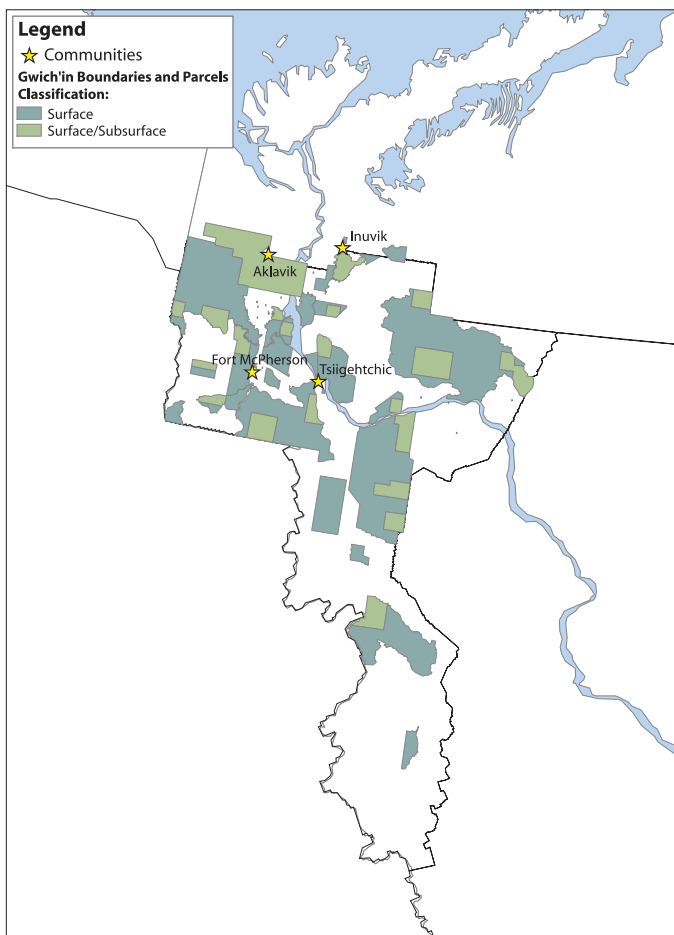




# NWT Plain Facts

*On Land and  
Self-government*

## Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement



In April, 1992, the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was finalized and signed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Northwest Territories Government Leader, and representatives of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. An implementation plan to accompany the Agreement was also signed.

### Highlights of the Agreement

The following are highlights of elements negotiated under the Agreement, for the Gwich'in people in Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic.

#### Gwich'in-owned land

The Gwich'in own about 22,330 km<sup>2</sup> of land in the Northwest Territories, and 1,554 km<sup>2</sup> in the Yukon. This includes subsurface (mineral) rights to 6,158 km<sup>2</sup> of land in the Northwest Territories.

#### Economic benefits

The Gwich'in receive a tax-free payment of \$75 million (1990 dollars) paid over a 15-year period, a share of resource royalties from development in the Northwest Territories, and a 15-year subsidy of property taxes on certain Gwich'in municipal lands.



## Land and environmental management

The Gwich'in participate in land use planning and in the management of renewable resources, land, water and Gwich'in heritage resources.

## Hunting and fishing

The Gwich'in obtained exclusive rights to be licenced to conduct commercial wildlife activities on Gwich'in lands and preferential rights in the whole settlement area.

## Self-government

The Land Claim Agreement provides for negotiation of self-government which will be brought into effect through legislation.

*Currently, the Gwich'in, together with the Inuvialuit, are in self-government negotiations with the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories, in the Beaufort Delta Region. The Agreement-in-Principle was signed in April 2003 by the Government of Canada, GNWT, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. All parties are now working toward a Final Agreement.*

## How other Northerners benefit

The Agreement clarifies who owns and has rights to the land and resources in the Gwich'in settlement area. This certainty will encourage economic development in the area. The Gwich'in will be able to use their resources, including money, to be a factor in stimulating regional economic growth.

## 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](http://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](http://nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca)

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