

**Council of Yukon First Nations
25th Annual General Assembly
June 27 to 29, 2005
Hosted by Selkirk First Nation
Pelly Crossing, Yukon Territory
Summary Minutes**

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Attendance: (There were many people in attendance throughout the three days not listed here)
 Grand Chief Eric Morris, Council of Yukon First Nations
 Shirley Adamson, Chair for the General Assembly
 Victoria Fred, Co-Chair for the General Assembly
 Roddy Blackjack, Executive Elder
 Percy Henry, Executive Elder

Tiffany Smith, Youth Representative
 Daryn Leas, Chief Legal Advisor for CYFN
 Dave Joe, Legal Counsel
 Joan Graham, Executive Secretary to the Grand Chief of CYFN
 Rick O'Brien, Assembly of First Nations Yukon Vice Chief
 Andy Carvill, Tribal Chief, Dakh-Ka Tlingit Nation
 Councillor David Dickson, Liard First Nation
 Don Trudeau, GA Coordinator
 Lorraine Peter, MLA
 Todd Hardy, MLA
 Matthew Cardinal, Youth Representative

Graham Tracy, CYFN	Liz Walker, CYFN	Calvin Lindstrom
Gayle Corry, CYFN	Gail Barnaby, CYFN	Judy Gingell
Brenda Asp, CYFN	Marie McLaren, CYFN	Styd Klugie
Brenda Jackson, CYFN	Denise Beattie, CYFN	Stan Johnson
Edythe Maloney, CYFN	Lucille Jack, CYFN	Millie E. Johnson
Cindy Dickson, CYFN	Cassandra Puckett, CYFN	Peter Johnny
Dave Roddick, CYFN	Anna Fraser, CYFN	Betty Joe
Brenda Bosely, CYFN	Shandell Kearns, CYFN	Lizzie Hall
Lori Duncan, CYFN	Dr. Mark Nuttall	Chuck Hendrie, CHON FM

Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN)

Chief Mark Wedge
 Eileen Wally
 Billy Huebschwerlen
 Winnie Atlin
 Darla-Jean Lindstrom

Roberta Behn
 Gail Anderson
 William Asp

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN)

Chief Eddie Skookum
 Clyde Blackjack
 Johnny Sam
 Mary Tulk
 Gary Sam
 Sherry Lynn Wrixon

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN)

Chief James Allen
 Kathy Van Bibber
 Shadelle Chambers
 Doris Anderson
 Moose Jackson
 Paul Birckel
 Gerald Brown
 Steve Smith

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH)

Chief Darren Taylor
 Roberta Joseph
 Doreen Olson
 Leon Sidney
 Lynn Rear
 Dan Taylor
 Ronald Johnson

Kluane First Nation (KFN)

Chief Bob Dickson
 Kluane Martin
 Tosh Southwick
 Richard Dickson
 Pauline Sias

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (NND)

Chief Steven Buyck
 Roberta Hager
 Albert Genier
 Richard Moses
 Laura Crowthers
 Robert Hager

Selkirk First Nation (SFN)

Chief Darin Isaac
 Carmen Baker
 Danny Joe
 Katherine Musick
 Johnson Edwards

Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC)

A/Chief Peter Johnston
 CJ Marian Sheldon
 Wilbur Smarch

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC)

Chief Ruth Massie
 Frances Woolsey

Sam Johnston
Matt Thom
Gwen Wally

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN)

Chief Joe Linklater
Roger Kyikavichik
John Joe Kyikavichik
Tracy Bruce
Darius Elias

White River First Nation (WRFN)

Chief Angela Demit
Jessie Barrett

Tetlit Gwich'in Council

Chief Johnny Kay
Ernest Bonnetplume

Andrew Bonnetplume

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council

Chief Charlie Furlong
George Kunnizzie
Dale Semple

Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN)

Chief Mike Smith
Leslie McDiarmid
Jessie Dawson
Edith Baker
Shirley Dawson
Bill Webber
Malcolm Dawson
Sean Smith
Diane Smith

Day 1 – Monday, June 27, 2005.

Meeting came to order at 10:20 am. Opening prayer said by Rachel Tom Tom. A moment of silence was held in respect of those who had passed away. Dancers and singers opened the Annual General Assembly, and those around the room joined in. Traditional song and dance were enjoyed by everyone.

Binders with the agenda and a variety of other documents relevant to the Annual General Assembly were made available to all delegates.

1. Introductions and Opening Remarks

VICTORIA FRED as Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the CYFN 25th Annual General Assembly (GA), saying Shirley Adamson was on her way.

CHIEF DARIN ISAAC welcomed everyone to the traditional territory of Selkirk First Nation and the CYFN GA. He introduced his delegation.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM welcomed everyone and introduced his delegation.

CHIEF STEVEN BUYCK welcomed everyone and introduced his delegation.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN welcomed everyone and introduced his delegation.

CHIEF RUTH MASSIE welcomed everyone and introduced his delegation.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON welcomed everyone and introduced his delegation.

CHIEF MARK WEDGE welcomed everyone and introduced his delegation.

CHIEF PETER JOHNSTON welcomed everyone and introduced his delegation.

RONALD JOHNSON welcomed everyone and introduced the delegation from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

RODDY BLACKJACK welcomed everyone saying his dreams were coming true, in that First Nations were now in better control of their lives.

PERCY HENRY said it's the second Chief Isaac sitting with us in a hundred years. He encouraged good communication among all the delegates.

GRAND CHIEF ERIC MORRIS welcomed everyone to the GA. It was very obvious how hard Selkirk First Nation had worked in order to get the GA underway. I look forward to a wonderful three days together he said.

DANNY JOE welcomed everyone to Selkirk First Nation traditional territory. Many old friends were in attendance he said. The song we sang for you was a welcoming song, it says welcome to our traditional territory, especially those from far away. It expresses sharing. I'm glad the younger people are taking over for us, I sit back and proudly watch them. He provided some history regarding Selkirk First Nation. If anyone had any problems or requests he asked them to contact himself or Don Trudeau.

2. Rules of Order

VICTORIA FRED read out loud the Rules of Order.

DARYN LEAS said the quorum for the GA is now at 10 First Nations.

VICTORIA FRED continued review of the Rules of Order. The following motion came forward;

Motion 1.	To accept the Rules of Order as presented.
Moved by:	Chief Mark Wedge
Seconded by:	Chief Peter Johnston
Passed by:	consensus.

3. Acceptance of Agenda

VICTORIA FRED read out loud the agenda as was included in the kits. *Issues discussed during the GA will be obvious in the sequence of these minutes.*

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM asked to have the Yukon Inter-Tribal Watershed issue included on the agenda. He asked that residential school issues be brought forward.

CHIEF MARK WEDGE asked if the Regional Housing Authority issue could be discussed.

RODDY BLACKJACK reiterated again the need for unity among all the Yukon First Nations, and especially land designation and overlap issues needed to be resolved he said.

VICTORIA FRED said resolutions could be handled topic by topic rather than all at the end of the GA. That suggestion was deemed suitable by the delegates through nods around the table. The following motion came forward;

Motion 2.	To accept the Agenda as amended.
Moved by:	Chief James Allen
Seconded by:	Chief Steven Buyck
Passed by:	consensus

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR addressed the GA saying we have many important issues in front of us, but especially the election of the Grand Chief. We are in a period of transition.

VICTORIA FRED read out loud a greeting from Member of Parliament, Larry Bagnell to the 25th Annual General Assembly. A variety of door prizes were also drawn.

Break.

4. Resolution/Constitution Committee

Final selections were:

Mark Eikland
Daryn Leas
Fran Asp
Brenda Jackson

CJ MARIAN SHELDON suggested that the same people work on both the Resolution and Constitution Committee. Everyone around the table agreed.

5. Returning Officer

DAVE JOE was asked by the GA if he would act as Returning Officer. He accepted.

6. Circumpolar Oil and Gas Study 2006

DR. MARK NUTTALL said during the lunch break he would be talking about a circumpolar wide study that looked at the effects of oil and gas. The Arctic Athabaskan Council would fill a gap in the circumpolar wide perspective with their report as well. Those participants of the Arctic Athabaskan Council have identified oil and gas activities along with climate change as the issues that would drive circumpolar international surveys. As reduced sea ice opens transportation across the North, the Council had asked him to work in developing the project. A workshop had been held in Whitehorse, and he

wanted to make everyone aware of the study being conducted, which would be developed over the next few years.

Lunch break. The Arctic Athabaskan Council provided lunch. During the lunch break Dr. Nuttall, Dave Roddick and Cindy Dickson joined the head table. Doctor Nuttall spoke about the issue of oil and gas and climate change. Extraction of energy resources for global needs is a part of the difficulty. People who live in the pathways of pipelines generally have short term employment he said. Some general discussion took place around the room. Cindy Dickson encouraged people to contact her office for any further information or input.

VICTORIA FRED suggested delegates think about how they wanted to deal with questions posed to candidates in preparation for tomorrow. She welcomed Shirley Adamson to the GA.

GRAND CHIEF ERIC MORRIS thanked both Chairs for their assistance in conducting the General Assembly, we are grateful that they accepted to do this he said.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON thanked the GA for their invitation to Chair. She invited Chief Angela Demit to make some opening remarks on behalf of White River First Nation.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT said she was in attendance as spokesperson for White River First Nation because her First Nation was presently in transition. David Johnny sent his regrets. She was very happy to be in attendance.

7. CYFN Constitutional Summit Discussions

GRAND CHIEF ERIC MORRIS referred everyone to Special General Assembly Resolution #1 as it was passed on March 10, 2005.

CHIEF MARK WEDGE thanked the Constitutional Technical Team who had attended the Carcross Tagish First Nation's General Assembly.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR said how do we give CYFN the authority they need. Many of us have issues around education, health and social, the preservation of our language and many other outstanding issues. Our concerns are not being adequately addressed. On collective issues we need an organization that would bring our mandate forward at a political level. We need to be treated like a government. CYFN should be an entity that keeps governments accountable, a strong central body to be a watchdog for us. With the exception of White River First Nation, we are all self governing, and we must make everyone aware that no one but ourselves represent us. There is no status and non-status world anymore.

CHIEF DARIN ISAAC said CYFN should play a political role. When dealing with government and their many issues, we need a central voice. We should administer our

own programs and services within the community, but on a political front CYFN is valuable.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said as First Nations we often have to meet a lot of compromises. The Northern Tutchone have tried to erase boundaries and from time to time we work on certain issues as a threesome. If we unite and put our strengths together we can be a strong voice. Funding has drastically changed over the last ten years. Devolvement of powers and uncertainty remain outstanding issues he said.

MARY BATTAJA addressed the GA speaking in the Northern Tutchone language. She thanked Selkirk First Nation for hosting the GA in their traditional territory. She spoke about the many similar issues facing all Yukon First Nations.

CHIEF STEVEN BUYCK said we must have unity. Our people have always shared our resources, but a lot of work needs to be done before we could give up any of our powers. We have listened to our negotiators, who have fought thirty years for us to become self governing. We continue to build our capacity and we see CYFN leading on that front. Now we need to confirm, to see how much authority we do give. I have no direction from my community to delegate power. We could delegate power at the Northern Tutchone level. We already have jurisdiction. The authority rests with my people, they will have to delegate that authority.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN provided a document titled Report of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on the CYFN Constitutional Summit, to all delegates. He read it out loud as everyone followed along.

