

**Council of Yukon First Nations  
23rd Annual General Assembly  
July 7-10, 2003  
Hosted by Carcross/Tagish First Nation  
Carcross, Yukon Territory  
Summary Minutes**

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**Attendance:** (There were many observers and guests not listed here).

Grand Chief Ed Schultz, Council of Yukon First Nations  
Dave Joe, Chair for the General Assembly  
Victoria Fred, Co-chair for the General Assembly  
Mary Jane Jim, Assembly of First Nations Yukon Vice Chief  
Roddy Blackjack, Executive Elder  
Percy Henry, Executive Elder  
Daryn Leas, Chief Legal Advisor  
Denise Beattie, Executive Assistant to the Grand Chief of CYFN  
Edythe Maloney, CYFN  
Cindy Dickson, CYFN  
Darlene Skookum, CYFN  
Lori Duncan, CYFN  
Ronalda Moses, CYFN  
Marie McLaren, CYFN  
Cassandra Puckett, CYFN  
Gayle Corry, CYFN  
Brenda Jackson, CYFN  
Deborah Dupont, CYFN  
Stuart Van Bibber, CYFN  
Bruce Warnsby, CYFN  
Roberta Hartman, CYFN  
Keith MacGuire, CYFN  
Lulu Tizya, Self Government Secretariat, CYFN  
Brenda Bosely, Self Government Secretariat, CYFN  
Nicole Kuster, AFN  
Tiffany Smith, AFN/National Youth Council  
Lance Twitchell, Skagway Traditional Council  
Richard Dick, Elder from Alaska  
Louise Gordon, Taku River Tlingit First Nation  
Andy Williams, TRTFN  
Stephen Mills  
Stanley James Sr.  
Bessie Jim  
Clarence Alexander, Fort Yukon  
Ray Jackson  
Johnnie Smith  
Danny Joe  
Johnny Sam  
Wayne Jim  
Doug Van Bibber  
Steve Taylor  
Paul Birckel  
Rick O'Brien  
Chief Hammond Dick, Kaska Dena Tribal Council  
Chief Richard Sidney, Daak Ka Tlingit Tribal Council  
Ted Hall  
Clara Schinkel  
Winnie Atlin  
Judy Gingell  
Shirley Adamson  
Barb Fred  
Pearl Callaghan  
Edna Leask  
Elaine Chambers, dāna Näye Ventures  
Bruce Luzner, YIDC  
Larry Bagnell, MP

Ernie Bourassa, Mayor of Whitehorse  
Peter Jenkins, Deputy Premier, YTG  
Elizabeth Hanson, A/Regional Director General, DIAND  
Steve Philp, Unitech  
Vic Istchenko, CBC  
Brian Boyle, CBC Radio  
Jason Small, Whitehorse Star  
Roxanne Livingstone, CHON FM  
Chuck Hendrie, CHON FM  
Wayne Balavand, CBC  
Doris Bill, CBC  
Jullian Fraser, Yukon News  
Derek Crow, Yukon News

Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN)

Chief Andy Carvill  
Bill Barrett Jr.  
Dan Cresswell  
Billy Huebschwerlen  
George Shepard

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN)

Chief James Allen  
Kathy Van Bibber  
Shadelle Chambers  
Doris Anderson  
Clint McCuaig

Kluane First Nation (KFN)

Chief Bob Dickson  
Kathleen Johnson  
Richard Dickson  
Janice Dubois

Selkirk First Nation (SFN)

Chief Lucy McGinty  
Lizzy Hall  
Sharon Sims  
Danny Joe  
Johnson Edwards

Ta'an Kwäch'an Council (TKC)

Acting Chair, Bonnie Harpe  
Gail Anderson  
Chelsea Harvey  
Frances Woolsey  
Carol Elofson

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN)

Chief Eddie Skookum  
Joseph O'Brien  
Mary Tulk  
Johnnie Sam  
Robbie Cashin

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH)

Chief Darren Taylor  
Jenny Christianson  
Bruce Taylor  
Robert Rear  
Clara Van Bibber

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (NND)

Chief Steven Buyck  
Jimmy Johnny  
Jimmy Lucas  
Dorothy Profeit  
Dennis Buyck

Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC)

Chief Eric Morris  
Peter Johnston  
Marion Sheldon  
Robert Lee Jackson  
Sam Johnston

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN)

Chief Joe Linklater  
Sandra Newman  
William Josie  
Tammy Josie  
Donald Frost

White River First Nation (WRFN)

Chief Angela Demit  
Stanley Jack  
Jessie Barrett  
Brenda Asp  
Glenda Miersch

Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN)

A/Chief, Darwin O'Brien  
Leslie Smith  
Edith Baker  
Jessie Dawson  
Leonard Gordon Sr.

Liard First Nation (LFN)  
Deputy Chief, Sam Donnessey  
Dixon Lutz  
Eileen Van Bibber

May Brodhagen

Ross River Dena Council (RRDC)  
Clifford McLeod

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## **Day 1 – Monday, July 7, 2003.**

*Kits/booklets with a variety of handouts were distributed and made available to delegates.*

Meeting came to order at 2:00 pm. Opening prayer said by Clara Schinkel.

### **1. Introductions and Opening Remarks**

DAVE JOE introduced himself and Victoria Fred. He called for a moment of silence to remember the Elders who had passed away.

A/GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ welcomed everyone to the CYFN General Assembly (GA) for 2003. He said the elections of two offices would be dealt with first, they were the Grand Chief and the AFN Yukon Vice Chief. At this time, it was his and Mary Jane Jim's duty, to surrender their offices, to be held in trust by the Elders Council, and they would both leave the table. The offices would be vacated until the GA fills them again he said.

#### Opening Remarks:

CHIEF ANDY CARVILL welcomed everyone to the CTFN traditional territory.

STANLEY JAMES SR. welcomed everyone to the assembly. He spoke about the caribou, moose and other wildlife threatened by environmental issues. Conservation was a primary concern he said.

RONALDA MOSES said it was a great pleasure to be in attendance for her first CYFN GA. She was the representative for the CYFN Youth, and she welcomed everyone to the assembly.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON said the GA was very important due to the upcoming elections. He advised that everyone listen carefully to each candidate's platform. He hoped the next four days were productive, and he introduced his delegation.

A/CHAIR BONNIE HARPE introduced her delegation and said she was serving as the interim Chair for TKC.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT on behalf of her First Nation, presented Andy Carvill with a gift, a beautiful birch basket. She looked forward to the meeting she said.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN thanked the CTFN for their hospitality, and allowing the GA to be held on their land. He introduced his delegation. He spoke about the boundary issues his First Nation was dealing with. He said CYFN needed to be restructured, and the Self Governing Secretariat should be helping those First Nations who had settled.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER introduced his delegates. He said there were important and interesting issues to be discussed. What we discuss here, will set the tone and direction we want to take. He thanked the CTFN for hosting the GA.

RICK O'BRIEN spoke on behalf of KDFN leadership, and thanked CTFN for hosting the GA. He thanked the CYFN members for allowing KDFN to be guests. He introduced his delegation.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR thanked Chief Carvill and his staff for hosting the GA, saying the facilities are great! Many important agenda items he said.

SAM JOHNSTON spoke in his native tongue.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS thanked Chief Carvill and community members for hosting the GA on their land. He said the opportunity provided a time to share ideas among one another. He introduced his delegates.

CHIEF LUCY MCGINTY said it was a great pleasure to be in attendance. She thanked the CTFN for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly.

SHARON SIMS introduced the delegates from Selkirk First Nation.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM thanked everyone for their attendance. He said there were many issues to discuss, gun laws being one. He introduced his delegates.

CHIEF STEVEN BUYCK thanked CTFN for hosting the GA. He looked forward to the next few days he said, and he introduced his delegation.

RODDY BLACKJACK said it was nice to see everyone around the table and together again. Important to show the youth how we lived together. He spoke about the past, and the importance of keeping traditional knowledge alive.

CHIEF ANDY CARVILL said CTFN wanted to honour the delegates with some gifts. He acknowledged a well respected Elder, Richard Dick, from Alaska. The representative from the Skagway Traditional Council, Lance Twitchell, was also acknowledged.

LANCE TWITCHELL said he was happy to be in attendance, and while both of us are dealing with different governments, there are many things that we could work at together. In Alaska, we don't have the same sense of solidarity as you have here. He thanked CTFN for the invitation to attend.

## **2. Rules of Order**

VICTORIA FRED read aloud the Rules of Order as they were handed out. The following motion came forward;

Motion 1. To accept the Rules of Order as presented.  
Moved by: Chief Joe Linklater  
Seconded by: Marion Sheldon  
Passed by: consensus

### **3. Acceptance of the Agenda**

VICTORIA FRED brought forward the agenda as handed out. It was discussed and some additions were made. Agenda items that came forward and were dealt with during the GA will be evident in the sequence of these minutes. The following motion came forward;

Motion 2. To accept the amended agenda.  
Moved by: Chief Joe Linklater  
Seconded by: Chief Lucy McGinty  
Passed by: consensus

### **4. Election Rules for Grand Chief of CYFN and AFN Vice Chief**

VICTORIA FRED read aloud the election rules for Grand Chief of CYFN as handed out. The following motion came forward;

Motion 3. To accept the election rules for Grand Chief of CYFN.  
Moved by: Chief Joe Linklater  
Seconded by: Chief Steven Buyck  
Passed by: consensus

VICTORIA FRED read aloud the election rules for Assembly of First Nations Vice Chief as handed out. The following motion came forward;

Motion 4. To accept the election rules for Assembly of First Nations Vice Chief.  
Moved by: Chief Joe Linklater  
Seconded by: Chief James Allen  
Passed by: consensus

### **5. Review of Voters Lists**

VICTORIA FRED said the first voters list was for the Grand Chief. She read aloud the delegate names for each First Nation as they were listed. The following motion came forward;

Motion 5. To approve the voters list for Grand Chief of CYFN as presented.  
Moved by: Chief Joe Linklater  
Seconded by: Marion Sheldon  
Passed by: consensus

VICTORIA FRED read aloud the three additional First Nations delegates who could vote for the AFN Vice Chief position, being Liard First Nation, Ross River Dena Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Discussion took place and the following motion came forward;

Motion 6. To defer approval of the AFN Vice Chief voters list to tomorrow, July 8, 2003.  
Moved by: Chief James Allen  
Seconded by: Joseph O'Brien  
Passed by: consensus

## **6. Appointments to Committees/Returning Officers**

VICTORIA FRED asked for nominations to serve on the committees. They were finalized as follows:

### Resolution Committee:

Daryn Leas  
Edna Leask  
Pearl Callaghan

### Constitution Committee:

Daryn Leas  
Chief Joe Linklater  
Judy Gingell

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS suggested that two returning officers be utilized to oversee the electoral process.

