

# Ratification and Implementation

The Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement was negotiated by the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia and the Lheidli T'enneh Band. It is the first Final Agreement reached in the province under the British Columbia treaty process.

The Final Agreement provides Lheidli T'enneh with certain rights and benefits regarding land and resources, and self-government over its lands and resources and its citizens. It provides certainty with respect to ownership and management of lands and resources and the exercise of federal, provincial and Lheidli T'enneh governmental powers and authorities.

The negotiation of a Final Agreement marks Stage Five of the six-stage British Columbia treaty process, and is the conclusion of substantive treaty negotiations. Once ratified by all parties, the Final Agreement will become a treaty through legislation.

It will be a constitutionally-protected, legal agreement that creates mutually binding obligations and commitments.

## RATIFICATION

By initiating the Final Agreement, the chief negotiators for Canada, British Columbia and Lheidli T'enneh recommend the agreement to their respective principals for ratification.

Through the Lheidli T'enneh approval process, Lheidli T'enneh members will ratify the Final Agreement through a community vote. If the Lheidli T'enneh community ratifies the Final Agreement, the Province of British Columbia will then proceed through its ratification process. A Minister from the provincial Cabinet must

recommend the agreement for approval, and settlement legislation will then be introduced into the Legislature, where it will be debated.

If British Columbia ratifies the Final Agreement, the Government of Canada will proceed through its ratification process. Similar to the procedure at the provincial level, a federal Cabinet Minister must recommend the Final Agreement, and settlement legislation will be introduced in Parliament for debate. Once enacted through legislation, the Final Agreement will become a treaty.

## IMPLEMENTATION

During the process of negotiating the Final Agreement, the parties also negotiated an implementation plan. The implementation plan identifies each party's obligations and responsibilities in implementing the treaty. Some parts of the treaty will be implemented on the day that the Final Agreement comes into effect or shortly thereafter. Some parts, such as taxation provisions, will be implemented according to a predetermined schedule over a number of years. Other parts of the Final Agreement may not be

implemented until a later date to be determined by the parties.

An implementation committee, comprised of a representative from Lheidli T'enneh, Canada, and British Columbia, will be established on the effective date of the treaty. This committee will oversee and monitor the implementation of the treaty.

## LHEIDLI T'ENNEH

Lheidli T'enneh, “the people from the confluence of two rivers,” is a Carrier-speaking First Nation that has traditionally occupied and used the land around Prince George, east to the Alberta border. The main Lheidli T'enneh community is located on the Shelley reserve, 20 kilometres northeast of Prince George. The band has 320 members, about 100 of whom live in Shelley. The majority of the other members live in Prince George.

*If you would like more information about the Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement, contact:*

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