CHIEF RUTH MASSIE said they had met with the Technical Working Committee. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council has agreed, we need a central government. We need to empower the status of CYFN politically, so we can have a united voice. We need to discuss future funding, and the level of authority of CYFN. We need a united voice.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON said he agreed, there needs to be one voice in the Yukon. How we bring in the Kaska and KDFN is a huge issue. We need to take into account the Gwich'in. I think when our First Nations agree, the Grand Chief can take that as power from those First Nations. We need one voice for the Yukon. We need to come to these tables as one people of the Yukon, like our Elders say. Forget the constitution and boundaries, and make this work.

COUNCILLOR JESSIE DAWSON asked if Kwanlin Dün First Nation could wait until their Chief arrived.

CHIEF JOHNNY KAY said he would wait until Chief Charlie Furlong arrived.

COUNCILLOR GEORGE KUNNIZZIE said they were still trying to negotiate. Unity and one voice were needed so that government would listen. He spoke about the difficulties getting the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit to work together toward self government.

JOHN JOE KYIKIAVICHIK said self government was an agreement to solve problems but it only seemed to create more problems. He said in 1930 his father was Chief in Old Crow. As a child I always heard about sharing, we must continue that.

ROGER KYIKIAVICHIK said his Chief was expected tomorrow. We don't have the mandate to accept any form of government, that's the instruction from our people. One concern we have is handing our powers over to someone else. Sharing and unity are issues we face.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT said White River First Nation appreciated the members of the Constitutional Summit team who came to speak with us. As a non settlement First Nation we had many concerns. We want to see more control over our own destiny and the future of our children. People say if you're self governing, you have to take control. We need to stand up and be strong. We want to control our own lives. I look at some of the words in the Voice of an Elder. Everything Percy Henry said is true. The UFA has done nothing to protect the future of First Nations, we must stand up and be united. Often White River First Nation feels we stand alone. Sharing was common among the First Nations, we used traditional law. During land claims we were told we'd be heard. A new constitution for CYFN takes a lot of work, we are strong people if we work together.

CHIEF PETER JOHNSTON said Teslin Tlingit Council had been engaged in a strategic planning process. We believe the Self Government Secretariat could evolve over the next years. Federal and Yukon governments continue to control our lives. For TTC, we've put our agreements up front so we are always aware of what lies ahead. It's about time that we do our reviews and put our positions forward to governments as to what we want for our future. It's important and I hope people take the time to see what they want at the community level. There are opportunities where we could delegate some powers to a central government.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said we still have to go over the voters list. We must discuss the amendments needed to some of the documents surrounding the elections. Get a sense of how you want to pose questions to the candidates.

Break. Several door prizes were drawn.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON summarized what still needed to be addressed. Discussions on the Constitutional Summit Review would continue tomorrow. Reports were available to all delegates. She acknowledged the presence of Chief Joe Linklater.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said he had met with Premier Fentie in the morning and so was a little late. He thanked Grand Chief Eric Morris for the excellent work he had done in the interim. He wished all candidates the best in the upcoming election.

8. Voters List for the Grand Chief's Election

VICTORIA FRED read out loud the names on the voters list. Each Chief around the table indicated agreement, that the names spoken were correct. The following motion came forward;

Motion 3. To accept the voters list as presented, and read out loud, to be the Official Voters List for the election of Grand Chief of CYFN.
Moved by: Darla-Jean Lindstrom
Seconded by: Chief Joe Linklater
Passed by: consensus

The voters list is re-typed as follows:

CYFN Election Of Grand Chief **2005 Official Voters List – (total of 62 votes)**

CTFN

Chief Mark Wedge
Eileen Wally
Darla-Jean Lindstrom
Winnie Atlin
Billy Huebschwerlen

CAFN

Chief James Allen
Kathy Van Bibber
Doris Anderson
Shadelle Chambers
Paul Birckel

KFN

Chief Bob Dickson
Pauline Sias
Janet Dubois
Kluane Martin
Dick Dickson

LSCFN

Chief Eddie Skookum
Johnny Sam
Mary Tulk
Gary Sam
Sherry Lynn Wrixon

SFN

Chief Darin Isaac
Carmen Baker
Katherine Musick
Danny Joe
Johnson Edwards

NND

Chief Steven Buyck

Laura Crowthers
Dennis Buyck
Robert Hager
Richard Moses

TKC

Chief Ruth Massie
Gail Anderson
Roberta Behn
Frances Woolsey
William Asp

TTC

A/Chief Peter Johnston
CJ Marian Sheldon
Wilbur Smarch
Gwen Wally
Sam Johnston

TH

Chief Darren Taylor
Ron Johnson
James Roberts
Lynn Rear
Roberta Joseph

VGFN

Chief Joe Linklater
Roger Kyikavichik
John Joe Kyikavichik
Tracy Bruce
Darius Elias

WRFN

Chief Angela Demit
Jessie Barrett

Tetlit Gwich'in Council

Chief Johnny Kay
Ernest Bonnetplume
Andrew Bonnetplume

Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council

Chief Charlie furlong
George Kunnizzie
Dale Semple

Gwichya Gwich'in Council

Chief Peter Ross- (not in attendance)
Phillip Blake – (not in attendance)

Executive Elder – Roddy Blackjack

Grand Chief – Eric Morris

DARYN LEAS said there was one small issue to bring forward in that the Election Rules refer to Yukon First Nations, and our members from the Gwich'in Tribal Council would not have a vote. We have determined they do have a vote, and so it should read First Nations instead of Yukon First Nations throughout the document.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON asked if everyone was clear on the new wording for the Election Rules. No questions came forward, and Leadership endorsed them. Delegates were encouraged to submit written questions to the candidates and a question box was set out.

Closing prayer said by Johnson Edwards. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Day 2 – June 28, 2005.

Meeting came to order at 9:20 am. Opening prayer said by Sam Johnston in the Tlingit language.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON reviewed what had taken place so far during the GA.

9. Welcoming Remarks

CHIEF MIKE SMITH welcomed everyone to the GA. Kwanlin Dün First Nation and others have important issues to deal with. Kwanlin Dün First Nation would like to become part of this organization, but we need to work out some issues with you. We face issues with a number of governments in our territory. Regarding implementation of our land claims, we have established a planning committee. We have advisors regarding our financial and investment opportunities, and we encourage Kwanlin Dün First Nation people to provide their input. After signing land claims, I found it hard to accept YTG assuming responsibility for First Nations in any way. The big problem is government(s) are not willing to give up their responsibility and jurisdiction, and will use every means possible to stop us from taking care of ourselves and our children. I find that hard to accept. Kwanlin Dün First Nation has given notice to government that we will take over our education and child welfare. Our culture and language must continue and we believe in the transfer of our knowledge to our kids, and we don't get that in the general education system. We are prepared to share any information with any First Nation. We have not participated in consultation because we do not accept YTG's jurisdiction over us. When we participate we show agreement in the process, and that's why we don't

participate. We have a full delegation of people from Kwanlin Dün First Nation here, and we will work with all of you. We are prepared to sign an accord or a letter of intent to working with all Yukon First Nations, and the Council of Yukon First Nations. I thank you for the opportunity to speak he said.

DAVID DICKSON thanked everyone for their kindness and hospitality. I didn't realize I had so many friends here. I thank you for allowing me to participate he said.

TIFFANY SMITH addressed the GA saying Matthew Cardinal was also in attendance as a CYFN representative for youth. Later all youth would be called together to determine who would be appointed for AFN as well as CYFN youth representation she said.

10. CYFN Constitutional Summit Discussions

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said we've asked, do we even need constitutional change to gain what we want to do? We have a variety of venues where we have discussions, and no constitutional changes were needed. Furthermore, we have self government agreements being signed with First Nations that do not belong to CYFN as of yet. We are all Yukon First Nations. We have non Yukon First Nations as part of our organization and we have, in my mind, a constitution that needs very little adjustment. There is a mindset out there that CYFN does not have the mandate to help to implement the self government agreements and that we have to change our organization, I don't think we do. The mandate for this organization lies with the Chiefs. The power must remain in the communities, it be built on a community-based concept. Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation has evolved a lot of responsibility back to the community members. Separate government entities in which the political part can make no changes. We've always felt the best way to make changes is to evolve rather than wholesale change. It's difficult for the members to respond to that. For example, when we first established the Self Government Secretariat and Chiefs Committee, many had problems figuring out who and what those bodies were. If we want to change, it must be through a process of evolution. I believe that the governing body of CYFN must do the work, develop a strategic plan on how to evolve. Discussion needs to happen at Leadership meetings over a period of time so we can fine-tune the details of what we want. I don't believe that comprehensive change is needed to do that. I do believe we must lend support to the Grand Chief, but I see no need for constitutional change at this GA.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON asked for comments on how the GA wanted the resolution to look. She suggested looking at what everyone agreed with and using that as a base.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR said he agreed with many of Chief Linklater's comments. I too felt that a full blown constitutional review wasn't really in the best interests of everyone. Drastic changes often scare people away. I feel the constitution as it exists, allows us to do all the things we are doing through the constitutional process. When this first came up I was thrown off, I didn't see at that time what was wrong with the constitution. At that time the issues seemed more policy and administrative issues, and those could have been dealt with by redefining policies. I prefer the evolutionary route.

I'd rather evolve into change. I think we've kind of beaten the constitutional issue to death, we know what we want CYFN to do and how we want CYFN to represent us. It's time for Leadership to clearly define what role CYFN will play on behalf of member nations. There is a political role and a technical role for CYFN. We need an organization that protects our rights and interests. You need a technical table to get to that point. We need our technical people to accomplish that role. It doesn't matter what we call this organization, what matters is CYFN being held accountable in upholding our interests. Whether we're established under the Societies Act or not, we still have governments that represent CYFN, and are a part of CYFN. If we mandate the Grand Chief, he should be recognized as a powerful position with 14 First Nations behind them. I don't think it's fair that they undermine our organization.

CHIEF DARIN ISAAC said there was a lot of discussion on the constitutional review prior to my being in office. I do think we must redefine the role of CYFN to a more political focus. More of a political role. There are common issues we all share. The First Nations could make the law, and CYFN could find a commonality with First Nations and then develop a generic law for everyone to use. I think we could make the reviews at Leadership level and guide the technical team. We do need some type of organization to deal with governments. We need to give First Nations the time to occupy the self governing field, some of us are still trying to restructure ourselves. We are all embarking into a new age, and we need to work together. I think we could do that with the assistance of CYFN staff. We have a lot of problems to deal with in the communities. We could use a pilot project from now until Fall, use health as an example, and see how CYFN could coordinate that. See what is common to all First Nations. We need some action plans, then fit them into the bigger picture. Chiefs also need to determine what will be shared. We need to find some type of structure, but it's not necessary to do it today. I think the Chiefs could do it at the Leadership table with help from the technical group.