VICTORIA FRED asked for a show of hands by Chiefs, and it was agreed two returning officers would be named.

### Returning Officers:

Shirley Adamson  
Barb Fred

## **7. CYFN Grand Chief and AFN Vice Chief Candidates' Address**

4 Candidates for Grand Chief:

- Ed Schultz
- Doug Van Bibber
- Paul Birckel
- Wayne Jim

3 Candidates for AFN Vice Chief:

- Mary Jane Jim
- Rick O'Brien
- Steve Taylor

CHIEF ANDY CARVILL introduced Ed Schultz and spoke about his many accomplishments.

ED SCHULTZ addressed the assembly and said he would surrender his right to vote for his office (Grand Chief) as other candidates would not have that same advantage. He continued an overview of his term in office and reviewed some of the successes he'd had.

WAYNE JIM addressed the assembly and thanked everyone for their attendance. He provided some personal and political history, and outlined some of his views regarding the office of Grand Chief. He stressed he wanted to create self reliance, and the time is now to stand together for the future well being of First Nations youth he said.

DOUG VAN BIBBER addressed the assembly. He wanted to ensure the strength and wisdom of the Elders was maintained. He spoke about his vision for the future of CYFN. A clear separation between political leadership and administration was needed he said. He continued review of his plans and focus for the office of Grand Chief.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN introduced Paul Birckel and said he was proud to support him. He reviewed some of Paul Birckel's accomplishments.

PAUL BIRCKEL addressed the assembly. He provided some personal and political history. He said there was a need for unity, to speak with one voice. Constitutional changes would be required. Language and culture was one of his priorities. CYFN could act as facilitator for the communities he said.

VICTORIA FRED said that concluded the delegates for the office of Grand Chief.

DAVE JOE brought forward the AFN Vice Chief candidates.

RICK O'BRIEN addressed the assembly. He provided some personal and political history and spoke about the hard work done by Mary Jane Jim and others who had held the position. He spoke about his traditional knowledge and cultural skills. He liked challenges he said, and expected the AFN position to be just that. He had the experience needed for the job he said.

STEVE TAYLOR addressed the assembly. He provided some personal history and said he had been involved with First Nations politics for many years. He said the people want to see change, see something happen. He asked for support and cooperation. He had attended many AFN meetings and the AFN had a lot to offer Yukon First Nations. Many issues need immediate attention and the AFN can help in that way he said.

MARY JANE JIM addressed the assembly. She spoke about her experience in the position as AFN Vice Chief and provided additional personal and political history. She spoke about the structure of AFN and the constitutional changes being undertaken. She said she would continue to work at bringing Yukon First Nations issues to the national level.

DAVE JOE reminded everyone to place their questions to candidates into the question box. They would be reviewed by Victoria Fred and himself in preparation for the morning.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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## **Day 2 – Tuesday, July 8, 2003.**

Meeting came to order at 9:55 am. Winnie Atlin opened the meeting with a prayer.

DAVE JOE and VICTORIA FRED welcomed everyone back to the GA.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER said Elder Mary Kassi had died, and some of the delegation from Old Crow would not be in attendance tomorrow.

### **8. Candidates Forum for CYFN Grand Chief**

DAVE JOE addressed the assembly. Executive Elder, Percy Henry would vote for the AFN Vice Chief position, and Executive Elder, Roddy Blackjack would vote for the Grand Chief of CYFN position. The GA agreed.

VICTORIA FRED read aloud the voters list for the AFN Vice Chief, and each First Nation which was allowed to vote confirmed the names of their delegates. The following motion came forward;

Motion 7.	To approve the voters list for AFN Vice Chief as presented.
Moved by:	Chief Joe Linklater
Seconded by:	Marion Sheldon
Passed by:	consensus

DAVE JOE said the election for GC would take place next. Questions that had been submitted had been reviewed, and some were selected to be asked of the candidates. He asked for all four candidates to come forward to the head table in preparation for the questions which were asked. Votes would be conducted in a separate tent and delegates would be again qualified according to the voters list. General discussion took place and the following motion came forward;

Motion 8.	To amend the voters lists to include Elder Percy Henry on the list for AFN Vice Chief and Elder Roddy Blackjack on the Grand Chief of CYFN list.
Moved by:	Chief Eric Morris
Seconded by:	Chief Angela Demit
Passed by:	consensus

VICTORIA FRED asked that the lists be returned to her for confirmation. The GA agreed the lists were correct.

DAVE JOE said five questions had been drafted and would be asked of each the candidates.

VICTORIA FRED asked Question #1, Could you describe your platform on First Nation education issues; funding for First Nation students, and preserving First Nation languages and First Nation operated schools. Question #2, Could you assure the GA and communities that you would be available and accessible to citizens on a regular basis. Question #3, Do you support a Yukon First Nation ombudsman for citizens to go when dealing with their own First Nation. Question #4, There are six First Nations without final agreements, what is your plan in assisting them in their self government process. Question #5, What are your views on the restructuring of CYFN. Each candidate responded within a three minute timeframe.

### **9. Election for Grand Chief of CYFN**

DAVE JOE asked CTFN to begin the voting process and each First Nation took part in casting their votes in the voting tent. It was announced that Ed Schultz won the election by a majority of 46 votes. Doug Van Bibber received 2 votes, Wayne Jim received 1 vote, and Paul Birckel received 5 votes. There was 1 spoiled ballot, for a total of 55 ballots cast. The following motion came forward;

Motion 9.	To destroy all the ballots for election of Grand Chief of CYFN.
Moved by:	Marion Sheldon
Seconded by:	Chief Joe Linklater
Passed by:	consensus

Doug Van Bibber, Paul Birckel and Wayne Jim were afforded the opportunity to address the GA, and they all spoke a few words.

The Grand Chief swore the Oath of Office for Grand Chief aloud to Elder, Roddy Blackjack. He also swore the Oath of Allegiance out loud. He then spoke some words of appreciation to the GA and outlined some of his commitments for the future. The challenge for this office is to be the bridge between our past and our future, the link between the nations and the people, to be the facilitator between our governments and other governments, to promote the beliefs of our traditions, to be the advocate for the underprivileged, and the needy and poor. I must remain and be the champion of our cause he said. He thanked his wife and children for their support for another three years.

*Lunch break.*

### **10. Candidates Forum for AFN Vice Chief**

DAVE JOE asked that the candidates approach the head table, which they did.

VICTORIA FRED read aloud Question #1, Describe your platform on First Nations education issues, including funding for First Nations students, preserving First Nation languages and First Nation operated schools. Question #2, How would you ensure all Yukon First Nations are informed of AFN initiatives. Question #3, As the Firearms Act of Canada is in effect, what are your plans to ensure that Yukon First Nations citizens' use of firearms are protected. Question #4, How would you as AFN Vice Chief assist in obtaining adequate funding to achieve

implementation. Question #5, How would you use your position as AFN Vice Chief to empower Yukon First Nations to assist their citizens to overcome drug and alcohol challenges. A three minute timeframe was given each candidate to respond which they did.

CHIEF ANDY CARVILL gave a beautiful picture to Chief Eric Morris and his delegation in appreciation for their contribution of caribou, moose, fish, and beaver to be enjoyed by the GA.

SAM JOHNSTON spoke in his native tongue and thanked the CTFN for the gift.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS thanked CTFN for the gift. As brothers and sisters we went on the basis of contribution and sharing which had been spoken about so often. The beautiful gift would be proudly displayed to the people of TTC he said.

### **11. Election for AFN Vice Chief**

DAVE JOE said the voting process would begin, and delegates voted. On the first ballot the following results were noted; Mary Jane Jim received 23 votes. Rick O'Brien received 30 votes. Steve Taylor received 10 votes. Two ballots were spoiled. At this time the vote went to a second ballot, with Steve Taylor dropping out. On the second ballot the results were as follows; Mary Jane Jim received 26 votes. Rick O'Brien received 38 votes. Two ballots were spoiled. The following motion came forward;

Motion 10.	To destroy all the ballots for election of AFN Vice Chief.
Moved by:	Chief Joe Linklater
Seconded by:	Marion Sheldon
Passed by:	consensus

Both Steve Taylor and Mary Jane Jim spoke a few words to the GA, wishing Rick O'Brien success in his position.

At this time Rick O'Brien swore his oath, conducted by Elder Percy Henry. He also signed the appropriate documents as required. Both the Grand Chief and the AFN Vice Chief spoke a few words of appreciation to the GA.

