



Rediscover Lost Skills...



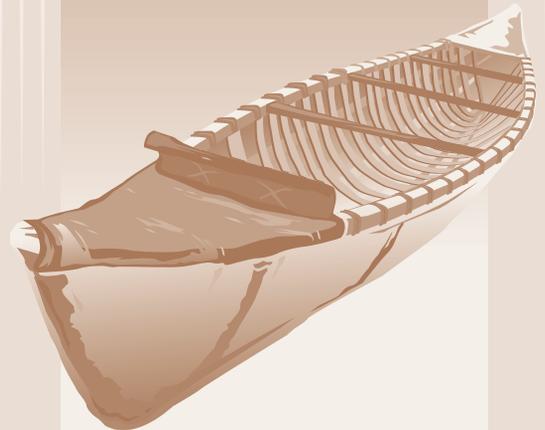
Tłı̨chǫ K'ı̨elà



THE DOGRIB

Birchbark CANOE

A HERITAGE PROJECT



Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency



A part of our heritage

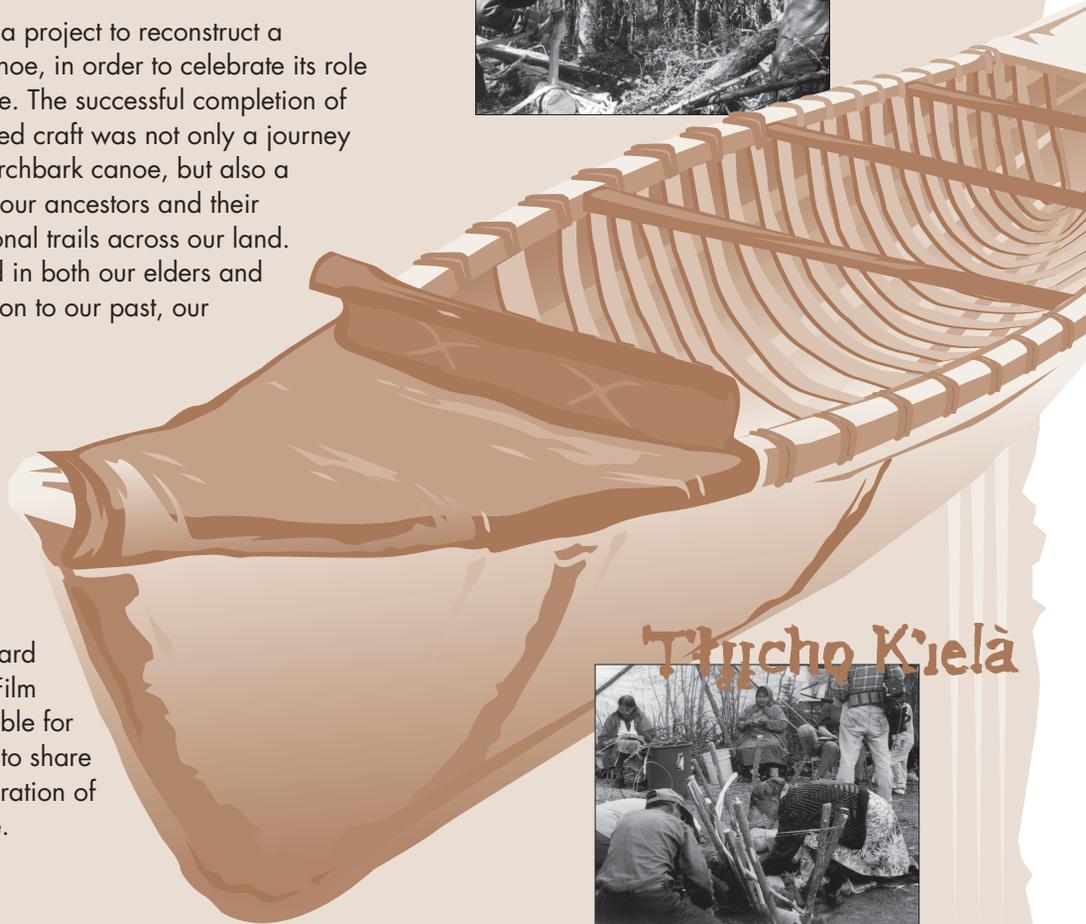
For centuries, the Dogrib of the Northwest Territories used hand-crafted birchbark canoes to traverse the thousands of kilometres of waterways between our traditional hunting and fishing areas. In the mid 20th century, with the arrival of new southern technology, the nature of travel changed dramatically, through the use of motorized boats. The birchbark canoe quickly faded into the background and eventually became a remnant of our past way of life.

Our heritage comes alive

In 1997, we undertook a project to reconstruct a traditional birchbark canoe, in order to celebrate its role in our history and culture. The successful completion of this beautifully constructed craft was not only a journey into the history of the birchbark canoe, but also a journey into the lives of our ancestors and their travels along the traditional trails across our land. This project has inspired in both our elders and youth, a proud connection to our past, our traditions and our land.

Our heritage to share

The entire reconstruction was documented on video, in photographs and in words. The video won the People's Choice Award at the 1997 Far North Film Festival. It is now available for anyone who would like to share in this remarkable celebration of our tradition and culture.



Tłı̄chǫ K'ielà