SHRILEY ADAMSON said comments would help in the development of a resolution.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said look at having the Chiefs take on the work so that the direction of this organization remains with the organization. Involve the staff in what the organization should look like, and what the challenges are that they deal with on a day to day basis. A focus on the political and administrative roles as two separate topics. Important that whoever does this work, that they see the two separate roles. We need to see if there are any inconsistencies that CYFN has in assisting the community based final agreements. Develop a general resolution that would allow us to capture some of these thoughts. Keeping the responsibility with Chiefs would give them the comfort to evolve. The Self Government Secretariat receives contribution agreement type funding. An evaluation of the program is currently underway and will determine future funding. The involvement of the AFN Vice Chief, and the involvement of regional and national entities are also an issue. Do we infuse the AFN Vice Chief further into the CYFN political body, or should that be a separate issue he asked.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN said CYFN needs a new mandate. At our Southern Tutchone caucus we discussed where the Self Government Secretariat fit into CYFN. There is a lack of communication and coordination among CYFN, AFN and the Self Government Secretariat. We need an organization to deal with current day to day issues. When the Gwich'in were added to the organization, I questioned how that would affect the Yukon organization of First Nations. I thought those were the issues the constitutional review would look at. I agree, going too fast is unsettling, and may be detrimental to the process. I agree, we should evolve. If our model is agreeable, then we should start development of a strategic plan. We would like to see all First Nation entities that are supposed to represent the Yukon First Nations to be under one umbrella. The Assembly of First Nations is a national focus, the Self Government Secretariat has a focus on self governing First Nations, CYFN is mixed up, they have some programs, helping those non self governing, but I suggest that if we develop a strategic plan we look at the work that the constitution committee did. Review the input from the communities and especially the recommendations from the review should be looked at. Review the processes that are presently happening, the Senior Officials Group, the Yukon Forum and the Intergovernmental Forum, those processes seem to be developing. All that must become a part of the new strategic plan. Our First Nation is favourable to seeing an umbrella group that would represent all Yukon First Nations, and probably would include the Gwich'in. When you have so many entities you lose the communication links and build little empires. At the end of the strategic plan we should have a vision. Changes should be done in steps, to evolve. I agree, if you go too fast, it adds a lot of mistrust.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR said a lot of good comments and recommendations had come forward, but we must not lose sight of White River First Nation. They continue to have problems in relation to their agreement. This organization has to stand behind them. We have a favoured First Nation clause, and with the assistance of White River First Nation, we can make those changes right now. We have never taken advantage of that. We have not tried to amend any provision that is giving us a hard time. It's our last chance. With that support we could make some changes that plague us. White River First Nation must know we support them.

CHIEF PETER JOHNSTON said I think this situation must be addressed in a way people understand. In some cases First Nations don't even understand the jurisdictions they presently hold. We must understand where we presently are. We haven't taken anything down yet, but continue to struggle. We have many commonalities, things where we can come together. Child welfare, language and heritage, a central body could help us move ahead.

CHIEF MIKE SMITH said Kwanlin Dün First Nation would have preferred to not be under the umbrella of the Yukon Government. I think it's important that we determine what it is we want to do. We must determine the agenda for our people. We have to deal with the real issues. We have undergone some real hardships as a people. Our children are not taught our language, they learn the European system. That's not our way. As Indian people, we should sign a treaty of cooperation with each other. We set out our agendas, what we need our central body to do for us. We don't need a central body to

pass laws over us. We need support, a forum to work together on issues that affect us all. We have a variety of issues and some are common to all of us. We are taking on the government on education and child welfare and will need the support of everyone around this table. Government doesn't want to transfer these to Kwanlin Dün First Nation, they want the jurisdiction, authority and funding. YTG has received millions of dollars on our behalf. The Minister of DIAND does not have to talk to any First Nation or Chief, only the Premier. The Premier has jurisdiction for all Yukon people, including First Nations. Those are the issues. Make it clear that the Premier does not have the capacity or jurisdiction over First Nations governments, period. The Premier does not talk for us. Industry must talk directly to us. We are not there to be consulted, we must negotiate issues with government. Kwanlin Dün First Nation does not participate in consultation. There is \$5 million for languages, but it's so fragmented that we see no results, we continue to lose our language and culture. We need to determine our priorities, for us it's our tradition and culture. Those are values important to us all. We are the original people of this country. We are not here for gold, or government jobs, this is our land.

PERCY HENRY reiterated the need for unity in order to deal with government(s). They continue to take jurisdiction over our land, our traplines. They charge our people on their own land. It's time for Chiefs to change that.

MALCOLM DAWSON said the bigger the organization, the bigger the problems. In Whitehorse there's lots of problems with alcohol and drugs. We must focus on helping our people that need help, those who want to get off drugs and alcohol. We must encourage and help those people with addictions. Our young people see this. We must increase penalties to the drug dealers, they make money off peoples' misery. Let's deal with these issues and we can have a strong organization. We must stand behind each other, share and help each other.

TIFFANY SMITH said youth supported the changes and wanted the opportunity to become more involved in CYFN. She asked the youth to gather during the break for a caucus session.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOUM said all the speakers had made very good points. There is a feeling of unity at this GA. He spoke about traditional knowledge. Funding is a main obstacle, we must access adequacy and do some lobbying in Ottawa. A central government must be adequately funded. I thank all the previous speakers. We all have different issues, but we do have commonalities. I agree to a treaty among ourselves, to be under one umbrella and support each other. We must ensure we follow our traditional customs. Language is very important. Without our language we're nobody. It's what ties us to the land and water. White River First Nation has a need for our support. There are ongoing NTC meetings and one day they may join. The First Nation favoured clause is a good thing to consider before it's lost. The Grand Chief must be highly regarded and travel to the communities. We must make sure the central organization is recognized both federally and territorially. Copyright on our own laws should be considered.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT said White River First Nation feels we stand alone at times, but we appreciate the support I hear today. I thank Chief Taylor for his words, it lifts our spirits. White River First Nation and the Kaska are still involved in the process. To Chief Mike Smith, you always lift my spirits! He has strong words, and we must listen. It's our First Nation right to take back what is rightfully ours. That's why White River First Nation is standing back, waiting, we may be the possible missing link that other First Nations are looking for. We may be able to bring things to the table that would improve your agreements as well. Don't hesitate, our doors are open. We are Northern Tutchone people. I am proud of Tiffany Smith and Tammy Josie for what they have done for Yukon First Nations youth. She encouraged delegates to review the reports on the Children's Act.

CHIEF STEVEN BUYCK said I truly believe that in order to reach where we want to go we must do it in unity, only in unity will we reach the level we want to be at. The people give me direction, but right now there is uncertainty as to what powers to delegate. Would we compete over resources to build our capacity. These things take time to resolve. Only together can we do it. We have to look at what the Elders have said in past. You have the jurisdiction, our Self Government Agreements give us authority and power. Maybe the new CYFN needs one area where we can move on, one area of focus, be it education, health or wellness. These are issues we've all talked about. I believe that we could come to agreement in one area, education for example, where all 14 First Nations would agree. We need to show government that we are a new order of government here in the Yukon. We should have more authority than YTG. Let's help White River First Nation get the best they can get, it opens up the most favourable clause.

PAUL BIRCKEL said he had listened intently to the comments. I think we can do what people want to do fairly easily. We talk unity, we need to bite the bullet and go ahead and do it with a small constitutional change, include everyone under one roof. We have so many structures set up, and government uses that to prevent our unity. Chief Mike Smith is right. We can change the constitution to bring all the entities under one roof at CYFN. If all the Chiefs passed a law to take over child welfare, you could. As Chiefs you can pass a law amongst yourselves. People are afraid to let go of power, but I think that you are not losing, you are uniting yourselves together to become stronger. YTG makes little deals with everybody, they want people to be dis-united, they prevent you from working as one people. The next step may be to do develop legislative procedures that everyone could agree upon. We need to work together in unity. I agree totally with what Chief Smith says. Go ahead and change the constitution to include everybody, that's the first step. See how that works and then continue to the next step. Do child welfare or education, do that one step at a time.

DANNY JOE said in his opinion there were big problems regarding PSTA negotiations. The lack of unity is what allows government to interfere in the lives of First Nations. The government wants more and more land. If we don't do our part, nothing will work. As First Nations today, we are afraid of each other. I used to talk with Elijah Smith, he was responsible for my being Chief. He used to say we are brothers and sisters, yet today we still struggle. We listen to government too much. We have our own way of doing things.

If you don't believe in the traditional way of life, nothing will work for you. I agree with Chief Mike Smith, government doesn't listen to Chiefs. It's time now, we know we have to work together, in partnership.

Lunch break.

11. Election of Grand Chief

DAVE JOE referred everyone to tab four in the binders and read out loud the Election Rules for Grand Chief. The following motion came forward;

Motion 4.	To accept the Election Rules for Grand Chief as presented.
Moved by:	Paul Birckel
Seconded by:	Chief Steven Buyck
Passed by:	consensus

DAVE JOE asked if the GA wanted the Grand Chief to have a vote. Tab 4, Election Rules for Grand Chief was amended to include, under section C., and the Grand Chief of CYFN. Everyone agreed to the wording change. Paul Birckel and Chief Buyck agreed to the amendment and no opposition was shown, and the motion was declared passed by consensus.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON read out loud the Official Voters List one more time and each First Nation showed agreement to the names as they were listed.

Words from the Candidates

The four candidates for Grand Chief approached the head table.

TRIBAL CHIEF ANDY CARVILL came forward to address the GA. He thanked the host community. I thank the other candidates who have stepped forward. We need some good leadership at the CYFN level. He thanked his family for their support in allowing him to put his name forward. He was humbled and honoured to run as Grand Chief. My past experience as Chief of Carcross/Tagish First Nation and current role as Tribal Chief of the Dakh-Ka Tlingit Nation has provided me with a vast amount of knowledge. I've served on various committees including the Chiefs Committee on oil and gas. I sit on the steering committee for the Northern Nations Alliance. He provided some personal history saying he was well experienced in the many issues facing First Nations. We empowered our people in the development of our constitution and are going back to the traditional ways of governance. He spoke about his work with the Leadership around the table. I sent a letter saying the number one issue is unity. I think we have to move together with a united front. I want to engage in dialogue with the Kaska and Kwanlin Dün First Nation regarding their return to CYFN, if they so choose. Priorities include language and culture and Elders and youth. I want to bring Elders back into CYFN, have them involved with our discussions and mandate. Youth involvement is important, they are our future leaders. I want to breathe life into the Youth Council. The two councils could provide input to Leadership. We need formal relationships with those not part of CYFN, everyone needs to understand how we interact with each other and best serve our

people. We must strengthen our relationships with Canada and the Yukon Government. Make the governments accountable to the agreements they have signed. We can no longer accept lip service from them. I am committed to holding them to their agreements. We must facilitate effectively nationally and locally. I'm committed to being inclusive of the First Nations, that's where I take my direction, from the people collectively, that's where I'll get my mandate. I will be in the communities. It's important that the Grand Chief spend time among the people, and I will commit to that. I will commit to attending various events and General Assemblies. Communication is a big part of it, a CYFN newsletter would help. The Grand Chief's office must be involved with all the people, I will have an open door policy. Today, most importantly we must work together for our collective benefit. We share the same vision and objectives, we want a better future. We want to ensure our grandchildren will enjoy a healthy land. We want to implement agreements. For those without agreements, I commit to working with them if they call my office. Balanced government to government relations can only be established through the implementation of our self government agreements. We have the high watermark of agreements in Canada, and it's incumbent on the Grand Chief's office to get out there and breathe life into the agreements. I think its important that the office of the Grand Chief work with the communities, a Yukon-wide forum to look at the agreements we've all signed. I assure you that I will take advantage of any situation where we can enhance our agreements. Economic development bypassed First Nations in past, that would change. Once we're done, if I'm the successful candidate, I want to meet with people and discuss their role and mandate. I commit to work with and for you on the basis of respect and integrity. If you work with me we can establish a new working arrangement. If successful, I will do that, work hard for you. We need a better working agreement with Canada. Once again I thank my wife and children for their support in this.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN who had nominated Steve Smith spoke briefly about Steve's achievements.

