



# Development corporations expand

## Det'on Cho subsidiaries employ 600

## Akaitcho BDC gives out \$1.4 million

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Northern News Services  
NWT

By far the most rapidly-expanding development corporation in the NWT is Det'on Cho Corporation, the business development arm of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

Established in 1988 with a \$15,000 grant, the Det'on Cho Corporation now includes more than 20 companies with annual gross revenues of over \$30 million.

In 2010 alone, Det'on Cho formed eight new joint ventures.

Those included Det'on Cho Stantec, a partnership with Stantec Consulting, one of the biggest engineering firms in Canada. The new partnership will tackle primarily mine remediation contracts.

The reclamation of Giant Mine, which will kick-start once the project's environmental assessment under the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is completed, is also expected to bring a lot of work.

Late in 2010, another Det'on Cho subsidiary, fully-owned Bouwa Whee Catering, began a new contract to provide cafeteria services at De Beers Canada's Snap Lake diamond mine. Bouwa Whee also caters miners at Rio Tinto's Diavik diamond mine.

Between both contracts, about 20 Yellowknives members are employed.

In December, another subsidiary, Det'on Cho Logistics, began a new three-year contract with De Beers at Snap Lake.

Together, Det'on Cho's companies and joint ventures employ approximately 600 people.

The Canadian Northern Economic Development Corporation has announced \$150,000 in funding to help Det'on Cho study the feasibility of building a wind farm on the Giant Mine site to supply electrical power for mine remediation activities.

### Akaitcho BDC

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year (ended March 31, 2010), Akaitcho BDC gave out \$1.4 million in business assistance loans to 52 businesses in Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah – the same dollar amount as in the previous fiscal year.

"While signs of the recession remain apparent, the economic outlook for several sectors including mining, construction and transportation are significant in value," said Tanya Kasteel, a business analyst with the corporation. "We expect another busy year ahead, supported by low inter-

est rates and numerous government capital projects."

### Tlicho

The Tlicho Investment Corporation was created in 2005 as the business arm of the Tlicho people of Behchoko, Whati, Gameti and Wekweeti.

In 2010, the corporation added Lac La Martre Adventures to its portfolio of companies. Dave Thompson, a Michigan resident and regular client of the lodge, and Alberta outfitter Greg Dussome, co-own and co-manage the business with the corporation.

The Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road, which is used to transport fuel and other essential goods to the NWT's three diamond mines, remains a significant stimulator of business for two Tlicho subsidiaries.

Tlicho Landtran Transport Ltd., of which the Tlicho Investment Corp. is a 41 per cent owner, pulled 71 per cent of all heavy loads across the winter road this past winter, said Lana Roeland, a member of the investment corp.'s business development committee.

Another subsidiary, Ventures West Ltd. Partnership carried 130.5 million litres of fuel – about 3,000 loads and 77 per cent of all fuel transported on the road.

"This is a company we're very proud of. We've ... acquired 60 per cent of this company," said Roeland.

The investment corporation has received two contributions from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Corporation in the last year: \$80,000 to support research into the feasibility of the proposed La Martre River hydro facility; and \$1.1 million to upgrade and enhance the Behchoko aerodrome facility.

### Gwich'in

The Gwich'in Development Corporation (GDC) is 100 per cent owned by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and was created shortly after the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was signed in 1992.

GDC subsidiaries include GDC-NNP Limited Partnership, Inuvik Commercial Properties Zheh Gwizu', Inuvik Capital Suites Zheh Gwizu', Bob's Welding and Heavy Equipment Rental Ltd., Larga Ltd., MG Lodging Inuvik Ltd. and Gwich'in Helicopters Ltd.

### Denendeh

The Denendeh Development Corporation (DDC) was created in 1982 by Dene First Nations in the Akaitcho, Dehcho, Tlicho, Gwich'in and Sahtu regions.

DDC owned Arrowmakers Art Gallery in Yellowknife, which closed earlier this year.

Darrell Beaulieu, the corporation's CEO, said the gallery could not survive the effects of the global recession despite \$100,000 in yearly subsidies from DDC.

DDC also owns half of the NWT Metis-Dene Development Fund, which administers a developmental lending fund of \$5.8 million for Aboriginal businesses.

DDC's business arm, Denendeh Investments, owns shares in several companies: Shehtah Nabors LP (51 per cent), Mackenzie Environmental Solutions (51 per cent), Northern Aboriginal Services Company (25 per cent), Northland Utilities Enterprises (14 per cent), Aboriginal Contractors Corporation (33 per cent) and Falcon Communications GP (16.6 per cent).

