

Łehthòh (Teet'it Gwich'in)

Łajj ghàa' (Gwichya Gwich'in)

Ch'idrèedhòh łaii ghàa (Vuntut Gwitchin)

Dog Pack



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"We just live on caribou, flour, oats and rice. That's the most groceries we get from store. I was eight years old that time. Amos Njootli was preaching, minister at that time. We, we live at Rampart House, towards Crow Flat, through Flat Mountain, down that way. We spend fall time way back. We use dog pack all summer. When we kill caribou, dog pack it in. We pack meat, too, dry it and cache it, ground cache, eh? Where there's loose rock at a place on the mountain, we take this big rock out and make a centre like. We put dry meat in there, skin, everything. This way we cache for winter. When we moved to another place for fall time, we get fresh meat for winter. Sometimes bear get there, he clean it up, he do that to lots of people."

— Charlie Thomas, Vuntut Gwitchin Elder, 1997

Available Spring 2012

An on-line exhibit of Gwich'in items from the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

A partnership between the CMC, GSCI and Vuntut Gwitchin.

"Toward summer, maybe in the spring, the men and women got ready to make dog packs. A family with five dogs would make that many packs. And when they moved, all the dogs had big packs, and the men had big packs. The women also had packs filled up with stuff and kids. Everybody seemed to work, and kids even walked for miles and miles when they had to move through the bushes, and sometimes over hills and mountains..."

— Sarah Peters, Teet'it Gwich'in Elder, 1973



Abe Francis, Stony River, 1929
Photo: Amos Burg, National Geographic, August 1931.
"Abe had to carry an exhausted dog's pack on the Peel Portage."



Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

www.gwichin.ca