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Plain Facts

On Land and Self-government



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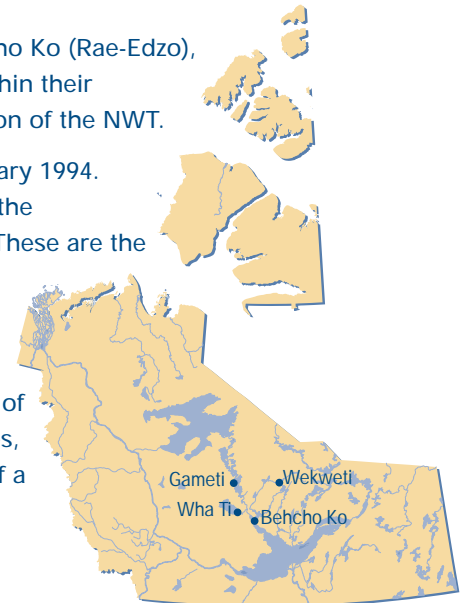
Dogrib Comprehensive Land Claim and Self-government Negotiations

What's it all about?

Approximately 3,000 Dogrib live mainly in the four communities of Behcho Ko (Rae-Edzo), Wha Ti (Lac la Martre), Gameti (Rae Lakes) and Wekweti (Snare Lake) within their traditional territory in the area commonly known as the North Slave region of the NWT.

Formal negotiation of a Dogrib comprehensive land claim began in January 1994. With the release of the federal Inherent Right to Self-government Policy, the negotiating mandate was changed, in 1997, to include self-government. These are the first joint land and self-government negotiations in the Northwest Territories.

In January 2000, the Dogrib Comprehensive Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) was signed by representatives of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Canada. The AIP paves the way for negotiation of a Dogrib Final Agreement.



What does it mean?

The following are highlights of elements to be reflected in the Dogrib Final Agreement:

Dogrib lands

Subject to existing rights, the Dogrib First Nation Government would own a single block of approximately 39,000 square kilometres of land, including both surface and subsurface resources, and this block would be located adjacent to or surrounding the four Dogrib communities.

Settlement area

The "settlement area" is the area in which most of the rights and benefits under the Dogrib agreement would apply. Its boundaries have not yet been defined. Before the Dogrib Final Agreement is reached, the Dogrib will meet with the Deh Cho and the Akaitcho Treaty 8 First Nations to finalize boundary lines of the settlement area.

Financial benefits

The Dogrib would receive a tax-free payment of \$90 million, paid over a number of years, and a share of resource royalties from development in the Mackenzie Valley.

Self-government

The Dogrib Final Agreement would recognize a wide range of law-making powers for the Dogrib First Nation Government primarily over Dogrib lands and Dogrib citizens. Prior to the Final Agreement, an Intergovernmental Services Agreement would be negotiated among the three parties for the delivery of key services such as health care, education, and other social programs and services to all residents in each of the four Dogrib communities as well as to Dogrib citizens elsewhere.

What's in it for other northerners?

Once a Final Agreement is signed it will be clear who owns and has rights to the land and resources in the Dogrib area. This certainty will encourage economic development in that area, and the Dogrib will be able to use their resources, including money, to stimulate regional economic growth.

More background

Web pages:

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

Dogrib Agreement-in-Principle: www.inac.gc.ca/subject/agree/dogrib/dogrib.html

Highlights of Dogrib AIP: www.inac.gc.ca/news/may99/99128hl.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

Dogrib Agreement-in-Principle

Fact sheets and publications are available by contacting

Communications Directorate

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