



Foreword

The Implementation Committee is pleased to provide its sixth annual report on the implementation of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. The report covers the fiscal year, April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000.

The Implementation Committee comprises of a senior official from each of the parties: the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. It functions by consensus and serves as a forum where parties can raise issues and voice their concerns.

The role of the Implementation Committee is to oversee, direct and monitor implementation of the Agreement. This annual report describes achievements and developments during the year. Information is contributed by various federal and territorial departments, the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and other bodies established under the Agreement.

We are committed to strengthening the partnerships that are key to the successful implementation of this Agreement. Our achievements to date are the product of partners working together to recognize Aboriginal rights in an atmosphere of mutual respect, and the commitment of the parties to fulfil obligations pursuant to this Agreement.

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Glossary of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABC	Aboriginal Business Canada
AGJV	Arctic Goose Joint Venture
AHDRA	Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement
CEAA	<i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i>
CIM	Cumulative Impact Monitoring
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DIAND	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
FNCCIP	First Nations Child Care Initiative Program
FTP	Flexible Transfer Payment
GETS	Government Electronic Tendering Service
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
IB	Implementation Branch
IPG	Institutions of Public Government
LCOS	Land Claim Obligation System
MBCA	Migratory Birds Convention Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MVEIRB	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
MVLWB	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
MVRMA	<i>Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</i>
NEB	National Energy Board
NHS	National Historic Site
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
NWT	Northwest Territories
PAS	Protected Area Strategy
RRC	Renewable Resources Council
RWED	Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
SLUPB	Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
SLWB	Sahtu Land and Water Board
SRRB	Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
SSA	Sahtu Settlement Area
SSI	Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated



Features of the Agreement

In July 1993, the Sahtu Dene and Metis voted to approve the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. After being approved by the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories, the Agreement was signed on September 6, 1993, in Tulita (formerly Fort Norman). The *Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim Settlement Act* came into effect on June 23, 1994.

Under the Agreement, the Sahtu Dene and Metis:

- received title to 41,437 square kilometres of land in the Northwest Territories (NWT), an area slightly larger than Vancouver Island. Subsurface rights are included on 1,813 square kilometres of this land;
- will receive financial payments totalling \$75 million (in 1990 dollars) over a 15-year period, as well as a share of the resource royalties paid to governments each year in the Mackenzie Valley;
- have their right to hunt and fish throughout the Sahtu Settlement Area (SSA) confirmed and their exclusive right to trap in the SSA established; and
- are guaranteed participation in institutions of public government for renewable resource management, land use planning and land and water use within the SSA, and environmental impact assessment and review within the Mackenzie Valley.

The Agreement also provides for the negotiation of self-government agreements that will be brought into effect through federal and/or territorial legislation.



Highlights

- On the sixth anniversary of the Agreement, the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI) received a capital transfer payment of \$8,300,094 after negotiation loans were deducted. The SSI was paid \$221,972 in resource royalties for the year.
- The Implementation Committee completed the drafting of the Five-Year General Review which is expected to be published the fall of 2000.
- The Implementation Branch obtained approval from Treasury Board to replace the contribution agreement method of flowing funds to bodies created under land claim agreements with a Flexible Transfer Payment instrument. This implementation-friendly transfer mechanism addressed two major concerns of the contribution agreement approach: the inability of implementing bodies to carry over funds from one fiscal year to the next and the termination clause.
- As of December 31, 1999, 2,648 beneficiaries were covered by the Agreement.
- The Operations Directorate of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) established a regional *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) implementation team to facilitate a smooth transition between the previous land and water management regimes and the new regime established under the MVRMA.
- On March 31, 2000, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) was established.
- The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) reviewed and commented on 22 projects and received 161 notifications of preliminary screening.
- In August, the Environmental Impact Assessment in the Mackenzie Valley — Interim Guidelines was distributed to northern bands, communities, government and industry for comment. The revised interim guidelines are expected to be released in 2000.
- The Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) received and processed seventeen land use permit applications and nine applications for water licences.
- The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board's (SLUPB) activities comprised three elements: an interest component which assisted in land plan development, a technical component encompassing information gathering and map compilation and an educational component with the objective of promoting an understanding of land use planning and its importance.
- The working group established to guide the development of the Cumulative Impact Monitoring (CIM) program for the Mackenzie Valley developed terms of reference and provided input and direction on an inventory of databases and records of current and historical environmental, social, economic and community monitoring data and research for the Mackenzie Valley. A draft monitoring program for the Mackenzie Valley and a work plan for the group will be finalized by March 31, 2001.
- The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) established an Economic Strategy Panel, consisting of a variety of stakeholders including the SSI, to develop an economic strategy report for the GNWT.
- A NWT Protected Area Strategy (PAS) was signed by territorial and federal governments in September. The NWT PAS was developed by an advisory committee that included representatives from the Sahtu, Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Dogrib Treaty 11, Akaitcho Treaty 8, Deh Cho, industry, federal and territorial agencies and non-governmental organizations.
- As provided for under section 19.1.5 of the Agreement, a land exchange agreement with the Tulita District Land Corporation was completed to allow construction of a bridge for the winter road. To provide for this type of agreement in the future, an amendment has been developed for the Agreement, with input from the SSI, the

Government of Canada and the GNWT. The amendment is expected to be finalized and passed in 2000–2001.

populations. This plan was developed in co-operation with the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in land claim groups.

- In consultation with the appropriate Sahtu organizations, RWED has undertaken to develop new wildlife and species at risk legislation. This new legislation will be consistent with the Agreement.
- Parks Canada worked with the community of Deline to produce a cultural integrity statement for the four National Historic Sites (NHS) on the Great Bear Lakes: Grizzly Bear Mountain, Scented Grass Hills, Fort Franklin and Deline Fishery. In August, plaques were unveiled in Deline to commemorate these four sites.
- The finalization of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for the Inconnu of the Lower Mackenzie River provided a mechanism for the management of shared fish
- The Joint Working Group on Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites submitted a final report, with recommendations, to the appropriate federal and territorial ministers and the SSI.
- As of March 31, 2000 Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) had surveyed all municipal lands for the Sahtu communities. In addition, 61 percent, or 161 of the remaining 262 parcels of Sahtu lands, had been surveyed.



Implementation Committee

The Implementation Committee comprises three senior officials representing each of the parties involved in the Agreement. In 1999–2000, Danny Yakeleya represented the SSI, Mark Warren, Director of Policy and Implementation, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs represented the GNWT, and Aideen Nabigon, A/Director, Implementation Management Directorate, DIAND, represented Canada.

As provided for in section 29.2 of the Agreement, the responsibilities of the Implementing Committee are to:

- oversee, direct and monitor the implementation of the Agreement and the Implementation Plan;
- adjust the schedule for carrying out implementation activities, reallocating implementation resources and amending the Implementation Plan as required;
- address disputes between the parties; and
- prepare a public annual report on the implementation of the Agreement.

The committee met three times during the 1999–2000 fiscal year, in Yellowknife, Edmonton and Ottawa. Its activities included:

- completion of the Five-Year General Review of Implementation;
- oversight of the production of the 1998–1999 annual report;
- approval of reallocation of implementation funding; and
- consideration of a number of implementation issues raised by the parties.