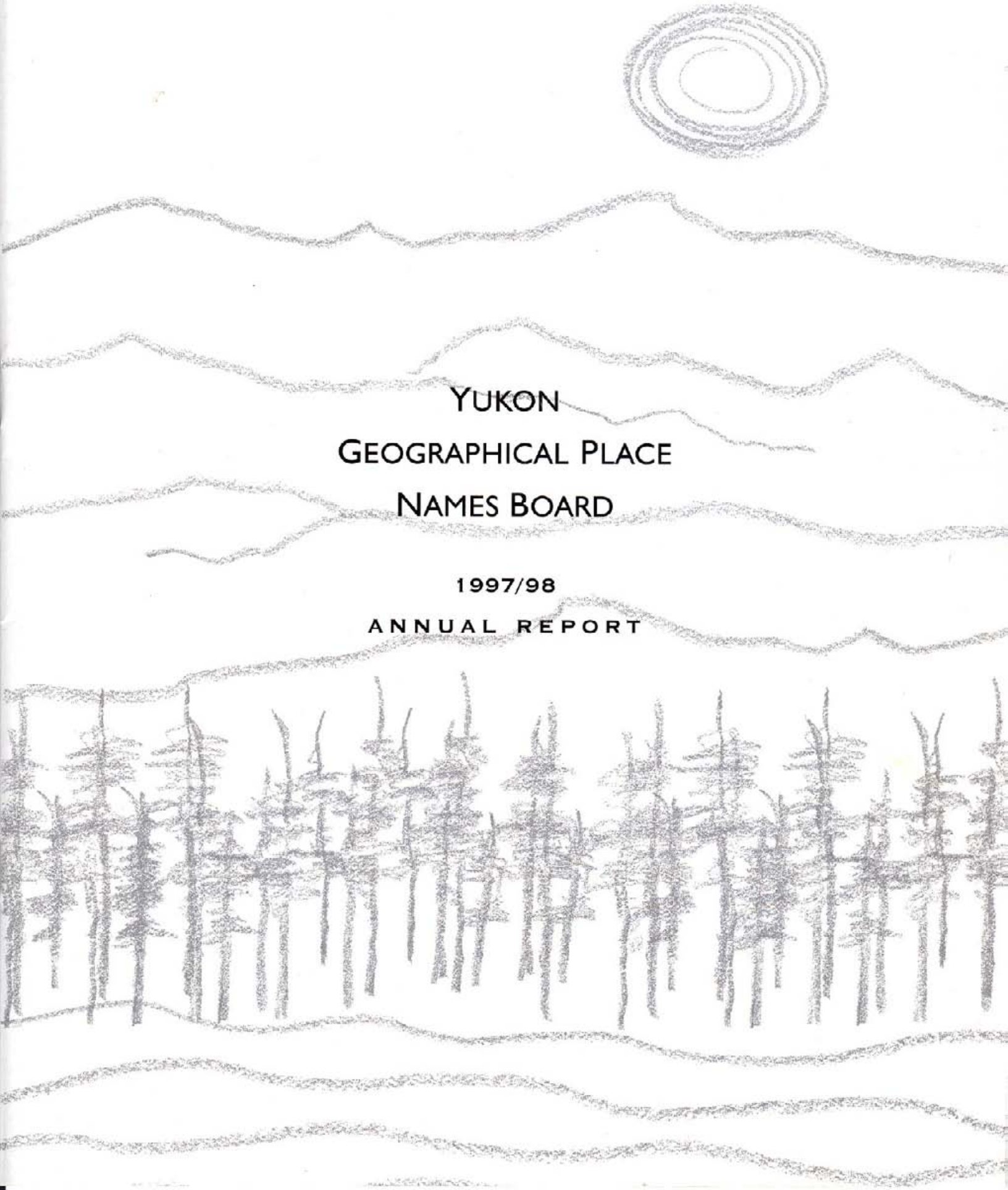
YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 1997/98



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YUKON PLACE NAMES

The names of places reflect the Yukon's diverse cultures, history, and landscape. Names in the Yukon such as Alshihik, Kusawa, and Tuchitua, are a few of the native names found on a modern map of the Yukon. Yukon Indians named rivers, mountains, lakes and landmarks long before the first non-native explorers and settlers arrived in the territory. Names such as Gyò Cho Chú (Big Salmon River) tell where animals and fish are plentiful. Other names, such as Thechàl Mãn (Sekulman Lake), "Stone Scraper for Hides" describe artifacts and remember people and events. Today, Yukon Indians still remember these names and are working to record them for future generations.

Beginning in the nineteenth century, non-native explorers, fur traders, and prospectors came to the Yukon to trade with Indian people, search for gold, and explore the vast landscape, giving their own names to the land. The Russian explorer Vitus Bering was the first non-native to name a geographical feature in the Yukon. During 1741, Bering named a mountain in the far southwestern Yukon – Mt. St. Elias.

While Bering and explorers to follow gave names to geographical features without asking the local people their names for places, other early explorers, such as geologist George Dawson and the Yukon's first Commissioner, William Ogilvie, recorded many native names for many places during their years in the Yukon including such names as the Tatchun River in central Yukon.