STEVE SMITH thanked his Chief for the nomination. My mother is Irene Smith and my dad was Elijah Smith, and I am from the Tagish Kwan people. I thank you for the honour of letting us come to your land, your people have done a good job and we feel welcome he said to the Selkirk First Nation. I am here because I want to lead an organization that I think has an amazing amount of potential. We have among the best land claim agreements in the country. There is an amazing amount of potential if we talk about the issues, put them before us and tell the governments where we want to go. We are at an important time, thirty years ago Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow helped us fight for our land claim. Where do we go for the next thirty years, for the next generation coming behind us. For me there is really only one issue, that is unity. We need to come back together. The only way we can get to the next level is by standing together and saying what we want. Thinking about where we want to go and working together to get there. I've been in the communities a lot, and we continuously hear our Elders say we have to work together. We have to set aside our small differences, look toward our common goals. That's what we need to do. It's no good that in thirty years our kids don't know their language, don't know who they are, and don't eat the food our people

did. We have to walk on the same trails, we will achieve our goals quicker, but if we do not come together it will take a lot more work and be a lot harder. Every day we have that fight in our communities. We need to adapt CYFN to the new reality, we need to help White River First Nation achieve their dreams. During the last years I've learned the struggles we face on a day to day basis. I always push for policy development, let people know the process on how to get things done, find a process, follow good, fair rules. I helped in development of our constitution. It has to be the new Grand Chief that takes on the direction of CYFN, he has to go out to the people. CYFN has to come back to the communities, come back when issues face the people, send staff to explain what is going on. We try to bring things top down, but really it's our people that know best which way to go. We need to create an organization that will foster that. We must help those who have fallen back. CYFN needs to be a dynamic organization, one that supports communities when issues face them. When Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation was fighting with government, we should have all been there. If we stood strong and united, the government would listen to us. If we are united and think about where we want to go, then we will have our own agenda and government will have to look at it. We need to be strong, and if united we can tell government we will do things on our time and when we are ready. We need to work on policies and procedures, and communication at CYFN, so that people understand where to go when they have an issue. To me power means responsibility. I give my assurance that I want to be involved in your communities, and CYFN as a whole needs to be involved as well. Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow, what does that mean today. We need to create a forum for the Elders so they can advise us. We owe our old leaders because they fought for us. We have to stand together. In closing I thank my wife, she is the backbone of our family. I hope I have let you know the kind of person I am. I ask for your support. We will not go with anyone else's agenda from now on.

CALVIN LINDSTROM provided some personal history saying he was from the Tagish Kwan people. Growing up in Mayo was interesting, I was raised among the Northern Tutchone and they are like family to me. I moved to Whitehorse and married. I am very proud of my history and roots. We are caretakers of the land and I would address that if elected Grand Chief. To me, CYFN is becoming another chapter in our lifetime and we must move ahead and share. I know many issues would require me to study, but I do understand our common issues. Unity remains one of our most important issues. I have a lot of skills and experience. Resources are extracted and a mess is left, we still have a big fight there. I believe Kwanlin Dün First Nation and others will come back to CYFN. We are in another time, we must carry the torch forward, get back to our culture. There are a lot of areas where we can help our people, use modern tools to help us. A lot of people look to us and look at us as leaders in regards to land claims. I want to thank Chief Ruth Massie for signing my nomination form. I felt devolution was a broken treaty. Seems I always come to the table at crisis time. If I get elected, I'm here to listen to the Leadership, you are my boss. See where we can go together. Land, wildlife, education, we have to share and take our place, ensure resources are funnelled to us. Healing needs to take place, we need to get rid of a lot of garbage. With help and support, we can overcome everything. Come together in unity. I thank you for your time

and apologize I couldn't be here earlier. I wish everyone well. We have to implement the agreements so our young people have something for the future he said.

ALBERT GENIER said he was used to being last, he was the last of eleven children. He provided some personal history and said I want to be a role model for the youth. I see very few people my age, and we must bring them into Leadership positions. When I started I spent a lot of time reading the agreements. When you listen, you hear what people say and what they want. I appreciate the words of all the candidates. To be unified you have to deal with things on a consensus basis. The majority vote always has a loser. Through consensus all angles can be covered and an informed decision can be made. Our youth are in need of help, they need direction. In taking part in this process it shows the ability of our youth. He thanked the many people who had helped him. I spent many years around Dick Dickson, and his comments still remain in my head today. Others, people like Rick O'Brien. I won't promise a lot of things because the Grand Chief gets his mandate from the Leadership. Government uses side agreements and piles of paper to busy us up. CYFN could take on health, justice, and child protection. We are not doing things effectively for our youth. Mentorships need to take place, take a child along and show them, show them the tools they have to work with. I believe in culture and tradition and that starts in the communities. We need to have our Elders included, they provide direction, I haven't had an Elder steer me wrong yet. We've seen where Elders' knowledge outperforms scientific knowledge. We have traditional medicines we should use. As our Elders pass on we will lose our traditional knowledge. We need to own this knowledge and state to the world that it's ours. It would be a sad day to hear someone sing our song and make money from it. Language is being learned by many young children and I am happy to see that. The weeks prior to this assembly I worked with the Peel Watershed and then with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun GA, so I was unable to travel to your communities and campaign. I really stress unity through a consensus based approach. If we do that within CYFN it will go a long way to bring the Kaska and Kwanlin Dün First Nation back to CYFN. I am 32 years old and I intend to continue working for our people. We need to get our youth involved.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said a few questions would be asked of the candidates after the break.

Break.

Questions to the Candidates

VICTORIA FRED said there had been a total of eleven questions put forward. They had been reduced to five questions. I will raise the question and address it to each candidate who will have two minutes to respond.

Question 1. Why should people choose you as Grand Chief

ALBERT GENIER said I support youth and try to be a role model. I am a hard worker and believe in fairness, and governance of our people is important. As a central government common goals can be worked on through CYFN. I believe in consensus. We

must maximize what White River First Nation gains from their agreement to the betterment of all First Nations. All activities at CYFN would be in consultation with the communities.

CALVIN LINDSTROM said because I'm a hard worker, get along with people and have travelled extensively. I have experience and courage, and feel comfortable in front of crowds. You can trust that I will fight for you and if you have something for me to do I will do it with my utmost strength. I will get answers back to you, not leave you hanging.

STEVE SMITH said I believe in CYFN and the opportunity it presents us. I bring a combination of experience and education. I was educated in both worlds, and I believe any constitutional change at CYFN has to be led by the Grand Chief who pushes the process and hears from the people. I have an open door policy, but you have to walk out once in a while and invite people in to get advice.

ANDY CARVILL said people should consider me because I've had experience in a variety of areas for a number of years. I work hard to keep updated on all the files. I want to take direction from the people. Communication is important, utilize newsletters and other means. Unity is important. I too believe in a consensus approach.

Question 2. What is your vision of the new CYFN? What are your top priorities for unity? How would you help to empower CYFN and unite all First Nations? What is your opinion on the restructure of CYFN?

CALVIN LINDSTROM said my vision for CYFN is that we are one, that is our strength. We need to find where we have problems so that when together we can gain unity. We have a lot of talent in our communities, we could pool our people. Come together as one people.

STEVE SMITH said my vision of CYFN is to be an advocate and to assist by bringing those who have settled to help those who have not, then we can utilize that to make better agreements for the rest of us. The priority for me is hearing what the people have to say. That is how we will work together. It has to come from the bottom up. How would you empower? - by listening to the people. I think we need to slow down to see what we want first so we can build an organization to meet our needs.

ANDY CARVILL said top priorities include unity. Work with the Gwich'in, get to know them and encourage good communication. Get to know their issues. Try to make sure that Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Kaska are included in our deliberations. Restructuring of CYFN includes thinking about the next level. Narrow down some of the visions and take forward a collective one, for example the health of our people.

ALBERT GENIER said amendments to the constitution are necessary, they enable CYFN to do certain things under direction of the Chiefs and I see nothing wrong with that. I think those not part of CYFN or the Gwich'in need to have involvement in CYFN. CYFN should be a place of promotion of First Nations, a place to promote traditional

knowledge and it could be function of CYFN to develop legislation on common issues. Find a way to be inclusive of all peoples' issues. Talk to those people who are making things happen.

Question 3. How do you plan to build unity amongst our First Nation Governments? As Grand Chief how would you remain connected with the individual communities while maintaining and representing the territorial and national interests of our First Nations? How would you work with individual First Nations whose objectives and goals may not be consistent with the collective position of CYFN?

STEVE SMITH said in building unity you must start at the grass roots, listen to what the people want. I remain connected by getting out to the communities more, being a part of the process to ensure that issues are brought forward. Empower your Chiefs to come to the Leadership table. Those First Nations with ambitions other than CYFN, I would be there to assist them, give them the opportunity to ask for help and let them know CYFN is there to assist them. You need to assist communities when they need help.

ANDY CARVILL said we have to get out there and get to know the people, attend assemblies, take the time to meet with people and work with those whose goals and objectives may not be consistent with those of CYFN. Work with them and hear them out, let them know we support them whatever their goals and views may be. Those objectives and goals will not differ so much after a while.

ALBERT GENIER said in building unity there is a need for inclusion, a need for consensus and information and education. I get out to the communities, the grass roots people who depend on the actions of their governments to provide for their future. Ideally I would help First Nations through the most favourable clause. We really need to bring back those First Nations not at the table, we must bring them back, have everybody involved.

CALVIN LINDSTROM said unity is really important, and for us to survive we need it. The hurt of one is the hurt of all. A way to bring unity is to bring back the language, songs, dances, and visit more often. The ability to share and hunt and fish in each other's territory. There could be discussion on that in future. That's how we were, we shared. To stay connected you have to get out there as Grand Chief. It would take a lot of work.

Question 4. Youth are seen as an important aspect to the growth of CYFN. How would you as the Grand Chief support the youth to establish an office to operate within the current administration arrangement? What type of programming for youth do you see CYFN implementing in the future, such as job shadowing with the Grand Chief.

ANDY CARVILL said it's important to have youth involved at CYFN. I would commit to sit with the youth and look at how we can support them. I want it to be the youth who decide how they structure a youth council. We need to get their ideas. I will commit to doing so if I'm given that mandate from the people and Leadership. That will give me the direction I need to set them up. Job shadowing would be no problem for me.

