

19th Annual CYFN General Assembly
June 22 - 26, 1999
Champagne/Aishihik Traditional Territory

***FIRST NATION DELEGATES:**

Champagne/Aishihik First Nation

Chief Bob Charlie

D/Chief Gerald Brown

Steve Smith

Kathy VanBibber

D/Chief Chuck Hume

Elder Frank Chambers

Kathy Kushniruk

Marie Smith (Champagne/Aishihik Youth Council)

Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation

Chief Steve Taylor

Robert Rear

Angie Joseph Rear

Ronald Johnson

Elder Virginia Joseph

Jason Vanfleet (Youth Delegate)

Art Christianson

Ta'an Kwach'an Council

Francis Woolsey

Elder Kathleen Jones

Diane Graham

Carol Elofson

Linda Chamber (Youth Delegate)

Vuntut Gwitchin

Chief Joe Linklater

Howard Linklater

Elder John Joe Kyikavichik

Greg Charlie

Cindy Dickson

Carcross/Tagish

Chief Andy Carvill

D/Chief Geraldine James

Danny Cresswell

Patrick James

Winnie Atlin

White River First Nation

Chief David Johnny

Stan Peters

Rose Marie Blair-Smith

Richard Peters

Roland Peters

Selkirk First Nation

Chief Lucy McGinty

Elder Johnson Edwards

Cheryl Edwards

Teddie Charlie

Millie Johnson

Elder Danny Joe

Teslin Tlingit Council

Elder Emma Shorty
D/Chief Eric Morris
Chief Richard Sidney

Elder Pearl Keenan
D/Chief Carl Sidney

Kluane First Nation

Chief Bob Johnson
Elder Richard Dickson
Donalda Easterson

Robin Bradasch
Kathleen Johnson

Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation

Chief Eddie Skookum
Elder Clyde Blackjack
Billy Peter Johnnie

Jordon Mullet
Ray Silverfox

Nacho Nyak Dun

A/C Barb Buyck
Sharon Peter
Elma Moses
Elder Johnson Peter

Dave Moses
Jimmy Lucas
Mary Battaja
Robert Hager

***CYFN STAFF**

Shirley Adamson, Grand Chief
Percy Henry, CYFN Elder
Roddy Blackjack, CYFN Elder
Mary Jane Jim-Cant, AFN Vice-Chief
Ed Schultz, Director of Devolution and Implementation
Daryn Leas, Senior Advisor
Victor Mitander, Senior Negotiator
Dave Joe, Legal Counsel
Roberta Joseph, Director of Finance
Cheryl McLean, Senior Administrator
Debbie Trudeau, CYFN Recording Secretary (recording)

*apologize for any missing names

Opening Prayer: 10:20 am Elder Roddy Blackjack

Opening Remarks

Chuck Hume Deputy Chief, Champagne/Aishihik

Good morning and welcome all to Champagne. The Chief and other Councillors of Champagne/Aishihik are in Whitehorse and Old Crow to pay respects to the Njootli family. Champagne/Aishihik is honoured to be hosting the 19th Annual General Assembly at one of the Traditional Lands, "Sunshiny Hill Place". Background on Champagne; most important meeting place for ceremonies and potlatches. The hall was built recently for these. I ask that we remain focused and work together in unity to make this important gathering a successful one.

Shirley Adamson Grand Chief, CYFN

Good morning Elders, Chiefs and Delegates. It is good to see so many youths here and other people as well. Your Leadership had set many tasks for the year and I think you'll be pleased with what you hear accomplished on your behalf. Like to acknowledge in particular the Chief and Council and members of the Champagne/Aishihik First Nations to offer to host the General Assembly is an honour paid to all of us; all the work gone into preparing for this meeting. This will ensure that we have good meetings and camping sites. Also acknowledge Sue Van Bibber, an Elder here in Champagne country, by my father, for her kindness and acceptance of people. The Chiefs that have guided the business of CYFN for the past year:

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation; Chief Eddie Skookum

Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation; Chief Steve Taylor

Nacho Nyak Dun; Acting Chief Barbara Buyck

Teslin Tlingit Council; Chief Richard Sidney, and Deputy Chief Eric Morris and Carl Sidney

Vuntut Gwich'in; Chief Joe Linklater

Carcross/Tagish First Nation; Chief Andy Carvill

Champagne/Aishihik First Nation; Chief Bob Charlie

Kluane First Nation; Chief Robert Johnson

Selkirk First Nation; Chief Lucy McGinty

Ta'an Kwach'an Council; Chief Glenn Grady

White River First Nation; Chief David Johnny

It is good to see most of them here, some have travelled to communities to share in the grief of some losses. Comments on the amounts of losses, this past year and this past weekend as well. Respects to the families that have lost people recently. I was wondering if we should go ahead with this GA or change it to a later date, sought and received advice from elected and community leaders and the families; they said go ahead. We have done a lot this past year, you will be pleased with the amount of work done on your behalf. I'm glad to be here with everybody and hope we have a chance to visit over the course of the week, thanks.

Roddy Blackjack, Executive Elder

It is hard to remember what we been doing without writing down. I thought it would be like an old story, I can remember story from grandma and grandpa, but its hard to remember paper work. One thing for sure I would like to see CYFN Elder's Council get together for sure to try to lead the young generation; gun control, would like to see the Elders set some time aside, to teach the young people how to use guns, safety, protect yourself and all this kind of thing, use for self defence in the bush, bring meat home; Elders can explain that to the young people. It's very hard to follow the law that comes from the other side of the world into this Yukon.

Executive Elder, Percy Henry

Good morning Elders, Chiefs, ladies and gentlemen, youths, kids. Many moon ago I was here for an assembly. I have been around for many years, I was elected Chief in 1960. A long time I been around. I have seen up and down and it is good we stick together. We need to do this for the next century for our children. That is what we said "Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow". Next century we don't know what it will bring. I always say we should start good on the right foot. We're going to be talk about Self Government, I think we should really start Self Government. Indian government is one government system not individual governments. We have problems now with child welfare, health, school. We should team up on child welfare, education, gun law to go to the government (if they take my gun away, I have to go on welfare). We have a lot of work in the next few days, but I let Shirley tell you about that.

Open floor for Elders**Elder Clyde Blackjack; Little Salmon Carmacks**

Good morning. It is nice to see people and thanks to Champagne/Aishihik for having us. It is just like I came home again every time I come here. Thanks to the Chief that appointed me to the Fish and Wildlife Board, I really like that job. From there, I got on the Salmon Committee, a lot of work and I am busy. I used to sit on that Salmon Committee in 1982 was when that started, it is nice to be on that board again, I appreciate it.