Many of the official names on the Yukon map today were given by non-native settlers who came to the Yukon during the Gold Rush period. In the area around Dawson City, Allgold, Bonanza, Eureka, and Nogold celebrate the successes - and failures - of the people who came to the territory during the Klondike gold rush. Names like Carcross (from Caribou Crossing), Fox Lake, and Eagle's Nest, testify to the richness of the Yukon's wildlife resources. Other places, such as Five Finger Rapids on the Yukon River, Blackstone Mountain, and White River, were named for the shape, colour, and form of the land and water itself. One of the best known names of this type is Whitehorse, which took its name from the White Horse Rapids, whose foamy white crests reminded early prospectors of horses' manes.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHOOSING PLACE NAMES

In 1897, Canada established the *Geographic Board of Canada* whose mandate was to approve official place names across the country. Interestingly, one of the motivations for establishing this board came from events happening in the Yukon, from the discovery of gold in the Klondike. Today, the successor to this Board is known as the *Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (CPCGN)* which is made up of 23 members representing the Provinces and Territories, as well as federal departments that deal with surveying, mapping, translation, archives, parks, and native affairs.

In 1986, the responsibility for naming geographical features was transferred from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to the Government of Yukon, putting geographical naming in the hands of Yukon residents for the first time. As part of this transfer the government of Yukon established the *Yukon Geographical Names Board (YGNB)* in 1987 to undertake the job of researching and approving geographical names.

In 1995, under the Yukon Land Claims Agreement, the Yukon Geographical Names Board was replaced with the *Yukon Geographical Place Names Board (YGPNB).* Like its predecessor, it was established with the primary function and responsibility to consider and recommend the naming or renaming of places or features located within the Yukon.

THE YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD

The Yukon Geographical Place Names Board (YGPNB) is constituted under the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA), signed by the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Government and the Government of Canada. The Board's primary function is to consider and recommend the naming or renaming of places or features located within the Yukon with special reference to Chapter 13, Section 11 of the UFA. The Board's mandate does not include the naming/renaming of features or sites within municipal boundaries or of transportation corridors (highways and bridges).

Board Members

The Board is composed of six Yukoners with a wide variety of backgrounds and experience but a common interest in developing place name policies which serve all Yukon residents. Each member is appointed by the Yukon government for a three year term, with three members selected by the territorial government and three by the Council of Yukon First Nations. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected by their fellow Board members.

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board Members Appointed April 1, 1995 to January 30, 1998

Diane Chisholm *(Chairperson)*
Daniel Tlen *(Vice-Chairperson)*
Percy Henry
Jeff Hunston *(Ex-officio)*
John Ritter
Margaret Workman
Gordon McIntyre **
Patrick Moore *

* Appointed August 26, 1997.
** Resigned August 12, 1996.

On March 12, 1998 the Minister of Tourism appointed the following members to the Board for three year terms until March 11, 2001. The new appointees are:

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board Appointed for a Three Year Term Beginning March 12, 1998

Diane Chisholm *(Chairperson)*
Daniel Tlen *(Vice-Chairperson)*
Sam Johnston
Jeff Hunston *(Ex-officio)*
Percy Henry
Patrick Moore
John Ritter

The Place Name Review Process

Processing place name applications in as timely a manner as possible is a priority of the Board. However, the speed with which a place name application is processed depends on a number of factors which include:

- Completeness of the application.
- Whether the site identified is on First Nation traditional or settlement land, federal or territorial lands.
- Whether the site identified is in a park.

The status of individual place name applications are tracked by means of a *Geographical Place Names Application Process Flow Sheet (See Figure 1).*

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board Members Appointed April 1, 1995 to January 30, 1998 *(left to right)* **Daniel Tlen, Margaret Workman, Percy Henry, Gordon McIntyre, Diane Chisholm and John Ritter.**

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board Members Appointed March 12, 1998 *(left to right)* **Patrick Moore, Percy Henry, Diane Chisholm, Sam Johnston, Daniel Tlen, Gary White (Secretariat) and John Ritter.**

Naming Features

Proposals to name or rename a geographical feature are received from a variety of sources which can include Yukon residents, all levels of governments, interest groups, Canadian citizens and even foreign visitors. To evaluate each application in a consistent manner and to meet the terms and conditions set upon establishment of the Board, the Board uses a number of principles and procedures established by the Canadian Permanent Committee On Geographical Names. These include:

- First priority shall be given to names with long-standing local usage by the general public, particularly indigenous names in the local native language.
- The Board has no jurisdiction over the names of municipalities, parks, territorial division, and other legal bodies that have been created by, or result from, legislation.
- Names for rivers, lakes, creeks, and other physical features should be used for all parts of the feature, in other words, you would not call the Yukon River one name at Whitehorse and another name at Dawson City.

- Proposals to name a place or geographical feature after a specific person should show how the person to be commemorated has contributed significantly to the area where the feature is located. In most cases, personal names are only given to geographical features after a person's death.
- When proposing names for unnamed features – those for which no local names exist – preference will be given to names from native languages, names that describe the feature, names associated with historical events, and names of people who have made an important contribution to the area where the name is proposed.
- Geographical names should be recognizable words or acceptable combinations of words, and should be in good taste. Names that are discriminatory or derogatory from the point of view of race, sex, colour, creed, or political affiliation are not accepted.
- The spelling and accenting of names should agree with the rules of the language in which they are written.

SETTLEMENT LANDS

Under the Land Claim Final Agreement, the Board is directed to consider the following procedures when reviewing place name applications on Settlement Lands.

- When considering the naming or renaming of places or features located within the traditional territory of a Yukon First Nation, or when acting with a federal agency where joint jurisdiction over the naming of the place or feature exists, the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board shall consult with that Yukon First Nation or federal agency.
- A Yukon First Nation may name or rename any geographical features on settlement land and such place names shall be deemed to be approved by the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board.
- Traditional aboriginal place names shall be included, to the extent practicable and in accordance with map production specifications of Canada, on revised maps of the National Topographic Series.

