



Understanding Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in the Northwest Territories:

Chapter 4: Aboriginal Rights Negotiations

INTRODUCTION

This chapter will look at the Aboriginal rights negotiations currently underway in the NWT. It will describe who is negotiating, what they are negotiating, and the current stage of the negotiating process.

Chapter 3 of this series also identified that, prior to 1995 and the release of the federal Inherent Right Policy, comprehensive land claims negotiated in the NWT did not include self-government. At that time, self-government was not recognized as an Aboriginal right under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. However, comprehensive

claims negotiated in the NWT prior to 1995 did include commitments for separate self-government negotiations.

It should be noted that two NWT Aboriginal groups will not be featured in this chapter because they have completed their negotiations: the Tłı̨chǫ and the Salt River First Nation. As we examined in the previous chapter, the Salt River First Nation signed the *Salt River First Nation Treaty Settlement Agreement* in 2002, a Treaty Land Entitlement under the federal Specific Claims Policy. The Tłı̨chǫ signed a land, resources and self-government agreement (the *Tłı̨chǫ Agreement*) in 2003, the first combined land, resources and self-government agreement in the NWT.

Negotiations:

Generally speaking, there are three different kinds of negotiations happening in the NWT today:

1. **Land and Resources Agreements** (often called “land claims”), under the federal Comprehensive Land Claims Policy.
 - a. Can be negotiated at the regional or community level.
 - b. Called “transboundary negotiations” when the Aboriginal group who is negotiating their land and resource rights in the NWT does not live in the NWT.
2. **Self-Government Agreements**, under the federal Inherent Right Policy.
 - a. Can be negotiated at the regional or community level.
3. Combined **Land, Resources and Self-Government Agreements**, under both the Comprehensive Land Claims Policy and Inherent Right Policy.
 - a. Can be negotiated at the regional or community level.
 - b. Negotiated all at once, or in separate “phases”.

Typical Stages of Negotiations:

1. **Exploratory Discussions:** To identify if there is sufficient interest and common ground to begin negotiations. Exploratory discussions lead to negotiations that result in a Framework Agreement or Process and Schedule Agreement.
2. **Framework Agreement/Process and Schedule Agreement:** Sets out the subject matters for negotiation and describes how negotiations will proceed.
3. **Agreement-in-Principle:** A detailed document, addressing most matters described in the Framework Agreement. Forms the basis for the Final Agreement. Agreements-in-Principle are approved and signed by the parties to the negotiations.
4. **Final Agreement:** Addresses all the matters described in the Framework Agreement. Creates a legally binding agreement, which is typically a treaty under the meaning of section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. Final Agreements are ratified by the parties to the negotiations. Ratification normally includes a vote by the members of the Aboriginal party and the enactment of settlement legislation by Canada and the GNWT. Prior to ratifying a Final Agreement the parties normally complete an Implementation Plan and financial arrangements that describe how the Final Agreement will be implemented.

The following sections of this chapter provide a summary of each of the negotiations that are underway in the NWT today. The parties to negotiations often agree in the Framework Agreement to hold the positions of the parties in confidence while negotiations are underway. In order to respect these commitments, the details regarding what is being negotiated are not included in this chapter unless they are described in publically available documents like Framework Agreements or Agreements-in-Principle. Additional up-to-date information on the status of negotiations can always be found on the website of the Departmental of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, at http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/home.aspx

Inuvialuit

Who is Negotiating:

- The Inuvialuit (represented by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation), the GNWT, and Canada are negotiating a **regional self-government** agreement.
- The home communities of the Inuvialuit are: Paulatuk, Aklavik, Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok, Inuvik, and Tuktoyaktuk. The Inuvialuit Settlement Region is the northernmost region of the NWT: <http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/i/map/mapinuvialuitprivatelands.jpg>.
- Inuvik and Aklavik are also Gwich'in home communities.

What they are Negotiating:

- In 1984, the Inuvialuit completed a regional comprehensive land claim agreement: *The Western Arctic Claim: The Inuvialuit Final Agreement*. This agreement includes rights in relation to land and resources, provides for the regulation of land, water and environment, and contains a financial component.
- The Inuvialuit started self-government negotiations jointly with the Gwich'in. In 1996, the Inuvialuit and the Gwich'in (represented by the Gwich'in Tribal Council) signed the *Beaufort/Delta Self-Government Negotiations Process and Schedule Agreement* to jointly negotiate self-government with the GNWT and Canada. This led to the completion of a self-government Agreement-in-Principle in 2003 (the *Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle for the Beaufort-Delta Region*).
- In 2005, during Final Agreement negotiations, the Gwich'in stated that they no longer considered the Agreement-in-Principle as being the basis to conclude a Final Agreement, and they disengaged from self-government negotiations with Inuvialuit, Canada and the GNWT.