DAVE JOE thanked Shirley Adamson and Barb Fred for their part as returning officers.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON congratulated the Grand Chief and AFN Vice Chief, and thanked Mary Jane Jim for her past service.

A/CHAIR BONNIE HARPE congratulated both winners. She hoped TKC concerns would be heard and acted upon.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT thanked both winners. She said she was proud to see them both sitting side by side. She thanked Mary Jane Jim for all her hard work and dedication. She invited both the Grand Chief and Vice Chief to visit the WRFN traditional territory.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN congratulated both the Grand Chief and Vice Chief. He said many people were backing them and want to develop new relationships and partnerships. He wished them both a successful future. He thanked Mary Jane Jim for her hard work the last six years.

CHIEF JOE LINKLATER thanked everyone for putting their names forward. Important that you have raised issues, it takes a lot to consider how your life will change once elected. He thanked Mary Jane Jim for her six years of faithful service. He said both men, Grand Chief and AFN Vic Chief had the support of the VGFN.

A/CHIEF DARWIN O'BRIEN spoke on behalf of KDFN Council and citizens, and he congratulated both men on their positions. He also thanked Mary Jane Jim for her hard work over the years. We are very happy at Kwanlin Dün he said.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR congratulated both men. He said he was pleased with their success. He thanked Mary Jane Jim for her six years of dedication and tireless work.

CHIEF HAMMOND DICK spoke on behalf of the Kaska Nation. He was happy to be in attendance at the GA and congratulated both winning candidates. He said the Kaska would be leaving this evening, and he invited the Grand Chief and Vice Chief to attend their General Assembly.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS thanked everyone at the GA and the support shown to those who had put their names forward. It takes a lot of courage and is a huge risk to put your name forward and stand up for the issues you believe in he said. He thanked Mary Jane Jim for her work over the last years. He said unity is one word often used, coming together as a people and a nation to work together to overcome the challenges. We offer our full support to both the Grand Chief and Vice Chief he said.

CHIEF LUCY MCGINTY said she wanted to extend her congratulations on behalf of Selkirk First Nation. She thanked Mary Jane Jim for her past work. She spoke about the need to work together, and the recognition of Tribal Councils.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said unity is putting our minds and opinions together. The Grand Chief and Vice Chief will be our spokespersons. He thanked Mary Jane Jim for her six years of hard work, especially for providing a woman's viewpoint on issues. LSCFN supports both men he said.

JOSEPH O'BRIEN thanked Mary Jane Jim. He spoke about the two positions filled this day, saying we are going through a time of change, and throughout have stuck together. Today he felt whole he said, and his vision was to see the Kaska and KDFN back at the table. Today he was proud of both the Grand Chief and Vice Chief, and congratulated them saying they both had his total support.

CHIEF STEVEN BUYCK congratulated both men on behalf of NND. He thanked Mary Jane Jim for her hard work and dedication. He looked forward to the day when there is unity among all the First Nations, a united nations of First Nations he said.

CHIEF ANDY CARVILL thanked all the candidates on behalf of CTFN. He thanked Mary Jane Jim for her years of dedication and service. He congratulated the Grand Chief on his victory. He thanked the people from KDFN for their support of their Chief in his quest to represent all the people of the Yukon. He looked forward to working with both men, and they had the support of CTFN in full he said.

TIFFANY SMITH congratulated the Grand Chief and Vice Chief. She thanked Mary Jane Jim. The Youth Council hoped good relations with the AFN Vice Chief would continue.

NICOLE KUSTER thanked Mary Jane Jim for her wisdom and teachings. She would continue to do her best for the new Vice Chief she said.

Closing prayer said by Percy Henry. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

### **Day 3 – Wednesday, July 9, 2003.**

Meeting came to order at 9:55 am. Opening prayer said by Ted Hall.

#### **12. Minutes of the General Assembly 2002**

VICTORIA FRED addressed the assembly. She said the first order of business for the day would be review and adoption of the 2002 minutes as they were handed out. The following motion came forward;

Motion 11.	To accept the minutes of the CYFN 22 <sup>nd</sup> Annual General Assembly July 15-18, 2002 as presented.
Moved by:	Marion Sheldon
Seconded by:	Carol Elofson
Passed by:	consensus

#### **13. Audited Financial Statements**

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS said the Chiefs Committee had reviewed the audit and it was presented today for the assembly's approval. The information is for review, and could be brought forward at the next Leadership meeting. That way, any issues or questions from the delegates could be addressed he said. He began his review of the handed out document, Council of Yukon First Nations Audited Financial Statements Year Ended March 31, 2003, out loud as everyone followed along. Some discussion took place and clarification was given.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said a lot of the money showing in the budget is flow-through money, given to the communities to support programs in the communities. He said the overall surplus is not a resting surplus, but there because at the time of the audit the expenditures had not yet been made. The Grand Chief extended his sincere gratitude to the finance staff and the Chiefs Committee for their hard work. He spoke about the cut in funding being a cut across the country, and clarified on the subject. The following motion came forward;

Motion 12. To accept the CYFN Audited Financial Statements, Year Ended March 31, 2003 as presented.  
Moved by: Kathy Van Bibber  
Seconded by: Gail Anderson  
Passed by: consensus

#### **14. Reports**

VICTORIA FRED suggested reports be presented aloud by managers (hard copies were provided to delegates in the kits) and then all be accepted at once, by one motion. The GA agreed.

#### **Implementation:**

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ spoke about these issues. Everything done had been done by mutual agreement by all, we all share the burden, and we should not be alarmed when processes don't work well the first time out, but keep working at it. He spoke about the YESAA and provided an update, thanking all the staff and Chiefs who had worked so diligently on many of the issues. Devolution is based on the principle of taking power from Ottawa and bringing it to the Yukon he said.

#### **Oil and Gas:**

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ spoke about the mandate of CYFN, in having 51% equity in any new building. Administration is working on that file and were having dialogue with KDFN over the last year looking at a complex that could be developed in partnership on the waterfront. Also some private sector interest. Have developed a concept plan and shared it with Chiefs and technical people and KDFN. KDFN is the owner of the land and facilities that CYFN currently occupies, and when they ratify their agreements those lands would become settlement lands and property he said. Oil and gas issues are at Phase II of the workplan. Canada is still working out details as to what they will fund. An effort by a consortium of First Nations would work well and compliment one another. The strategic plan looks at exploration, development, production and transportation.

RODDY BLACKJACK said oil and gas should be pursued by Yukon First Nations. He spoke about unity and the need for Elder involvement in any oil and gas discussions.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ agreed with the Executive Elder, saying there is room in the budget for Elder participation.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said there had been a strategic meeting held among Northern Tutchone communities, and the conclusion was in order to get things adjusted in oil and gas activities, we would have to put our minds and opinions together. One First Nation cannot do oil and gas activity alone. We are also looking at a tri-party process for economic development. We want to look at compensation to trappers. We need a fair package for our trappers. Joint ventures could be undertaken with oil and gas companies he said.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ introduced guests from the Taku River Tlingits, and he asked them to join the table.

JIMMY JOHNNY spoke about the oil and gas issues in the NND area. Companies must be responsible to clean up after themselves he said.

JOSEPH O'BRIEN said he was happy to see the people from Atlin in attendance. Boundaries often divide our people. He said as a Northern Tutchone group they had more clout. When dealing with the Ice Man, we found that we are all related. Regarding oil and gas, we need to be prepared for the future, must be involved in the decision making process, and stand together with one voice.

SANDRA NEWMAN spoke about the resolution passed at last year's GA in Old Crow regarding the Porcupine Caribou herd. She thanked the GA and the Grand Chief for their support. In future there may be a need for all Yukon Chiefs to travel to the USA to support the Vuntut Gwitchin. She said it is also our own responsibility to take care of the herd. Chief Linklater had been travelling to the USA steadily, and continues to go there two or three times a year for a week or two each time. Not possible to continue to do this without our Elders and youth. We all travel to the United States because we love our culture, tradition, and our children she said.

LIZZY HALL spoke in her native tongue. She spoke about the need for language revitalization. Boundary lines had been removed, and traditional law should be re-implemented. If you want to go back to self government, get your traditional values back. Unity was needed she said.

A/CHIEF DARWIN O'BRIEN said until recently he was a councillor with KDFN. KDFN had appointed him as the Acting Chief for the duration, until a new Chief was elected. The community felt a sense of sadness in losing Rick O'Brien, but were happy for him in his future as the AFN Vice Chief. He expressed condolences to the loses that had been faced by communities.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said he would begin referring to the First Nations as Regional First Nations rather than Yukon First Nations. He respected the need for removal of boundaries placed on First Nations by others.

AFN VICE CHIEF RICK O'BRIEN thanked people for their financial contributions to the Taylor family. He thanked the many people involved in his election victory. He said KDFN had drafted a resolution to bring forward at their General Assembly regarding re-joining CYFN, to which everyone applauded.

*Lunch break.*

YESAA:

STEPHEN MILLS addressed the assembly. For the last six years he'd told people there was slow progress on the legislation, now finally the Act had been passed, and we have 15 months to get our houses in order so that we can participate in how the Act is implemented. We have until November 13, 2004. We do have some work to do between now and then. Under the Act we still have to finalize some regulations. Working on a list with each First Nation to come forth regarding regulations. In the legislation, it calls for 6 offices to be set up, we still need to come up with the six regions in the Yukon. Over the next two or three months we will ask First Nations to participate. This must be done. The Minister of DIA makes the final decision. Letters had been sent to First Nations seeking Board nominations. We need to nominate 3 representatives to the YESAA Board. Each First Nation should look at those requests. There would be further discussion regarding this issue at upcoming Leadership meetings. First Nations with settlement agreements will be getting letters from the feds amending your Financial Transfer Agreements to increase your Implementation dollars. This is an amendment to your FTA. Those First Nations without agreements would also receive dollars. He spoke about the amendments concerning fines, saying there was time until November 2004. Any new projects as of November 2004 would be subject to this environment regime he said. There was additional information through a briefing note included in the kits he said.

