



NWT Plain Facts

On Land and
Self-government

Tłı̨cho Agreement



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The Tłı̨cho Agreement was signed by the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council on August 25, 2003 in Behchokò (then called Rae-Edzo), NWT. The Tłı̨cho Agreement came into effect on August 4, 2005. This agreement is the first ever combined land claim and self-government Agreement in the NWT. The Tłı̨cho now own lands and are the primary government on those lands.

Lands

The Tłı̨cho traditional use area referred to in the Tłı̨cho Agreement is Mq̄whì Gogha Dè Nı̨ı̨łèè. This area was described by Chief Monfwi during the signing of Treaty 11 in 1921. In this area, the Tłı̨cho will be able to exercise most of the rights set out in the Agreement and all four of the Tłı̨cho communities fall within this area.

Wek'èezhı̨ is an area described in the Agreement for resource management. It is bordered by other

land claim settlement areas, and boundaries with traditional areas of neighbouring Aboriginal groups. The Wek'èezhı̨ Land and Water Board and the Wek'èezhı̨ Renewable Resources Board have been established to manage resources. Both of the boards make decisions independently of the Tłı̨cho Government, territorial government, and federal government.

The Tłı̨cho own a large block of lands, known as *Tłı̨cho lands*, encompassing approximately 39,000 km². The Tłı̨cho communities are within, but not part of those lands.

Another area described in the Agreement is Ezodzı̨ı̨. The Tłı̨cho do not own this land nor do they have any additional harvesting or management rights on it. However, the area is protected from mineral exploration and development in the interest of preserving its historical and cultural importance to the Tłı̨cho people.



Highlights of the Agreement

Self Government

In the Tłı̨cho Agreement, existing municipal governments have been replaced by Tłı̨cho community public governments which have been given effect by territorial legislation. The four existing Indian Act bands and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council have been succeeded by the Tłı̨cho Government which manages the rights and benefits on behalf of Tłı̨cho Citizens and make decisions for the Tłı̨cho as a whole.

The community government election process set out in the Tłı̨cho Agreement provides democratic rights to non-Tłı̨cho citizens to participate in the vote. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms applies to all governments and the Tłı̨cho Agreement, and all governments are accountable to the people they represent.

The Tłı̨cho Government is responsible for:

- Managing Tłı̨cho lands and resources
- Controlling fish and wildlife harvesting on Tłı̨cho lands
- Education in Tłı̨cho language and culture

Under the Tłı̨cho Agreements, the Tłı̨cho Government may negotiate the assumption of additional programs and services which would expand its responsibilities to other areas such as healthcare.

Wildlife Harvesting

The Wek'èezhı Renewable Resources Board advises on the management of wildlife and habitat by making recommendations about wildlife, forest and plant resources, and commercial activities to all levels of government.

Tree and Forest Management

In Mq̄whı Gogha Dè Nı̨tlèè, the Tłı̨cho Government will be consulted on decisions about forests. Tłı̨cho Citizens have the right to harvest trees for their own use.

Heritage Resources

Tłı̨cho heritage resources that were removed from the NWT will be returned to the Tłı̨cho if possible.

Tłı̨cho burial sites, human remains and burial goods will be respected and protected.

Tłı̨cho citizens will be given opportunities for jobs relating to their heritage in NWT museums, heritage projects and archaeological works.

Water Rights and Management

On Tłı̨cho lands, the Tłı̨cho Government owns the land under the water but Canada owns the water itself, subject to certain rights of the Tłı̨cho respecting its quality and flow. The water that flows through Tłı̨cho lands is now managed by the Wek'èezhı Land and Water Board.

Economic Measures

The Tłı̨cho Agreement requires that all economic programs created by Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories in Mq̄whı Gogha Dè Nı̨tlèè (NWT) shall take into account the shared objectives that the economy of the Tłı̨cho should be maintained and strengthened and that the Tłı̨cho should be economically self-sufficient.

To achieve the above objectives, Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories may undertake measures such as promoting the marketing of renewable resource products and native manufactured goods, assisting in the development of commercially viable businesses and enterprises of Tłı̨cho citizens, and encouraging the employment of Tłı̨cho citizens in major development projects and in the public service and public agencies.

Intergovernmental Services Agreement

An Intergovernmental Services Agreement among the Tłı̨cho, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada has been put in place so that the administration and delivery of key programs and services such as health care, education and other social programs and services in each of the four Tłı̨cho communities are a joint effort for all residents. These programs and services are delivered in a way that respects Tłı̨cho heritage and culture, as well as the interests of residents who are not Tłı̨cho citizens.

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

For general information on INAC policies, programs and services, visit the department's website at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

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Published under the authority of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. Ottawa, 2007. www.ainc-inac.gc.ca
1-800-567-9604 TTY only 1-866-553-0554.

Print version: QS-Y280-000-EE-A1 Catalogue: R34-9E
Electronic version: QS-Y280-000-EE-A1 Catalogue: R34-9E-PDF
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Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre : T.N.-O. Faits au point Territoire et autonomie gouvernementale

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