- The Inuvialuit, Canada, and the GNWT chose to continue negotiating self-government and, in 2007, the three parties signed the *Inuvialuit Self-Government Negotiations Process and Schedule Agreement*.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the three parties are working towards concluding a self-government Agreement-in-Principle.

Other Information:

- The Inuvialuit did not sign a Historic (Numbered) Treaty.
- The *Western Arctic Claim: The Inuvialuit Final Agreement* was the first comprehensive land claim signed in the NWT (in 1984).
- Overview of Negotiations: http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Inuvialuit.aspx
- *The Western Arctic Claim: The Inuvialuit Final Agreement*: http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20061209051753/http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/agr/inu/wesar_e.html
- *Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle for the Beaufort-Delta Region*: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/beauf_1100100032132_eng.pdf
- *Inuvialuit Self-Government Negotiations Process and Schedule Agreement*: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-NWT/STAGING/texte-text/ntr_pubs_isgnp_1330723051893_eng.pdf

Gwich'in

Who is Negotiating:

- The Gwich'in (represented by the Gwich'in Tribal Council), the GNWT, and Canada are negotiating a **regional self-government** agreement.
- The indigenous Métis of the Gwich'in region are beneficiaries of the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*.
- The home communities of the Gwich'in are Inuvik, Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic. The Gwich'in Settlement Area is situated in the northwestern part of the Northwest Territories: <http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/i/map/mapgwichinland.jpg>
- Inuvik and Aklavik are also Inuvialuit home communities.

What they are Negotiating:

- In 1992, the Gwich'in completed a regional comprehensive land claim agreement that addressed their rights relating to land and resources: the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*. This agreement included a commitment to negotiate self-government in the future, and have it "exercised as close to the community level as is reasonably possible".
- The Gwich'in began negotiating self-government jointly with the Inuvialuit. This led to the completion of a self-government Agreement-in-Principle in 2003 (the *Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle for the Beaufort-Delta Region*).
- In 2005, during Final Agreement negotiations, the Gwich'in stated that they no longer considered the Agreement-in-Principle as being the basis to conclude a Final Agreement, and they disengaged from self-government negotiations with Inuvialuit, Canada and the GNWT.

- The Gwich'in, Canada, and the GNWT chose to continue negotiating self-government, and in 2007, the three parties signed the *Gwich'in Self-Government Negotiations Process and Schedule Agreement*.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the three parties are working towards concluding a self-government Agreement-in-Principle.

Other Information:

- The Gwich'in are signatories to Treaty 11, and were part of the Dene/Métis comprehensive land claim negotiations, which broke down in 1990.
- Overview of Negotiations: http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Gwichin.aspx
- *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*: http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071115152303/http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/agr/gwich/gwic/index_e.html
- *Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle for the Beaufort-Delta Region*: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/beauf_1100100032132_eng.pdf
- *Gwich'in Self-Government Negotiations Process and Schedule Agreement*: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-NWT/STAGING/texte-text/ntr_pubs_gsgn_1330723429328_eng.pdf

Sahtu

Who is Negotiating:

- The communities of the Sahtu region are each negotiating **community-based self-government** (rather than at the regional level).
- The indigenous Métis of the Sahtu region are beneficiaries of the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* (and are participants in each of the community-based self-government negotiations).
- The Sahtu communities are: Délı̨ne, Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, and Tulita: http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/i/map/map_sahtu_settlement_area.jpg.

What they are Negotiating:

- In 1993, the Sahtu completed a regional comprehensive land claim agreement that addressed their rights relating to land and resources: the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*.
- This agreement included a commitment to negotiate self-government in the future. It also stated that self-government could be “exercised as close to the community level as is reasonably possible”, which set the stage for community-based self-government negotiations throughout the region.

Other Information:

- The Sahtu are signatories to Treaty 11, and were part of the Dene/Métis comprehensive land claim negotiations, which broke down in 1990.
- *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/sahmet_1100100031148_eng.pdf

Délı̨ne

Who is Negotiating:

- The Sahtu Dene and Métis of Délı̨ne, represented by the Délı̨ne Land Corporation and the Délı̨ne Dene Band, are negotiating a community-based self-government agreement with the GNWT and Canada.

Status of Negotiations:

- On September 12, 2012, negotiators for the parties completed a draft of the entire Délı̨ne Final Self-Government Agreement.
- At this time, the parties are reviewing the draft Final Agreement and are preparing to begin the ratification process where the parties will consider whether to approve and ratify the Final Agreement.

