

K'oo (Teet'it Gwich'in & Vuntut Gwitchin)

K'adh (Gwichya Gwich'in)

Fish Trap

"The fish trap was something else our ancestors used a great deal, and perhaps it was the best and easiest method used in catching fish. The following is needed in order to build a fish trap: eddy, long wooden poles with bark left on, long wooden poles with bark cleaned off. The first thing to do was choose a good eddy. Directly downstream from this eddy is where the trap was built. The poles with bark are driven into the bottom with an opening in between. Poles were then put horizontally, like a fence. The next thing to do was to build a long basket. This was made from the clean wooden poles, and it was set in the opening, and the small end was closed. Then you waited. The fish would come along and swim straight into the trap in great numbers. The fish were then scooped into the canoe with a large willow dipper with a long handle. A lot of fish were caught this way."

— Elijah Andrew, Teet'it Gwich'in Elder, 1970s



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Model made by Brian Francis, Fort McPherson, Northwest Territories

Collected by Richard Slobodin for the Canadian Museum of Civilization, 1963–1964

"...Brian Francis is a Peel River Kutchin, born about 1892. His father, Francis *tsIk* [*Tsik*] (Slim), was chief of the Peel River band from 1891 until his untimely death in 1905. Francis is the youthful chief who plays a prominent part in George Mitchell's gold-rush reminiscences, *The Golden Grindstone* (Graham, 1935). Indeed, Francis and his wife, Flora — Brian's mother — might be called the hero and heroine of those memoirs.

— Richard Slobodin, 1963–1964

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© Canadian Museum of Civilization, VI-I-51, photo Marie-Louise Déruaz, IMG2010-0112-0009-Dm (close-up)



Available Spring 2012

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A partnership between the
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Gwitchin.



Gwich'in Social and
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