Elder Alex Van Bibber

Welcome to the other bands to this little village of Champagne, it's a great pleasure to have the assembly here. This is a small village and we are honoured to host this. If you need anything, wood, water or anything, call us. I would like to think of the people that went through here, that did a lot for CYI like Elijah Smith, Allen Dorothy and Grafton and what they did for us. I would like silence for a minute for thinking of these people that have gone. Thanks

John Joe Kay; Vuntut Gwitchin

We lost some people, we need to work together. Thank you

Elder Dave Moses; Nacho Nyak Dun

Good morning everybody. I come to this machine, to talk through it, it is hard to speak white man's style, I used to be Indian a long time ago; I used to talk Indian pretty good. I am going to tell you a little story about what has been done so the young people can listen. I born in 1919, I

travel around in 1924. Went to a big Pow Wow at Lansing Post; we went up there in summer time with a moose skin, birch bark boat, paddle upstream. That boat travelled upstream like a 40 horsepower to me. I played in the water with a stick. People go Pow Wow with stick gambling, drum, dancing, singing - they made a big Pow Wow. Moose skin jacket, moose skin pants, beaver skin hat, Hudson Bay blanket, 30-30, give one another, Wolf and Crow. I see that people have a good time.

Now we come over here to the table, sit down, get together and talk about something good. The young people should listen so they can follow Elder, what they talk about. The young style, I see young people with milk, baby bottle into his mouth, with liquor, marijuana, he doesn't understand what we been doing on the land. All this gun control, salmon come up the river; this land we talk about -the world of the land. I think about animal, fish, in the air you see moon, star, lightening, earthquake, wind, rain, snow. It is understanding the world of the land. We sit at the table so we can fight the government for one dollar so our children can do something out on the land. Gun control is no good for nothing, it is for the big city. The gun, I use it just like bible, I eat out of it. I need that gun myself.

I used to come over here and stampede horses. I seen that, I done it; I worked in 1937 as a first deck hand on the steamboat from Mayo to Whitehorse to Dawson, with freight of bananas, oranges, they were all half rotten before they get to Dawson and before that on the highway we go travel around with dog pack and horse. Today we got nice looking car, pickup; we can smoke cigarette and just go, dust fly and it don't take long. I look at this and sometimes I see baby diaper come flying out into the ditch and a rabbit or gopher come along and eat that. What you think about that? We have to keep the land clean, it is natural and feeds us. I have lots of good stories to tell you about, but I better keep it short.

Elder Johnson Edwards, Selkirk First Nation

Sharing accord, living off the land and that stuff. Want to share the old days, we have to look back a thousand years ago, how those people lived, how they shared everything. Another thing that bothers me about this land, we have boundary line now between us. About a thousand years ago, our grandfathers didn't have those. We have to bring our history back up and teach our families about it. You talk about bringing the old law back, you have to bring the history back. The Elders are getting short now in the Yukon, I don't see too many Elders that used to be here before. When I first came here last year, there were lots of Elders, there's not so much now. Before we all go away, we need to pass knowledge on to the younger generation - it needs to go on and on. We need to really work together, we all come from one family, don't matter from where. Our people were the only people, they split apart to find food. If there's one person that needs help we all have to get together and help each other. We are talking about these problems, I say this because days ago, my grandchild was taken away on me. I tried looking for help to back me up to bring my grandchild back, that is why I bring this up. They bring her to Whitehorse and I was sure lost myself, I had nobody to talk to at my home. I love the children because they come from our people. We are getting older here, we are going to pass on and pass on, pretty soon there will only be young people left. Thank you.

Introductions

The delegates at the table introduced themselves.

Open floor for Youth

Linda Chambers Ta'an Kwach'an Council

It is privilege to be here and I hope that all our Chiefs that are here can sort things out among us and I am really happy to be here.

Jason Vanfleet, Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation

Just wanted to say to youth about time that we started participating in these centralized opportunities. In the future we will be doing a lot of these roles that our parents are doing now, and would like to encourage the youth to participate.

Announcements

Ken Kane, co-ordinator of GA for Champagne/Aishihik along with Rose Kushniruk and Sherri Wabisca - Welcome all delegates to my home, good morning.

There is a fire ban - our hearts went out to Burwash; YTG has put a fire ban on; tonight an opening ceremony, dancers, Tagish Nations Dancers. There are a few things during the week, tonight is cultural, tomorrow is bingo, Thursday night we will have karioke, Friday is banquet and dance, music by Country Flats Boogie Band. Saturday if we go into have something, concession stand by the youths, (youth selling the breakfast) in the big circus tent is the Information Booth. If you need help for the camping area let us know, and while you here, please respect this home land and meeting, no alcohol or drugs. Washrooms available. Thank you.

Rules of Order

James Allen read the rules of order.

Question

Howard Linklater, Vuntut Gwitch'in - Our official youth delegate is 13 and wondering if that is too young to vote.

Shirley Adamson, Grand Chief CYFN - The CYFN constitution is silent on this issue, if there is an age in the First Nations constitutions, then that is what we should go with.

Rose Marie Blair-Smith, White River First Nation - Could we have a point of clarification. Are we talking about the delegate to vote on issues or vote for Grand Chief? Could you explain the difference of both. Our White River youth delegates are a minimum of 16 because of the voting age.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - There is 1 vote for each First Nation in respect to General Assembly business, the only time individuals vote is in the election, so that is the distinction, there is nothing in the Constitution or in the Rules of Order that bars a young individual of 13 from voting. There is nothing outlining that the age is 16 or 18; that is something that maybe this forum would like to address. Maybe at this time we can have an identification of those First Nations that have youth voting and their age as well as what they deem an appropriate age to allow voting.

Nacho Nyak Dun, Sharon Peter - We don't have a youth delegate here. In our constitution, to vote is age 18. We have no definition of youth, we have had youth delegates ranging in age from 15 to 21.

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Clyde Blackjack - We don't have a youth here yet. Under our constitution, the voting age is 16; and our youth is defined as 16 to 21. Don't think we should lower it younger.

Kluane First Nation, Robin Bradasch - Our voting age is 18 in our constitution, however our youth council is 13 to 21, don't have a preference whether it's 16 or 18, don't have youth delegate present.

Teslin Tlingit Council, Eric Morris - Our voting age is 16, we were not able to bring a youth delegate.

Selkirk First Nation - Our voting is 16.

White River First Nation, Rose Marie Blair-Smith - Our voting age is 16; we had one issue dealing with this specifically for this GA. Have talked around this amongst ourselves and we would want the voting age to be 16 to meet our constitution.

Carcross Tagish, Geraldine James - Our voting age is 16; no youth delegate present.

Vuntut Gwitchin, Howard Linklater - We could change the official delegate list for the election, when would we have to do that?

Dave Joe - Usually the official list is confirmed on the first day of the assembly, once each First Nation submits their names it will be consolidated at that time.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - The names will be formalized once we establish a voter's list for the elections, that will be later on this afternoon.

Ta'an Kwach'an Council, Diane Graham - Our voting age is 16; have a youth delegate present over that age.

Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation - Our constitution states that a youth rep is between 15 to 25.

Champagne Aishihik First Nation - Our youth councillor that sits with Chief and Council is 16 to 24; Youth Council members are of any age and are elected in.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - I have been referred to the election rules and we can look at the age issue when we get to that on the agenda.

Howard Linklater, Vuntut Gwitchin - We have another youth that is over the age of 16 to avoid confusion.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - We could look at establishing an age requirement if this GA wishes or we can defer the age of our youth delegation. Howard Linklater stated that they have an older youth delegate, so we'll just move on.