*At this time a 2 minute silence was conducted in respect for those that had passed.*

Health & Social Development/Regional Health Survey:

LORI DUNCAN addressed the GA. She provided an overview of her activities and referred delegates to the notes contained within the kits. One issue at the forefront was the NIHB consent form issue. As at September 1<sup>st</sup>, status First Nations would be asked to sign a consent form in order to get Non-Insured Health Benefits. Some places are asking for signatures now she said. Both CYFN and AFN had been working at putting a stop to this consent form. It's a blanket consent, and it enables pharmacies, doctor's offices, dentists, and others to receive and share this personal information, and although deemed confidential, it would be viewed by many people, crossing many desks. We would like to see that each time you get services, a separate claim is signed and consent given. This whole consent form issue stems from prescription drug abuse, and additionally, Health Canada wants to develop this consent form to make things legal. At the March Health Summit we had worked with Health Canada to establish a relationship. In the last week she had teleconferenced with those involved, to ask for an extension to the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, so we could possibly draft a consent form suitable to First Nations. It would come before federal Minister of Health, Anne McLellan in the near future, and this step was a beginning she said. As a result of the Health Summit, a Chiefs Health Committee was established. A second Health Summit, tentatively set for November, would include government people she said.

ROBERTA HARTMAN spoke about the Regional Health Survey and referred delegates to the handout in the kits. She reviewed the activities of the past year and spoke about the planned activities ahead. To date there are about 500 completed surveys she said. The data collection is slated to end in September. Yukon Region has worked on a regional report utilizing past surveys

and putting together a final format. Looking for input into developing other communication materials. Hopefully this will all be complete by end of the fiscal year, but that is contingent on the level of funding for completion of the project she said.

MARION SHELDON asked about the consent forms. If we completed a health survey, you would see there are many Elders, and geriatric clients in the Yukon. She asked for a guarantee that there would be no interruption in the care of Elders. We've been trying to intervene with the whole FAC process with guns, and now we're getting pressured regarding medical coverage for our Elders she said. We need some kind of a guarantee that health care will not be interrupted. Our Elders are always the first ones to get impacted. We must remember their literacy capabilities are not like ours, so we need to know today, what will happen.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR agreed with Marion Sheldon's statements saying he was also concerned. The issue had been discussed among Leadership, and it's a huge 'rights' issue. We are being segregated from the rest of Canada. We discussed it at the Self Government Summit and we did allocate some funds to look into a legal opinion he said.

MARION SHELDON asked when the legal opinion would come forward. If we have a case here, let us stand together to ensure our Elders are not impacted. The impact will be felt if we don't pay attention to this. Might need to look at a challenge she said.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said he understood the frustration. Leaders and citizens share those concerns. All our citizens are being impacted, not only the Elders. These forms are to gain access to prescription drugs. Leadership must come together and look at it. Working in conjunction with AFN and others. We will need a legal opinion in order to move on this, and Leadership must find legal methods to get the bureaucracy to change its opinion. There were few alternatives, a person who needs prescription drugs for health concerns needs them, irrespective if they fill out a form. The only way to change the situation is legally he said.

MARION SHELDON continued speaking about NIHB and jurisdictional issues.

STANLEY JAMES SR. asked about the dollars that are coming to the Yukon. Who pays for these many surveys and questionnaires. YTG gets \$14,000 for me every year. Where is that money going. Every time you ask these questions, no one can answer them. He said a federal health care card should be implemented, the federal government is obligated to provide us with health care. Let's meet directly with the Minister of Health for Canada, not send a message with someone who has no voice. We need to find the true facts about what is happening to our money he said.

DORIS ANDERSON asked when the Chiefs Committee was established. What do we tell our citizens she asked.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said the Chiefs Committee was formed at the last Leadership Meeting. We have not yet come together. We will convene after this GA. We are working as much as we can to make the right interventions. Any denial to medical services should be brought to the attention of CYFN and their First Nation immediately, and we will ensure we deal

with the issue immediately. Regarding getting a better handle on resources transferred to the Yukon, there is a process, and that's the PSTA process. It does need some work and Chiefs are dedicated to reorganizing it to make it work better. We will do that due diligence to see how we can get better control of the monies. We need to make strong recommendations to the most senior people of this country, it's being mismanaged, similar to the gun control issue he said.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS said Chief Lucy McGinty also sits at the AFN level. Need to investigate the entire legal aspect of things, and the Chiefs Committee would pay close attention to this. We are waiting to see where AFN will go on this matter, and then we'll look at our options.

SANDRA NEWMAN thanked Stanley James Sr. She too would ask her MLA where her portion of the money was going. She agreed to take it to the federal Minister of Health. She voiced her support of the Chiefs Committee. Something should be set up for the Elders to ensure they are looked after she said. As communities we all have responsibilities to our children, Elders and citizens.

BESSIE JIM voiced concern about the people in communities, the elderly and disabled. Can a place be set up to take care of those people she asked. She spoke about self government and the ability of First Nations to assist in unity for all First Nations. She prayed that the First Nations voice would be heard across Canada as one united voice she said.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT read aloud from a memo regarding the remoteness of WRFN and lack of health services within her community. The federal and territorial governments are required to provide services to First Nations. Remoteness should be considered as much as population when determining services within communities. There are so many issues on health she said.

JOSEPH O'BRIEN said Stanley James Sr. really opened my eyes. We talk about a second Health Summit, it should not only be Yukon First Nations, but regional. He wanted answers as to how much money the government gets for First Nations. We are one people with one voice he said.

CHIEF LUCY MCGINTY thanked Lori Duncan and Roberta Hartman for their hard work. She sits on the Health Commission, and the consent issue is one of the biggest for First Nations across Canada. She said the Chiefs Committee consists of Steven Buyck, Eric Morris, Jacqueline Bazett, Percy Henry, the Grand Chief, and herself. Health concerns are always a priority, and she had noted the comments put forward. She wanted the GA to know that the next Intergovernmental Forum would be held in October, and Health was included on that agenda. Often things are done by governments without proper consultation with First Nations. She offered to work closely with other Leadership so as to present something concrete at the next Intergovernmental Forum. We need something on paper to present the Minister at the October meeting she said.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ apologized that sometimes we may not have the answer right here, at General Assemblies, but opinions and comments were appreciated and noted. He spoke about an announcement regarding Bill C68 (gun control) saying the people of Nunavut were

appreciated. They received an interim injunction on their court case regarding gun control he said.

CLARENCE ALEXANDER from Fort Yukon spoke saying he was glad to be in attendance, in the company of so many friends and others at the General Assembly.

### **15. Resolution – Compensation for Volunteer Chiefs**

DARYN LEAS spoke regarding this resolution #1. It was handed out to delegates, and Daryn read it aloud. It passed.

***\*\*Note, resolutions are included in their entirety at the conclusion of these minutes.***

SHARON SIMS said Selkirk First Nation had dealt with some of the same issues.

KATHY VAN BIBBER asked about the non-status people as well, it's not just compensation issues she said.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said we have been working at plausible options related to creating a First Nation Public Service initiative. Part of that would be a regional pension program for our personnel. That would require the full support of the GA, which was given by a past resolution, but this resolution here, is asking direction for Leadership to come up with options for us as communities to consider. That seems like a worthwhile endeavour.

LIZZY HALL asked if past Councillors would be included.

DAVE JOE said yes, you would be included.

RODDY BLACKJACK spoke about the Yukon Native Brotherhood and related some history regarding the days of Elijah Smith. He said Yukon First Nations could be one people again.

RAY JACKSON provided some clarification as to the past, and his involvement with Yukon Native Brotherhood and the past Council of Yukon Indians.

GAIL ANDERSON asked what impact would the resolution have on those First Nations that had looked at issues of compensation.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said the options would be provided the First Nations and each First Nation could then decide what they wanted to do. It would have no impact on those that had other arrangements.

JOHNNIE SMITH spoke about the history of land claims and his involvement in its history. He said he was glad to be at the GA and still involved.

DANNY JOE commented about what the past Chiefs had gone through. He spoke about Elijah Smith, Harry Allen and others with fondness and respect.

SAM JOHNSTON reiterated what the other Elders had said and asked for support of the resolution by the delegates. He was encouraged by the youth taking an interest in First Nation government, and he hoped the resolution would be supported by the GA.

JOHNNY SAM commented and reiterated what the other Elders had spoken.

PERCY HENRY said he did not want to see the old, past Chiefs being taxed since they worked during a time when there were no taxes for First Nations. He thanked the GA for listening.

JOSEPH O'BRIEN thanked all the past leaders. He said to those still sitting at the GA, they were still leaders. They needed recognition for their contributions, and he thanked them publicly.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT wanted to include their Elder, Jimmy Enoch, along with those who went to Ottawa in the past.

JIMMY JOHNNY spoke about the past, and Elijah Smith. Those Chiefs all worked their hearts-out, and the resolution speaks to that he said.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR spoke about the pension package for past leaders. Recently there were a number of celebrations honouring past leaders, that could have been one venue we could have utilized. The federal government agrees regarding our leadership's sacrifices, and we could possibly take down some of those dollars. We could direct that money directly to the past leaders he suggested.

DARYN LEAS said what we are trying to say is, we want to identify options. We will look at what is happening outside the Yukon with other groups and organizations as well. We simply want to bring that back. This will hopefully supplement what First Nations are doing in their communities. The scope of this resolution cannot bind any First Nation he said.

