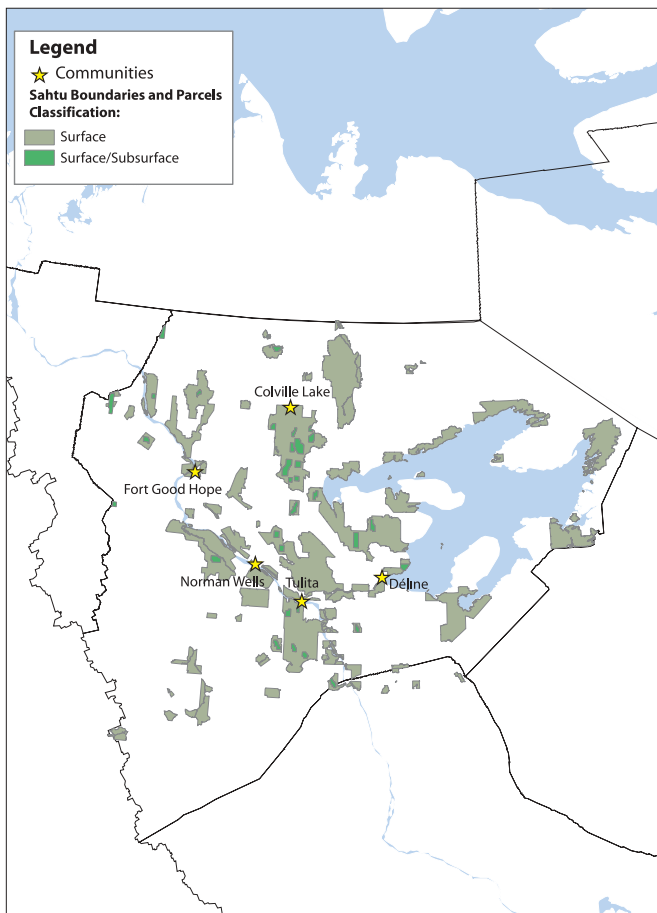




NWT Plain Facts

*On Land and
Self-government*

Sahtu Dene & Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement



In September 1993, the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was signed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Northwest Territories Government Leader, Chiefs and Métis Presidents representing the Sahtu region Dene and Métis, and representatives from the Sahtu Tribal Council. The Agreement came into effect on June 23, 1994.

Highlights of the Agreement

Sahtu-owned land

The Sahtu Dene and Metis own 41,437 km² of land in the Mackenzie Valley. This includes subsurface (mineral) rights to 1,813 km² of land.

Economic benefits

The Sahtu Dene and Metis receive a tax-free payment of \$75 million (1990 dollars) paid over a 15-year period and a yearly share of resource

royalties from development in the Mackenzie Valley, including a share in Norman Wells oil and gas royalties. The Sahtu Tribal Council must be consulted before lands are opened up for oil and gas exploration; before any oil and gas exploration, development or production takes place; and before any mineral exploration requiring a land use permit or water licence takes place.



Land and environmental management

Through provisions of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Sahtu Dene and Métis participate in land use planning and in the management of renewable resources, land, water, and Sahtu heritage resources.

Hunting and fishing

The Sahtu Dene and Métis maintain the exclusive right to trap and the right to hunt and fish in a 280,238 km² area which includes Great Bear Lake. This does not exclude the public from hunting and fishing on Crown lands.

Self-government

The Government of Canada agreed to negotiate community self-government agreements with the Sahtu Dene and Métis. There are five communities that fall within the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. So far, Déline and Tulita are the only communities who have entered into negotiations for a self-government agreement. Other Sahtu communities may follow when they are ready.

How other Northerners benefit

The Agreement clarifies who owns and has rights to the land and resources in the Sahtu settlement area. This certainty will encourage economic development in the area. The Sahtu Dene and Métis will be able to use their resources, including money, to stimulate 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

For general information on DIAND policies, programs and services, visit the NWT Region's website at nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca

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