ALBERT GENIER said there are many avenues we could approach to bring youth together. We can't tell them what to do, we can give guidance, but they should make the decisions. We should encourage them to meet through cultural exchanges and through sports events. It would be excellent to spend time within each other's First Nation. Give them a voice that can be heard. They are our future leaders. At the CYFN GA in Old Crow they sent their youth up first to eat at mealtimes. They are future leaders, and we want them to be strong they told us.

CALVIN LINDSTROM said remember back to when you were a youth, remember what you faced. I truly believe we need a Native school in the Yukon. Many youth have skills and we need to utilize them.

STEVE SMITH said youth need the same status as the Grand Chief and the Elders. They would have their office based right out of the Executive Office, so they are close to the Grand Chief. Hold meetings between the youth and Elders. We need to ensure our kids know who they are and where they come from, and provide them opportunities to learn, work, and see how big the world is. Maybe then they will help us lead this organization into the future. Or, they may go off and let people know where they came from. I believe in opportunity.

Question 5. How will you, as Grand Chief, implement and move forward on the direction provided for CYFN from this General Assembly.

ALBERT GENIER said once the mandate is defined, the Leadership will drive the mandate of the Grand Chief. My lack will be made up by the many Chiefs sitting around the table. There must be cooperation between the Grand Chief and the communities. People must make informed decisions. Communities must not be on the sidelines. Doing a thorough job in any research will be a challenge, but it is possible and I believe I'm capable of doing that.

CALVIN LINDSTROM said with caution, respect, honour and dignity, courage and support and with God's help.

STEVE SMITH said by ensuring we have clear direction when moving forward, that we all understand what we want from the direction given the Grand Chief. Ensure we have consensus, and ensure we hear the people talk and have them lead us. The responsibility is that we hear our people and work towards their goals and aspirations.

ANDY CARVILL said for me one of the first areas would be to call a meeting and move forward. To build a mandate and involve the youth, Elders and all the people. Clear direction to move forward.

Break.

Voting

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said the voting booths were available. The voting process took place with each First Nation placing their votes. It is noted that the Gwichya Gwich'in, Council, which included Chief Peter Ross and Phillip Blake, were not in attendance, and so did not vote, therefore the original Voters List count of 62 eligible voters was reduced by two, to 60 eligible voters.

VICTORIA FRED drew a number of door prizes.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said the Chief Returning Officer had given her the following results. Sixty ballots were cast, no spoiled ballots, sixty percent of those would be 36 to win. Calvin Lindstrom = 2, Albert Genier = 5, Andy Carvill = 24, Steve Smith = 29. On the second ballot only the names Albert Genier, Andy Carvill and Steve Smith would appear. Voting then took place on the second ballot.

VICTORIA FRED drew a number of door prizes as well as the 50/50 draw. The total was \$1,226.00 and half of that was the prize of \$613.00. This would allow six youth to travel to hockey camp in Whitehorse she said.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said the Chief Returning Officer had given her the following results. Sixty ballots were cast, no spoiled ballots, sixty percent of those would be 36 to win. Albert Genier = 4, Andy Carvill = 24, and Steve Smith = 32. On the third ballot only the names Andy Carvill and Steve Smith would appear. Voting then took place on the third ballot.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said dinner would be ready after the voting process was completed.

VALARIE MORGAN said she would provide a fashion show after dinner. Two draws were held.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said the Chief Returning Officer had given her the following results. Sixty ballots were cast, no spoiled ballots. Andy Carvill = 28 and Steve Smith = 32. On the fourth ballot their names would appear again and voting would continue until one candidate received 60 percent of the vote. Delegates began voting on the fourth ballot.

A dinner hosted by Selkirk First Nation was served to everyone at their seats during the voting process which continued into the evening.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said the Chief Returning Officer had given her the following results. Sixty ballots were cast, no spoiled ballots. Steve Smith = 27 and Andy Carvill = 33. Delegates began voting on the fifth ballot.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON spoke the final results of the election. The Chief Returning Officer had given her the following results. Sixty ballots were cast, no spoiled ballots.

Steve Smith = 24 and Andy Carvill = 36. She asked all the candidates to join at the head table.

GRAND CHIEF ERIC MORRIS said it had been a heavy day for everyone, emotions had run high. The three unsuccessful candidates assembled in the middle of the room and the General Assembly thanked them for their effort and what they had to offer to the First Nations. It's a great thing. You have done very well for yourselves this day. Remember this day with great warmth and remain friends with one another, and look for the strengths in yourself. Your turn will come, to stand in front of us and provide the leadership that you have provided this day. We ask our Creator to be beneath your feet, behind your back to protect you and to guide you from the front. You have strong families who supported you and we ask our Lord to bless you and give you strength. We are very grateful from the bottom of our hearts for what you have done for us he said.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON voiced her appreciation saying it's difficult to run and wait your turn. I am proud to have been a part of this process. She invited the new Grand Chief Andy Carvill to the head table.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS invited Matthew Cardinal, a youth, to speak to the GA.

MATTHEW CARDINAL said it had been about seventeen years ago when he first came across his own traditional knowledge. It was amazing that I connected at such a young age. One thing that stuck with me is what was spoken by a person named Buffalo Child, a Cree traditional spiritual leader. While sitting in a sweat, he shared a vision with me. He saw great change happening. It would start in the North, he called it self government. It is interesting he said it would start in the North and spread all the way to South America. He also said all these nations would become one nation. It was empowering to hear that, and it's interesting to hear people say that agreements here in the North are historical. The feeling I get from sharing this message is that it's not just physical, what you're doing. It's a vision, it's simple and effective.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS addressed the new Grand Chief saying these people will look to you for direction. They will look to you for our future. You have been appointed to do this today, we ask our Creator to be with you. To be at your back, in front and on all sides, that the Creator be with you. We ask that he bless you in a good kind way. To bless you, to do this for all of us. We ask that your family be blessed. We ask them to be patient for the work you will do for us. We give you thanks Andy, for the commitment you made to us. We ask our Lord to be with you. On behalf of all of us gathered here, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

CHIEF MARK WEDGE asked all the Chiefs to move to the centre of the room. Each Chief welcomed the new Grand Chief, and they formed a circle around him. Chief Wedge sang a beautiful prayer song.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON asked Chief Eric Morris to swear in the new Grand Chief. An Executive Elder would also sign the document.

ERIC MORRIS read out loud the Oath of Office for Grand Chief and Andy Carvill repeated the oath. The following motion came forward;

Motion 5.	To destroy the ballots for the election of Grand Chief.
Moved by:	Chief Charlie Furlong
Seconded by:	Darla-Jean Lindstrom
Passed by:	consensus

GRAND CHIEF ANDY CARVILL thanked everyone saying he would call on the other candidates to help him in his new position. I am deeply honoured and humbled, it's a big task in front of us. Together we can do the job, and do it well. I respect each and every one of you for your hard work that you do for your people and Nations. It's been a long time coming and I look forward to sitting with the Elders at CYFN, to holding them up. I look forward to having the youth included as part of CYFN. I have a deep respect for the work you have done for your people. I hope and pray to the Lord that I can do you proud. I will carry the integrity and honesty that this office so much deserves. I will stand behind the Leadership and the people in the communities. I want to hear from the people. I look forward to working with the Gwich'in. It's a sign of unity. We will breathe life into the agreements, and those yet to come, we will work with them and work in a way that's conducive to what they want. I look forward to sitting at the Leadership table. I've worked with you on a lot of issues. I look forward to carrying forth your agenda, one that's reflective of your people. I give thanks to my wife and children for allowing me to come forward. I want to be a Grand Chief that's visible and available to you all. I am there for the people. I appreciate the support and I will uphold this office with integrity. I thank the Executive Elders who have worked so diligently over the years. I thank all my brothers and sisters from the Teslin Tlingit Council for allowing Chief Eric Morris to take on the position in the interim. I'm committed to being a Grand Chief that will come to your communities. He thanked Richard Sidney, Chief Mark Wedge and others saying if I forget you, I apologize. I look forward to working with you all. I owe everyone a big thank you. This is not lip service, I will be there and carry your agenda forward in a good and respectful way.

CHIEF MIKE SMITH and the members from Kwanlin Dün First Nation came forward to congratulate the new Grand Chief. We are glad to be here to witness the choosing of your leader. There is a lot of work that needs to be done, and we are prepared to work to do that. We have a lot of common issues. We are here to work with you. I congratulate the other candidates as well.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON advised that two resolutions had been drafted by the Resolutions Committee, and were being handed out. She asked delegates to review the resolutions and they would be brought forward the following day.

Closing prayer said by Tiffany Smith. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Day 3 – Wednesday, June 29, 2005.

Meeting came to order at 9:45 am. Opening prayer said by Percy Henry.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON reviewed the planned activities for the day. She reviewed what had taken place so far during the GA. The new Grand Chief, Andy Carvill joined the head table.

12. Resolutions

SHIRLEY ADAMSON read out loud the first GA Resolution #1, as everyone followed along. *All resolutions are included in their entirety at the conclusion of these minutes.*

CHIEF MARK WEDGE said regarding the constitutional issue he felt that healing was a big part of it. Canada said we couldn't practice our culture, and laws have been passed that prevented us from things. When we look at self government it allows us to pass laws and that is a part of the healing process for us. I've been hearing tribal representation is important. We have room for others, and we have to accommodate those without a tribal affiliation. Developing our laws is paramount. Our First Nation laws must be paramount. All First Nations have two laws in common, the GST and Income Tax Act. Are those the laws we want to make, that's a concern. If we don't have laws on self government agreements, Yukon laws apply. It's better to have other First Nations' laws, those should be the laws of general application for us. I'd like to see how we can collect those laws from other First Nations. We've developed the Family Act and are willing to share. There should be some sort of collecting house, we do need a central agency. Different First Nations have different laws, and it would be worthwhile to look at them, develop models and templates. We took part in the BC Summit, and discussion did take place regarding collection of data. BC is looking at the regional level of developing laws, and they have access to funds from Canada. For us the difficulty is, they focus on constitutions, taking on membership lists, many things that we did twenty years ago. Northern First Nations should begin developing laws. For that reason we in the North and NWT should implement a technical group where First Nations could request assistance on the development of their laws. Those in BC are willing to come up and talk with us. Should that be housed at CYFN, those are the difficult questions. As we look at restructuring and the constitution of CYFN and I am worried that we are repeating ourselves and re-examining what we've already done. We need to clarify somehow. We spent a lot of energy in the communities regarding the Children's Act, and I understand that YTG is not comfortable with the changes First Nations want, I am afraid it will go sideways. Again, we are looking at education at the Yukon Legislature, and they control things because we don't have our own laws that apply. Corrections is also an issue. I'm concerned that Yukon is trying to adjust these Acts. We are not starting from where we want to start from. I worry about how we do this. We need to start from a different place. We have over 140 traditional stories and from those principles we develop our laws. We want to uphold those stories and bring them into contemporary thought. Keep our traditions in our contemporary laws. We need to find a process of who we are in practical application today. I would like to see us charge a team to identify ways and models to move ahead. Models of legislature. Something all First Nations are

comfortable with. I don't want to restudy this again. We need technical people available to help us move forward. We are willing to share, and I want a collecting house. Maybe that could be included in the resolution.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said if the present resolution does not move after this round of speakers, we will re-draft it.

