

Gwich'inat Eenjit
Gàdatr'igwijiilcheii Gidilii
Gwich'in nan, nakluwck'yuu ts'at gwitr'it
thak nakhwidavee gwihazaa eenjit



Gwich'in Tribal Council
Gwich'in land, culture & economy for a better future

April 19, 2010

Premier Floyd Roland,
 Government of the NWT
 Box 1320
 Yellowknife, NT
 X1A 2L9

*Copy to
 David Fox*

Dear Premier Roland:

Re: Agreement on Devolution and Resource Revenue Discussions and Negotiations

Please be advised that the Gwich'in Tribal Council is withdrawing its support for the Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement-In-Principle signed on May 9, 2007.

There are several significant issues that create concern for the Gwich'in and we do not intend to support a process that ignores some fundamental issues.

1. Division of power, responsibility and authority has not been resolved between the Government of the NWT and the Aboriginal Governments.
2. Revenue sharing has not been properly addressed including revenue sources for the Aboriginal Governments including revenues related to taxation or other sources of revenues.
3. Distribution of Revenues as per the existing agreement does not reflect population or the affects of resource development.
4. The Agreement suggests that revenues are solely for programs and services without the ability of Aboriginal Governments to decide their priorities.
5. Future role of aboriginal peoples and governments to participate in negotiations, policy and legislative initiatives or proposals.
6. The NWT leadership agreed that we would work together on developing a negotiation proposal that was to be submitted to Canada, to date this has not happened.

I am prepared to sit down and discuss these issues with you, but I am not prepared to continue in any discussions that leaves the Aboriginal Peoples and residents of the NWT as future beggars in their own lands. The experience of devolution in the Yukon has resulted in marginalizing the Aboriginal Peoples role in Resource Development or decisions related to resource development, the Gwich'in do not see this situation acceptable in the NWT. Further, the Yukon Government has found the Agreement that they are guided by, has not been in the best interest of the Yukon. Upon my review of the Framework which is being discussed with Canada, there is very little that is different from the Yukon and therefore I cannot support this. I will meet with you to discuss this matter, but must indicate to you that the

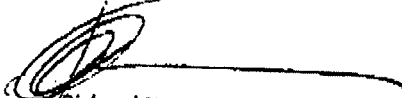
Tel: (867) 777-7900 • Fax: (867) 777-7919
 Chief Jim Koc Zheli, 1-3 Council Crescent, PO Box 1509, Inuvik NT Canada X0E 0T0
 Website: www.gwichin.nt.ca

Gwich'in cannot support the process moving forward until we have resolved the issues in a way that protects the interests of the Aboriginal Peoples and residents of the NWT.

One of my concerns is that population centers will begin to control the policies and decisions that affect Aboriginal peoples and their traditional lands. Further centralized management and control may not take into consideration regional priorities. I support serious northern control of resources by aboriginal peoples and residents of the NWT built on partnership and I will work with you to accomplish this.

You may contact me at 867 777 7900 or email me at rnerysoo@gwichin.nt.ca if you wish to discuss this matter.

Yours Truly,...


Richard Nerysoo
President

- C.c. Mary Ann Ross, Vice-President
- Charlie Furlong, Ehditit Gwich'in Council
- Wilbert Firth, Teet'it Gwich'in Council
- Phillip Blake, Gwichya Gwich'in Council
- Herbert Blake, Nihtat Gwich'in Council
- Grand Chief Joe Rabesca, Tiicho Government
- Grand Chief Sam Gargan, Deh Cho Tribal Council
- Steven Nihtah, Akaitcho Tribal Council
- Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Chair, Sahtu Secretariat
- Nellie Cournoyea, CEO Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Betty Villebrun, Northwest Territory Metis Nation

