



NWT Plain Facts

On Land and
Self-government

Déline Self-Government Negotiations

Déline is the first Sahtu community to participate in self-government negotiations under the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim, which was signed in 1993. The agreement gave each community in the Sahtu the option to negotiate its own self-government arrangement.

The region and the people

Déline is a community of approximately 650 people, located on the southwest shore of Great Bear Lake in the Sahtu Region. Sahtu Dene and Métis make up roughly 90 percent of the population. There are also about 200 Sahtu Dene and Métis of Déline people currently living elsewhere.

The goal of negotiations

Negotiations of the Déline Self-Government Agreement will lead to a governance system that addresses the needs of all residents of Déline through an Aboriginal public government with guaranteed Aboriginal representation. The residents of Déline will have greater control over decisions made for their community and a final agreement will see that they will have practical tools and opportunities for the community to strengthen its culture, language and economy.

Progress so far

September 1993

The **Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement is signed** by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the NWT Government Leader, Chiefs and Métis Presidents representing the Sahtu Dene and Métis, and representatives from the Sahtu Tribal Council.



June 1994

The **Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement Agreement comes into effect.**

1995

The **Federal Policy on Aboriginal Self-Government** (commonly referred to as the *Inherent Right Policy*) is introduced by the Government of Canada.

October 1998

Self-Government Process and Schedule Agreement is signed, under which the Déline Dene Band and Déline Land Corporation negotiate self-government with the federal and the territorial governments.



August 2003

All parties involved sign the **Sahtu Dene and Metis of Déline Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle (AIP)**. The AIP provides for the Déline First Nations Government (DFNG) to have law-making powers over the administration, management and operations of its government structures, as well as elections, Déline First Nations citizenship, education and training, local services, adoption, child and family services, social housing, income support, language, culture and spirituality and traditional healing services.

Proposed Government Structure

The DFNG will be composed of an ʔEhkw'atidé (Government Leader), a Main Council, a Justice Council and an Elders Council. DFNG laws may provide for other governmental institutions (e.g. a school board).

What is being negotiated now

Negotiations are now well underway toward a Final Agreement. Working groups have been established to address and clarify several subject matters such as finance and implementation, thus moving towards the conclusion of negotiations and the signing of the agreement.

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

To contact us:

Communications Directorate
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, NWT Region
P.O. Box 1500, Yellowknife, NWT, X1A 2R3
Phone: (867) 669-2576 Fax: (867) 669-2715

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