



NWT Plain Facts

*On Land and
Self-government*

Akaiicho (NWT Treaty 8) Negotiations

The Akaiicho (NWT Treaty 8) negotiations focus on land, resources and governance. The Parties to the negotiation are the Akaiicho Territory Dene First Nations (Akaiicho DFN), the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The region and the people

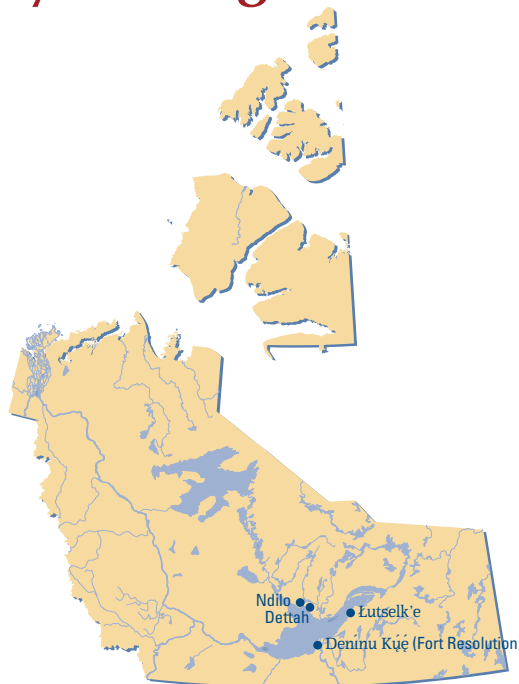
The Akaiicho (NWT Treaty 8) negotiations involve four communities in the North Slave and South Slave regions of the Northwest Territories: Deninu Kúé (Fort Resolution), Łutselk'e, Ndilo and Detah. The Akaiicho DFN represents approximately 2,500 Dene.

The goal of negotiations

The Akaiicho Dene signed Treaty 8 with the Government of Canada on July 25, 1900. However, some provisions in this treaty were not implemented. The Parties have agreed to resolve these and other outstanding land, resource and governance issues through negotiations.

The objective of negotiations is to complete an agreement that will:

- Contain land and resource provisions that provide for clarity of rights respecting land and resources
- Explain how land, water and other resources, including wildlife and their habitat, will be used, managed and protected
- Describe the structure, operation, legal status and extent of the Akaiicho DFN government
- Describe the relationship between public government and Akaiicho DFN government
- Include measures to enhance the capacity of the Akaiicho DFN to participate fully in the northern economy



Progress so far

February 1997

A Chief Federal Negotiator is appointed to explore the interests of the Akaiicho, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. These discussions result in a **draft Framework Agreement**.

May 1999

There is a lack of progress in negotiations. An **interim Chief Federal Negotiator** is appointed to build consensus on a process to restart negotiations.



January 2000

A new **Chief Federal Negotiator**, Mr. John Gill, is appointed to complete the negotiation of the Framework Agreement.

July 25, 2000

One hundred years to the day from the signing of Treaty 8, the Akaitcho DFN, Canada and Government of the NWT sign a **Framework Agreement** in Denínu Kúé (Fort Resolution). The Framework Agreement establishes the process, items and timetable for the three parties to negotiate an agreement on land, resources and governance issues.

June 28, 2001

The Akaitcho **Interim Measures Agreement (IMA)** is signed in Łutselk'e. It establishes temporary arrangements that clarify the role of the Akaitcho DFN in resource management decisions in their region while an agreement is being negotiated. Work begins to develop pre-screening processes – called Schedules – to lay out how the Akaitcho DFN will be consulted on applications for various licences, permits and dispositions of lands.

September 2001

Formal negotiations of the **Agreement-in-Principle (AIP)** begin.

What is being negotiated now

Reaching an IMA was significant because it provides a level of comfort for the Akaitcho about what happens on the land while negotiations are underway. IMA Schedules are being completed and negotiations are focussing on reaching an AIP that will address outstanding land, resource, and governance issues. These negotiations are based on a workplan that is updated and reviewed annually.

For more information:

For more Plain Facts on land and self-government in the NWT, visit the Plain Talk website at www.inac-ainc.gc.ca/nt/pt

For general information on DIAND policies, programs and services, visit the NWT Region's website at nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca

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Published under the authority of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ottawa, 2004. 1-800-567-9604 TTY only 1-886-553-0554

Print version:

QS-Y237-000-EE-A1 CATALOGUE R2-322/2004E ISBN/ISSN 0-662-36435-X

Electronic version:

www.inac-ainc.gc.ca/nt/pt

QS-Y237-000-EE-A1 CATALOGUE R2-322/8-2004E-PDF ISSN 0-662-36455-4

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