Question

Dave Smith - Just a clarification, under heading number one, should we make an amendment as to each First Nation shall have 5 delegates?

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - With respect to the rules of order, we don't need a formal constitutional amendment; will leave as is, we may need a constitutional amendment as to the age requirement for our youth delegates, but at this point we don't need a formal amendment.

****Motion to accept the Rules of Order**

Moved by - Rose Marie Blair-Smith

Seconded by: Chief Steve Taylor

Approved by consensus

Media Discussion

James Allen, Co-Chair - We have the option that all meetings are open, or say when it should go in-camera.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - CHON has been here in the past for the people in the communities. It's up to the delegates how they want this to go.

White River First Nation - We prefer the discussion to be open except when there is issues for in-camera then ask them to leave.

Champagne Aishihik First Nation - We should have media present to get info out to people in the communities, and have in camera sessions.

Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation - We agree to proceed with media present for the people in the communities, then have in-camera session.

Ta'an Kwach'an Council - We agree, let the media stay then have in-camera if needed.

Vuntut Gwitchin - We agree, we deal with this every year, should deal with this finally.

Little Salmon/Carmacks - We agree.

Selkirk First Nation - We agree.

Teslin Tlingit Council - We agree.

Kluane First Nation - We agree.

Nacho Nyak Dun- We agree.

Grand Chief, Shirley Adamson - The Elders and Grand Chief have one vote and we have collective agreement. We should conduct the meetings in an open and honest manner and when we deal with issues that require strategy, then the media needs to honour our in-camera request.

James Allen, Co-Chair - We have a ruling, the meeting is open to media except when delegates want to discuss things in-camera. Could we have the media identify themselves.

Joanne Henry and Mark Johnson, CHON FM

Nancy Thomson, CBC in Whitehorse

Chuck Tobin, Whitehorse Star

Agenda Items

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - We need to go through the agenda items and set out the work that we need to do each day and have an acceptance of agenda. We also need to go through the minutes from last year as well as the resolutions from last year. We have a suggestion to go through the resolutions as part of the Grand Chief's report.

White River First Nation, Rose Marie Blair-Smith - For expediency of time, yes we should do it that way.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - Read the agenda.

Question

Kluane First Nation - We would like to move the election to Friday (Day 4 of the General Assembly), this was a request from Chief Bob Johnson and is due to the forest fire.

Question

Nacho Nyak Dun - The First Nation Education Commission would like to add a section into the constitution and where could we put that into the agenda? Last year we had asked CYFN to send packages out prior to the meeting so we can have them early to look at and we would like to request that again.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - A constitutional committee will be established and they could look at it then. For those that would like to make constitutional amendment, refer to rules of order as outlined under item five. There are two parts that need to be satisfied in order to make a constitutional amendment.

Regarding Kluane's request to have the election on Friday, I see no problem with that. We will have nominations today, election on Friday and move through the agenda as provided.

****Motion to accept the agenda**

Moved by: Rose Marie Blair-Smith

Seconded by: Linda Chambers

Approved by consensus

Committees and Election Officers

Resolution Committee Nominations

Robin Bradasch, Kluane First Nation - nominate Donalda Easterson, accepts

Rose Marie Blair-Smith, White River First Nation - nominate Art Christenson, accepts

Art Christenson, Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation - nominate Dave Joe, accepts

****Motion to close nominations for the Resolution Committee**

Moved by: Rose Marie Blair-Smith

Seconded by: Chuck Hume

Approved by consensus

Constitution Committee

Rose Marie Blair-Smith, White River - nominate Robin Bradasch, accepts

Steve Smith, Champagne Aishihik First Nation - nominate Marie Smith-Tuton, accepts

Sharon Peter, Nacho Nyak Dun - nominate Marie McLaren, accepts

Elder Roddy Blackjack - nominate Daryn Leas, accepts

****Motion to close nominations for the Constitution Committee**

Moved by: Rose Marie Blair-Smith

Seconded by: Geraldine James

Approved by consensus

Returning Officer

Elder Percy Henry - nominate Victor Mitander, accepts

Kathleen Van Bibber - nominate Barb Hume, accepts

****Motion to cease nominations for Returning Officer**

Moved by: Rose Marie Blair-Smith

Seconded by: Chuck Hume

Approved by consensus

Rose Marie Blair-Smith, White River - Suggestion that since there are only two names, if possible could we have both sharing the responsibility.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - There is nothing in the constitution regarding this, so we can leave names as is or go through a process of secret ballot. Both are willing to share, so they will share the responsibility of Returning Officer.

Election Rules

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - Read the Election Rules.

The elections will be held on Friday which is the 4th day as opposed to the second day so we may need to modify number 18.

Question

Rose Marie Blair-Smith, White River First Nation - Regarding #3 I'm wondering what constitutes a First Nations citizen since we have honorary citizens and citizens that are spouses but not beneficiaries and I would like a legal opinion on what that is. Wondering if that wording should be changed. Also, anywhere that refers to Returning Officer should be changed to Returning Officers. And would like to see a one-time provision for the voting to happen on the fourth day.

Daryn Leas - Section 3, whether or not includes honorary citizens, etc you need to read the whole sentence, which states citizen eligible for enrollment under a First Nation Final Agreement which implies that it is restricted to citizens who are beneficiaries.

Rose Marie Blair-Smith, White River First Nation - I have a question to Acting Chair's inclusion to the list of voters and whether or not it should be included. The reality is that our Chair - right now is Shirley Adamson - and if she decides to run and is eligible for a vote whether that is fair in terms of voting. I have no qualms about it, but I see a problem with that.

Daryn Leas - The term acting chair in section 15 deals with that position in the constitution; the Grand Chief has 1 vote so that refers to if there is not a Chair, so there is only one vote.

Discussion on wording of Chair vs Grand Chief

Shirley Adamson, Grand Chief CYFN - Some background on how the wording changed in Brooks Brook. When it was done, we didn't conclude to amend the constitution. In reference to the issue raised by Rose Marie, the voting procedure in the constitution gives the Grand Chief the ability to cast one vote. I think we should follow the constitution - those are the rules we set for ourselves, those are the rules that we accepted so that we may conduct our business in an orderly, open and transparent manner, and I recommend that we follow the constitution as much as we can.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - Right now the issue is the adoption of election rules.

Rose Marie Blair-Smith, White River - At some point there should be changes to our constitution in regards to the wording of Chair and Grand Chief and the committee should do that when the time happens.

Question

Clyde Blackjack, Little Salmon Carmacks - We've had discussion on nominations. We want to leave it open until tomorrow at 12:00 so people could have time to make it here.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - There is a suggestion to leave it nominations open until noon on the 2nd day (reference to #2). Item 6 says that upon direction of the General Assembly the Chairperson shall close it, so we can leave it open until 12 tomorrow - the second day -if it is acceptable to this assembly. Since there is no opposition to that, so we will leave nominations open until noon on Wednesday.

****Motion to accept the Election Rules**

Moved by: Chief Steve Taylor

Seconded by: Dick Dickson

Accepted by consensus

Lunch break at 12:55

Reconvene at 2:05

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - Before moving on, it's been requested by a number of individuals to take a moment of silence in respect of those that have passed on.