JOHNNY SAM spoke about the need to include traditional knowledge in First Nations laws. He related the past and how natural laws were upheld. The Elders say you can't afford to break the law, it's always been that way. YTG is not following the UFA, they are pushing right ahead and not listening to any First Nation. Hopefully we can break that barrier. We have problems in all areas, throughout all the chapters. We hope with the new constitution we will have new processes, where we have better ability to manage in the traditional way. One thing I don't like to see is anyone going to court, if we work with YTG we can work these things out. I know that it can be done, because with the RRC's we are doing good. We keep in constant touch with the Northern Tutchone Council. Hopefully things will change. Our First Nation is working with the Elders and the relationships are good.

RODDY BLACKJACK said if all First Nations join together we would have a stronger voice. We've been quiet long enough, we let the Europeans push us around, and I want to see Yukon First Nations join up. It's important for our future generation. Gun laws remain an issue. As First Nations it's time to lay down our law. Our law has been shelved. Non Native law goes against us all the time, against our culture, I know who we are around this table. We have our own culture and rights, we want to bring that back. In the days of my grandfather and grandmother, they used their own laws on the land. Today we can't do that because we follow a law that came from the other side of the ocean, and it's not right for us. We need to enact our own traditional laws, I want my future generations to stand on their feet as self governing. I am sure we can make it if we work together. All First Nations share their knowledge and respect each other. That works for us. They brought in Elk and Buffalo, why did they do this. Then when we kill those animals we pay a fine. Soon when we shoot a moose we'll get fined for it said the Elder.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said the resolution needs some additional wording changes. Recognize the work of the Constitutional Commission who spent \$1 million for a report, use that report when submitting proposals.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS said we've talked about this at great length and many things have been said, but now we have to look at where to go from here. When I look at that initiative I think the resolution is reflective of where we need to go. The proposal put forth by Champagne and Aishihik First Nation provides us a framework for discussion, it's significant in the direction we take in the days ahead. I see the deficiencies, but opportunities continue to pass us by. We have to advance forward, we struggle with our economies at the community level. How do we use our traditional economies, utilize the resources on the land. I am waiting for the time when we can present to the world what

we are all about, and do it on our own, by ourselves. Our children do what they see us doing. I appreciate all the discussion and look forward to a strong future for all of us. I see all the emblems on the walls around us, the animals on the land, how we need to protect their environment. I thank you for your discussion. I look forward to the resolution and further discussion.

DARYN LEAS read the new language into the resolution.

CHIEF STEVEN BUYCK said would this have any affect on the Kaska. Would the AFN be involved, they have their own mandate, and are we overstepping our boundaries with whatever decision comes from here. If the Kaska are not involved this resolution could be thrown out.

DARYN LEAS said we are trying to identify some of the issues raised. He provided some clarification.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said the role of AFN should be taken out of the resolution. We are trying to represent self government interests at the national table. I am sure we can set that aside as a separate entity. I don't think it would upset any of the interests of what we are trying to do.

CHIEF DARIN ISAAC said he agreed with the resolution as brought forward. We need to develop a model using traditional knowledge. There are concerns with copyrights and patents. The Child Protection Act could be a model, see what is common to First Nations. We need to distinguish the political and administrative roles. First Nations need to understand what their agreements give them, then we could share in development of the legislation.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN said I think the AFN issue should be left in the resolution. We may not make changes to the AFN role, but at least we will look at it in the context of how CYFN would be set up. I have always said we have entities that look after Yukon First Nations' interests, and I would like to see accountability in there, that be expressed at the national level by our AFN representative.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR said I don't see any harm in leaving that specific AFN bullet in there. I understand the concerns but this is just a statement of fact. This enables the Chiefs Committee to do the work on our behalf, to look at the mandate and all those things we've discussed over the last few days. We have self government issues with the governments and AFN has the national link on our behalf, we don't currently have that at this CYFN table. This GA only represents our interests in the Yukon and doesn't have national exposure. We are in the process of restructuring, and whoever the selected Chiefs are, they will look at all these things. If we are united, that's the exercise that needs to be done.

COUNCILLOR DAVID DICKSON said regarding the role of the AFN, I do think there is some concern. The resolution seems to place Yukon First Nations in a secondary role.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said all Chiefs should be involved, self governing or not.

CHIEF MIKE SMITH said I understand the AFN is undertaking a renewal as well. We have concerns on many issues, but it seems the attitude is, we don't care what you think.

VICE CHIEF RICK O'BRIEN said I get my mandate from 633 Chiefs across Canada, but I bring the interests of First Nations of the Yukon to the national level. I know the intentions are good. I have to be accountable to all 14 Yukon First Nations and can't focus my interests toward a core group of members. I bring all your interests to the national level. We have a newsletter and have spokespeople for the Yukon. My core funding is \$85,000 per year and my wages and travel are paid by the central body in Ottawa. We've had our legal department submit a proposal as to how we fit into CYFN. I get elected by Yukon Chiefs but my mandate comes from the national level. I'm not sure how it will work. If I'm under the umbrella, I need to know my role and duties and how I would function.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said these are in-house matters, to get this organization to be effective for our members. This resolution states we will look at how AFN impacts us, and how can we work better with all First Nations. This resolution gives us the mandate to deal with those in-house matters.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON read out loud the revised GA Resolution #1. It was moved and seconded.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR reiterated the need for unity. If we are sitting at the table united, we have to have equal representation. The intent was to make everyone comfortable with the organization, that everyone have a say.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON asked three times if there was any opposition to the resolution as it was moved and seconded. None was expressed. Resolution #1 passed. Selection of the five chiefs would still need to be addressed she said.

13. CYFN Audited Financial Statements

GAYLE CORRY joined the table.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS referred everyone to tab 7 in the binders for the document titled Council of Yukon First Nations Audited Financial Statements, Year Ended March 31, 2005. The Audit Report states we have a clean audit he said. He reviewed the various documents and then read out loud GA Resolution #2. It passed by consensus.

14. Resolutions – (continued)

COUNCILLOR DAVID DICKSON asked about his place at the table and how voting affects the First Nations. I am not trying to offend, but my First Nation paid me to speak on their behalf he said.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said we have been trying to ensure everyone has input to the discussions.

CJ MARIAN SHELDON asked for clarification regarding GA Resolution #1. She felt it very important that people feel a part of the process. Sometimes clarity is needed, and a round table discussion should take place. If we are discussing something on the floor people need the time to think about it and review it she stressed. Is everyone at the table clear and comfortable with the resolution that was just passed she asked.

ROBERT HAGER said he felt the same way. I'd like to see the names of all First Nations included in GA Resolution #1. We have to tell government their time limit is up. He spoke about the lack of money available to First Nations to help in implementation issues. NND is bypassing YTG regarding education. The Minister of Education is Aboriginal, but he is not working for our people said the Elder.

Break.

GRAND CHIEF ANDY CARVILL spoke about the resolution that was passed. We've been talking about unity and I want to get things back on track he said.

JUDY GINGELL said we need to work on a treaty document. Common issues will come to the table where we need a central body. That is how I see GA Resolution #3. The treaty process would help us unify, and this resolution is a unity resolution she said.

DANNY JOE referred back to GA Resolution #1 saying he too felt it had been rushed through. The Kaska and Kwanlin Dün First Nation felt left out. Selkirk First Nation hosted this GA, and myself as the principal Elder, I want to ensure that no one goes home feeling bad. Yesterday we tried to gain feedback and in the end we never got it. We have to find agreement.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said this issue has been dealt with. I reaffirm that Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation has confidence and supports the Chair and Grand Chief. The rules were agreed upon and we need to stick by those rules. Every First Nation in the Yukon has the ability to represent themselves at this table. I don't want to continue changing the things we've agreed to. I think we should move on.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN said I would like to reiterate that to me this resolution is our next step. We are looking for a mandate for a re-organized organization that will continue to grow, where we can have a unified voice when going to Ottawa. We are not excluding Kwanlin Dün First Nation or the Kaska. The technical group will hopefully develop some functions and strategies in time for our next GA.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR thanked the Chiefs for their comments. We are trying to find a comfort level. At this time a number of First Nations feel excluded. It would be premature to do anything that would retract from our existing policies, without discussing amendments in what we are trying to do. We won't know what will happen until we do the work. I recommend that we look at all the things outlined in the resolution, appoint a Chiefs Committee and that they spend the time with the Kaska and Kwanlin Dün First Nation to understand their difficulties and have those things reflected in this new mandate. Develop a document that reflects their concerns and interests and start dealing with our outstanding issues with government(s).

CHIEF MARK WEDGE spoke about income tax needs of First Nations, saying the collective voice of First Nations should be drawn into these things. The Northern Strategy is an issue. Land use planning must be addressed. We must address the common, big issues, where we need to collectively lay the foundation of where those issues will go. At one time CYFN dealt with the big issues. Maybe that's where we are at. We need to find the big issues and this resolution says that collectively we need to push forward. CYFN needs to hone it down to two or three big issues he said.

PETER JOHNNY spoke about care of the campground. Self government is very important to First Nations. The Grand Chief is our representative he said.

Lunch break.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON ensured that there was a quorum present and reviewed the speakers list. She asked that delegates review the remaining agenda items so as to determine how to proceed.

JUDY GINGELL said there is no presentation from YIDC.

Door prizes were drawn.

15. Gift Giving

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN presented Chief Eric Morris with a gift for his work as the interim Grand Chief of CYFN.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS displayed the beautiful blanket and thanked everyone for being allowed the experience.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN handed out a number of gifts to Chief Darin Isaac, Danny Joe, Johnson Edwards, Don Trudeau and Gina Gill.

16. Resolutions – (continued)

CHARLIE FURLONG addressed the GA saying in the NWT we are going through the process of restructuring the Dene Nation. He spoke about the link between First Nations

in Yukon, NWT and Nunavut. We saw Canada eroding our rights. We have strived to convince government to deal with us government to government. We struggle with that today. In the 1980's and 1990's communities got the taste of power. We have to ask ourselves when do we declare ourselves as legitimate governments. Why are we always governed under someone else's rule. We must take a unified position, otherwise Canada will continue to erode our rights and entrench them into the very bureaucracy we are trying to get away from. The Dene have similar problems and issues. We must operate under our own rules and authorities. To be truly self governing is to be truly self sufficient. Aboriginal people have the right to govern themselves and we must take that right and use it to our advantage. We have the capability to do that today, we've educated ourselves. We still have these organizations under which we live, we have to shape them to become tools that are effective in our movement. We have the inherent traditional right to enter into treaties among ourselves. There are MOUs and other ways to discuss overlap issues. We take concerns and incorporate them into our policy. We have the ability to change and I think that's what is happening, we see a problem and we want to change it. Your concerns are no different from where we are. We have to take our problem hands on. You are taking old principles and are making them your tool. I've listened to the very good discussions around the table, but we have to move. We are not implementing, and people are yelling at us as leaders. We have to implement vehicles, we have to have trust. I am proud to be a member of this organization, but I feel we can move ahead. We can do the job, we simply have to have trust in each other. There are a lot of good ideas that came forward. Anything we do we have to have a start. We have to share our ups and downs, create a balance that we are all comfortable with.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN reiterated that GA Resolution #1 would allow for moving ahead, otherwise it will be a year and we won't have a mandate to do anything regarding restructuring of CYFN. I appreciate Chief Furlong's message to us. He's a great leader for our people. Hopefully at the next GA we will have a new organization that can move us forward.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON said one resolution deals with internal functions of CYFN and the other one, sharing among ourselves. When we had our Special GA in March, it ended with a lot of unresolved outstanding issues. We will not solve the constitutional issues today, but we must move forward.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON read out loud GA Resolution #3. General discussion took place and the resolution passed.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON read out loud GA Resolution #4. General discussion took place and the resolution passed.