EXAMPLES OF PLACE NAMES RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD

Figure 2 illustrates the location of place names in the Old Crow area that were recently recommended by the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board and approved by the territorial Minister of Tourism. In most instances, no other place name existed for the sites.

As part of its process of consultation, Old Crow elder Charlie Peter Charlie was invited to review the place names providing valuable information about the history of the names and their cultural significance to the Old Crow people. A brief description of each place name follows:

Site 1

Feature: Mountain
Location: NTS Map 116/O
Latitude: 67° 18' Longitude: 139° 37'
Official Name: Lone Mountain
Alternate Approved Name: Than Nàthà'ai
Notes: The translation means "standing alone" and can be interpreted as "split" and "extending across" or "part came to stand alone", or "separated alone" and reflects that this mountain is very distinct and thought to be standing alone.

Site 2

Feature: Hill
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 27' Longitude: 138° 41'
Official Name: Ch'aghǒ
Previous Name: Choho Hill
Name Rescinded: Choho Hill
Notes: To amend Choho Hill to Ch'aghǒ to reflect modern spelling. The hill is shaped like an egg. The translation means "eggs".

Site 3

Feature: Hill
Location: NTS
Latitude: 67° 36' Longitude: 139° 55'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Chū Ts'ai Nalk'at
Notes: The hill is visible from Old Crow. There is not an English name for the feature. It translates into "sticking up by river".

SITE 3

Site 4

Feature: Mountain
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 37' Longitude: 140° 06'
Official Name: Chah Ddhǎ
Previous Name: Shahtlah Mountain
Name Rescinded: Shahtlah Mountain
Approved Alternate Name: Crow Mountain
Notes: Shahtlah Mountain is incorrectly spelled. It should be spelled Chah Ddhǎ. The name has been used by First Nation people for many generations. They would like to see the spelling for the name amended to reflect modern spelling. The name translates into "full head of hair mountain" and refers to a former practice of burning ones hair as a sign of mourning. In English it is known as "Crow Mountain". The term Crow Mountain is used by First Nation people. They requested Crow Mountain as an alternative name for Chah Ddhǎ.

SITE 4

Site 5

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet: 116/O
Latitude: 67° 39' Longitude: 139° 44'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Vanàtàl'ē
Notes: At this site a prominent hill protrudes from a lake. Children refer to it as donut lake. No English name is used for this lake.

SITE 5

Site 6

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet: 116/O
Latitude: 67° 44' Longitude: 139° 11'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Van Chō
Notes: Van Chō attracts ducks which molt at this site during the summer period. The lake provides good fishing and attracted First Nation people who camped beside the lake during the summer. A local name used is "Big Lake", which is the translation of Van Chō. In this photograph, Van Chō is the lake in the background.

SITE 6

Site 7

Feature: Lake
Location: Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 43' Longitude: 139° 04'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Ch'inaidlai
Notes: Ch'inaidlai means "the creek goes through it". Historically, people placed fish traps at the site and in the creeks entering and draining the lake. Archaeologists from the Museum of Civilization have documented fish trap site use over several thousand years. There is no English name for the site.

SITE 7

Site 8

Feature: Lake
Location: Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 52' Longitude: 139° 06'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Dachan Tr'ī
Notes: Drachan Tr'ī means "there is nothing there", no wood (it is wind swept).

Site 9

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 54' Longitude: 139° 29'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Nèhtrùh Vavàn
Notes: The lake is named after Charlie Tri'iijii Tshyaa who was given the nickname Nèhtrùh (wolverine) by the Inuit. He was given this name because he moved around so much like a wolverine. He lived at the lake with his brothers Robert Zè' and Philip Annie. All kinds of geese and swans as well as whitefish are at the lake. Joe Netro is Charlie Tri'iijii's son and Charlie Peter Charlie is his grandson. Nèhtrùh Vavàn translates as Nèhtrùh's Lake.

Site 10

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 57' Longitude: 139° 25'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name.
Approved Name: K'ō Gwatsal Vàn
Notes: The name reflects the use of fishtraps in a small lake. The name translates as "small fishtrap place lake".

Site 11

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 03' Longitude: 139° 20'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Ch'itr'ū Ndī
Notes: Arctic Terns, geese and ducks use this area during the early spring as the ice breaks-up at this site. Historically, the site has been an important hunting area and is similar in many ways to the Mackenzie Delta. The translation means "Arctic Terns all around it". There is no English name for this site.

SITE 10

SITE 12

Site 12

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 11' Longitude: 139° 38'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Tēchit
Notes: Tēchit means "land that caught fire underground". Most likely, peat has caught "fire" and been burning for an undetermined period. The heat generated by the slow burning peat beds are intense enough to boil water.

Site 13

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 03' Longitude: 139° 49'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Ts'ìvī Zhìt
Notes: Ts'ìvī Zhìt means "spruce (or timber) around it".

Site 14

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 12' Longitude: 139° 50'
Previous Names: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Ts'ìvī Shùh
Alternate Name: Timber Hill
Notes: Ts'ìvī means "spruce". Shùh means "knoll". Charlie Peter Charlie noted that "Shùh also means a "wart" (on your finger). This site is a small hill known locally as "Timber Hill". It is the only place where spruce trees grow on a knoll in the area.