Prayer by Percy Henry

Nominations for Grand Chief

Open the floor to nominations for the election of the position of Grand Chief. The floor will remain open until 12 tomorrow - Wednesday, Day 2 of the General Assembly.

Elder, Roddy Blackjack - nominate Shirley Adamson, accepts

Community Reports

White River First Nation - We have initialled agreements -Self Government and Final -and are now going through a ratification process, and we're hoping that by January 2000 we will have a decision on the status of the Agreements. We reached an overlap agreement- White River and Kluane have agreed on traditional boundaries and shared areas; they are concluded and our hats off to Kluane. Overlap is certainly an issue that needs to be addressed. We have come (to the GA) with concerns that have been expressed, one being that we need the paperwork before the assembly. I know that the Chiefs get the packages, we need to set up a system as to the material being put before the delegates. This is so we can address the issues, specifically reports. Those dollars belong to our children so we must have a grasp on what is happening. We have some concern on Devolution, and we will address that when that report is put forward. It was a decision to not be a part of the assembly (last year), and we are happy to be back. We had a

problem with the lack of communication with CYFN. We realize that we have to improve our relationship so we are aware of the issues that we have to put forward.

Champagne Aishihik First Nation - Thanks and welcome to this area. Anything you're not happy about here, let us know. Kenny and Rose are your contacts. This council has been together since our election in November, and a lot of time has been spent getting caught up on strategic planning and issues. For the next four years we will rotate each councillor into the Deputy Chief position so they can get experience and run next time. We are responsible for people out in different areas so one thing we have done is started taking council meetings into the different areas. This is so they know what is happening and can attend. The people in Champagne are concerned about forest fires here and they ask that people watch their fires and cigarettes. Also, as Yukon communities we need to look at how to handle forest fires and other emergencies. We don't have definite plans on how to handle different situations, so we should all join together and come up with good approaches and support. We have our Youth Council selling to raise money for themselves; they have become quite vocal in the last meetings. We have a Youth Councillor rep - he's out fighting fire in Burwash right now- they have meetings once a month. We sit in on their meetings to see what their issues and concerns are. We have an Elders Council that we try and keep in touch with. We have two Elders on our Council, Elder Moose Jackson and the other is Frank Chambers. We are currently working on overlap issues with Carcross/Tagish. We hope to have a meeting to sort that out with them and get it finished.

Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation - Thanks to the Chiefs, Elders, Councillors, and Delegates for coming to this very important meeting, thanks also to Chief Bob Charlie and the Council and the citizens of this First Nation for hosting this General Assembly and providing us with these facilities. We are a recent signatory to a comprehensive Land Claims Agreement; it is only a few months old. We've been trying to reorganize and get out of the DIA system. We've had growing pains, although positive. The participation of people is vital. At our General Assemblies we don't have as many people as we should, but we continue working on it. This year we moved into our new administration building, we also got the cultural centre up this year. Implementation is a priority that we have been working on it for some time. We have boards and committees up and running and economic development has been a priority. It is the expectation of people that they will have jobs, so we've been trying to do that. Language and culture is also a priority. We need to gear up our efforts. Like the other First Nations across the Territory, we need to pay more attention to language and culture.

Ta'an Kwach'an Council - We are a small band since July 3, 1998, at the time we had great thoughts and plans for our future; however, reality has set in. We hoped to be a DIA band only for a short time, but wheels turn slowly; there are still land issues that need to be negotiated. We look forward to the day we can offer programs and services like the other First Nations.

Vuntut Gwitchin - Thanks to everyone for the care, love and respect shown for our loss of Grafton. We came out ahead of the Chief, so I'm unprepared. We are having problems meeting YTG criteria, we are experiencing growing pains; infrastructure being one of them. Someone overlooked the infrastructure in the implementation agreements, such as housing and buildings

as our government grows. We are now trying to get those dollars, except we're having difficulties with the bureaucrats in both levels of government. We are working hard at it and are slowly getting things done. I will leave the rest for our Chief if he wants to make any more comments.

Carcross Tagish First Nation - We have gone through a lot of changes during the last couple of years, where we were a young Chief and Council with none of us been involved except one person. It has been a real learning process. It has been good because we came in with open minds, and we've made a lot of positive changes. We have created a management board rather than having a band manager. This consists of directors of each of the programs. We usually meet once a week and make decisions, instead of one person making the decisions. Another thing we have created is a cubed team?? We have always talked about making sure that our money is going to help all of our people so we did a census - the young people did it and they got a better response than Census Canada. We had questions on where the people want us to go, what they want us to do. A lot of our money goes towards the adults and very small children and the youth and elders were getting left behind. We have gotten some good direction and the census has helped us to decide where to focus on. We have a new capital works building, a new First Nations office. We bought into a business with Montana Manor. At present, we are pushing health and healing; our people had said that when we move forward with land claims, we need to move forward in all areas. Healthy people with land claims. We applied to the Healing Foundation and got dollars for two psychologists to come and start helping us. Another program we've applied for is that we are trying to bring up trainers to train us in the sex offenders programs so we have our own councillors in the community - we had sent letters to all 14 First Nations asking for letters of support if they wanted to be involved in this. Hopefully out of that will come some direction on whether they want to set up some sort of healing centre in the old mission school grounds. We feel that is where they took away a lot of our culture and we would like to put something healing there that would help us move forward. Repatriation, we have an open invitation to all 14 First Nations. We had found during transboundary negotiations, that the Museum of Civilization in Quebec has a two of boxes with old remains which they have had for over 50 years. We are now doing a repatriation of those and we'll be having a potlatch for July 24. We will bury the remains around Marsh Lake and two days of potlatch after that in Tagish. Two of our Elders will go to Ottawa to travel back with the remains and we will be able to put them away in a good and respectful way. We have one of our drummers going into the daycare with an assistant to teach the language and songs. We also have an Elder going in to teach language - lot of positive things happening with our daycare. Elder Winnie Atlin and Vannie Smith are on the radio from the school and do their programming there. We have Ida Calmagin for the Tagish area and Mrs. Clara Schinkel for Whitehorse area for our people there. Negotiations, we haven't signed off yet. There are a couple of issues that we want to clear up. We went to court over the tax issues that we get the same three years as everybody else. We would like to recommend that we have a resolution to have CYFN and AFN to host a conference in 1999 to consider the Delgamuukw. Devolution, we are not in agreement with that. District Governance, we are working on bringing in non-First Nations people in our traditional territory so we are all working together. There is a Carcross Community Advisory Board, they work closely with Chief and Council -we have members there that speak on the First Nations behalf.

Another resolution we would like to put forward is a Sharing Accord. This is in regards to the same issues we brought up last year - hunting and fishing on each other's traditional territories. Chief Bob Charlie talked about transboundaries, we're working on that with Champagne Aishihik First Nation and with the BC side.

Selkirk First Nations - Lucy McGinty recently elected Chief. Extend thanks to Champagne Aishihik First Nation for hosting this General Assembly, and our condolences to Old Crow and Whitehorse for their losses. Selkirk too has had losses since I've been elected in February. I am still getting updated. We recently had a General Assembly which gave us a mandate. The main concerns are around youth and the use of alcohol and drugs and losing the language and culture. Education and training is also another big concern and learning to use the land. Economic Development - we were advised to approach this with caution, there are a number of development proposals in the community at the moment. My Council and I have a big mandate to work with for the next year. I look forward to working with many of you in one way or another.

