

Approved  
version: Sept 22nd 2014.

Tłıchq Government

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE: Board of Directors of the Dedats'eetsaa: Tłıchq Research & Training Institute**

### **1. Delegation of Authority:**

The Tłıchq Government *Board of Directors of the Dedats'eetsaa Tłıchq Research and Training Institute* is created as an advisory board to the Tłıchq Government by the Chiefs Executive Council. Major recommendations of the *Advisory Board to the Dedats'eetsaa Tłıchq Research and Training Institute* are made to the Chiefs Executive Committee (CEC).

### **2. Purpose/ Mandate:**

Under the direction of the Chiefs Executive Council of the Tłıchq Government, the mandate of the *Board of Directors to the Dedats'eetsaa Tłıchq Research and Training Institute* (TRTI) is to advance the study of Tłıchq lands, language, culture and way of life. This will be done through the promotion of research, and its use for training, education and monitoring Government commitments and responsibilities, within a Tłıchq cultural framework.

### **3. Membership:**

The *Board of Directors to the Dedats'eetsaa Tłıchq Research and Training Institute* is composed of Tłıchq elders, staff and academic researchers. Elders and staff are chosen to participate based on a consideration of people who possess recognized Tłıchq cultural knowledge, and/or have experience participating in community based action research initiatives in the fields of education, public health and wellness, child and family services and other disciplines.

Academic researchers are chosen to participate based on a consideration of their contributions to the region through their own research, and/or support for community based research initiatives and relevant research topics of interest to the Tłıchq Government.

*Research Approval Sub-Committee:* The Board of Directors also includes a Research Approval Sub-Committee. In the NWT, all scientific research must be licensed under the NWT Scientists Act (1988). As part of the licensing, this Act requires community approval for research proposed to be conducted in each region. *The Research Approval Sub-Committee* is composed of three members including the coordinator of the sub-committee who is a TG staff member. The Committee reviews and approve applications for research in the region and indicates any concerns about the ethics, methodology or

content of the research to the Chiefs' Executive Council. The Committee will also take responsibility for developing a protocol governing decisions to approve outside research.

*Chairperson:* The Board of Directors will have a chairperson. The chairperson will be selected by the Chiefs Executive Council of the Tłıchq Government. The chairperson will represent the Dedats'eetsaa Tłıchq Research and Training Institute in the media and at all public functions as well as report on the activities of the Institute to the Chiefs Executive Council. The chairperson will take responsibility for the organization of the agenda of meetings in consultation with members, and the staff coordinator, as well as perform other tasks that may be assigned by the CEC and the Board of Directors.

*Member roles and responsibilities:* Members of the Board of Directors are responsible to assist in setting agendas, attend meetings as often as possible, participate in discussions constructively and complete any assignments that may be agreed to during the meetings. *Working groups or teams* may be established by the Board of Directors, or individuals may volunteer to achieve specific aims and objectives.

#### **4. Meetings:**

The *Board of Directors of the Dedats'eetsaa Tłıchq Research and Training Institute* will meet in person or by teleconference approximately every 3-4 months. Additional meetings will be called as necessary. Members may participate in person, by teleconference, by internet connections on Skype, Go-to Meeting or other appropriate application. Meetings will usually be hosted in Yellowknife and/or Behchokò depending on circumstances, the last Monday afternoon of every third month, except as decided otherwise by the Committee members.