Closing prayer said by Ray Jackson. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

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#### **Day 4 – Thursday, July 10, 2003.**

Meeting came to order at 9:50 am. Opening prayer said by Stanley James Sr.

DAVE JOE welcomed everyone back to the assembly.

VICTORIA FRED reviewed the agenda out loud, saying reports would be completed in the morning. She acknowledged Larry Bagnell and Mayor Ernie Bourassa.

#### **16. Reports (continued)**

Justice:

BRENDA JACKSON addressed the assembly. She spoke about the Elders Council and other justice issues. She referred delegates to tab 11 in the kits for additional information.

MARION SHELDON asked about medical costs for those incarcerated.

BRENDA JACKSON said a support mechanism is trying to be struck, support within the community to help individuals. Kathy tries to get people into drug and alcohol rehabilitation. She hoped First Nations take this problem into consideration, so as to have something in place for those individuals. She hoped that things could be changed in future for the betterment of First Nations people.

CHIEF ANDY CARVILL thanked everyone for their reports. He asked about youth diversion. He suggested that Brenda's program could work in-hand with CTFN. Is she allowed to receive input, or should it come from the Leadership at CYFN he asked.

BRENDA JACKSON said she would welcome working closer with the communities. Hope to work with Justice Canada to try and get funding so as to implement diversion programs. We do have one diversion program which has operated for five years in Whitehorse. There are limited justice resources out there for our people she said. She welcomed names of community members, to work with them.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said we must recognize there are only three people in the program in Whitehorse. It's a constant wrestle to try and get incremental resources from the central level. We need to put our minds together in how to operate this program at a regional level. Regarding the Youth Criminal Justice Act, he had met with the RCMP, and there are concerns about capacity in the communities he said.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT said in Alberta they have cultural immersion for inmates. They bring in Elders and cultural speakers. We must help our people to seek healing for themselves.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said he agreed, our presence in the facility is not as strong as should be.

BRENDA JACKSON said YTG took a budget cut which affected our program. We are trying to look at ways to get some Elders to visit the institution once or twice a week. We are looking for volunteer Elders to go there. WCC says the reason for limited programs is because the facility does not have the space needed she said.

RODDY BLACKJACK said traditional knowledge means everything to the First Nations. He said there were attempts by some Elders to meet with those youth who are incarcerated, and they try to encourage them to change their ways. Under our self government, we have a voice to talk with he said.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN spoke about the new corrections centre being planned. CAFN is in the midst of trying to develop a CAFN justice system that will meet our needs. We are looking at

different structures and would like to have a justice conference. In reality we can't have 14 different courts, so we must figure out how we will fit into the Justice population of the Yukon. We have put our position forward with YTG, that we don't want a grandiose correction centre in Whitehorse, but a smaller one with programs to help the inmates. Most of the First Nations in the system are not in there for serious crimes. We want to see corrections include camps like the CAFN Treatment Centre, where people with alcohol problems can be helped.

JIMMY JOHNNY said in past he'd worked with young people who had problems. He encouraged all those at the GA to take the time to reach out to those who needed it. He himself was a recovering alcoholic, and so could empathize. He asked all the Elders to reach out to the young people.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON said KDFN had signed a deal with YTG, so we will have the opportunity to get involved, and anything we want to see in future is through being proactive. Let's design a facility that we will all be proud of he said.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ reminded delegates, this was not the only forum where we are together, there would be additional times to meet on specific issues.

#### Northern Contaminants/Circumpolar Relations:

CINDY DICKSON addressed the assembly. She referred everyone to the handouts which had been provided, as well as documents included in the kits. She spoke about climate change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the convention on Biological Diversity.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said permafrost melting was a very big concern, especially with the many tailing ponds built on the permafrost. Many are holding heavy metals and contaminants. We will work with First Nations on that.

ROBERT LEE JACKSON said he wanted to share the fact that the indigenous people on the other side of the world have some of the same basic beliefs as we do. They eat fish, eating their eggs and heads, and the common issue that surprised me, is they do not support catch and release programs either. There were people from Russia, poor people who had very little, and he suggested Yukon First Nations collect old equipment and send it to those less fortunate Russians. Things like computers, cameras and the like.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said that issue had been raised often. Important that I convey to the GA that we must be involved in the big picture, so we know what's going on. He had to give credit to Canada, as they had actively solicited and encouraged us, First Nations, to be out there, to be able to look at the global patterns and trends that affect permafrost, water levels, contaminants, etc. CYFN had been a part of, and involved in world meetings such as Kyoto, where delegations from around the whole world were gathered.

DANNY JOE thanked the CTFN saying he enjoyed the country. It's a beautiful place here to meet all my friends again, and talk. He spoke about his concerns regarding climate change, and

said First Nations must do their part. He suggested money from liquor sales be re-directed to cover costs associated with helping alcoholics.

Self Government Secretariat:

KATHY VAN BIBBER asked that her report and the restructuring of CYFN be brought forward after the guests (Mayor and MP) had spoken.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN agreed, he wanted to hold discussion regarding the function of the Self Government Secretariat, and how it would fit into CYFN. It was tabled to later during the GA.

Education/Yukon Native Language Centre:

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ offered regrets on behalf of Chief Linklater who was unable to be in attendance due to a funeral in his community. Chief Linklater had asked that the report be tabled. The Grand Chief said there had been numerous meetings with the Premier and John Edzerza, where they had articulated First Nations concerns. We still have not been successful for core funding for an Education unit at CYFN. It is a challenge for CYFN. Hopeful to have more positive news soon. Regarding the Yukon Native Language Centre, our native language centre in the Yukon is a world class centre, recognized internationally. One of the problems with the centre is that our speakers are getting older, and we are not getting funds from YTG to recruit younger people into the program. We will continue on with that fight he said. We must recruit young people. Shortfall is getting the commitment of money from YTG. Have had discussion on the disjointedness between YNLC and YTG, there are too many cooks in the kitchen regarding native languages. There's no regional strategic plan, everyone is doing their own thing. We must gain a strategic focus, it's kind of hit and miss right now. Then we would be better armed to force the governments to ensure we get adequate funding. Need a specific focus. The reality is, that languages are at a stage where we must do something. We have some resources available and they must be pulled together. The Grand Chief committed himself to that task. He closed in saying there were plans for an education forum in the near future.

RODDY BLACKJACK said we realize we are losing our culture. Our language is disappearing. We need more Elders to do the teaching. He provided some historical facts regarding language and teaching.

PERCY HENRY said he had been teaching language since the beginning. The problem is that there are not any Elders in the school to teach the students. He too encouraged everyone to concern themselves with the issue of language.

LIZZY HALL said the language is really important, and we should teach it the right way. When we researched it a year ago in our community, our younger generation said the Elders should speak the language all the time, even if we don't understand it at first, we would learn they said. She had worked at the school, but found it frustrating in that the curriculum was outlined for her and she didn't have the freedom to teach the language in a successful manner. Students were also tired of learning and re-learning the same things over and over. In the school everything operates by policy she said.

SAM JOHNSTON spoke in his native tongue. He agreed, language is an important thing. Each of us has a responsibility to see that the language carries on. He said education begins at home. We have to educate our young parents who can then speak to their children. We have a responsibility to encourage those still learning, so they will be willing to continue to try and learn.

JOHNSON EDWARDS agreed, and asked who's teaching the language today. It's time now to teach the language. He suggested the adults set a good example and teach the youth how to live on the land and include the teaching of language into that. He used his language on a regular basis with his family he said.

BESSIE JIM spoke in her native tongue. She agreed the First Nations language should be utilized and spoken as often as possible. She asked, if we lose our language, what do we have. We must find dollars to assist in teaching the children.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said we need a regular teacher to teach native language in the school, people who can read and write the language. Most of us don't know that the French language is legislated, so it's easier for a school to be built in Whitehorse. If we go through proper channels, get legislated, one day we could probably get a school. When learning a First Nation language one needs to know the traditions and stories around it as well he said.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN spoke in his native language. He said CAFN had put language and culture as their top priority in their strategic planning. Each generation gets further from the language and land. He spoke about using the immersion system for teaching children, and he hoped CAFN would use that process in saving the language, using the culture when teaching the language. When you save your language, you also save your culture, you can't separate them he said.

CHIEF STEVEN BUYCK said education, training, wellness and language are some of our biggest issues. In 1968 the federal government devolved education to YTG. Why were First Nations not consulted. We need an active say in the education of our First Nations students. In Mayo we conducted a drop-out study, and he provided a report for the Chiefs to view. The report was entitled 'Two Trails-One Vision' dated May 12, 2003. NND wanted more involvement in the education of First Nation people. We are looking at making positive improvements. The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's expectations of the education system is different from the school staff and educational system. Their goals are not consistent with, or are impossible to achieve in the present system. The present system in Mayo is not working. The report included some recommendations, we want to create true, equal partnerships in education, which are mutually accountable. NND in partnership, wants to create a new approach to education. He looked forward to hearing from all the Chiefs in regard to the NND report 'Two Trails-One Vision'.