Site 15

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 15' Longitude: 139° 43'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Vadādzàl Tr'àldal Vàn
Notes: This name describes how a loon flew into a hunter piercing him just like an arrow would. The hunter was subsequently killed as a result of this mishap.

Site 16

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 12' Longitude: 139° 24'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Sheih Zhìt
Notes: Sheih means "gravel all around the shore. Zhìt means "in".

Site 17

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 12' Longitude: 139° 35'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Thōchǎ Gònlì
Notes: Thōchǎ means "tree branch". Gònlì means "there is lots".

Site 18

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 17' Longitude: 139° 39'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Ch'inĕkai Vàn
Notes: Inuit used to visit the lake as late as the 1940s when they used the site as a camp for hunting. It was one of the few lakes not in use by the Gwich'in at that time. The name translates as "Eskimo Lake".

SITE 15

SITE 16

SITE 19

Site 19

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 09' Longitude: 139° 28'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Shèhtsō Ndi
Notes: Swallows congregate at this site. Shèhtsō Ndi translates as "swallows all around".

Site 20

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 01' Longitude: 139° 40'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: K'ài Tl'ak
Notes: K'ài Tl'ak refers to "the skinny red willows around the lake".

Site 21

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/B
Latitude: 68° 12' Longitude: 140° 16'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Tētl'ē Njū
Notes: Tētl'ē Njū is a big lake with lots of little bays. There are lots of moose and birds in the area. There is a feeling a giant animal made a trail at this site creating the lake. The lake is muddy even though it is not moving because the animal traveled through it. There is no English name for the site.

Site 22

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/B
Latitude: 68° 12' Longitude: 140° 10'
Previous Name: No existing name or alternate name
Approved Name: Tan Ch'òhlī
Notes: Tan means "ice". Ch'òhlī means "spawning".

Fish travel up-river to spawn and at the beginning of August travel down-stream when water temperatures warm. At this site you can see fish spawning. Charlie Peter Charlie indicated that Ch'itāhǔkaī made a birch bark canoe at the lake. Charlie also mentioned Inuit people visited the lake as recently as the 1950's. The lake is surrounded by piles of logs.

Site 23

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/B
Latitude: 68° 09' Longitude: 140° 13'
Previous Name: None
Approved Name: Chihshǒ
Approved Alternate Name: Whitefish Lake
Notes: Chihshǒ means "Whitefish" in Gwich'in. Animals (moose) frequent the lake which is surrounded by large stands of timber.

SITE 22

SITE 24

Site 24

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/B
Latitude: 68° 06' Longitude: 140° 04'
Previous Name: None
Approved Name: K'ī Zhìt
Approved Alternate Name: Schaeffer Lake
Notes: The name refers to "birch bark" (K'ī). At the site ducks molt and are easy to catch so there is always food available to catch (and eat).

Site 25

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/B
Latitude: 68° 03' Longitude: 140° 13'
Previous Name: None
Approved Name: K'ài Tēdlī
Approved Alternate Name: Willow Lake
Notes: K'ài Tēdlī means "only willow". Very small willow (and not much else) grow around the lake.

Site 26

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/B
Latitude: 68° 02' Longitude: 140° 21'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Gwihìlch'ā
Notes: Gwihìlch'ā means "torn up". It is thought an animal "tore-up" the area around the lake. It is said that Òltî' was killed between K'àì Tēdlī and Gwihìlch'ā.

Site 27

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/B
Latitude: 68° 02' Longitude: 140° 08'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Jàl K'ît Gwàndē
Notes: Jàl K'ît Gwàndē means "hook place". There are a lot of fish at this site and although the site has been used for many generations, former camps are not recognizable because water has removed all evidence of habitation.

Site 28

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map 117/A
Latitude: 68° 04' Longitude: 139° 55'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Vakak Njū
Notes: Vakak Njū means "island on it".

Site 29

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 03' Longitude: 139° 54'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Tà'alshyā
Notes: The sun warms up the shallow water attracting fish. There is no English name for the site.

Site 30

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 59' Longitude 140° 06'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Nēghai Vàn
Notes: Nēghai Vàn translates into "frog lake". At one time people used to trap the area but no one lives there now.

SITE 26

Site 31

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 59' Longitude: 139° 59'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Vakak Te'nìthìnì
Notes: Vakak means "on it". Te'nìthìnì means "he or she drowned". People from Old Crow used to visit the site before small family groups separated for the season. One lady fell through the ice while crossing the lake on snowshoes. The water was less than four feet deep but she could not get out and subsequently died of exposure. This happened in the 1920's.

Site 32

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 58' Longitude: 139° 52'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Van Tanh
Notes: Van means "lake". Tanh means "frozen". Most lakes in the Old Crow area are covered by thick ice and this name refers to the ice covered lake at this site.

Site 33

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 56' Longitude: 139° 57'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Zelma Vavàn
Notes: Zelma Vavàn is named after Zelma Johnson whose father was Andy Johnson. The lake was an important harvesting site for ducks and geese.

Site 34

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 55' Longitude: 139° 49'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: John Charlie Vavàn
Notes: John Charlie Vavàn translates into John Charlie's Lake. John Charlie was Charlie Peter Charlie's uncle.

Site 35

Feature: Lake
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 53' Longitude: 139° 49'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Chalvì Vàn
Notes: Chalvì Vàn translates into "buffle-head duck lake". The site is where Charlie Peter Charlie's father met his wife. Charlie was born on the island in the lake. He trapped in the area taking as many as 3600 muskrats from the lake in one season.

