



NWT Plain Facts

*On Land and
Self-government*

Northwest Territory Métis Nation Process Negotiations

The Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) Process is a unique negotiation for Métis people indigenous to the South Slave region prior to 1921 and their descendants. These negotiations are between the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (formerly the South Slave Métis Tribal Council), the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The region and the people

The NWTMN Process negotiations involve the indigenous Métis people from three communities in the South Slave region of the Northwest Territories: Fort Smith, Fort Resolution and Hay River.



Tessa Macintosh

The goal of negotiations

Canada has addressed Métis issues in the NWT differently than in the rest of the country. Many communities in the NWT have highly mixed populations where First Nations, Inuit and Métis people live together. The Government of Canada has decided to address their concerns together. In most regions, Métis concerns are dealt with as part of joint Dene/Métis negotiations. Due to the particular circumstances in the South Slave region, the Métis there have a separate process.

Canada is negotiating to address the interests of the Métis of the South Slave region through a contractual arrangement.

Negotiations will happen in two stages. The first stage is the negotiation of an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on land and resource matters. Once this AIP is reached, the parties will begin the second stage: negotiation of a Final Agreement on land and resource matters and negotiation of a self-government agreement.

Progress so far

1981

Negotiations begin on joint Dene and Métis land claims in the Northwest Territories.

1990

The Dene/Métis Comprehensive Land Claim agreement is initialled, but is never ratified by the Dene and Métis. The Government of Canada agrees to proceed with region-by-region settlements. The Métis are also included in these negotiations. In the South Slave region, the Treaty 8 Dene later decide to pursue a Treaty Land Entitlement process. The parties agree that this type of negotiation is only available to descendants of people who signed the Treaty and are status Indians. This excludes some of the Métis from that region, who are left without a negotiation process to address their issues.



August 28, 1996

Canada, the South Slave Métis Tribal Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories sign a Framework Agreement to begin negotiations. Their process is not the same as a Comprehensive Claim and is unique to the Métis situation.

June 22, 2002

Canada, the South Slave Métis Tribal Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories sign an Interim Measures Agreement (IMA). The IMA ensures the Métis will be consulted on activities taking place in the agreed upon IMA area which is considered an administrative area for the purposes of the agreement. The parties agree to formalize a pre-screening process where the South Slave Métis Tribal Council will review applications for various licences, permits, and dispositions of lands through a series of schedules.

July 17, 2002

The South Slave Métis Tribal Council changes its name to the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN). The name change is made to the Framework Agreement and the IMA by an amendment in February 2003.

November 2003

The last three IMA schedules are signed and implemented. In all, there are eight schedules to the IMA, covering the following topics: Land Use Permits; Water Licences; Surface Federal Crown Lands; National Parks and Protected Areas; Territorial Parks; Commissioner's Lands; Travel and Tourism; and Forest Management.

Spring 2005

The Parties begin a process of identifying and resolving key issues that were impeding progress. This process results in agreement being reached on 63 key outstanding issues.

What is being negotiated now

On the basis of the agreement reached on key outstanding issues, the parties created a legal/technical committee to follow up. Negotiations are based on a work plan that is updated and reviewed annually.

For more information:

For more Plain Facts on land and self-government in the NWT, visit the website at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nt/pt

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