CHELSEA HARVEY addressed the assembly. She said in the Yukon, German was spoken more often than First Nations languages. Native languages are options in schools, while French is mandatory to a certain level in high school. Schools such as Hidden Valley only have two or three language classes per week, there is no success in that she said. She agreed that immersion

was the way to go. She had spent three months in Germany, and picked up German easily and quickly.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said having youth speak at forums like this is encouraging and it strengthens us. We are proud of you he said to Chelsea. He thanked all the participants in the language discussions. He agreed, we need a comprehensive strategic focus. Work towards a legislative authority to draft the necessary laws and legislation, to make language a mandatory thing within your system of government. We will help First Nations to lobby Mr. Jenkins. In the NWT the Act has all the languages in it, and we need that in the Yukon. We mean no disrespect to the English and French, we would simply like the same consideration. He commended all the past leaders and teachers for the successes we do have he said. We had a hard fight to get the one hour a day programming into the education system. It was a fight involving past leaders like Judy Gingell he said. We have the YNTEP, the YNLC and the Aboriginal Language Services Program, the AFN dollars, we have YTG and others. Those pieces are scattered, not joined together into one strategic focus, and that's what we aim to do.

VICTORIA FRED acknowledged Minister Peter Jenkins and Elizabeth Hanson to the GA.

### **17. Mayor Bourassa**

DAVE JOE introduced Mayor Ernie Bourassa.

ERNIE BOURASSA thanked everyone for the opportunity to be at the GA. He congratulated the Grand Chief on his re-election, saying Ed Schultz is a passionate and eloquent speaker. He continued speaking about the mutual respect each had for the other's government. He spoke about the informal discussions between himself and Chief O'Brien, and he urged all Chiefs to conduct similar meetings with their municipalities. Your governments do not need to reinvent the wheel, we can be willing partners with your governments he said. The next decade will see some changes, and we must become close partners in the provision of services to our people. I value the input I receive from our local First Nations governments since it confirms our relationship. One of the best ways to create good leaders is to be good role models, and the Mayor again spoke about the Grand Chief, saying how much he respected him. He included some humour, and thanked the GA for the invitation.

*Lunch break.*

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS made a presentation by the TTC to Chief Andy Carvill and the CTFN citizens. Elder Sam Johnston spoke in the native language, and Chief Eric Morris expressed the gratitude of his First Nation to the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. He spoke about the honour of being on CTFN territory. He spoke about the beautiful drum he offered as a gift of thanksgiving from the people of the TTC. Singing and drumming took place as the TTC procession was drummed out of the GA.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN gave a gift to CTFN, a beautiful dream catcher painting on leather.

CHIEF ANDY CAVILL thanked the TTC people for the beautiful drum, it would be displayed in the new administration building he said. He was thankful for the gift from CAFN as well, and their gift would also be proudly displayed he said. These gifts will be memories of this great General Assembly he said.

### **18. Reports (concluded)**

#### Human Resource Development:

DARLENE SKOOKUM addressed the GA saying her report was included in the kits. She provided an overview of her position, saying more funding is expected.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said diligent efforts had helped clean up the HRD file. Working on the national level to get some improvement. The following motion came forward;

Motion 13.	To accept all the reports as presented.
Moved by:	Kathy Van Bibber
Seconded by:	Chief Bob Dickson
Passed by:	consensus

### **19. Deputy Premier, Peter Jenkins**

PETER JENKINS addressed the GA, saying Premier Fentie sent his regards and congratulations to the Grand Chief on his re-election. He then spoke about the key election commitments made by YTG. One was formalizing government to government relationships with Yukon First Nations, based on respect, benefits, and cooperation, with the object of reducing barriers and providing cost effective services to all Yukoners. He spoke about the history of the land claims process and said he hoped to see 15 governments in the Yukon, the 14 First Nations governments and the Government of the Yukon. With 15 governments, our government (YTG) believes it is critical to work with First Nations on a collaborative basis to reduce barriers and provide cost effective services. Make public government capable of meeting First Nations' needs. To formalize government to government relationships, we need to establish an office, an Intergovernmental Affairs office. Also committed to make First Nations full partners in economic development in the Yukon, so we can all benefit together. Should present a united front to the federal government. Together, united, we can achieve more than in isolation he said. Can also approach the private sector if we are united. Have to restore investor confidence. Collective duty is to create a positive investment climate in the Yukon. As a government, we are prepared to be flexible. Not only in economic development but also in education, and health and social services. Hope to have a new Yukon Children's Act, modelled after British Columbia, which is respectful of First Nations' families. We want to establish a family centred approach, and First Nations will be invited to participate in the process. He thanked the GA for inviting him.

DAVE JOE thanked Mr. Jenkins. He introduced the next speaker, Elizabeth Hanson.

## **20. Acting Regional Director, Elizabeth Hanson**

ELIZABETH HANSON addressed the assembly. She looked forward to working with the Grand Chief and others at the table. She spoke about her history at DIA, saying it went back to 1978. The Yukon is leading on many fronts. She spoke about the completion of 12 land claims agreements, which changes the whole political dynamics, and people look to us to see how we collectively will restructure ourselves to deliver on the promises we made to each other she said. As First Nations become self governing, Canada still has responsibilities. She said she was looking forward to meeting with the Chiefs, and assured them they would be dealt with in a timely manner.

DAVE JOE thanked Elizabeth Hanson, and introduced Larry Bagnell.

## **21. Member of Parliament for the Yukon, Larry Bagnell**

LARRY BAGNELL spoke in a native language. He congratulated the Grand Chief. He said he had not prepared a speech, but would stay on the grounds. He asked people to come forward and ask him questions. He also spoke about progress made by First Nations over the last 30 years, and said he was happy to be a witness to it. He congratulated all the First Nations on their successes.

## **22. Assembly of First Nations**

MARY JANE JIM and NICOLE KUSTER came forward to the table.

NICOLE KUSTER said the National Youth Council appointed her to sit on the Languages Board. The Department of Heritage announced money, and the Aboriginal Language Initiative will continue this year and next year she said. AFN had been working on a draft accord with other First Nations to identify how to deal with language issues. Bill C7 had gone through second reading, and the AFN is in opposition to the Bill. She spoke about Bill C6 and C19. NIHB concerns had been brought forward and they were gaining clarification on a strategy. Seeking an extension of time on the consent form issue she said. There was a compensation set for First Nations veterans, many were denied. She continued speaking about the many activities she had undertaken over the past year, and said her office was always available to any First Nations who needed assistance.

MARY JANE JIM said she had been grooming Nicole, and Nicole had done a wonderful job. The past year had been challenging. She provided an overview of some of the activities of AFN and how it related to the Yukon First Nations. She identified many of the files she had dealt with, and provided an update on them. A lot of information is available on the AFN website as well she said.

### **Youth Report:**

TIFFANY SMITH addressed the table. She provided a brief update on recent activities and referred delegates to the handouts provided. We will be calling for submissions for a representative to serve on the Youth Council since Nicole Kuster had resigned her position in that capacity. Youth want the same things the Elders want, they want to know their culture and

be connected to the land. A camp was planned to empower the youth and prepare them for school in September. At that youth camp, Lightfoot would be a speaker she said.

NICOLE KUSTER presented a beautiful picture of various animals as a gift to CTFN from the Whitehorse AFN office.

VICTORIA FRED asked youth to come forward and address the GA. Some did, and they spoke about common concerns. Issues included, the need for an apprenticeship program for carving, the need to alleviate boredom within the communities, the need to encourage youth participation by paying them an honorarium, and the need to include youth positions within the constitutions of First Nations. The issue of at-risk youth was brought forward, and it was noted that youth were the best ones to work with youth.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said the points had been noted. He complimented all the young people who had addressed the audience. He acknowledged that historically there had been difficulty in establishing a youth council. There is a mandate already in place to establish a youth council and it should be part of the constitution as well said the Grand Chief. Defining what a Youth Council would do, would require deliberation, it would be an incredible opportunity for which to lobby. He assured the youth that something would be done, and he encouraged them to continue to respectfully lobby.

### **23. Restructuring of CYFN**

All media were asked to leave the GA during the Restructuring of CYFN discussions.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN addressed the GA. A handout was provided to all delegates which included a proposed organizational chart for CYFN's structure. He read aloud from the handout the recommendations which had been drafted. They are re-typed here as follows;

1. A review and/or evaluation of the Self Government Secretariat should be done. It was set up very quickly and the structure and accountability are not clearly in place. There is a confusion as to how this can compliment the work being done by the self governing First Nations.
2. A review of the Grand Chief role needs to be clarified and communicated how the Grand Chief represents membership of CYFN and the relationship with the Self Government Secretariat.
3. A review of the Chiefs Committees should be held to discuss the role, the term each is in effect, and effectiveness of the various committees.
4. There should be an annual review of the organizational structure of CYFN until the Yukon First Nations are all self governing, to ensure that the needs of each of the member First Nations are being met or supported.
5. CYFN should be streamlined to be more appropriate to the lobbying requirements of the Yukon First Nations. The following model (the organizational chart) is put forward as a sample draft to be considered by the GA for discussion purposes.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR said he wanted to make a few comments regarding the discussion paper provided by CAFN. He said the Self Government Secretariat does exactly some of the things outlined in the paper. The Secretariat comprises of all the self governing Yukon First Nations he said. We have a Chiefs Committee represented by myself, Chief Eric Morris and Chief Joe Linklater. Also, Elizabeth Hanson as the DIA representative, and a YTG official. The Secretariat table was important in advancing self government issues. The Secretariat is there, and First Nations have to call the Secretariat or other First Nations to seek answers to their questions he said. First Nations themselves have to do the work needed. My Self Government Agreement directs me on what to do, who is responsible for what. Have to do work by ourselves as First Nations, we have to take ownership of our own government he said. There is nothing wrong with having two tables, CYFN and a Self Government Secretariat. We are in a transition, some are self governing, and some not. He didn't think anything was dysfunctional, we must simply get involved he said.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN said we are involved and we do our homework, what I am trying to show is the role at the central level. I see with the creation of the Self Government Secretariat that there are two entities, and the danger is who accounts to whom, and where is the accountability. You create an entity where there will be a power struggle he said.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ provided historical facts regarding the UFA and PSTA negotiations. We didn't think much about CYFN's capacity back then he said. He spoke about the development of the Self Government Secretariat. A mandate from this assembly to start the process of CYFN's restructuring is what is needed. This is an excellent document from which to start the process. Self government talks are going on, and before long all of us will be self governing.

