



Gwich'in Steering Committee

"ALASKA & CANADA
PROTECTING THE COASTAL PLAIN"

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Gwich'in Steering Committee Recommits to Protecting the Coastal Plain, Appoints New Board Members and Transition Team

For Immediate Release
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Fairbanks, AK — Today, the Gwich'in Steering Committee (GSC) is pleased to announce revitalized Board leadership, in anticipation of this summer's Gwich'in Gathering on the homelands of the Danzhit Hanl'aii Gwich'in in Circle, AK. In preparation for these events, and in support of the considerable efforts the Danzhit Hanl'aii, the unified Chiefs of the Gwich'in Nation have appointed new members to the GSC Board of Directors. These appointments are an effort to further strengthen GSC's unified mission to protect *Izhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit*, "the sacred place where life begins," the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, on behalf of the Gwich'in Nation of Alaska and Canada.

The GSC is pleased to announce the appointment of Kelly Fields, as Co-Chair for the United States side of the Gwich'in Steering Committee. The Gwich'in Steering Committee Board of Directors is composed of four (4) representatives appointed by the Gwich'in Chiefs in Alaska from the Yukon Flats (YFR) & Arctic/Venetie region, two (2) representatives for the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) in the Yukon of Canada and two (2) representatives for the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) of the Northwest Territories in Canada. Additionally, New board members for the GSC are as follows:

- Chief Raeann Garnett YFR
- Kelly Fields YFR
- Dr. Charlene Stern Arctic Village/Venetie
- Myra Thumma Arctic Village/Venetie
- Sharla Greenland, GTC (Interim)
- Kyla Ross, GTC (Interim)
- Harold Frost Jr., VGFN (Interim)
- Christina Creyke, YGFN (Interim)

The new GSC Board has accepted the resignation effective May 17, 2024 of Bernadette Demientieff and thank her for her years of leadership at the GSC. Additionally, the GSC Board warmly welcomes the interim appointment of Mr. Peter Winsor, the former director of the Arctic Program of the World Wildlife Fund and the former Executive Director of the Alaska Wilderness League, as its Transitional Oversight Director. Peter will be guiding the GSC through the hiring of a new Executive Director. Please join the Gwich'in Nation in welcoming our new Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Steering Committee and our new transition lead, Mr. Peter Winsor.

For further comment or questions, please contact Raeann Garnett at garnett.raeann@gmail.com We look forward to strengthening our existing partnerships and expand our collective, unified effort to permanently protect *Izhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit*.