Teslin Tlingit Council - We've been actively involved in a range of issues from negotiations to the implementation agreement, establishing our structures; on the political side, we're involved with the Northern First Nations Summit. Kaskas, Tahltas, Southern Tutchone and Tlingits - negotiating transboundaries with the other governments and BC. We are also involved by way of negotiations in the administration of justice, those are past the framework stage and we're looking for an agreement in principle. At the end of negotiations, we want to be fully involved in all justice issues, our laws, our courts and hopefully law enforcement. It is a big process and involves the whole community. We would like to work with Elders on this. We've passed our own laws dealing with wildlife, our land, and the administration. The administration of justice is important and a key component as to how our governments are evolving. We're also involved by way of a central caucus with PSTA, working with government is an exercise in futility - their honouring and recognizing a commitment and obligation. Our General Council accepted and give us mandates to implement some significant policies. We're no longer following the guidelines in the Indian Act in Social Development. The approach we are taking is based on individual self sufficiency. We are instilling respect and pride in our people. Another policy dealt with housing, we want to privatize all our houses and pass ownership. This is a major change to how housing has been administered in the past. Another significant policy that goes along with housing is the privatizing of parcels of land. Individuals will be responsible for their own housing and land. Other areas, is the implementation of our Agreements. We are having difficulty with those process that deal with public - land use planning being one. Meanwhile the government is looking at land use in our territory and making decisions that will affect our long term sustainability of some of the resources in our territory. One of them being forestry. They are looking at a total allowable harvest. The amount that was allocated for harvesting increased something like 2000%. We are challenging the technical information that they based their decisions on. Regional economic development planning processes. We want to establish a planning process where we can develop a plan with respect to how our economy is at the regional level. As well how we'll become participants in creating a viable economy within our traditional territory. That has gone nowhere, so there are certain process that lead to cycles of

frustration. We are in the process of having a review of the overall implementation of our agreements. We want a clear understanding of the obligations of all parties to the implementation of our agreements. We want to ensure the governments understand their obligations and to what extent those agreements have been violated. We are also looking at taking control of Education, it is crucial to our people. We are beginning that process and establishing an education authority, hopefully we'll be able to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement. We are attempting to negotiate an intergovernmental relations document with YTG. We are still in the preliminary stages, but I want to see this concluded during my term as Chief. Economic Development - we have a number of investments, and acquired some businesses, we relocated one business (Yukon River Timber) to Teslin from Marsh Lake and by the end of July we will be manufacturing log homes. We attended a trade show in Fairbanks and received a great deal of interest. There is potential of marketing these products in Alaska. We own Teslin Outfitters, a big game operations. This is our second full season, we are restructuring this because we want to focus on eco-tourism on a long term basis. We will be constructing a heritage centre. Want to complement Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation on their heritage facility. We want to use the same architect. We want to establish a heritage and interpretation centre. We want to create our presence within our own territory. We have done a lot in the last year. Thanks.

Kluane First Nations - (Chief Bob Johnson) - I just arrived, I will do introductions, we have Elder Dick Dickson, Robin Bradasch, Donald Easterson and Kathleen Johnson. We have two councillors in Burwash dealing with a State of Emergency, so we asked these people to come and represent KFN during this General Assembly. Thank Champagne Aishihik First Nation for hosting this General Assembly. KFN would still like to host one in the near future. Thank the Chiefs that came to Burwash, Bob Charlie, David Johnny and other Chiefs that phoned. As well, thanks to Shirley Adamson, Grand Chief of CYFN for coming out and Mary Jane Jim-Cant Vice Chief of the AFN for all the support during the last few days. Burwash is still in state of emergency and we're on 24 hour notice of evacuation. I am here for a short period. We are looking at how to prevent this from happening to anyone. We are near completion of Final and Self Government Agreements. We have some concerns on the loans issues and are pursuing claims for our Kluane National Park claims. These are putting some delays in our negotiations. Meetings have been cancelled due to the fire. We would like to thank White River for our overlap agreement, we are trying to restructure our Council, take out our roles of portfolio holders and put in just a general Council. Our goal is to become self sufficient and self governing in the near future. Thanks to everyone for your support and I hope this doesn't happen to anyone.

Little Salmon Carmacks - We feel badly for Old Crow, this was shocking news to Little Salmon Carmacks First Nations. We have been busy with implementation since signing May 3, 1996. We have finished the taxation agreement, we started out January 1 1999 paying tax. We have been working hard with Northern Tutchone Council on justice and we have more to do on that. We have been involved since 1996 on implementation, PSTA. They are still negotiating trying to get money from government for PSTA and timber harvesting and forestry. Russell Blackjack has been working hard on Land Use Planning issues and settlement lands. They will take another look at the Settlement Land Act at a special assembly in September. We had a meeting and are working with Carmacks, Pelly, Dawson and Mayo on the overlap issue - having

a hard time with that. There is a lot involved in overlap issues. It has been on the table for a long time so we need to sit down at the table and hammer out an agreement. We need to set up some kind of Fish and Wildlife Management Board; not only for animals, but also for timber and forestry, to make sure that managements are working together on overlap issues. Environment cleanup - who will clean up on overlap. As well there are quite a few other things, fish spawning, calving grounds, protected areas and habitat areas. We have to protect our animals, look at next year what are we going to eat, for our grandchildren too and we have to look at trees too. I don't want to leave a lot of stumps for our grandchildren. They will look at what his grandmother and grandfather left for him. There is a need for a sharing accord which goes along with overlap, including management board and future planning. Elders have said we should take the boundary off. There are two kinds of people, one wants the boundary off and one wants to leave the line there. We need to work on it. There will be impacts on jobs. There is lots to talk about with the other First Nations. Thank you.

Nacho Nyak Dun - Greetings to everyone and thanks to the host Chief Charlie and Champagne Aishihik First Nation for inviting us to their territory for this General Assembly. Introduce delegates, Acting Chief Barb Buyck, Sharon Peter Acting Deputy Chief, Elma Moses councillor, Johnson Peter, councillor, Councillor Frank Patterson stayed in Mayo due to the fire situation there. He sends his regards and hopes everyone has a successful GA. We have Elders Dave Moses, Jimmy Lucas, Robert Hagar, Mary Battaja will be joining us. Debbie Buyck, is our C.H.R. We just finished our General Assembly. Chief Germaine put in his resignation so there will be elections around July 20. There will be an election for Chief, Deputy Chief and two Crow and two Wolf Councillors, as well the Elders Council will be coming up at that time. Some concerns that came up are with DIA in regards to forest fire suppression activities. We have sent a letter supporting an internal review. Housing concerns are still an issue, we need to do some work with CMHC. We do have some concerns on the info kits, we would appreciate it being given out prior to the GA so we can prepare for it. Maybe next year we can get the info kits out a week before the GA starts. We are still looking at capacity building within our First Nations so can start implementation of our agreements. There is still a lot of concern about the gun law, we're hoping to get an update. We know CYFN was given a mandate on this but we don't see it on the agenda. We would like more discussion and updates. We have a lot of education concerns, students are dropping out of grade 12 and those that don't are still not reading and writing to a grade 12 level. We are hoping that a review of the *Education Act* will identify and put in some safeguards so that we can protect our interests and have our people educated in the school system. We also see the need to continue the visioning work between YTG and CYFN. We haven't done anything on that since February, so we see the need to get that process going again. Looking forward to working with our neighbouring First Nation on overlap issues. Discussion started with Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation, although there is still a lot of work to be done. Still trying to get Elders and Youth more involved in First Nations issues. There is still a lot of concern that our language is not being spoken enough and we want to be able to have our language revived, and there needs to be more work on the land. Health issues are a concern due to the cutbacks with MSB. Our citizens are suffering, MSB, YTG, and the Feds are not giving them the dollars to travel and see the doctors. We are still working with Natural Resources Canada out of Ottawa. Nacho Nyak Dun has been identified as a pilot project under the

