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Plain Facts

On Land and Self-government



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Canada

South Slave Metis Tribal Council Land and Resources Negotiations

What's it all about?

Negotiation of a joint Dene/Metis claim began in 1981, and an agreement was initialled by negotiators in April 1990. However, in July of 1990, the Dene and Metis voted not to ratify the agreement. Some of the groups involved did not agree with this action and withdrew from the Dene/Metis negotiating group. They requested regional settlements. In November 1990, the Government of Canada stopped negotiating the Dene/Metis claim and authorized the negotiation of separate regional settlements with any of the five Dene and Metis regions that might request it. Of these groups, the Gwich'in and Sahtu Dene and Metis have settled claims.

When the Treaty 8 Dene originally decided to pursue a Treaty Land Entitlement, some of the Metis who had been included under the 1990 Dene/Metis Final Agreement were left without a means to address their interests.

The Government of Canada agreed to explore options and establish a process that would resolve Metis concerns. At the request of the Metis Nation-NWT, exploratory discussions focussed on the South Slave Metis Tribal Council.

Where are we now?

A Framework Agreement, providing for the negotiation of a land and resources, was initialled by negotiators for the South Slave Metis Council, the Government of the NWT, and the Government of Canada in January 1996. The Framework Agreement provides for a two-stage process. The first stage is negotiation of an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on lands and resources, with self-government negotiations to begin upon initialling of an AIP. Formal negotiation of an AIP began in May 1997.

More background

Web pages:

Federal Policy Guide - Aboriginal Self Government: www.inac.gc.ca/pubs/selfgov/policy.html

Comprehensive Claims in Canada: www.inac.gc.ca/pubs/information/treaty.html

Comprehensive Claims Policy & Status of Claims: www.inac.gc.ca/subject/claims/comp/briem.html

Fact sheets:

- Aboriginal Self-government in the NWT
- Advantages of Land and Self-government Negotiations
- Akaiicho Treaty 8 Land, Resources, and Self-government Negotiations
- Comprehensive Land Claims in the NWT
- The Negotiation Process
- Status of Land and Self-government Negotiations

Publications:

- Federal Policy Guide - Aboriginal Self Government
- Backgrounder - Aboriginal Self Government

Fact sheets and publications are available by contacting

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