

Chronology of the Tlicho Agreement Negotiation Process

- 1921** Chief Monfwi signed Treaty 11 on August 22, 1921, on behalf of the Dogrib of the North Slave.
- 1976/1977** Canada accepted comprehensive land claims from the Dene and Métis in the Northwest Territories. This was largely because land entitlement under Treaties 8 and 11 were virtually unfulfilled and it was also to maintain consistency of treatment among northern Aboriginal peoples. Joint Dene and Métis land claim negotiations began in 1981.
- 1988** A Dene/Métis Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) was signed in September 1988. A final agreement was initialled on April 9, 1990.
- 1990** The Dene/Métis Final Agreement was rejected by the Dene/Métis due to the proposed certainty (surrender) provisions and the lack of self-government provisions. The Gwich'in disagreed with this action and requested a regional settlement. Canada announced it would negotiate regional claims on the basis of the 1990 agreement. The Gwich'in and Sahtu Dene and Métis finalized their comprehensive land claims settlements in 1992 and 1994 respectively.
- 1992** The Dogrib (Tlicho) submitted a regional claim in the fall of 1992.
- 1994** Negotiations began with the Dogrib in the North Slave region on a North Slave Agreement; however, Treaty 8 Dene in two communities near Yellowknife chose to align with other Treaty 8 Dene and not to participate in the Dogrib negotiations. This led to an overlap/boundary issue between the Treaty 11 Dogrib and the Treaty 8 Dene.
- 1995** In November 1994, the Minister of DIAND agreed to a pause in Dogrib negotiations while a new Chief Federal Negotiator was appointed and discussions were held to explore interests and to determine the impact of the anticipated inherent right policy on the Dogrib land claim.
- Released in August 1995, it was apparent that the new self-government policy would have a profound effect on land claim negotiations. It was determined that a new mandate was necessary - one that combined self-government and land claim elements.
- 1997** The new federal mandate was received in April 1997. The previous mandate to negotiate a comprehensive land claims agreement (only) was replaced by a mandate to negotiate a joint land claims and self-government agreement with the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council.
- 1999** The Dogrib First Nation considered the Dogrib Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) for approval.

2000 The Dogrib accepted the AIP on January 7, 2000.

In July 2000, the Government of Canada announced the withdrawal of approximately 39,400 square kilometres of land, pursuant to the land identification process outlined in the Dogrib AIP. An extensive public consultation followed. Within this land withdrawal area, a block of land was later identified to become “Dogrib Lands” when the Dogrib Agreement comes into effect.

2002 The Dogrib decided that they preferred to use the word “Tlicho”, which means Dogrib in their language, to identify themselves and for the title of the Agreement.

The Chief Negotiators initialled a “Tlicho Agreement” on September 4, 2002. Rather than immediately start the ratification process, however, the Chief Negotiators decided to open the Tlicho Agreement for public comment and feedback.

An information exchange period followed. Chief Negotiators met with Aboriginal groups, interest groups and the general public to gain feedback on the Tlicho Agreement.

During the information exchange period, overlap discussions between the Tlicho and the Deh Cho and between the Tlicho and the Akaitcho (Treaty 8 Dene) gained momentum. The Tlicho (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council) reached historic overlap agreements with both of these groups in the fall of 2002.

2003 The Tlicho Agreement was revised as a result of these overlap agreements and the feedback and comments that were received during the information exchange period. The revised Tlicho Agreement was then initialled by the Chief Negotiators in March 2003, which formally started the ratification process for the Tlicho Agreement.

Ratification: The Tlicho Agreement must be ratified by all three parties to come into effect:

Tlicho: For the Tlicho, the ratification was a three-part process:

- The Dogrib Treaty 11 Council approved the Tlicho Agreement for signing in March 2003;
- Eligible voters voted in favour of the Tlicho Agreement on June 26 and 27, 2003. A total of 93% of eligible voters participated in the vote and 84% of eligible voters were in favour of the Tlicho Agreement;
- The Tlicho Agreement was signed by the three parties on August 25, 2003.

GNWT: For the Government of the Northwest Territories, ratification follows three broad steps:

- The Executive Council for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) approved the Tlicho Agreement in Spring 2003;
- The GNWT signed the Tlicho Agreement on August 25, 2003;
- Territorial legislation to implement the Tlicho Agreement is being drafted for review by the Legislative Assembly. This legislation must be enacted for the Tlicho Agreement to come into effect.

Canada: For the Government of Canada, ratification follows three broad steps:

- The federal Cabinet approved the signing of the Tlicho Agreement in spring 2003;
- Canada signed the Tlicho Agreement on August 25, 2003;
- The federal government is drafting legislation to implement the Tlicho Agreement for review by Parliament. This legislation must be enacted for the Tlicho Agreement to come into effect.