sustainable communities initiative. We have Albert Peter, Steve Kohn and Doug Van Bibber as our key team players. They've been working with Elders and the Youth and are recruiting more partners into this relationship. You'll be hearing more about this in the coming months. We are looking forward to continuing work in the Land Use Planning area. These are just some of the issues, I apologize for being late, thanks to host and look forward to working with every one over the next four days.

Grand Chief Shirley Adamson - This is in response to issues raised by two First Nations with regards to providing the information in advance. During the April 13-16 Leadership meeting the Chiefs reviewed the agenda and the terms of reference for the Chairs, identified and approved the selection of Chair and Co-Chair and reviewed and approved for the tabling here the Rules of Order and election of Grand Chief. At that time they received about 95% of the reports. I'm not sure how we would improve on that. It was expected the Chiefs would bring this back to the communities and that they would be handed to the delegates. This morning, when we were talking about the voting age, the delegations from the communities weren't complete up to this point. I am willing to accept discussion on improvements for that. You need to be aware that the information has been in your community for at least a month, longer than that, since April.

Rose Marie Blair-Smith, White River First Nation - In all fairness, we also raised this concern three years ago, it has to do with accountability for reports, we are not dumping on CYFN. The process that has been established is not working, so we must devise a better system in order to get the information to the communities regardless of whether it goes to the Chiefs first. We must devise a system that helps us participate at a level that is expected around this table. We need to get better at the job, we make decisions that affect people's lives. Myself as a member, as community members, we give direction to our leaders. I'm not criticizing, I'm saying it is not working, so let's fix it. Maybe we need a committee; I will volunteer however you want to devise a system.

Ed Schultz - In my report, I am recommending that CYFN look at its communications strategy for implementation purposes and perhaps we could discuss it further then.

James Allen Co-Chair - Close to community reports. From our reports we all seem to be developing new processes and structures. We could all work together since other First Nations have gone through the processes and we could learn and help each other. We all endure growing pains now that we are becoming self governing.

Rose Marie Blair-Smith, White River First Nation - I apologize but our new Chief is here now David Johnny; and Councillor, Stan Peters would like to address the Assembly

Stan Peters, White River First Nation- Thank you for giving us the time, I would like to mention the passing of our former Chief Margaret Nieman Glazier suddenly in November 1998. There is something that is missing in the grieving process, it seems like it happened a couple of days ago. The people took the situation the best that they can, our First Nation had to continue going ahead. People have discussed language issues, (spoke in Native Language) Why do we

talk about our languages and we don't try to talk it. Are you afraid that somebody will laugh at you. I would love if you laughed at me, because that means you heard me. They tried to take it out of me in schools - I was whipped, strapped, three foot rulers broke over my hands- but there is a tenacity inside of me saying that I was a Northern Tutchone person who knew who I was. And my first language was Northern Tutchone, not English. We have to talk in our language to talk about getting control of our languages. We need to get hold of Aboriginal Language Services, get it transferred to CYFN from YTG, the sooner the better. We are the most qualified with our languages, there should be documentation with a concentration on traditional laws and knowledge. For all boards and committees -whether in the communities or CYFN- there should be orientations about these knowledge's. We're exploring issues that affect our membership, that deals with cross border issues, relating to direct benefits to services. We have directed tax moneys to our Elders; they get \$1000 / month, we believe they deserve it and are getting help on how to budget and things like that. Thank you.

Elder, Roddy Blackjack - We have lots of things that should be on the table, but what is on this agenda is not enough and not enough time. We had a lot of problem with this meeting that someone pass away here and there so we are short of people here, we start late. The most important thing I like to say is. We talk about our Self Government as a First Nation and our law and put our law back in place. For a long time we just talk and nothing else. We should start to do something together. We all think the same way under our Self Government, under our First Nation law. We should put something to it. We talk about our great grandmother and great grandfather and the law coming from outside get us into trouble because we don't know nothing about it. When I talk about our tradition, knowledge and law, that's our First Nation law. I mention this almost every time we have a meeting, but nothing been done. We should put our Elders separate to talk about the law from great grandfather to try and put our kids back in line. Our gun law is important - to me anyways. The Yukon is still the bush, bear wander around, hungry wolf eat your dog from out in the yard, they don't do that in the big city. White People that put law from Ottawa for the Yukon is hard for us to follow. We should put Elders together to talk about these kinds of things for our future generations use. Let the White People make their own law, make things harder for themselves. We use that for hunting, we need guns for self defence and to put food on the table. Ottawa don't know nothing about all this kind of thing, about how the First Nations use weapon. Another thing is the trapline business. Every First Nations have trapline since we first start talk about land claims, but we don't hear nothing about this now. We should talk about compensation for this.

Elder Moose Jackson, Champagne Aishihik First Nation - I agree with Roddy about the Elders getting together and about living on game and trapline and all that. We were here before the White People, we used to look after our game better than those White People look after our game today. They close that game down for two or three years. Today we only depend on White People and we are nothing to them; they come with a law that says you will go to jail if you go fishing, trapping or hunting. You have to go in hunting season which is two or three weeks or one month hunting season. With our Self Government, where are we going to go. We have to talk about what we are going to do, or stand for, what kind of law we are going to have in our community. We have to get together to get things done. People talk about what we going to do.

We all stand together to get something done. Government want to make all the decisions, we got nothing to say for ourselves. If we are Self Government, then we stand beside the White People, we should all agree.

