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Plain Facts

On Land and Self-government



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Canada

Deh Cho Process

What's it all about?

The Deh Cho process began in 1998 when ministerial envoy, Dr. Peter Russell was asked to review Deh Cho interests in lands, resources, and governance. Dr. Russell worked with Deh Cho leadership to find areas of common ground that could lead to fruitful land and self-government negotiations.

Dr. Russell prepared a report outlining 21 common ground principles, and proposed a two-step approach to formal negotiations. The first step includes the simultaneous negotiation of an interim measures agreement and a Framework Agreement. The second step will move forward with formal negotiations toward an Agreement-in-Principle and a Final Agreement.

The Deh Cho First Nations agreed to proceed with formal talks, based on the 21 principles developed by Dr. Russell and the Deh Cho negotiating team. In March 1999, in response to the Russell report, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development also agreed to enter formal discussions with the Deh Cho First Nations on land claims and self government, using the proposed two step approach.

Where are we now?

Step one talks began in the fall of 1999, and are proceeding toward an interim measures agreement and a Framework Agreement. Funding has been provided to help the Deh Cho First Nations prepare for formal talks on land, resource, and self-government matters.

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

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

Communications Directorate

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