17. Self Government Secretariat Report

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said there is a more detailed report on the Self Government Secretariat behind tab 6 in the kits. He provided an overview of the Secretariat saying one challenge had been renewal negotiations. Many problems had been encountered with

the Federal Government's reviewer. They don't want to discuss funding, but through collective work we have moved forward on the issue. Champagne and Aishihik First Nation's document is accurate in how the Self Government Secretariat fits into CYFN. Various committees within CYFN are at the political level, the Grand Chief is a full member of the Chiefs Committee. There have been some problems in coordinating with First Nations as to who their official representative is, their contact person. That person should have some status within their First Nation and relay information back and forth. Getting the political bodies to understand had been difficult. The Implementation Working Group were the ideal people to be listed as the First Nations Government Officials. We will have one person work at the Self Government Secretariat level, who will deal with YTG and the Federal Government. We must decide who will staff the Self Government Secretariat. The workplan and budget had been drafted. We are requesting \$671,000 from the Federal Government, based on past budgets and estimates. The work comes from your First Nation Government Officials. The Self Government Secretariat has been working very well with all First Nations. We are compiling a formative evaluation and hope to successfully gain continued funding of the Secretariat. We will meet with the funders on July 15th and the Self Governing Chiefs Committee and First Nations Government Officials will be meeting with them. Intergovernmental Meetings and the Self Government Secretariat had discussed the education component. We brought it forward with Robert Nault. He had identified money within the Federal Government. He asked the Self Government Secretariat to write a proposal for money to look at the First Nation education system in the Yukon. We hope to continue to fund that person and carry out the work. We hope to gain ongoing funding for education, it continues to operate under the Self Government Secretariat, but will ultimately come under the umbrella of CYFN. He referred everyone to the workplan as contained in the binders.

KLUANE MARTIN said she was involved in health for First Nations people. Our health department here, is in a desperate situation. Our Health Commissioners are having a hard time pulling together because there is no money for health. This impacts every single citizen. We must start thinking about that component of our needs. Even at the AFN level we must fight for health issues. On the social side, mental health, residential school issues are all a part of the health of citizens. I plead on behalf of our grass roots citizens and their needs.

CHIEF MIKE SMITH said it's time for Kwanlin Dün First Nation to leave, and we want to say thank you very much for the hospitality shown by Selkirk First Nation. We appreciated being here, and I say to all of you that we are prepared to work with any First Nation, to work on issues that affect us all. We will work on the principle of respect and understanding.

COUNCILLOR DAVID DICKSON commended all the delegates and Leadership on the positive dialogue that had taken place. With continued talks, things do get resolved. I see the potential to resolve issues, but right now I am only one in five, one Chief and four Councillors. The majority rules. Our official spokesman is our Chief. I commend the cooks and all the friendly people. I will go home and talk with my Chief and Council,

and we will continue to dialogue with the Grand Chief. He thanked Selkirk First Nation for their outstanding hospitality.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said to address concerns by Kluane Martin those issues would be dealt with through the adequacy of funding initiative. We will continue to work on getting that in the mix.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON asked if there were any additional comments.

STYD KLUGIE said Selkirk First Nation is using traditional knowledge when discussing fish and wildlife issues. Our first priority is the traditional knowledge the Elders hold, and we go by their recommendations. These are the types of guidelines we implement our land claims by. Another example is the habitat protection area, where we use Elders and traditional knowledge first within the process. Within our management plan we are starting to include the traditional knowledge statement first. What is missing in land claims implementation is that traditional knowledge. You will get your answers there. That should be mandated at CYFN.

GRAND CHIEF ANDY CARVILL said he would make it a priority to meet with Lori Duncan and others involved in health issues. The following motion came forward;

Motion 6.	To accept the Report from the Chiefs Committee on the Self Government Secretariat.
Moved by:	Chief Charlie Furlong
Moved by:	Chief Ruth Massie
Passed by:	consensus

18. Minutes of the CYFN Annual General Assembly September 2004

Minutes were provided in the kits. The following motion came forward;

Motion 7.	To accept the minutes of the CYFN Annual General Assembly September 14 to 16, 2004 as presented.
Moved by:	Chief Joe Linklater
Seconded by:	Chief James Allen

19. Minutes of CYFN Special General Assembly March 2005

Minutes were provided in the kits. The following motion came forward;

Motion 8.	To accept the minutes of the CYFN Special General Assembly March 8 to 10, 2005 as presented.
Moved by:	Chief Ruth Massie
Seconded by:	Chief Joe Linklater
Passed by:	consensus

20. Assembly of First Nations - Residential School Report

CHIEF RICK O'BRIEN joined the table saying we recommend everyone who attended residential school be given settlement through a lump sum. Survivors will always have an option to go to court on top of the lump sum payment. Currently the process is too long and needs simplification. We need to open up a national dialogue on this issue. Healing and reconciliation needs to be designed by survivors and stakeholders. Our appeal is with Canada, not the Liberal government. We will look at capping the legal fees at 5% on the lump sum payment. A conference was planned he said.

CJ MARIAN SHELDON said I recommend someone from an isolated rural area come forward to attend.

CHIEF RICK O'BRIEN said his office was always open for discussions.

STAN JOHNSON said he had gone to see a lawyer. The loss of culture and language should be included. There is also the issue of child labour, cutting wood and so on. That should be included as abuse. Sexual abuse alone is not good enough. The way children were treated in school was not good, a lot of our children got sick and died.

CHIEF RICK O'BRIEN said there was \$10,000 just for going to school. Sexual abuse is on top of that. We hope to simplify the process. At the national level we have a problem with the cut off date. Many dates had been discussed. We want to take it right back to the Royal Commission Report.

RONALD JOHNSON spoke about sexual and physical residential school abuse.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said he had spoken with the younger generation that had been affected. What about the Baptist Mission School? Was there a way to include possible settlement money into a Will?

CHIEF RICK O'BRIEN said the Whitehorse Baptist Mission School has a class action against it. Canada will not deal with it at present. I too am a residential school survivor. The lump sum payment will go into your estate, and the family will receive the money. It still depends on the cut off date.

CARMEN BAKER said this is a very tough issue. It's sensitive, and affects First Nations right across the continent. One of the things I think about a lot is our loss of culture and identity, who we are. Why can't the government give lump sums to First Nations to build their culture back. That is a huge loss. Once we get that back, you will see a powerful people.

CJ MARIAN SHELDON said this is a difficult issue. These are our men, our warriors, we must make sure that we take care of them and allow them to speak.

MILLIE E. JOHNSON addressed the GA saying this is a sensitive issue and affects all our people. It doesn't matter what generation you're from. We are at the crossroads of holding the Federal Government and the churches accountable. It is very painful. I see this as a fast fix for Canada. No money will bring back our culture, but they must be held accountable. The money is a slap in the face for First Nations across Canada. I would like to see some kind of foundation or political body to put forward to AFN and Canada that continuation of healing must take place until the ripple effects are no longer with our people. We must make a full circle, bring back our culture and language to the people. I request from this GA that the government and churches be held accountable until our people's lives are strong again.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said we need to determine how to set up a meeting so people can talk in a safe environment. There are two resource people in the room that could help out.

PETER JOHNNY said he had survived residential school. He spoke about the pain it had caused him.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said sometimes a sensitive thing like this can break you down. It's so good to see people behind you, coming to your aid right away. He thanked Rick O'Brien for his efforts.

GWEN WALLY said she was also a survivor, even though I never went to residential school myself, a number of my family did. We are all related, and I recommend that all survivors be included in this meeting, because all points of view are important. I thank the Creator above that our people are so strong and spiritual, because if we weren't I don't know where we'd be today. Where is the money coming from for all these meetings. I recommend that children of people who went to residential school also attend these meetings. There is not enough money in this world to compensate for what was taken away from us. It is crucial that everybody be involved. We must not be abused twice.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON said where are the dollars coming from, did they take the money from elsewhere and re-allocate it. What is the cut off date.

CHIEF RICK O'BRIEN said if you're a survivor your included in the Baxter case. We were given a mandate at the AFN. We are doing the best we can based on the mandates we have. He clarified the cut off date and how it applies.

GRAND CHIEF ANDY CARVILL thanked all the speakers and Chief O'Brien. He noted how the issue continues to affect all First Nations. I think we should sit down and look at holding a forum in collaboration with the AFN to ensure we have the resources and people to deal with these issues. Seeing what has taken place here, I think it's time to make that move. Hold a forum to help heal our spirits. The following motion came forward;

Motion 9.	To accept the AFN Yukon Region Report to the General Assembly as presented.
Moved by:	Gwen Wally
Seconded by:	Chief Steven Buyck
Passed by:	consensus

SHIRLEY ADAMSON said the Intertribal Watershed, Regional Housing Discussion and one remaining resolution were still outstanding on the agenda.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN suggested that the Regional Housing issue be discussed at an upcoming Leadership meeting.

MARY BATAJA said she had been asking for help since her parents died, no one was there for me. It's hard to tell our stories. How do you forget these things. I do agree that we shouldn't talk about these things at meetings like this, because you need proper counselling support when opening up these wounds. I am presently dealing with these issues myself.

CHIEF RICK O'BRIEN said a newsletter had been provided and handed out to delegates. I thank Chief Steven Buyck for his efforts regarding Mackenzie Olsen who would receive his drugs until September 2005.

21. YNTEP - Resolution

SHIRLEY ADAMSON read out loud a GA Resolution regarding YNTEP. It was moved by Chief Angela Demit and seconded by Paul Birckel.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER made some comments on the wording of the resolution. We will research section A and C and intend to hold a private meeting with YNTEP graduates so we can hear their concerns. Any number of these issues can come forward to the reform process he said.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON suggested that due to time restraints the YNTEP resolution be deferred to the next Leadership meeting.

PAUL BIRCKEL said he would have no problem in deferring the resolution to the Leadership meeting. He withdrew his motion.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT agreed, it could come to the Leadership table and she too withdrew her motion.

22. Inter-Tribal Watershed Discussions

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said he wanted to inform people on the issue and a meeting was scheduled to be held in Dawson City. It's the contaminants and pollution that worry

the First Nations. He encouraged all people to go back and bring something forward from their communities, to state their feelings on the issue. Salmon know no boundaries he said.

23. Closing Remarks

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM thanked the hosts, saying they had done a masterful job. He extended his thanks to everyone involved in making the GA such a success.

CHIEF STEVEN BUYCK congratulated everyone for a job well done. There had been good discussions. It's been a good three days and I thank all those involved in this very successful GA. It's all about unity, reaching consensus, reaching the goal where we want to be. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun would like to host the next CYFN GA in Mayo at Ethel Lake he said. A gift was given to Selkirk First Nation from the citizens of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN said Selkirk First Nation had done a great job in accommodating us. I thank all those who have worked and attended these meetings. Sometimes the trail is hard, but it strengthens us to share our experiences. I'm glad we passed the resolution to give us direction.

