



WORKING TOGETHER

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEMORANDUM

OF

UNDERSTANDING

between the

TŁİCHǪ GOVERNMENT

and

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

May 5, 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. On August 4, 2005, the *Tłıchq Agreement* came into effect and the Tłıchq Government was established, complete with lawmaking powers associated with areas of jurisdiction. The *Tłıchq Agreement* has the force of law.
- 1.2. The *Tłıchq Agreement* provides for the creation of a number of intergovernmental agreements and bodies, including the Tłıchq Intergovernmental Services Agreement, Tłıchq Community Services Agency, Tłıchq Implementation Plan, and the Tłıchq Implementation Committee, to ensure the effective implementation of the Tłıchq Agreement and the coordination of the activities of governments.
- 1.3. The Tłıchq Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) acknowledge their unique and evolving government-to-government relationship and agree to work with one another on the basis of mutual respect, recognition, and responsibility. Both governments now wish to continue their formalized government-to-government relationship through a renewed Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding, which was signed previously in June 2012, October 2014, and December 2018.
- 1.4. The Memorandum of Understanding will be known as the Tłıchq Government / GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding.

2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1. The Tłıchq Government and the GNWT recognize and respect the diversity of cultures, history, and traditions among the people of the Northwest Territories and respect that different governments may have unique political and policy priorities.
- 2.2. The Tłıchq Government and the GNWT welcome the opportunity to continue to deepen their understanding of each other's views and commit to working together to make progress and achieve outcomes

on matters of mutual interest.

- 2.3. The Tłıchǵ Government and the GNWT agree to work together to achieve a respectful, strong, and meaningful government-to-government relationship, with effective communication and information sharing.
- 2.4. The Tłıchǵ Government and the GNWT recognize that, in addition to the intergovernmental agreements and bodies identified in the *Tłıchǵ Agreement*, additional bilateral arrangements and agreements may be appropriate in order to facilitate cooperation between their respective governments.
- 2.5. The Tłıchǵ Government and the GNWT commit to constructive collaboration, in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, knowing that cooperation will help to maximize the benefits for the people served by each respective government.
- 2.6. The Tłıchǵ Government and the GNWT recognize that there may be different perspectives on various issues and that agreement may not always be achievable on all issues.

3. AREAS OF COOPERATION

- 3.1. The purpose of the Tłıchǵ Government / GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding is to enhance the relationship between the Tłıchǵ Government and the GNWT and provide a framework within which the two governments can work together.
- 3.2. Areas of cooperation and discussion will include, but not be limited to:
 - Housing
 - Caribou management
 - Regional and community infrastructure needs
 - Community government issues
 - Areas of duplication, overlap, potential harmonization and compatibility within their respective areas of jurisdiction

- Status and progress of implementation obligations under the *Tłıchǫ Agreement*
- Emergency Management
- Any other areas of mutual interest identified by the Tłıchǫ Government and the GNWT.

4. MEETINGS

4.1. Meetings of Elected Leaders

- 4.1.1. There shall be two meetings a year between the Tłıchǫ Government Chiefs Executive Council and the GNWT Executive Council.
- 4.1.2. Meetings will rotate between the Tłıchǫ Government and the GNWT hosting.
- 4.1.3. In advance of the meeting, the Tłıchǫ Government and the GNWT will reach agreement on an agenda that has been jointly developed by senior officials from both governments. Where applicable, briefing materials, reports, or other documents may be shared between governments.
- 4.1.4. Prior to the end of each meeting, the Tłıchǫ Government and the GNWT will agree upon a joint summary of commitments and a joint communique.

4.2. Meetings of Senior Officials

- 4.2.1. Senior officials from the Tłıchǫ Government and the GNWT shall work together to plan and prepare for meetings of the elected leaders, including developing a joint agenda and shared lead notes and briefing materials, where applicable, and developing a joint summary of commitments and joint communique.
- 4.2.2. Senior officials from the Tłıchǫ Government and the GNWT shall

develop and maintain a matrix of commitments and, when necessary, develop a workplan, to ensure that meeting commitments are followed up on.

4.2.3. Senior officials will meet quarterly to review the commitment matrix and work plans in support of the meetings to ensure that meeting commitments are followed up on.

4.2.4. The GNWT Executive Council will endeavor to attend meetings with their Deputy Minister, Assistant Deputy Minister or alternate, as available in accordance with agenda items.

4.2.5. Senior officials from the Tłıchq Government at the Director level or above will meet annually or as needed with GNWT Deputy Ministers to discuss Tłıchq Government priorities and areas of mutual concern.

5. INFORMATION SHARING

5.1. The Tłıchq Government and the GNWT agree to share information with respect to matters of mutual concern in an open and timely manner. The Tłıchq Government and the GNWT will adhere to protocols for effective communication between governments.

5.2. Protocols include each government notifying the other of upcoming activities, regional visits and/or emergent issues of concern. More specifically, the GNWT shall advise the Tłıchq Government Grand Chief, the appropriate Tłıchq Community Chief(s), and the Tłıchq Executive Officer when Ministers are intending to visit Tłıchq communities.