PERCY HENRY spoke about the self government agreements. He said CYFN was needed in order to coordinate among the First Nations.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS thanked all the speakers for their comments. He thanked CAFN for wanting to address the restructuring issue. The self governing First Nations endorsed the idea of a Self Government Secretariat. It was intended that communications would be increased about topics such as education, economic development and others. How do we meet the needs of evolving governance in the Yukon Territory he asked. Streamlining the process to better meet the needs of our nations is a good idea. He said CYFN Leadership can actively approach the restructuring issues.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON commented regarding the many organizations in the Yukon, let's get together to try and streamline the process he said. Otherwise we are creating competition for dollars.

SHARON SIMS said we would support a resolution that we enter into more discussions in a forum environment. One question is who would be involved, she suggested youth and Elders as well as citizens.

JOSEPH O'BRIEN said he felt great pride earlier, when the youth addressed the GA. He thanked the Southern Tutchone Tribal Council for bringing the discussion paper forward. He wanted youth and Elder involvement as well. KDFN and the Kaska could be involved as well he suggested. This discussion paper on CYFN's restructuring is a start he said.

KATHY VAN BIBBER reminded the GA that the discussion paper had been written by the STTC, not only by CAFN. It is simply a draft paper, a start, and it gives the mandate to Leadership and the Grand Chief to begin the restructuring of CYFN, to include all Yukon First Nations people in the process. At this GA we can agree to give the mandate to CYFN and the Grand Chief to begin that process she said.

RODDY BLACKJACK said anything to make CYFN stronger would be welcomed. He wanted to ensure that First Nations governments were strong enough, and that should be on the table he said.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said the time is now, now is the time to take the journey. We have been saying it for many General Assemblies, the nations are prepared, we hear our citizens who are not gathered here as well. My proposition is that we must identify a constitutional framework that defines the roles and responsibilities and full involvement of Elders, Chiefs, a chamber of youth council, and all the other mechanical things. From the Self Government Secretariat point of view, they asked how do we fit into the emerging governments. We must have a series of constitutional summits, involving everyone, however long it takes, it should be done right the first time, and we should take the time needed to make it so. A mandate to move forward is something I would be honoured and privileged to make a contribution toward, to help facilitate that process. The intent is to work in brotherhood and cooperation said the Grand Chief.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN said there was never any intent to offend anyone. The aim was to start a cooperative process to begin looking at restructuring CYFN.

## **24. Resolutions**

It was noted there was no resolution number 6. All resolutions passed at the General Assembly are included in their entirety at the conclusion of these minutes.

PEARL CALLAGHAN read aloud the first resolution of the day, numbered 2 – Yukon Territorial Tribal Policing. General discussion took place, and the resolution passed. Resolution numbered 3 – First Nation Employment was read aloud. General discussion took place and the resolution passed. Resolution numbered 4 – Elders Summit was read aloud, general discussion took place and it passed. Resolution numbered 5 – TKC Tutor Assisted Homework Program was read aloud, general discussion took place and it passed. Resolution numbered 7 – Education Conference was read aloud, general discussion took place and it passed. Resolution numbered 8 – Yukon First Nation's Cemetery was read aloud, general discussion took place and it passed. Resolution numbered 9 – Constitutional Summits was read aloud, general discussion took place and it passed. Resolution numbered 10 – AFN National Chief Candidates was read aloud, general discussion took place and it passed.

## **25. Community Concerns/Closing Comments**

CHIEF ANDY CARVILL spoke about funding for status and non-status individuals saying, in the communities we don't make those distinctions. He spoke about environmental issues saying, we must really look at our rights and titles as Yukon First Nations, we are a competent and capable people.

CHIEF STEVEN BUYCK said one of our biggest concerns is education of our people, and their wellness. He thanked the CTFN Chief, Council, and citizens for hosting the GA. It had been a good, successful gathering. He acknowledged the youth and Elders. It had been an honour to attend. A gift from NND to CTFN was in the process of being made, and it would be given at a later time. He thanked the Chairs and all those involved with the GA.

JIMMY LUCAS encouraged the First Nations in their future ambitions. Self government is our own government he said. He spoke about the need for youth to learn about the land and traditional knowledge. He spoke about the changes in climate and low water levels. He encouraged people to not put things off. He said he loved young people in his heart, and he was very concerned about their problems with alcohol and drugs. Only way the youth will learn is away from town, teach them to live in the bush. My door is always open, both to the youth and others. The Chiefs have power he said.

CHIEF EDDIE SKOOKUM said one main problem is in the area of alcohol and drugs, and a need for a centralized treatment centre. Educational issues are also of great concern. He thanked the Chief and people of CTFN for their generous hospitality. He thanked the staff, Chairs and all those involved in the GA.

CHIEF LUCY MCGINTY thanked CTFN for hosting the GA. She and her delegation really enjoyed the gathering. Health and education are two of the biggest issues for SFN.

CHIEF ERIC MORRIS said many of the issues discussed at the GA were relevant in his community as well. We work with our Elders and ask them to assist in settling disputes within our First Nation. Economic Development is another area of concern. He thanked CYFN staff and all other who helped with the GA.

CHIEF DARREN TAYLOR spoke about funding issues, especially regarding status and non-status citizens. He thanked Chief Carvill and the CTFN and everyone who contributed in the success of the GA. He presented the CTFN with a gift of appreciation, a beautiful wood carving of a fish, inlaid with stone. He invited everyone to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in country to celebrate the Moosehide Gathering in 2004.

JESSIE DAWSON spoke on behalf of KDFN. She thanked CTFN for hosting the GA. She spoke about some of the issues facing KDFN, two being child welfare and education. She was happy to see the resolution regarding a cemetery for First Nations. A gift from KDFN to CTFN would be given at a later date she said.

SANDRA NEWMAN spoke on behalf of VGFN. She said sometime in future VGFN may ask for help in support of the Porcupine Caribou herd. She reminded delegates to remember there are those in Northern Canada that depend on the herd for their lives. Oil and gas, Peel River Watershed and related issues are priorities. In the United States we are labelled as environmentalists, but I say it's my job to take care of my traditional territory. She encouraged everyone to fly Air North, and thanked everyone for their attendance at the GA.

CHIEF JAMES ALLEN said many concerns had been addressed during the GA. One concern is with YTG doing things without proper consultation. The National Parks Branch also did not consult with us, we have jurisdiction on our traditional territories. He congratulated Ed Schultz and Rick O'Brien again. He thanked CTFN, Chief Carvill, the organizers and volunteers and especially the youth for hosting the GA. He invited people to the CAFN General Assembly, to be held in Aishihik, scheduled for July 25-27, 2003.

CHIEF ANGELA DEMIT said funding in programs and services is a concern. Youth should be given the opportunity to gain education and training. Economic development and housing issues are a priority. She thanked CTFN for their hosting the GA. She invited everyone to the upcoming WRFN General Assembly, announcements would be sent out.

A/CHAIR BONNIE HARPE spoke on behalf of TKC. She said the concerns faced by her First Nation were the same as others'. Two issues were very important to her community, one being housing, the other unity. She thanked the GA, saying she had learned a lot.

CHIEF BOB DICKSON said education is a priority issue in Kluane. We are looking at relocating the school. We don't want to lose the service, and we're afraid that once the teacher retires they'll close the school. Funding, and other issues spoken during the GA are shared by KFN. He spoke about a multi-care complex for Elders. Language is an issue. Information technology issues are a concern in Burwash Landing. In Kluane we started a staff appreciation day. He spoke about the other governments in attendance at the GA, they said they want to work with us, so let's move our issues forward. He thanked CTFN for hosting the GA.

AFN VICE-CHIEF RICK O'BRIEN thanked the CTFN for hosting the GA. He said he had attended many gas and oil conferences. One thing they are always talking about is building plants to liquefy gas, and that would create severe environmental damage. When we talk pipeline, we must look at environmentally friendly systems. He spoke about language issues and said he too appreciated the cemetery resolution which had come forward. He spoke about youth and the concerns associated. Child welfare is important. He spoke about unity, the new corrections facility, the Canada Winter Games, hunting and wildlife resources, housing, local employment for First Nations, and homelessness among the youth. He reiterated and emphasized that First Nations need to work in unity. He thanked the GA for electing him as AFN Vice Chief, saying he and Grand Chief Ed Schultz were not strangers at working together. He thanked the CTFN Chief, Council, and citizens for hosting the GA.

JOSEPH O'BRIEN said this had been a historic event, we witnessed the re-election of our Grand Chief Ed Schultz, and the election of Rick O'Brien as AFN Vice Chief, with you two together,

we will go places. He welcomed KDFN back to CYFN in advance. He said the Kaska still had a place at the table, and one day we will be whole again. He thanked the GA.

RODDY BLACKJACK said he was really proud to see the many First Nations at the table, working for the future generations. He thanked the GA.

CHIEF ANDY CARVILL thanked all the Elders for their patience and support. He thanked the youth for their help and involvement. He thanked Teslin for the meat. He thanked the GA for coming to CTFN territory. He thanked the Chairs, the staff and all those who helped in the General Assembly. He especially thanked the citizens of CTFN for all their assistance in hosing the GA.

