

Happy Gwich'in Day! IRC congratulates the Gwich'in Nation on 30 years since the signing of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement with Canada

April 22, 2022 [INUVIK] – On behalf of our Chair and CEO, Board of Directors and staff, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation is pleased to issue our heartfelt congratulations to the Gwich'in Nation, represented by their Gwich'in Tribal Council, for the 30 years since the signing of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement with Canada.

“This is a major milestone. We hope you take the time to realize your achievements and to honour your Elders and all your leaders, especially those past, for an agreement to uphold the Gwich'in Settlement Area's vast land, waterways and resources for your protection and use, uphold the rights of your people to succeed in their life, and continue to celebrate your Indigenous rights, culture and history,” said Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, IRC Chair and CEO.

IRC is proud of our collaboration with Gwich'in Tribal Council on areas of economic and social wellbeing, educational advancement and the health of our lands and people. We look forward to continuing to work together to regain traditional languages, negotiate real self-governance and ensure our Indigenous rights while working hard for reconciliation, self-determination and in holding governments to account.

From a place of close friendship, we wish our neighbours the best in the work ahead to implement the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement for the benefit of your people.

We know many across your communities have gone through many recent challenges and loss recently and our thoughts go out to you in your grieving as well.

Enjoy your commemorative activities and Old Time Dance in this 30th year and we wish Gwich'in a beautiful, bountiful and safe spring season.