#### **5. Objectives of the Board of Directors:**

The objectives of the *Board of Directors* is to support the growth and development of the *Dedats'eetsaa Tłıchq Research and Training Institute* and will emerge from the promotion of research, and education and training for regional capacity building. These objectives are the following:

##### **5.1 Research:**

5.1 a) The promotion of research of value to the Tłıchq communities and Tłıchq Government, especially inquiry which studies the traditional knowledge of our elders concerning our lands, language, culture and way of life;

5.1 b) The promotion of the development and use of indigenous research design and appropriate community methodologies such as narrative and participatory action research. These methods can be based on an exploration of aboriginal ways of knowing that make "qualitative sense of diverse variables" by being deeply contextual, relational and integrated with an on-the-land focus;

5.1 c) The promotion of research that supports the education and training of Tłıchq̓ youth by Tłıchq̓ elders while encouraging engagement with contemporary issues;

5.1 d) Review proposed research submitted for licensing through the Aurora Research Institute under the NWT Scientists Act, and provide approvals or voice concerns as necessary to the CEC;

5.1 e) Foster communications between researchers working or proposing to work in the region;

5.1 f) Provide support and assistance to approved researchers by fostering communications between researchers working or proposing to work in the region and including local field resources wherever possible such as cultural consultants, guides, and community infrastructure including access to offices, accommodation and related resources;

5.1 g) Enhance collaboration with academic, government and corporate partners to create research and training programs that respond to the dynamic issues in the north.

## **5.2 Education and Training for Regional Capacity Building:**

5.2 a) The development and training of Tłıchq̓ researchers who can design and lead research projects across Mq̓whì Gogha Dè Nı̄łtłèè on Tłıchq̓ priorities, while combining multiple perspectives including traditional knowledge based on a Tłıchq̓ cultural framework;

5.2 b) Encouraging and supporting young people to engage with issues related to their lands, language, culture and way of life by organizing research based training programs, internships, summer field camps and summer employment;

5.2 c) Bringing knowledge back to our communities to inform our people, and interested outsiders about significant Tłıchq̓ Traditional Knowledge and other resources concerning our lands, language, culture and way of life using a variety of media, including video and radio, as well as publishing online through [www.tlicho.ca](http://www.tlicho.ca) , and in occasional papers and journals;

5.2 d) Developing the Tłıchq̓ digital database of oral history, maps, photographs, video and other documentary resources through the collection, preservation, organization and presentation of information about our lands, language, culture and way of life;

## **6. Support:**

Administrative support for the *Board of Directors of the Dedats'eetsaa Tłıchq Research and Training Institute* is provided by the Executive. Minutes for the meetings are taken by a delegated member of the Executive staff of the Tłıchq Government.

Notice of meetings as well as agendas will be organized by the chairperson in consultation with committee members and will include for each meeting, *the Summary/To Do List & Responsibilities* of the previous meeting. When possible, agendas and any relevant resource materials will be distributed to members a week in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Approval Date: September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

Authorization: DTRTI Board of Directors

### **Appendix 1: Board of Directors of the Dedats'eetsaa Tłıchq Research & Training Institute 2013-2016**

The chairperson and the Board of Directors serve at the pleasure of the Chiefs Executive Council of the Tłıchq Government up to a term of 4 years, which can be renewed. The Cultural coordinator serves on the Board of Directors based on their appointment to the CC position by the Tłıchq Implementation Committee. Members of the Research Approval Sub Committee are marked with an asterix (\*).

Dr. John B. Zoe, Chairperson\*

Senior Advisor to the Tłıchq Government, Behchoko, NT X0E 0Y0

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Anita Daniels, Member

Director of Community Programs, Tłıchq Government, Behchokò, NT X0E 0Y0

Joseph Judas, Member

Tłıchq Odaᗪa Elders Committee, Tłıchq Government, Wekweèti, NT X0E 1W0

Dr. Nancy Gibson, Member\*

Professor Emeritus and Senior Researcher with CIET, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB

Nora Wedzin, Member

Cultural Coordinator, Tłıchq Government, Behchokò, NT X0E 0Y0

Mary Adele Rabesca, Member

Healing Wind Advisory Committee, Tłıchq Government, Whatì, NT X0E 1P0

Dr. Leslie Saxon, Member

Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.

Dr. Malcolm Scoble, Member  
Professor, Department of Mining Engineering, University of BC, Vancouver, B.C.