CHIEF RUTH MASSIE thanked Selkirk First Nations for being such great hosts. Your activities were great. I thank the Chairs for the Assembly, and the CYFN staff for their hard work. We have made a commitment to work together and hopefully we can be united. Ta'an Kwäch'an Council has worked diligently on finishing policies and procedures on governance. Our election process had been recalled, but we decided to be proactive and are completing an Elections Act and will go to election again. A date has not yet been set for new elections. First Nations continue to gain strength every day she said.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON thanked Selkirk First Nation for hosting a great GA. They've been good hosts. He thanked everyone for how well they took care of the delegates.

CHIEF CHARLIE FURLONG thanked Selkirk First Nation for their hospitality over the last three days. President Fred Carmichael sends his congratulations to the new Grand Chief and encourages solid relationships regarding overlap issues. I thank all the Chiefs and citizens for the GA.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT said today I can truly say I have a new outlook of the future for White River First Nation. I am pleased and encouraged by the words of the Chiefs. My vision for the future is unity. I thank all my brothers and sisters. I congratulate Grand Chief Andy Carvill, and thank Chief Eric Morris. I am proud to be a part of this GA and am pleased with the outcome of this meeting.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation believes we are a strong organization and we communicate well. We took the time to listen to everyone and are

respectful of others, we should be proud of what we are accomplishing. We are changing and growing stronger, and so I look forward to doing the work given us. He congratulated the Grand Chief saying you hold a very unique position. If our Grand Chief is not powerful, it's our fault, we must give him the support required. I enjoyed this GA because of the constant talk about unity. It begins with a conversation, then moves to action.

CHIEF MARK WEDGE said I've been inspired by the youth who have attended and listened for three days. This GA should show their appreciation he said, and a round of applause was extended them. He thanked the many people who had taken part in the GA. On behalf of the citizens of Carcross Tagish First Nation we express our appreciation to Selkirk First Nation for their kindness. A gift of appreciation was given Selkirk First Nation.

CHIEF PETER JOHNSTON said on behalf of the Teslin Tlingit Council, we thank Selkirk First Nation for their hospitality. He thanked Chief Eric Morris for his help and all those who had made the GA such a success. A gift of appreciation was given Selkirk First Nation.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR said the youth in the community had done amazing things and he wanted to acknowledge them. He thanked the GA Coordinator and all those who had worked so diligently on such a successful GA. I have a lot of confidence in Grand Chief Andy Carvill and will help wherever I can. I thank Chief Eric Morris for stepping in and taking over the reins when needed. I see unity.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS said from the bottom of my heart thank you Chief Darin Isaac, and your people, for hosting a successful General Assembly. I'm grateful to you all. Unity has been expressed and shown here on your traditional territory. I appreciate the staff at CYFN for their commitment to our people, and I give them my heartfelt thanks. I feel good about what I've been able to do and have tried to share with those I came into contact. I thank my people in Teslin for allowing me this opportunity.

GRAND CHIEF ANDY CARVILL thanked Selkirk First Nation for hosting the GA. He thanked the youth and all those involved in making the GA such a success. He thanked the Elders as well, for their time and attendance at the GA. I intend to meet with the Elders and youth and begin work on a Youth Council and Elders Council. We will undertake the steps to bring them back into the organization. I thank all the coordinators and cooks, all the workers and the Chairs. I thank the CYFN staff and respect you all for your hard work. I am honoured to work with you all. I thank the Kaska and Kwanlin Dün First Nation for being here, engaging in discussion, and being part of moving forward. When I look at the resolutions, I recognize that we must support each other. I thank the candidates that put their names forward. I thank each one of you. As I stand here today I'm still very humbled. It's hard for me to acknowledge the trust you've all given me, and I truly hope I make you all proud. I appreciate the words from you all. I thank the Gwich'in for their support and the invitation to attend their GA in Inuvik, I will be there. Personally I thank the Leadership from the Dakh-Ka who supported me when I

was their leader. That experience will help me in my capacity as Grand Chief. I have gotten to know a lot of Elders and people, and it has touched me. Our office will begin contacting the Elders and youth very soon. A beautiful drum was given Selkirk First Nation from CYFN as a gift of appreciation. Gifts were also given the GA Coordinators and Chairs.

CARMEN BAKER said the drawing on the drum showed the significance of the salmon to the Selkirk First Nation, and she again thanked CYFN for the beautiful gift.

GRAND CHIEF ANDY CARVILL congratulated Carcross Tagish First Nation for settlement on their agreement.

VICTORIA FRED extended her deep appreciation to Selkirk First Nation for their hospitality. She was inspired and thanked all those involved at the GA. There is so much that I gain in this process she said.

SHIRLEY ADAMSON thanked Northern Native Broadcasting, Yukon for allowing her the time to Chair the GA. I am here on loan from them. I appreciate them letting me come to these assemblies, it allows me to stay connected with the communities she said.

CHIEF DARIN ISAAC thanked everyone for their kind words and gifts. All our communities need healing, we want to develop some action plans in that regard. He thanked the GA Coordinators Don Trudeau and Gina Gill for their very hard work and efforts.

DANNY JOE said I appreciate you people for working so hard. We can't be sad all the time, we must smile too once in a while. He thanked all the many people who had travelled to Selkirk First Nation to attend the GA. You have come a long way and you should be proud of yourselves. Together, we can make this work. Thank you to all my friends.

BETTY JOE spoke about the happy time spent the last three days. She sang a traditional song to the GA.

JOHNSON EDWARDS thanked everyone for their part in the GA. He had enjoyed seeing all his friends and family. He thanked the Grand Chief saying we must give him our support. He thanked all the visitors to the Selkirk First Nation traditional territory. We are all brothers and sisters, we are all God's family.

CARMEN BAKER said when I first started I was a young teenager, but I have always cared about my people. I would always go to the Elders. I became a youth worker and realized I wanted to do more. I have a big job ahead of me. We are all uniting. I thank my Chief and community.

KATHERINE MUSICK thanked everyone for coming out and all those who had worked so hard to make things so comfortable. I am newly elected and am learning. I thank you all for being here.

STAN JOHNSON spoke about his past with the Yukon Native Brotherhood and its evolution into the CYI and then the CYFN. He suggested everyone put their full support behind CYFN. Work as a team, work together and create a united front.

DON TRUDEAU said he was humbled for all the praise given him. Without my assistant coordinator or the youth I wouldn't be here to accept your recognition. I am honoured that I was chosen to do this duty for you. You were wonderful guests.

GINA GILL said it was an honour to take care of all of you. She read out loud all the names of the youth workers who had helped with the GA.

LIZZIE HALL thanked everyone for coming to the GA.

CHIEF DARIN ISAAC and DON TRUDEAU handed out beautiful wooden-framed leather commemorative gifts to all the First Nations and CYFN, depicting the CYFN 2005 Annual General Assembly hosted by Selkirk First Nation.

The citizens of Selkirk First Nation joined together in the centre of the room. Closing prayer said by Chief Eric Morris. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

2005 GA Resolution #1

WHEREAS:

- (A) The General Assembly has discussed matters related to the constitution of the CYFN and its existing structure and mandate and pointed out that the following matters require further examination:
- the legal status of the central body,
 - the mandate and responsibilities of the central body,
 - the role, structure and responsibilities of the various commissions and bodies established by the Leadership,
 - the role of the Assembly of First Nations to represent the interests of the CYFN members related to self government matters,
 - the resourcing of the central body, and
 - the membership and the rights of such membership within the central body.
- (B) The constitutional committee, which was established by the General Assembly in September 2004 and dissolved in March 2005, met broadly with First Nations and their citizens and organizations with respect to the structure and mandate of the central body and identified options and made recommendations in its final report.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly directs that:

1. a technical working group review the present structure and mandate of the constitution and make recommendations for a renewed central body consistent with the discussions of the General

- Assembly and taking into account the final report issued by the Constitutional Commission under the direction of a Chief's Committee.
2. the CYFN enter into discussions with federal and territorial officials to identify possible funding sources for a renewed central body.
 3. the recommendations made under section (1) and the funding options identified under (2) be tabled at the next meeting of the General Assembly for its review and consideration.
 4. the CYFN seek the funding necessary to implement this resolution.

Moved by: Chief James Allen
Seconded by: Chief Joe Linklater
Passed by: consensus on June 29, 2005

2005 GA Resolution #2 – CYFN Audited Financial Statements

WHEREAS the Council of Yukon First Nations Senior Management Board is responsible for reviewing the annual audited financial statements and providing recommendations to the General Assembly for approval or disapproval; and

WHEREAS the Senior Management Board reviewed the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2005 on June 22, 2005 and approved the financial statements as presented.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2005 be approved by the General Assembly.

Moved by: Darla-Jean Lindstrom
Seconded by: Chief Joe Linklater
Passed by: consensus on June 29, 2005

2005 GA Resolution #3

WHEREAS:

- (A) The First Nations of the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories are the original people of this land with full rights and responsibilities for our people and the resources of traditional territories.
- (B) We recognize the need to work with each other and to help each other to fulfill our responsibilities to our people and land.
- (C) The current membership of the Council of Yukon First Nations (the "CYFN") does not include certain First Nations that have rights, titles and interests within the Yukon Territory.
- (D) The General Assembly has recognized the need to formalize the relationship between the CYFN and the non-member First Nations that have rights, titles and interests within the Yukon Territory in order to:
 - provide support and work with each other on certain matters;
 - establish a unified voice and approach with respect to concerns of First Nations in relation to the federal and territorial governments.
- (E) The General Assembly discussed the development and adoption of a treaty of peace and friendship that formalizes the relationship among the First Nations that have rights, titles and interests and strengthens their unified approach.
- (F) The First Nations attending the General Assembly, including certain non-member First Nations have expressed an interest to explore the development and implementation of such a treaty of peace and friendship.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly directs that:

1. The Grand Chief develop a draft treaty of peace and friendship for the review and consideration of Leadership, and
2. The Grand Chief work with both the Leadership and the First Nations that are not members of CYFN, but have rights, titles and interests in the development of such a treaty; and
3. The Leadership take steps to finalize and implement such a treaty, if appropriate.

Moved by: Chief Mark Wedge
Seconded by: Chief Bob Dickson
Passed by: consensus on June 29, 2005

2005 GA Resolution #4

WHEREAS:

- (A) The Yukon First Nations have law making authorities in relation to their citizens and lands, based on their inherent rights and some of these authorities are recognized in their Self Government Agreements.
- (B) The Yukon First Nations wish to develop and enact laws in accordance with their traditional values and principles.
- (C) The CYFN has established a registry of laws and constitutions enacted by the First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly directs the Grand Chief to ensure that the CYFN take steps to promote the sharing of information, secure resources and coordinate the efforts of First Nations with respect to the development of their laws and governance.

Moved by: Peter Johnston
Seconded by: Darla-Jean Lindstrom
Passed by: consensus on June 29, 2005

“Just Minutes” – July 14, 2005.