Elder, Percy Henry - An Elder once told me if you respect the people you talk to get off your butt, so I will stand up. Regarding the election, I say we should put our head together before we turn the page. 100 years ago in Dawson, Chief Isaac saw White People starting to come in, so he called a meeting in Dawson. Selkirk was there, Alaska was there, and they talked about the future. They see what's going to happen, those days there were no such thing as boundary, we are all one people. They say about what's going to happen with the fish, the game. What do we see for our children's future, could we tell them we listened to government policy, all we listened to is war, all we listened to is what they are bringing in to this country. Who is going to pay for it - we pay for it. Our Elders told us we got problems and I think I see it today. I know when I was a little kid, a speaker would go in the middle of the floor and speak, those days are gone now we sit on our butt and talk through a machine. We ask Elders what happen 10 years ago and he could tell you exactly what time and what day. It was all up in here (head). Today we have it all in here (points to papers) tomorrow we go home and next week we forget all about it. The young people know more about what we are doing today then we do. In lots of places I travel to they call their own meeting, build their own houses and have meetings there. And we called them stupid, they don't talk, they don't listen. I guess we caused that because we don't look at them, we don't trust them. I think we should go to their meetings to see what they are doing and we sit back and listen. Lots of our kids have graduated this year, I was so proud. They had youth conference, but now. We used to go to jail to speak to them, we used to go to college to speak to them. They need encouragement, we need to trust them. Why are we talking about Government when there is a forest fire burning our country and we can't do nothing. Why do we have to go through a big pile of paper while our country burns. The Self Governments should exercise the right for the land and do it, don't wait for the country to burn up. We got game in there, our life is in it. What happened to the world today, are we blind. I think we should exercise our Self Government and see if we go to jail. We haven't got big pile of paper to go to them, we got Shirley and one Elder to tell them what they want. Elders, please come together like Roddy Blackjack says to talk about these things. Thank you.

Elder, Fred Brown -I agree with the Elders that are speaking here. I think the Elders should be stepping in before the young could tell the Elders what to do. It is important for the younger people, not the Elders. The younger people, do they know their history, their background. I knew this place for many years. You talk about a few hundred years back. In 1940 I was around here, my father was born in this country, my mother was from Aishihik area. We travelled those communities quite often. To give you a good story of what lies ahead for us. We got our history. Do the young people have the history, do they raise their children like my parents raised me? My mother and dad taught me, the Elders taught me so I don't have to have workshops. What I hear today is a lot of workshops going on simply because the young parents are not talking to their children. When you teach the children, you raise them up right from the beginning. That is how they learn, they follow your footsteps. I think we all better get together and help together. Have a run at this Self Government. Self Government means money. You got to have money in your

pocket to survive. My mother and dad had Self Government before, they didn't go to welfare like we do today. I know what we're here for, it seems like every meeting that I go to, it seems like everything is stuck on paper and we're not getting nowhere. I knew Elijah Smith when he got started - he is a brother to me. I told him a lot of times that no, its not going to work. He got started by this brotherhood named Louie Wolf. He was an outsider. We have different band from different area, we know what our law is, if you have outsiders coming join your band, they are going to put a different agenda with different wording for your country. To make my word clear to you. It doesn't take long to get in your car and go to a different country, like Alberta or BC and you can see that what they say is going to be different. We should thank the people that bring us the road and good transportation out there. Land, it is easy to say this is my land, but this is not your land, you just live here. I have heard the stories about this land. When you make decisions, you should go one by one, and should make sure there is an Elder there who has done it with their hand, not just read the paper. In my mother's lifetime, she saw what is going on today, from Model A Ford, from stone axe, right up to computers today. Computers do the thinking for you, you don't know how to write the way I do. You go to computers, a lot of mistake goes to the computer, and the computer do your corrections for you. When I went to school, just a few days at a time, the Anglican Church came up here and even travelled on our trail to Klukshu and have a little school there day by day, now we have it so easy. We should be thankful. Non-native people put themselves through school, they come from far country to work, put themselves through school. We are lucky here as native people that we have good treatment. That's all thank you.

Elder, John Joe Kay - I would like to put my comments on the table for you. My area, Vuntut Gwitchin nation used to be a strong people. My grandfather and great grandfather used to talk, I never had the education,. Before I got married I was always with older people, they gave me the history. They showed me how to use it, I use it today still. Every year I show how to set traps, snares and things like that that the Elders taught me. I went through lots of good teachers. I like to see Yukon Nation children learn the old history, they are going to use it some day. What the old people said to me when I was 16 years old, its troubling today. I worry about the generations all the time. The younger generation is important. We still use the water today like the older people. I wish every one of you hug each other for the children tomorrow. That's all I wanted to say again, thank you.

Elder, Danny Joe - Good afternoon, it's nice to be here and see you once again. As I hear from some Elders speaking, I am not going to come down on youth. I am very proud of you, you are this far, you have come a long ways. You did your best with what you can, that is the most important. The young people they are just learning, I don't want to hurt them. I have been working with young people, I enjoy it. I thought they would work too fast for me, but they work too slow for me. They exercise Self Government, our traditional laws, exercise justice, so I work along with them. They are doing well, but it is going to take time. We run into a lot of problem too to keep it going. If we don't do anything about ourselves, nobody going to do it for us. A few things I hear, communication problem. My understanding is you call a Chief meeting every month, how come you don't communicate with each other. Its a shame we are losing our language. I could speak our language, but you won't understand me. Vuntut Gwitchin,

Northwest Territories Slavey, Ross River they are the only people who can understand. That young person speaking over there (Stan Peters) I understand him clearly. It's nothing to be ashamed, we should be proud of who we are. As we are sitting here today, we are leading our young people. One other thing, Bill C68 is going to be on the agenda, but what are we going to get out of it. We are just going to get updates, that is not very much. I don't know why we can't invite the Minister to this kind of meeting. Another thing is about the gun law, we should speak to the Minister Allen Rock, we have to be good to him instead of beat him up. The farthest he went is Whitehorse and he got beat up, we shouldn't beat him up, we have to be good before they will listen. We should start educating him, take him to the community, so he can truly learn about the North. Send him to Pelly Crossing. Thank you.

Elder Billy Peter - I have been here a long time, but I never see this hall. It look pretty good and it is good to see lots of people. If we get all the Elders together, we can talk about things like the gun law. I would like to see a law for justice. We did lots in Carmacks for the justice, we cut the wine down., people that used to drink it get dressed better. We need it to help us work together with the White People. That is what we are doing in Carmacks. We are Self Government so we have to do something different than before. I know the way we live a long time ago, I bring water from Carmacks, lots of things different from way before. A long time ago we used to drink water from the snow, anyplace we were not scared of nothing. But this day you have to buy water, go to the store to buy water to drink. That is a bad thing for our country. We have been living all our life here, we have to keep it clean. They spoil everything with the mines. We have to wait for a little while before something ready, have to have money for our younger people. The Elder will be gone later, the young people have to keep on. We have to be together all the time, it is good. Stan Peter, I know his dad, he speak pretty good, I can hear him. Freddy Brown, I been to school with him a long time in Carcross. Those days, it was a hard time to get into grade 1. I only went to grade 4. That is how far I could make it, hard to go past. This time it seems too easy. I like to hear that we get the Elders to the side. I like to thank all our leaders, I like to listen to them. Thank you.

Close of the community report section.

Agenda Items

James Allen, Co-Chair: The next section is heavy, a lot of people just got their packages and haven't had time to read what is in it. One option is to save the Grand Chief's report to tomorrow.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair: Good idea to leave it to tomorrow if that is the wish of this Assembly. A reminder that it was decided to leave the resolutions from the 1998 General Assembly, they need to be adopted in conjunction with the Grand Chief's report.

Discussion to leave the Grand Chief's report until tomorrow, with all the subreports.

