



Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada

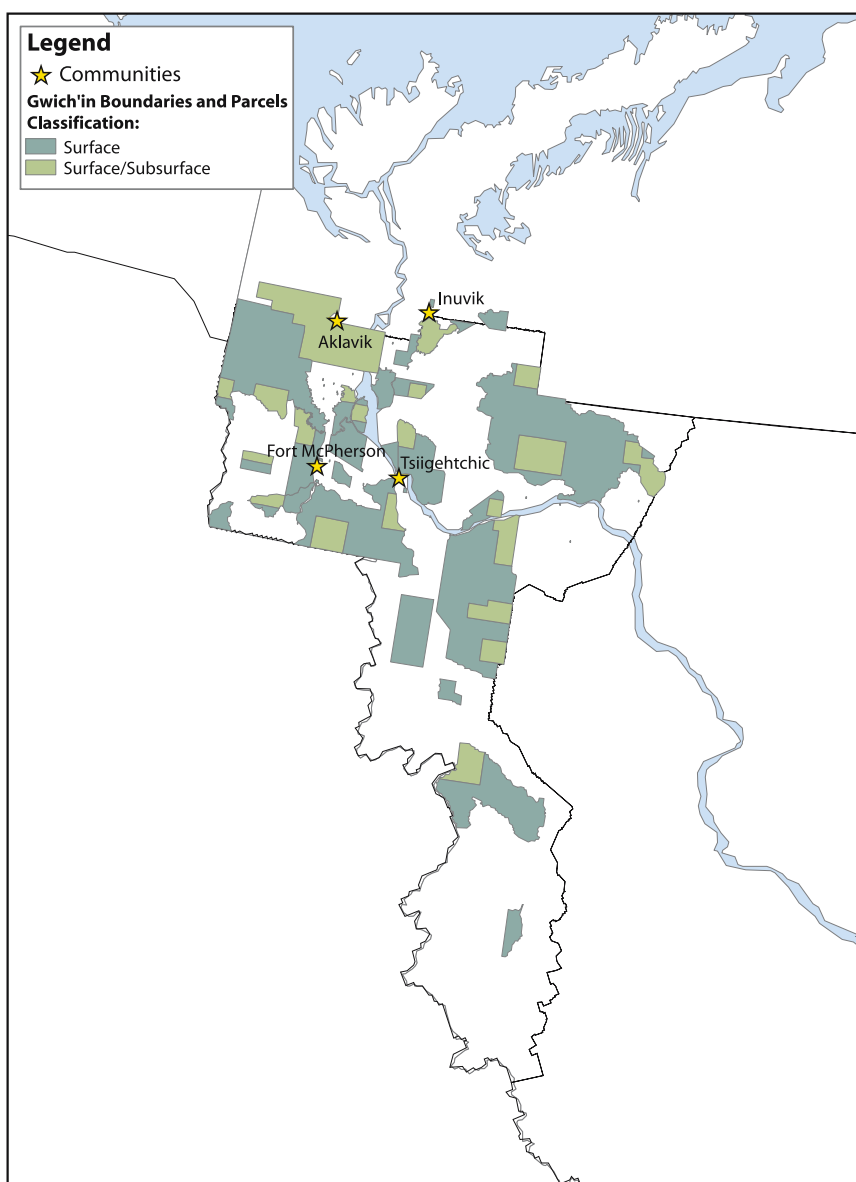
Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada

NWT  
Plain

# Facts

*On Land and  
Self-government*

## Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement



In April of 1992, the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was finalized and signed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Northwest Territories

Government Leader, and representatives of the Gwich'in Tribal Council. An implementation plan to accompany the Agreement was also signed.

Canada

## Highlights of the Agreement

The following are elements negotiated under the Agreement, for the Gwich'in people in Aklavik, Inuvik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic:

### Gwich'in-owned lands

The Gwich'in own approximately 22,330 square kilometres of land in the Northwest Territories, and 1,554 square kilometres in the Yukon. This includes subsurface (mineral) rights to 6,158 square kilometres of land in the Northwest Territories.

### Economic benefits

The Gwich'in receive a tax-free payment of \$75 million (1990) paid over a 15-year period, a share of resource revenues from development in the Northwest Territories, and a 15-year subsidy of property taxes on certain Gwich'in municipal lands.

### Land and environmental management

The Gwich'in participate in land use planning and in the management of renewable resources, land, water, and Gwich'in heritage resources.

### Hunting and fishing

The Gwich'in obtained exclusive rights to be licenced to conduct commercial wildlife activities on Gwich'in lands and preferential rights in the whole settlement area.

### Self-government

The Land Claim Agreement provides for negotiation of self-government which will be brought into effect through legislation.

## Benefits for other northerners

The Agreement clarifies who owns and has rights to the land and resources in the Gwich'in settlement area. Certainty has encouraged economic development in the area. The Gwich'in are able to use their resources, including money, to be a significant player in stimulating regional economic growth.

## Progress Update

An Agreement-in-Principle for self-government was signed in April 2003 by the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. In the winter of 2006, the Gwich'in sent a letter to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development stating that they wanted to split the table and decided to proceed with negotiations without the Inuvialuit. The Gwich'in are currently negotiating with Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories and continue to make steady progress in their self-government negotiations.

## 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](http://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](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)

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