Many of Shehtah Nabors' employees, who, in the past, have worked at oil and gas projects in the NWT, have been sent to work in the south as the North's oil and gas sector remains in a holding



Kevin Allerston/NNSL photo

**Arrowmakers Art Gallery in Yellowknife, owned by the Denendeh Development Corporation, closed earlier this year due to slow sales.**

pattern as industry waits for some concrete news on the Mackenzie Gas Project.

### Norman Wells

The Norman Wells Land Corporation (NWLC) is the majority shareholder in the Norman Wells Claimant Corporation (NWCC), the economic development instrument of the Dene and Metis people of Norman Wells.

As of press time, the corporation was working to purchase 36,000 acres of land from the territorial government.

The former Commissioner's land is located on the Hammer Mountain range outside Norman Wells, and

requires as much as three years' worth of surveying.

The corporation had not announced its ultimate plans for the land as of press time.

### Inuvialuit

The Inuvialuit Development Corporation (IDC) was created in 1977.

IDC is owned 100 per cent by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC). The IRC in turn is directly controlled by its 5,000 Inuvialuit beneficiaries.

Last year, IRC distributed a total of \$1.6 million to its beneficiaries, the same as in 2009.

According to the latest information posted on IDC's

website, the corporation's assets exceeded \$209 million as of 2008.

One of its joint-venture companies, Akita Equitak Drilling, does contract work for the oil and gas industry in the NWT.

This past winter, Akita worked on a one-well drill program near Tulita for MGM Energy.

IDC is also 50-50 partner in NorTerra with Nunasi Corp. of Nunavut.

NorTerra holdings include Weldco-Beales Manufacturing, Braden Burry Expediting, Northern Industrial Sales, Canadian North and the Northern Transportation Company Ltd. (NTCL).

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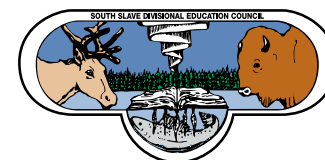
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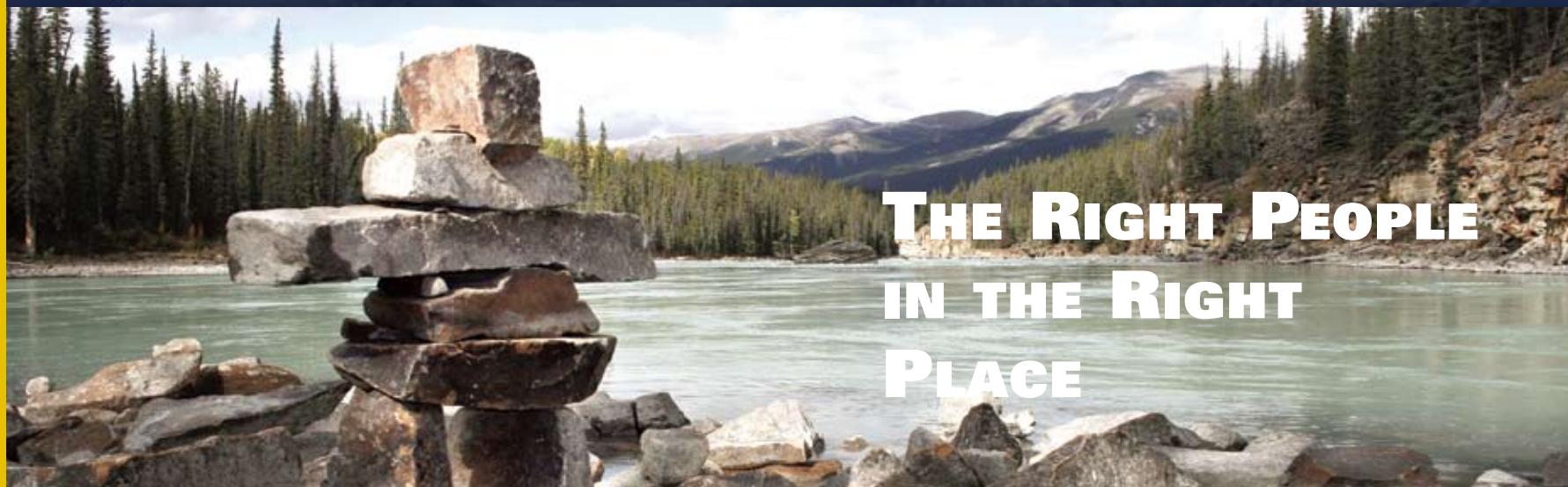


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