Grand Chief Shirley Adamson - I would like the opportunity to provide the report today because it lays the groundwork for the other reports. It is advantageous to have a review of the

mandate that you Chiefs gave on behalf of your citizens over the course of the year. I am charged with administering the mandate on your behalf. My preference would be to lay the foundation today and get into the bulk of the reports tomorrow. My reports include reports from all the staff, so you need to understand what I am explaining before they give their reports.

15 minute break at 4:30 reconvene at 4:55

Grand Chief's Report

Grand Chief Shirley Adamson - Read the Report of the Grand Chief, page 4, and Summary of Action Statements, Motions, Resolutions, pgs 5 to 14, Council of Yukon First Nations report to The 19th Annual General Assembly Champagne Aishihik Traditional Territory, Sha dhal ra ku June 22-26, 1999. (Attached)

There is one correction on page 8, number 6 - the error was that the Chiefs instructed the negotiators to draft a letter rejecting an invitation from Government and interest groups to a DAP forum. The Chiefs received invitations and said thanks but no thanks.

This is a summary of all resolutions, actions, and discussions for the past year. I wanted to provide a foundation because the staff will report to you based on these mandates from the Chiefs here. They will be able to answer questions at that point in time, I will be able to help and the Chiefs that were present can help too.

With regards to the resolutions from the last General Assembly. (18th GA) (Attached)

Resolution #1 Traditional Territories - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

That was withdrawn to be placed on the Leadership agenda. That is there as a matter of record, but as you heard in my foundation report it was dealt with by the Chiefs.

Resolution #2 Sharing Summit - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

We have been unable to achieve that during the past year. We had approached Minister Fairclough and had some initial discussions, but there was not at any point a rejection of the idea, what had happened was we didn't find the time to move it forward. In order to get it a priority, I talked to the Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Lawrence Joe, and he will offer the assistance of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board over the next little while for us to try and achieve this instruction of having a Sharing Summit. With regards to not be able to achieve this, on the part of CYFN it is a lack of human and financial resources. That is going to take more time than allocated to us of a year.

Resolution #3 First Nations Firearms Act - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

Confirm the delegations under the delegation agreement. The Chiefs have not done that yet. The General Assembly instructed the Leadership to seek and secure funding to constitutionally challenge the Firearms Act of Canada. There is no funding available. The GA also requested the Leadership coordinate the strategy with the Leadership of the Assembly of First Nations. The Leadership will probably hear some discussion on that when the Vice Chief makes her report to

the Assembly. The GA further instructed the Leadership to pass the Yukon First Nations Firearms Act as it deems expedient and necessary. We can report that we are moving ahead on that and are currently working on a registration system and are receiving proposals on training firearms officers for each of the individual First Nations. I've had initial discussions with RCMP to see how they could help.

Resolution #4 Review of the YTG Liquor Act - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

It was resolved to have the Grand Chief approach the YTG Minister of Liquor Corporation to initiate a review of the YTG Liquor Act. I have had initial discussions with Minister Fairclough and the Chair of the Yukon Liquor Corporation and there will be more detail given in the report by Mickey Ferguson for Health and Social Development Commission.

Resolution #5 UFA Boards and Committees. Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

That was done, invitations were issued and most boards are confirmed and you will see that listed in your General Assembly agenda.

Resolution #6 Land Use Planning - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

There will be a report from the Land Use Planning Committee; they have already met two times with Leadership and they will report directly to you.

Resolution #7 Work Opportunities - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

Indeed CYFN Grand Chief meets regularly with the Commanding Officer, he has been in attendance and has accepted an invitation to report to you and will be on the agenda probably on Thursday. We discuss issues not only such as this, but any number of issues that are raised from the First Nations perspective or the RCMP's perspective.

Resolution #8 Hiring Notification - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

I can report that all positions are posted, including short term and contracts and as well we are using the services of CHON FM to access more First Nations people. We do have a representative public work force plan in place.

Resolution #9 Adoption of Yukon First Nations Statement of Values and Principals for the Management of Yukon Forest Lands by the General Assembly of the Council of Yukon First Nations - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

Tim Cant will speak on more detail when he makes his report on this.

Resolution #10 On the Establishment of a Yukon First Nations Community Forest - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

This resolution was passed by a majority vote, 10 for and 1 against. Tim Cant will speak in more detail on this when he makes his report.

Resolution #11 of the Shareholders of Yukon Indian Development Corporation Ltd. (The "Corporation") Passed in Lieu of Holding an Annual General Meeting - Read "Therefore be it resolved ..."

One correction, number 7 should read 'ensuing year', rather than 'ensuring year.' There will be a full report from Dänä Naye Ventures and Yukon Indian Development Corporation.

This is a foundation of the mandate given to your employees on your behalf by your leadership over the course of the year. The reports you will hear tomorrow will have details on these instructions.

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - We will reserve questions until tomorrow and we will have the full adoption of the Chief's report.

Announcements

Victoria Fred, Co-Chair - We will proceed tomorrow morning starting with DAP on page 2 of your agenda; note that there is an initial voter's list posted in the front entrance way. I ask the delegates to check for accuracy and if its not, report to Vic Mitander or Barbara Hume. There was a strategy document handed out before the break, please review it for tomorrow.

James Allen, Co-Chair - I'd like to first acknowledge the Chief from White River, thanks for making it here. I would also like to acknowledge Paul Birckel, he's been at these General Assemblies forever. We would like to acknowledge him because he has a long history with helping Native causes, from the days of CYI and from the days of status and nonstatus Indians. Paul is now the head of the development corporation, so he hasn't finished helping Indian People yet.

Paul Birckel - It's great to be here, I couldn't miss a GA; for 23 years this is probably the first time I'm not a delegate or a part of it. CYI helped organize and get all the status and non-status and CYI itself we had three different delegates. Those were the days when things were building and the bands were just starting to mature and get together. From the years I sat around the table here, I've seen a tremendous amount of growth. The majority of bands now have Self Government. That is great to see, we're starting to assert some of our powers, but I think we still have a long ways to go. By being together and meeting together I think we can achieve anything in the Yukon. I would like to congratulate you all for being together and I wish the others were here too. We are still missing ingredients of having the others here too. We've all had great fun in the past. I could tell great stories of things that have happened in the past. I remember Harry Allen in Ross River one time, he was going across that rickety old bridge and there was an old man that had a couple of cases of beer. Harry decided to help him pack that beer and when he got to the other side, people were giving him hell for having a big party on the other side. So there were good things. I always enjoyed camping with everybody. That is the part that I miss this time around. I live close to town and I am trying to finish my house. Good luck with all your deliberations.

Tonight's ceremonies - Welcome march to Champagne Aishihik First Nation Traditional Territory by Chief Bob Charlie and the Elder and Dancers. Welcome to Champagne by Alex Van Bibber, Southern Tutchone version of "Oh Canada" by Marie Tuton Smith, Charmaine Moose, Ken Kane's welcome and Tagish Nation Dancers, closing remarks by Bob Charlie and Sara

Emma Jean. And the evening's activities, horse shoe tournament, other adult events, don't forget in the info package the questionnaire contest.

Closing Prayer at 6:10 pm- Elder, Pearl Keenan