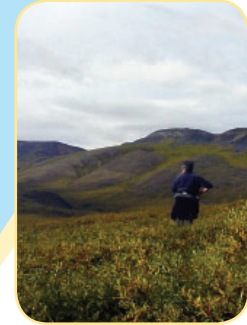




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Gwich'in Land and Water Board

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board is a regulatory authority established under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and given effect by the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act to provide an integrated and coordinated system of land management in the Mackenzie Valley. The Board regulates the use of land and water by issuing, amending, renewing and suspending land use permits and water licences throughout the Gwich'in Settlement Area, which includes all Crown, Gwich'in and private lands.

The Board's objective

is to provide for conservation, development and utilization of the land and water resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area in a way that creates the most benefit for present and future residents of the settlement area, the Mackenzie Valley and for all Canadians.

The Members

The Board has five members. The Gwich'in Tribal Council nominates two and the other two are nominated by the territorial and federal governments. The four members then nominate the Chair. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development appoints all nominees to the Board for a term of three years.

2003/2004

The fiscal year 2003/2004 was the Board's fifth full year of operation. There were 13 applications for land use permits and two for water licences, all of which were approved. The Board has six employees but, in anticipation of land use and water use applications for the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, will be hiring two or three more staff in September, 2004.

Board objectives for the coming year include, but are not limited to, the following:

- To maintain an efficient and timely method of processing land use permits and water licences;
- To continue to employ and train qualified first nations peoples;
- To continue to develop a more effective communication process with the Gwich'in communities; and
- To continue to work with other co-management boards in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and elsewhere in the Mackenzie Valley.

