



The parties believe that the best way to resolve the important and complex issues they face is to work together to develop negotiated solutions. Working together on common solutions also helps to build new relationships that will benefit all parties.

For Further Information

Anyone interested in further information on these negotiations, please contact:

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Northwest Territory Métis Nation Negotiations



A Northwest Territory Métis Nation Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on land and resources will provide most of the basic parts of what will eventually be in a final agreement.

An AIP does not create any legal rights or obligations but is a very important step in the negotiation process. It helps the parties confirm they have a common understanding of what will be in a final agreement.



Métis Negotiations in the South Slave Region

The Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) negotiations are for Métis people who can trace their ancestry to the South Slave region of the Northwest Territories (NWT) pre-1921 and the descendants of these individuals.

The parties to the negotiations are the Fort Resolution Métis Council, the Hay River Métis Government Council and the Fort Smith Métis Council, as represented by the NWTMN; the Government of Canada (Canada); and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). The parties have focused their discussions on subjects set out in the Framework Agreement they signed in August 1996. The Framework Agreement sets the ground rules for negotiations towards an AIP, including the subject matters and process for negotiations.

The parties are negotiating an AIP based largely on the original Dene/Métis agreement (see Negotiations Timeline). It will deal with land ownership and management, wildlife harvesting rights for the Métis of the South Slave region and will include a capital transfer payment and other economic arrangements. The parties want to come to an agreement that balances the interests of all parties, protects Métis culture and promotes a more stable, positive climate for investment and development.



A key objective of these negotiations is to provide greater clarity on the use and ownership of land and resources by the Métis of the South Slave region.

Current Focus

Topics currently being negotiated for an AIP are organized under the following chapter headings:

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|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| • Preamble | • Wildlife Harvesting | • Heritage Resources |
| • Interpretation | • Fish Harvesting | • Expropriation |
| • General Provisions | • Tree Harvesting | • Subsurface Resources |
| • Eligibility & Enrolment | • Plant Harvesting | • Mineral Royalty Sharing |
| • Approval of the AIP | • Wildlife & Fish Harvesting Compensation | • Economic Measures |
| • Dispute Resolution | • Protected Areas | • Financial Payments |
| • Ratification of the Final Agreement | • Wood Buffalo National Park | • Taxation |
| • Implementation | • National Parks | • Self-Government Negotiations |
| • Access | • Métis Land | • Land Selection Criteria |
| • Water | • Métis Community Land | |



Overlapping Interests

There are complex overlapping Aboriginal interests in the South Slave region. The NWTMN, Canada and the GNWT are working to address these interests.

Negotiations Timeline

1981 – Dene/Métis Negotiations

In 1981, the Métis of the NWT became a party to the joint Dene/Métis land claim negotiations.

1990 – Dene/Métis Final Agreement

The Dene/Métis final agreement was initialled by negotiators; however, the final agreement was never ratified by the Dene and Métis. Canada announced it would negotiate regional claims on the basis of the 1990 Dene/Métis Agreement. Canada and the GNWT went on to conclude two regional land claim agreements with the Dene and Métis of the Northwest Territories (Gwich'in and Sahtu) and one regional land claim and self-government agreement (Tlicho). In the South Slave region, First Nations initially decided to pursue Treaty Land Entitlement, which left the Métis without a negotiation process.

1996 – South Slave Métis Framework Agreement

In 1996, the South Slave Métis Tribal Council, Canada and the GNWT signed a Framework Agreement to begin a negotiation process to address concerns of the Métis who could not participate in the Treaty Land Entitlement processes underway in the South Slave region.

2002 – Interim Measures Agreement

The NWTMN, Canada and the GNWT signed an Interim Measures Agreement (IMA) describing how government will engage the NWTMN on the pre-screening of development activities in the IMA area.

2003 – Name Change

The Framework Agreement and the IMA were amended to reflect a decision by the South Slave Métis Tribal Council to change its name to the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN).



Current Negotiations

The NWTMN negotiations will take place in two stages. The first stage is underway and is focused on achieving a land and resources AIP. Once an AIP is reached, the parties will begin negotiation of a final land and resources agreement as well as start self-government negotiations.

An AIP must be approved by the parties before it is considered to be complete. The NWTMN will conduct community information sessions and regional workshops with its members prior to approving the AIP.

Towards an
Agreement-in-Principle