Site 36

Feature: Mountain
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 51' Longitude: 140° 24'
Previous Name: No existing or alternate name
Approved Name: Ch'anchàl
Alternate Name: King Edward Mountain
Notes: Along the ridge between Crow River and Ch'anchàl, the people gave up looking for food and died of starvation. As a result Ch'anchàl has a deep historical importance. The translation of Ch'anchàl is "caribou snout without tongue". The name King Edward Mountain does not appear on existing maps but is sometimes used locally. The name refers to a local person who had a cabin at the site.

Site 37

Feature: River
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 25' Longitude: 141° 00'
Official Name: Porcupine River
Alternate Name: Ch'ōdẽnjik
Notes: Ch'ō means "quills" in the Gwich'in language. The name acknowledges the abundance of porcupine in the area.

Site 38

Feature: River
Location: NTS Map Sheet 116/O
Latitude: 67° 35' Longitude: 139° 48'
Official Name: Old Crow River
Alternate Name: Chahnjik
Notes: The name Chahnjik (Crow River) has long usage by First Nation people. The river takes its name from Chah Ddhǎ Crow Mountain).

Site 39

Feature: Plain
Location: NTS Map Sheet 117/A
Latitude: 68° 05' Longitude: 139° 45'
Official Name: Old Crow Flats
Alternate Name: Van Tat
Notes: The translation for Van Tat is "amongst lakes".

SITE 37

ELDER PROFILES

Many of the place names the Board reviews have traditional names, some of which have been in use for thousands of years. To assist Board members in their review of place name applications, Yukon elders are frequently consulted. They assist the Board by ensuring the place names meaning, spelling, pronunciation and cultural significance are correctly recorded and reported. In this report, three elders who have assisted the Board in its review of Yukon place names are profiled. Their experience and assistance to the Board is acknowledged and appreciated.

Elder Bessie John

*Bessie John**

Bessie John of Beaver Creek, Yukon, is a well-known Yukon Elder who has worked for years teaching and promoting the Upper Tanana language and culture. Bessie's traditional name is Nelnah, and she is a daughter of the late White River Johnny (also known as Little John). Bessie was born at Nįį'įį' (Sourdough, Yukon) and has lived at Tayh Chìį' (Hillpoint) and other traditional sites in the Scottie Creek drainage.

Bessie was a member of the 1992 graduating class of the Native Language Instructor Certificate Course at Yukon College. Although she has retired from her position at the Beaver Creek School, she continues to assist in language and cultural instruction.

* *Source – Yukon Native Language Centre*

*Gordon McIntyre**

Born in Dawson City, Gordon lived there until 1920 leaving temporarily for Vancouver, B.C. where he received much of his formal education while attending Britannia High School and Provincial Normal School. In 1930 he received a First Class Teaching Certificate.

Returning to the Yukon after graduation, Gordon taught school in Mayo from 1932 to 1941 when he joined the Canadian Army. He was discharged from the army in 1946 and returned to Mayo.

Instead of returning to teaching, Gordon worked for the Yukon Territorial Government for a year, then transferred to the Federal Government as Mining Recorder and Crown Timber and Land Agent. During his time in Mayo Gordon served as Secretary of the Hospital Board, Juvenile Court Judge for the Mayo District, a Justice of the Peace, Marriage Commissioner, Notary Public, Coroner, and as a Lieutenant in the Mayo Company of the Canadian Rangers.

In 1955, Gordon married Ruth Batty who had come to Mayo to teach school in 1946. In 1965, Gordon was promoted to Supervisor of Lands and Chief Mining Recorder and moved to Whitehorse. He was the first Regional Director of Resources for the Yukon and while in that position also served as Registrar of Land Titles and Administrator of Yukon (Assistant Commissioner). On retirement in 1974 Gordon was elected to the Territorial Council as M.L.A. for the Mayo District and served in that capacity until 1978. Throughout this period he was actively involved with the Yukon place name process.

Gordon and Ruth have three children, Gordon Angus, Mary Evelyn and Norman William.

* *Source – Yukon Archives, Gold and Galena*

*Charlie Peter Charlie**

Born in 1919 in Crow Flats, the eldest of Mary and Charlie Tetlichi's nine children, Charlie spent his childhood around the head of the Porcupine River. He grew up speaking the Gwich'In language and learning the traditional ways of hunting, fishing and trapping. These he has passed on to his 14 children and many more grandchildren. Four years after returning to Old Crow in 1935 he married Fannie Tizya.

(Left to right) **Board member Percy Henry and elder Charlie Peter Charlie.**

At the early age of 37 he was elected chief, a post he held for 12 years. He has also been band councilor. Charlie was a key figure in the creation of the Council of Yukon Indians, in the establishment of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, and was involved in early land claims discussions. For 20 years he worked as the school custodian. With his knowledge of the Old Crow area, Charlie has served as guide and consultant to several generations of anthropologists, archaeologists and other researchers working in the Yukon. Since the mid-1970's he has been recording oral traditions and contributing to Gwich'in language documentation and development with the Yukon Native Language Centre. For many years Charlie served on the Yukon Geographic Names Board where he made significant contributions to the naming and understanding of Yukon place names.

About 60 years ago Charlie taught himself to play the fiddle and was for many years the lead fiddler at the International Athapaskan Fiddle Festival held annually in Alaska.

