



NWT Plain Facts

*On Land and
Self-government*

Akaitcho Process

The Akaitcho Process negotiations focus on land, resources and governance. The Parties to the negotiation are the Akaitcho Dene First Nations (Akaitcho DFN), the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The region and the people

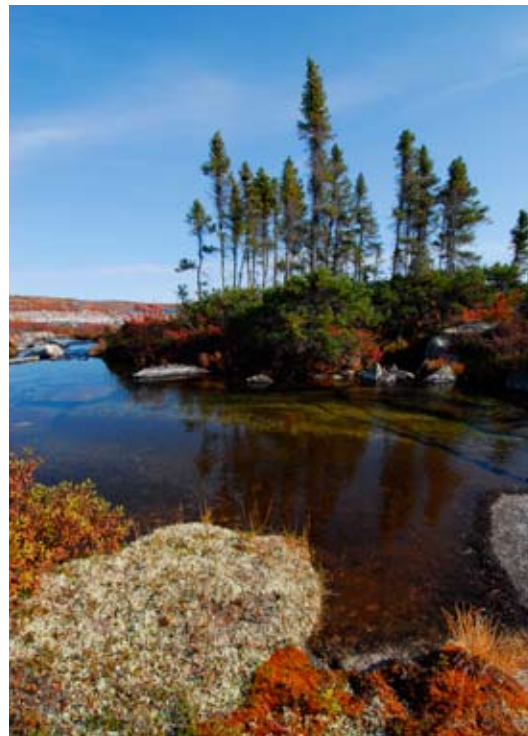
Akaitcho DFN members' communities are around Great Slave Lake (known to the Akaitcho as Tu Cho). This includes the Deninu Kue First Nation (Fort Resolution), the Lutselk'e First Nation (Lutselk'e) and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (N'dilo and Detah).

The goal of negotiations

The parties to the Akaitcho Process recognize that the Dene living in the area made Treaty with the Crown on July 25, 1900 at Deninu Kue. The parties do not have a shared understanding of the terms of that Treaty and, through the Akaitcho Process, are resolving outstanding issues related to lands, resources and governance.

Negotiating this type of agreement is a complex and intensive process that spans several years and involves many interim steps. Through interim measures agreements and negotiations to conclude an Akaitcho Agreement, the parties are working to:

- provide certainty respecting ownership and use of lands and resources;
- preserve a land base for the Akaitcho Dene First Nations;
- acknowledge and protect the spiritual and cultural ties the Akaitcho Dene have to the land, water, and animals;
- recognize the Akaitcho DFN's jurisdiction to protect cultural traditions and language;



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- help Akaitcho citizens, especially young people, to enjoy a good quality of life and strong economic prospects in their traditional territory; and,
- regulate development in a sustainable manner so that the Akaitcho traditional territory is a good place to invest and do business today and in the future.

Progress so far

February 1997

A Chief Federal Negotiator is appointed to explore the interests of the Akaitcho, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. These discussions result in a draft Framework Agreement.

May 1999

There is a lack of progress in negotiations. An interim Chief Federal Negotiator is appointed to build consensus on a process to restart negotiations.

July 25, 2000

One hundred years to the day from the signing of Treaty 8, the Akaitcho DFN, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories sign a Framework Agreement in *Deninu Kue*. The Framework Agreement establishes the process, items and time table for the three parties to negotiate an agreement on land, resources and governance issues.

June 28, 2001

The Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement (IMA) is signed in *Lutselk'e*. It establishes temporary arrangements that clarify the role of the Akaitcho DFN in resource management decisions in their region while negotiations continue. Schedules were later created to describe these arrangements in more detail for: Commissioner's Lands; Crown Lands; Forest Management; Land Use Permits; Surface Federal Crown Lands; Territorial Parks; and Water Licences.

September 2001

Formal negotiations of the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) begin.

February 2004

Ministerial Policy Direction provided by the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board further clarifying the Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement and giving guidance for its implementation.

November 21, 2005

An Interim Land Withdrawal Protocol is signed by the negotiators for the three parties.

November 2, 2006

The Akaitcho DFN and the Government of the Northwest Territories announce they have reached agreement on an Interim Land Withdrawal of 1034 hectares of Commissioner's Land within the City of Yellowknife for a period of five years.

What is being negotiated now

Negotiation sessions occur monthly and are based on a workplan that is updated and reviewed annually. The majority of Akaitcho Process negotiation sessions take place in the Akaitcho DFN traditional territory.

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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