTION PLANS/RESOLUTION	
12:00-1:30	LUNCH (Richard Carroll Jr. will be giving Historical Tours)						
1:30-2:15	Cultural Trips to Fish Camps	*Border Crossing *Drugs & Alcohol Healthy/Alternative CATG/TCC/GZGTG	Action on sustainable Economic Development Issues & Building	*ACTIVITIES FOR ALL YOUTH	*Focus on International Policy to Provide Protection for Caribou		
2:15-2:30	BREAK						
2:00-3:00	Info - Public Announcement Board	*Fish & Wildlife 50 Year Anniversary Arctic Refuge *Ariat Art	Prioritize Issues	Recognition of Jonathon Solomon, Sr.			
3:15-4:00		Prioritize Issues	Prioritize Issues				
4:00-5:00		Develop Action Plan to Address Issues	Develop Action Plan to Address Issues				
5:00-7:00	DINNER (Richard Carroll Jr. will be giving Historical Tours)						
7:00		Cook-out & Softball	Health & Wellness Day *Sharing Circle	*Indian Names for Daisy Stevens 3 Grandchildren By Trimble Gilbert	Games: Tea Making Contest, Egg Toss, Nail Driving, Gunny Sack Race, Canoe Race	Traditional Dance Groups	
Evening		Traditional Dance Groups	Traditional Dance Groups	Traditional Dance Groups	Talent Show & Fashion Show	Softball	
		Jig Contest / Dance	Softball Dance	Dance	Dance	Jig Contest / Dance	

Fort Yukon, Alaska



- 1 Barge/Boat Landing – site for loading & unloading of boats
- 2 Camping Area – camping site for visitors with tents, will also be the site for meals
- 3 GZ Gas Station – Gas, snacks, microwaveable snacks
- 4 Fort Yukon School (662-2352)
- 5 Alaska Commerical Co. (AC) (662-2330) – all basic needs, newspaper, movies, clothing, tobacco, etc.
- 6 Post Office (662-2335) – outgoing mail
- 7 Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government (662-2581) –Phone, Internet, fax, and meeting space
- 8 Water House – clean water source
- 9 City of Fort Yukon (662-2479) – Laundry facilities, Fort Yukon Police and Fire Dept. (911 or 662-2311)
- 10 Yukon Flats Health Center (662-2460) – all medical needs
- 11 Richard Carroll Community Center
- 12 Council of Athabascan Tribal Government Offices (662-2587) – showers, phone, fax and Internet + KZPA Radio Station (662-8255)
- 13 Addie Shewfelt Building
- 14 Airport (662-3163) – Servicing Warbelows, Wrights, Frontier & Everts
- 15 Baseball Field
- 16 City of Fort Yukon Liquor Store (662-2404)
- 17 Fort Yukon Community Cemetery
- 18 Congressman Don Young's house
- 19 University of Alaska Interior Rural Campus (662-2521)
- 20 St. Stephens Episcopal Church – services every Sunday
- 21 Arctic Circle Baptist Church – services Sunday & Wednesday
- 22 Yukon Flats School District Office (662-2515)
- 23 Hudson Bay Cemetery – resting place of white settlers
- 24 Tribal Court
- 25 Gwichyaa Zhee Corporation Office
- 26 Yukon Flats Care Center (662-2526)
- 27 State of Alaska Offices, Court House (662-2336), Jail, Fish & Game (662-2614)
- 28 Assembly of God Church – services every Sunday
- 29 Yukon Flats Vocational Building (662-2765)

LOCATION

Fort Yukon is located on the north bank of the Yukon River at its junction with the Porcupine River at 66 degrees 34 minutes north latitude, 145 degrees 15 minutes west longitude. The City, which is five miles north of the Arctic Circle, is about 145 air miles northeast of Fairbanks. The community is at the approximate center of a broad alluvial plain known as the Yukon Flats, an area of thousands of lakes and meandering streams.



CULTURE & HISTORY

Fort Yukon is home to the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in, Gwitchyaa Zhee Meaning "House on the Flats". Gwich'in Indians of the Yukon Flats and the rolling hills of the Chandalar, Sheenjik, Porcupine and Black River have occupied this land for thousands of years. The Gwich'in Indians that occupy this land depend on the land and a nomadic subsistence lifestyle.

Alexander Murray of the Hudson's Bay Company built the original Fort Yukon on Russian territory in 1847. Fort Yukon quickly became an important trade center for the Gwich'in Indians who inhabited the vast lowlands of the Yukon Flats and the rolling hills of the Chandalar, Sheenjik, 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 turn 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 1850's until 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. Stephens 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 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 townsite. The stores, school, post office, public offices, and the community center are now located there.

In 1949, the Fort Yukon Utility Company, a private system, was established to provide electricity. In 1955 the U.S. Air Force built and aircraft control and warning site and has since extended the White Alice Communications Network to the Village.

Fort Yukon lies within the village boundary of the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation, a part of the Doyon Native Corporation region. Other major organizations include the Gwichyaa Gwich'in Tribal Government which serves as the traditional government, and the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG).

Most Fort Yukon residents are part of the larger Gwich'in Indian Population of Alaska. Half of the villages scattered across the Yukon Flats lie above the Arctic Circle. At the western end of the valley, the culture transitions into the Koyukon Athabascans.

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 Arctic desert. The Yukon-Tanana Plateau, south of the Yukon Basin, forms an effective barrier to the maritime air flow from the North Pacific Ocean. After rivers and marshes freeze, the plateau is a source for cold, continental Arctic 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 there these high summer temperatures, daily variations can be extreme. Freezing temperatures have been recorded in every month of the year.