In 1988, at age 69, his many years of service to the community of Old Crow, to Gwich'in language and traditional knowledge, and to the Yukon as a whole were recognized as Charlie Peter Charlie was admitted to the Order of Canada.

** Source – Yukon Native Language Centre*

Board Activities

During the period of this report, Board members carried out of number of tasks which included:

- Reviewing 12 new place name applications received from Yukon residents;
- Recommending 34 place names for official designation to the Minister of Tourism;
- Recommending nine place names as alternate names to the Minister of Tourism;
- Recommending the recindment of two place names to the Minister of Tourism.

Board Recommendations

1 Place name applications received from First Nations and the public at large require additional research to clarify the accuracy of the names and background information, exact latitude and longitude of location, whether there are existing names for the sites, status of land claim negotiations for the pertinent First Nation with regards to whether the site will be located on settlement land or traditional land, and whether there is joint jurisdiction over the naming of the site (e.g. Parks for the Kluane region). Based on the current number of place name applications and in anticipation of new applications, many of which will result from the settlement of land claims, the Board recommends the establishment of a full-time toponymist and toponymist trainee to assist with consultation, research, recording, translation and interpretation of the data related to the naming of these features in the Yukon. The Board believes that the establishment of these positions will not only increase the efficiency of its operation and ensure applications are processed in a timely fashion but will also provide needed expertise required to administer place name designation in the Yukon.

2 Numerous place names are located along major highway routes. The Board recommends that appropriate signage be placed in these locations to promote an awareness of local names and their cultural significance. This supports requests made by residents with their place name applications.

Yukon Place Name Information

Information about Yukon and other Canadian place names can be obtained by consulting the Canadian Permanent Committee Geographical Names data base. Information about the data base can be obtained from:

GeoNames
Room 650-615 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0E9
www-nais.ccm.nrcan.gc.ca/cgndb/

For information about the Yukon's geographical place name application process contact:

Yukon Heritage Branch
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada Y1A 2C6
Telephone: (867) 667-5386

If you have further questions or require additional information about the activities and mandate of the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board, please contact the:

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
P.O. Box 31164
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada Y1A 5P7
Phone: (867) 393-3982
Fax: (867) 667-7006

GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES APPLICATION PROCESS FLOW CHART