GRAND CHIEF ED SCHULTZ said it had been a long process of dialogue, patience, and understanding. He shared the sentiments of all the leaders who had spoken before him. He thanked all the many people involved in the General Assembly. He thanked all the candidates that ran for office during the elections. The spirit of unity has reverberated throughout this GA, and we heard that KDFN and the Kaska want to rejoin at the CYFN table. The Grand Chief committed to full integration of cultural heritage into CYFN forums. He thanked his family for the strength he had been given from them. He had never seen a Chief working so hard at a GA as did Chief Carvill. The Grand Chief presented a gift to Chief Carvill and the CTFN, a beautiful Ivan Sawrenko copper pounding of a she-bear with two cubs. He also presented the Chairs with gifts for their part in the GA. He presented a gift to the community coordinators as well. In closing the Grand Chief said he was deeply honoured to be re-elected as the Grand Chief. A good quality for any leader is the capacity to understand logic, and to change your mind he said.

VICTORIA FRED and DAVE JOE thanked the GA for allowing them to be a part of the gathering.

Closing prayer said by Percy Henry. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

***General Assembly Resolutions passed at the CYFN 23rd Annual General Assembly  
July 7-10, 2003 in Carcross, Yukon Territory***

***\*\*Please note there was no resolution numbered 6.***

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**GA Resolution 1. – Compensation for Volunteer Chiefs**

WHEREAS:

- (A) Over the twenty year period of land claim negotiations carried on by the Yukon Native Brotherhood and Council of Yukon Indians, many Yukon First Nation Chiefs and Councillors participated in the negotiations on a voluntary basis; and
- (B) In some cases, the volunteer Chiefs and Councillors left their employment and did not pursue other opportunities so that they could fully commit themselves and their time to the land claim negotiations; and
- (C) Some volunteer Chiefs and Councillors now do not have any employment pension benefits as a result of leaving their employment to participate in the land claim negotiations; and
- (D) Over the past several years, the Government of Canada has responded to requests of the Council of Yukon First Nations and certain Yukon First Nations for compensation for the volunteer Chiefs by stating that the Yukon First Nations have the discretion to allocate portions of their financial compensation to address this concern.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly directs the Leadership to:

- 1. identify options to provide compensation to the volunteer Chiefs and other leaders; and
- 2. provide those options to the members of the Council of Yukon First Nations for their consideration.

**Resolution was moved by:            Joseph O'Brien, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation**  
**Seconded by:                            Chief Eric Morris, Teslin Tlingit Council**  
**Passed by:                                consensus on July 9, 2003**

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**GA Resolution 2. – Yukon Territorial Tribal Policing**

WHEREAS:

- (A) The Solicitor General of Canada has a program on Aboriginal Policing since 1991 for all First Nations in Canada; and
- (B) The Chiefs of the Yukon have created and registered the Yukon Territorial Tribal Policing program in Ottawa; and
- (C) There is funding for the development and implementation for any First Nation available now.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly mandates the Council of Yukon First Nations to seek and secure the funding to implement this program for any First Nations that wants it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a committee be struck to help the communities to set up this program based on their need.

**Resolution was moved by:            Richard Dickson, Kluane First Nation**  
**Seconded by:                            Chief Eddie Skookum, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation**  
**Passed by:                                consensus on July 10, 2003**

**GA Resolution 3. – First Nation Employment**

WHEREAS:

- (A) The Yukon First Nations recognize that the successful implementation of self government requires that their citizens assume senior positions and become the directors, managers and employees of their governments; and
- (B) Yukon First Nation citizens have undertaken training and education over the past thirty years so that they are qualified to assume such positions; and
- (C) The Yukon First Nations must make efforts to attract and retain their trained and educated citizens to work for the Yukon First Nation public service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly:

- 1. directs the Grand Chief to make best efforts to implement a practice of preferential hiring of Yukon First Nation citizens as employees and consultants in relation to the Council of Yukon First Nations; and
- 2. encourages each member of the Council of Yukon First Nations to establish and sustain, and develop and implement a similar practice so that Yukon First Nation citizens form the bulk of their public service; and
- 3. to implement wage parity for First Nation employees with the employees of other governments.

**Resolution was moved by:** Chief Steven Buyck, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun  
**Seconded by:** Chief James Allen, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations  
**Passed by:** consensus on July 10, 2003

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**GA Resolution 4. – Elders Summit**

WHEREAS:

- (A) Our Elders are the keepers of the traditional knowledge, wisdom and experience of the Yukon First Nations; and
- (B) The Yukon First Nations and their leaders have traditionally relied on the advice and guidance of their Elders; and
- (C) The Yukon First Nations recognize that the Elders must be brought together so that their knowledge, wisdom and experience may be utilized for the benefit of our future generations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly:

- 1. recommends that each member of the Council of Yukon First Nations contribute funding so that an Elders Summit can be held; and
- 2. directs that the Grand Chief establish a committee to organize and facilitate the Elders Summit; and
- 3. CYFN will make best efforts to obtain funding to contribute to the costs of the Elders Summit.

**Resolution was moved by:** Joseph O’Brien, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation  
**Seconded by:** Chief Angela Demit, White River First Nation  
**Passed by:** consensus on July 10, 2003

**GA Resolution 5. – Ta’an Kwäch’än Council Tutor Assisted Homework Program**

WHEREAS:

- (A) The Ta’an Kwäch’än Council (the “TKC”) has successfully delivered a Tutor Assisted Homework Program from October 2002 to May 2003 and this program improved the math, reading comprehension and language development skills of our children; and

- (B) The Tutor Assisted Homework Program served to enhance our children's desire to learn and encouraged them to further their education and seek opportunities for higher education; and
- (C) The TKC wishes to continue the program, but present funding sources are not sufficient to meet our needs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly directs the Leadership to:

1. lobby the territorial and federal governments to provide sufficient funding to the TKC for the deliver of the Tutor Assisted Homework Program; and
2. support the TKC in its efforts to continue the Tutor Assisted Homework Program in 2003 and beyond; and
3. Seek training and secure funding for all Yukon First Nations to deliver similar programs.

**Resolution was moved by:** Chief Eric Morris, Teslin Tlingit Council  
**Seconded by:** A/Chair Bonnie Harpe, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council  
**Passed by:** consensus on July 10, 2003

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**GA Resolution 7. – Education Conference**

WHEREAS:

- (A) The Yukon First Nations support the education and training of their citizens so that self government may be successfully implemented; and
- (B) The Yukon First Nations have raised fundamental concerns about the elementary and secondary school system in the Yukon Territory, including concerns related to curriculum and staffing; and
- (C) In many cases, Yukon First Nation citizens are unable to undertake or continue their post-secondary studies as a result of funding constraints; and
- (D) Self governing Yukon First Nations are presently negotiating program and service transfer agreements related to education.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly directs that the Grand Chief seek funding to hold an education conference so that a holistic review of the education system from pre-school to post-secondary be undertaken, and recommendations be developed to address the concerns of Yukon First Nations.

**Resolution was moved by:** Marion Sheldon, Teslin Tlingit Council  
**Seconded by:** Chief Steven Buyck, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun  
**Passed by:** consensus on July 10, 2003

**GA Resolution 8. – Yukon First Nation's Cemetery**

WHEREAS:

- (A) Many Yukon First Nation citizens live in Whitehorse and some wish to be buried in Whitehorse; and
- (B) There is no cemetery that is designated exclusively for these First Nation members within the City of Whitehorse; and
- (C) The bylaws of the City of Whitehorse with respect to cemeteries do not allow for cultural burial structures in their cemeteries.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Yukon First Nations, with the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation, develop a proposal for the consideration of the City of Whitehorse with respect to the designation of a Yukon First Nation Cemetery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposal also request that the bylaws of the City of Whitehorse permit the construction of spirit houses and other cultural structures on burial sites in accordance with our culture and tradition.

**Resolution was moved by:** Gail Anderson, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council  
**Seconded by:** Carol Elofson, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council  
**Passed by:** consensus on July 10, 2003

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#### **GA Resolution 9. – Constitutional Summits**

WHEREAS:

- (A) The Yukon First Nations recognize the strength and value of their unity to deal collectively with political, economic and social matters; and
- (B) The Yukon First Nations acknowledge that the current structures and mandates of their central and regional organizations must be renewed and revitalized in order to meet their current needs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly directs the Grand Chief to host a series of constitutional summits to discuss the development of a renewed and revitalized regional entity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Grand Chief invite representatives of all fourteen Yukon First Nations and their Elders, youth, and technicians to attend and participate in this forum.

**Resolution was moved by:** Robert Lee Jackson, Teslin Tlingit Council  
**Seconded by:** Kathy Van Bibber, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations  
**Passed by:** consensus on July 10, 2003

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#### **GA Resolution 10. – AFN National Chief Candidates**

WHEREAS:

- (A) The Yukon First Nations are members of the Assembly of First Nations (the "AFN") and as such, our delegates will exercise their right to vote for the National Chief at the upcoming General Assembly in Edmonton on July 16, 2003, and the person elected as National Chief will represent Yukon First Nations; and
- (B) The Annual General Assembly of the Council of Yukon First Nations (July 7-10, 2003) was scheduled to provide an opportunity for National Chief candidates to meet the Yukon First Nations and allow us the opportunity to decide in a meaningful way who should be National Chief.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly directs the Leadership to express our concerns to the AFN to ensure future National Chief candidates come to the Yukon to meet the Yukon First Nations, so that we can make informed decisions as to the position of National Chief.

**Resolution moved by:** Marion Sheldon, Teslin Tlingit Council  
**Seconded by:** Gail Anderson, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council  
**Passed by:** consensus on July 10, 2003

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“Just Minutes” – July 17, 2003.