



## Akaiicho Treaty 8 Land, Resources, and Self-government 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, later that year, 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.

Treaty 8 Dene (Ndilo, Dettah, Lutsel K'e, and Deninu Ke First Nations) are members of the Akaiicho Territory Tribal Council and were formerly part of the Dene/Metis Agreement of April 1990. When negotiations ceased, this group initially decided to pursue a specific claim under Treaty Land Entitlement. The Dene later withdrew its specific claim in favour of land, resources, and self-government negotiations.

In February 1997, a Chief Federal Negotiator was appointed to explore the interests of the three parties involved in the claim - The Akaiicho Treaty 8 First Nation, the Government of Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories. These discussions resulted in a draft Framework Agreement.

### *Where are we now?*

In May 1999, talks stalled. An interim Chief Federal Negotiator was appointed to build consensus on a process to restart negotiations. In January 2000, a new Chief Federal Negotiator, Mr. John Gill, was appointed to complete the negotiation of the Framework Agreement with the Akaiicho Treaty 8 Chiefs to allow negotiation to proceed on a land, resources, and self-government agreement.

### *More background*

Web pages:

Federal Policy Guide - Aboriginal Self Government: [www.inac.gc.ca/pubs/selfgov/policy.html](http://www.inac.gc.ca/pubs/selfgov/policy.html)

Comprehensive Claims in Canada: [www.inac.gc.ca/pubs/information/treaty.html](http://www.inac.gc.ca/pubs/information/treaty.html)

Comprehensive Claims Policy & Status of Claims: [www.inac.gc.ca/subject/claims/comp/briem.html](http://www.inac.gc.ca/subject/claims/comp/briem.html)

Fact sheets:

- Aboriginal Self-government in the NWT
- Advantages of Land and Self-government Negotiations
- Comprehensive Land Claims in the NWT
- The Negotiation Process
- Specific Claims
- 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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