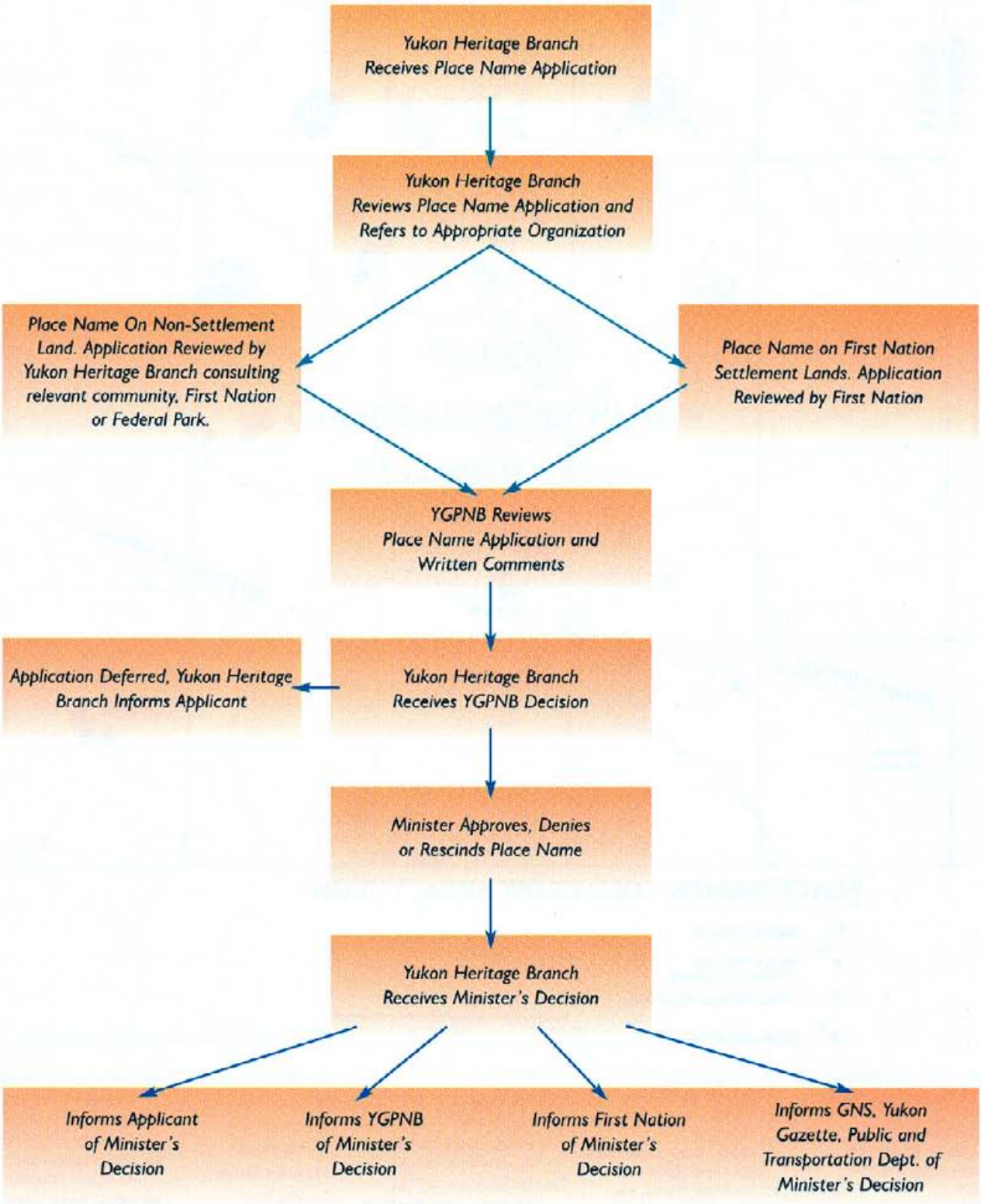
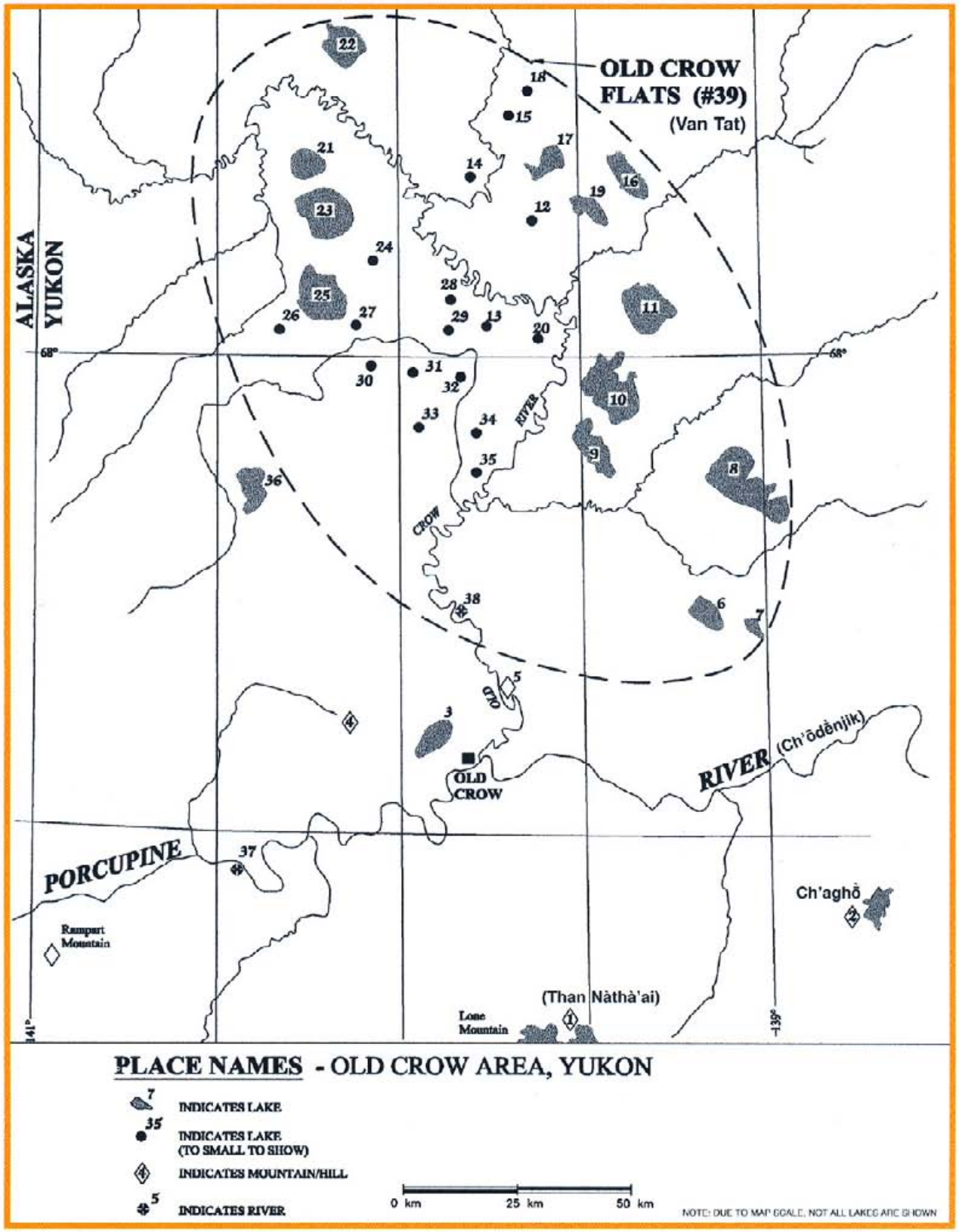


