

Readying for the Arctic Decade
Enhancing the organizational capacity of the Permanent Participants
Iqaluit, NU
January 16-17, 2008

Travelers: Lorraine Peter (GCI member); Bridget Larocque (GCI staff)

Funding: WDFW and DFAIT

Purpose of Trip: What steps do the PPs need to take to enhance its capacity and what plans need to be developed to secure funding and guarantee its existence and need.

Background: As Canada is diminishing its funding support to groups such as GCI there is a need to seek other funding sources but this requires that GCI has a strong developed communication and strategic plan.

The WDFW was seriously considering backing out of funding any proposal submitted by the GCI and AAC as it came evident to them that we were not reaching out to our members and any youth initiative proposals were not developed by the youth so would not directly benefit the youth. We were informed that if it was not for Stephen Mills who strongly encouraged the WDFW to rethink its position and thankfully they did.

The WDFW has northern members on its board and they have held annual meetings in the North.

General Summary of Meeting: The big question was “What steps do the PPs need to take to ensure their existence not only from a financial perspective but also within their Nation?”

Themes addressed were: Communication and Information Sharing; Maintaining Corporate Knowledge and Continuity; Strategic Planning; Fundraising and Financial Resource Development.

Discussion centered on the need for the PP organization to speak with one voice, to be well organized, praise its success stories through the media and the Nation; prove its commitment to the youth.

The WDFW and IPS will consider a proposal to assist the PPs in developing its communication and strategic plans.

The WDFW will assist with obtaining charitable status by lending its legal advisor to GCI.

Upcoming Meetings: The WDFG will set up a meeting with possible funding foundations before the fiscal year end with the PPs and leadership

Personal thoughts and Opinions: It is apparent that GCI will have to seriously seek external funding and encourage its political, economic and social organizations to promote the work of GCI and the need for such an organization. With so many of the Nations organizations seeking funding from the same sources the well is running dry. This is also causing concern and confusion about whether or not we are working collectively or independently.

We need to include our youth in the hopes of enhancing our capacity; we need to share our success stories.

The biggest effort must be to establish tripartite arrangements among the PPs; the PPs must not only demonstrate that they can work collectively but that they can speak, on occasion, with one voice and that they are serious about international foreign policy.

Future Considerations of GCI: GCI must develop a communication and strategic plan which must be the bases of its future work. These plans must be well developed and be approved by its membership. This will demonstrate to foundations and other funding sources that GCI is an established and recognized organization. Ensure inclusion of youth at the local, regional, national and international levels of policy making and international affairs.

Executive Director of GCI future work: To maintain relationship with the Canadian PP staff; continue to work closely with WDFG staff; keep GCI members informed; continue to support youth and elder involvement in GCI's work.