5.3. The protocol for formal correspondence between elected leaders includes, but is not limited to:

5.3.1. GNWT correspondence addressed to the Tłıchq Government Grand Chief or the Tłıchq Community Government Chief(s) shall be copied to the:

- Premier of the Northwest Territories
- Chief of Staff
- Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada
- Secretary to Cabinet / Deputy Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
- Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs
- Tłıchǵ Executive Officer
- Director, Department of Planning and Partnerships, Tłıchǵ Government

5.3.2. Tłıchǵ Government correspondence addressed to the Premier of the Northwest Territories shall copied to the:

- Chief of Staff
- Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada
- Secretary to Cabinet / Deputy Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
- Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

5.3.3. Tłıchǵ Government correspondence addressed to Ministers of the GNWT shall copied to the:

- Premier of the Northwest Territories
- Chief of Staff
- Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada
- Deputy Secretary, Premier's Office
Secretary to Cabinet / Deputy Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive and Indigenous Affairs

5.4. Elected leaders may designate a senior official to send formal correspondence on behalf of that elected leader for their respective government without altering protocols in 5.3.

5.4.1. Formal correspondence designated by an elected leader to a senior official shall be copied to:

- Grand Chief of the Tłıchǵ Government

- Premier of the Northwest Territories
- Chief of Staff
- Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada
- Secretary to Cabinet / Deputy Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
- Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Relations, Executive and Indigenous Affairs
- Tłıchǵ Executive Officer, Tłıchǵ Government
- Director, Department of Planning and Partnerships, Tłıchǵ Government

5.5. GNWT correspondence addressed to the Tłıchǵ Community Governments shall be copied to the Tłıchǵ Executive Officer.

5.6. Notwithstanding sections 5.3 through 5.4, the protocol for correspondence from the GNWT to the Tłıchǵ Government related to land consultation processes shall be directed to the Manager of Lands Regulation, and copied to the following email address: lands@tlicho.ca

6. JOINT COMMUNICATIONS

6.1. The Tłıchǵ Government and the GNWT recognize the importance of issuing joint letters, press releases, statements, or other communications on matters of mutual interest and concern ("Joint Communications").

6.2. Joint Communications include, but are not limited to, any communication, document or materials bearing the logos of, or using the letterheads of, both the Tłıchǵ Government and the GNWT.

6.3. The Tłıchǵ Government and the GNWT recognize the importance of ensuring that any Joint Communications have been duly reviewed and approved by both senior officials and elected officials of their respective governments prior to release or publication of the Joint Communication.

- 6.4. Any request by either the Tłıchq Government or the GNWT for the issuance of any Joint Communication, including the use of the other government's logo or letterhead on any materials whatsoever, shall be made at least 48 hours in advance, in writing, to the Tłıchq Executive Officer on behalf of the Tłıchq Government and to the Chief of Staff on behalf of the GNWT.
- 6.5. The agreement of Tłıchq Government and the GNWT to the issuance of any Joint Communications shall be given in writing by the Tłıchq Executive Officer on behalf of the Tłıchq Government and by Chief of Staff on behalf of the GNWT.
- 6.6. No Joint Communications shall be issued that have not followed, and been duly approved, pursuant to the above protocol.

7. EFFECT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- 7.1. Nothing in this Tłıchq Government / GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding creates legal obligations.
- 7.2. Nothing in this Tłıchq Government / GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding shall constrain the respective governments from exercising their powers and responsibilities, nor impose any financial obligation.
- 7.3. Nothing in this Tłıchq Government / GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding prevents the Tłıchq Government and the GNWT from participating in other intergovernmental processes or agreements.

8. TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- 8.1. The Tłıchq Government / GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding shall be in effect for a period of four years from the date of signing.

8.2. The Tłıchǵ Government / GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding may be periodically reviewed and, upon written consent, may be renewed for a further term as agreed to by both governments.

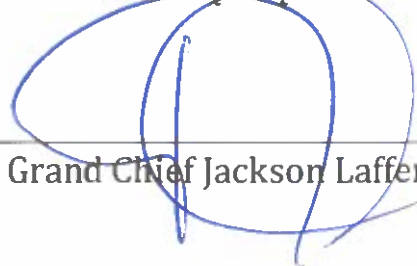
8.3. This Tłıchǵ Government / GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding may be reviewed and amended upon written notice being given to the other government at least 60 days in advance with the mutual agreement of both governments.

8.4. This Tłıchǵ Government / GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either government upon written notice to the other government at least 60 days in advance of the termination date.

SIGNATORIES

The Tłıchǵ Government / Government of the Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding is renewed by the Tłıchǵ Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories on this 5th day of May, 2025 in Behchokǵ, NT.

FOR THE TŁICHǵ GOVERNMENT



Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**



Honourable R. J. Simpson, Premier
of the Northwest Territories