FIGURE 1



PLACE NAMES - OLD CROW AREA, YUKON

7 INDICATES LAKE

35 INDICATES LAKE (TO SMALL TO SHOW)

INDICATES MOUNTAIN/HILL

5 INDICATES RIVER

1. Official Name: Lone Mountain
   Alternate Name: Than Nàthà'ai
2. Ch'aghǒ
3. Chū Ts'ai Nalk'at
4. Official Name: Chah Ddhǎ
   Alt. Name: Crow Mountain
5. Vanàtàl'ē
6. Van Chō
7. Ch'inaidlal
8. Dachan Tr'ī
9. Nèhtrùh Vavàn
10. K'ō Gwatsal Vàn
11. Ch'itr'ū Ndl
12. Tēchił
13. Ts'ìvī Zhìt
14. Official Name: Ts'ìvī Shùh
    Alt. name: Timber Hill
15. Vadādzài Tr'àldai Vàn
16. Sheih Zhìt
17. Thōchǎ Gǒnlī
18. Ch'inēkai Vàn
19. Shèhtsō Ndī
20. K'ài Tl'ak
21. Tētl'ē Njū
22. Tan Ch'òhlī
23. Official Name: Chihshǒ
    Alt. Name: Whitefish Lake
24. Official Name: K'ī Zhìt
    Alt. name: Schaeffer Lake
25. Official Name: K'ài Tēdlī
    Alt. Name: Willow Lake
26. Gwihilch'ā
27. Jàl K'it Gwàndē
28. Vakak Njū
29. Tà'alshyā
30. Nēghai Vàn
31. Vakak To'nithìni
32. Van Tanh
33. Zelma Vavàn
34. John Charlie Vavàn
35. Chalvī Vàn
36. Official Name: Ch'anchàl
    Alt. Name: King Edward Mt.
37. Official Name: Porcupine River
    Alt. Name: Ch'ōdēnjik
38. Official Name: Old Crow River
    Alt. Name: Chahnjik
39. Official Name: Old Crow Flats
    Alt. Name: Van Tat

FIGURE 2

YUKON
GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE
NAMES BOARD

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 1998

(UNAUDITED)

COLLIN YOUNG, CA

COLLIN YOUNG Chartered Accountant
201 - 100 Main Street Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2A8
Telephone 867-667-2245, Fax 867-667-7997

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

I have reviewed the balance sheet of Yukon Geographical Place Names Board as at March 31, 1998, and the statements of revenue and expenditures, and surplus for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly, consist primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures, and discussions related to information supplied to me by the board.

A review does not constitute an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these unaudited financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

June 23, 1998
Whitehorse, Yukon

Chartered Accountant

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
Balance Sheet
March 31, 1998
(unaudited)

	1998	1997
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	$ 107,471	$ 82,906
Accounts receivable	1,658	713
	109,129	83,619
Capital, (Note 2)	711	711
	$ 109,840	$ 84,330
LIABILITIES		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued	$ 7,044	$ 3,003
SURPLUS		
Investment in Capital Assets	711	711
Surplus	102,085	80,616
	102,796	81,327
	$ 109,840	$ 84,330

Approved on Behalf of the Board

Diane Chisholm, Board Member

Patrick Moore, Board Member

COLLIN YOUNG, CA

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
for the year ended March 31, 1998
(unaudited)

	1998	1997
Revenue		
Contribution - Yukon	$ 56,837	$ 56,547
Interest income	1,682	
	58,519	56,547
Expenditures		
Secretariat fees	18,839	14,801
Documentation	6,502	
Annual report	5,094	
Travel and accommodation	1,643	833
Research	1,263	
Honoraria	1,175	875
Consultation	1,163	580
Professional fees	856	1,187
Office and supplies	428	968
Telephone	88	127
Office equipment		711
Meetings		529
	37,051	20,611
Excess of revenue over expenditures	**$ 21,469**	**$ 35,936**

COLLIN YOUNG, CA

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
Notes to financial statements
March 31, 1998
(unaudited)

1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Yukon Geographical Place Names Board is a non profit entity established under the Umbrella Final Agreement, passed by the Government of Canada, and Government of Yukon, to consider and recommend the naming or re-naming of places or features located within Yukon, to the Yukon Minister of Heritage.

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in Canada. Outlined below are those policies considered particularly significant for to the board.

(a) Revenue recognition
Revenue from grants is recorded when received or receivable

(b) Capital Assets
Capital assets are expended during the year of acquisition, and are recorded on the balance sheet at their historical cost. Investment in capital assets represents the historical cost of capital assets less the principal amount of any debt outstanding on the purchase of the assets.

2 Capital Assets

	1998	1997
Equipment	$ 711	$ 711

3 Economic Dependance and Related Party Transactions

The Board is dependant upon government funding for the continuation of its activities.

4 Statement of Changes in Financial Position

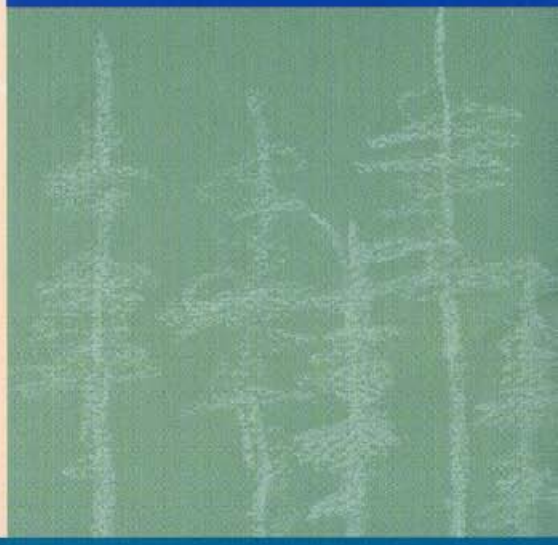
The Statement of Changes in Financial Position has not been prepared as the changes are readily apparent.

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

Statement of Surplus
March 31, 1998
(unaudited)

	1998	1997
Surplus, beginning of year	$ 80,616	$ 44,680
Excess of revenue over expenditures	21,469	35,936
Surplus, end of year	**$ 102,085**	**$ 80,616**

COLLIN YOUNG, CA



Cover Photo: **Vanàtàł'ē**

View along Chahnjik (Old Crow River), showing Vanàtàł'ē ("water all around the island") and Schaeffer Mtn. to the north and Van Tat (Old Crow Flats).

(All photographs are courtesy of the Yukon Native Language Centre)