Other Information:

- In 1998, the Délı̨ne Land Corporation, the Délı̨ne Dene Band, the GNWT, and Canada completed a Process and Schedule Agreement.
- In 2003, the parties completed the *Délı̨ne Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle for the Sahtu and Dene and Métis of Délı̨ne*: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/aip_1100100032125_eng.pdf
- This Agreement-in-Principle proposed the creation of an inclusive (or partnership) Aboriginal government (a government that serves and represents all residents and includes guaranteed Aboriginal representation) for the Délı̨ne District, to replace the Charter Community of Délı̨ne and the Délı̨ne Dene Band.
- Délı̨ne is the only community located in the Délı̨ne District of the Sahtu region.
- Negotiations overview: http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Deline.aspx

Sahtu

Colville Lake

Who is Negotiating:

- The Sahtu Dene and Métis of Colville Lake (the Delá Got'ine of Colville Lake), represented by the Behdzi Ahda First Nation Band and the Ayoni Keh Land Corporation, are at the early stages of negotiating a community-based self-government agreement with the GNWT and Canada.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the parties are working towards concluding a Process and Schedule Agreement to guide the community-based self-government negotiations.

Other Information:

- Colville Lake is located in the K'ahsho Got'ine District of the Sahtu region, which also includes the community of Fort Good Hope.
- Negotiations overview: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/ColvilleLake.aspx

Fort Good Hope

Who is Negotiating:

- The Sahtu Dene and Métis of Fort Good Hope (the K'ahsho Got'ine of Fort Good Hope), represented by the Fort Good Hope Dene Band, the Yamoga Lands Corporation, and the Fort Good Hope Métis Nation Local #54 Land Corporation, are at the early stages of negotiating a community-based self-government agreement with the GNWT and Canada.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the parties are working towards concluding a Process and Schedule Agreement to guide the community-based self-government negotiations.

Other Information:

- Fort Good Hope is located in the K'ahsho Got'ine District of the Sahtu region, which also includes the community of Colville Lake.
- Negotiations overview: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Fort_Good_Hope.aspx

Sahtu

Norman Wells

Who is Negotiating:

- The Sahtu Dene and Métis of Norman Wells, represented by the Norman Wells Land Corporation, are negotiating a community-based self-government agreement with the GNWT and Canada.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the parties are working towards concluding a community-based self-government Agreement-in-Principle.

Other Information:

- In 2007, the Norman Wells Land Corporation, the GNWT, and Canada completed the *Norman Wells Land Corporation Self-Government Framework Agreement*: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/documents/content/Norman_Wells_Framework_Agreement.pdf
- Norman Wells is located in the Tulita District of the Sahtu region, which also includes the community of Tulita.
- Negotiations overview: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/NormanWells.aspx

Tulita

Who is Negotiating:

- The Sahtu Dene and Métis of Tulita, represented by the Tulita Yamoria Community Secretariat, are negotiating a community-based self-government agreement with the GNWT and Canada.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the parties are working towards concluding a community-based self-government Agreement-in-Principle.

Other Information:

- In 2005, the Tulita Yamoria Community Secretariat, the GNWT, and Canada completed the *Tulita Yamoria Community Secretariat Self-Government Framework Agreement*: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/documents/content/Tulita_Framework_Agreement.pdf
- Tulita is located in the Tulita District of the Sahtu region, which also includes the community of Norman Wells.
- Negotiations overview: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Tulita.aspx

Dehcho

Who is Negotiating:

- The Dehcho First Nations are negotiating a land, resources and self-government agreement, often referred to as the Dehcho Process negotiations.
- The Member Communities of the Dehcho First Nations are:
 - Deh Gah Got'ie Dene Council (Fort Providence)
 - Fort Providence Métis Nation (Fort Providence)
 - Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation (Kakisa)
 - Sambaa K'e Dene Band (Trout Lake)
 - Liidlíi Kue First Nation (Fort Simpson)
 - Fort Simpson Métis Nation (Fort Simpson)
 - Jean Marie River First Nation (Jean Marie River)
 - Nahanni Butte Dene Band (Nahanni Butte)
 - West Point First Nation (Hay River)
 - Kátł'odeeche First Nation (Hay River Reserve)*
 - Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (Wrigley)*
- The indigenous Métis of the Dehcho region are part of the Dehcho First Nations, and are participating in the Dehcho Process negotiations.
- The Acho Dene Koe First Nation (with the Fort Liard Metis Local #67) was formerly part of the Dehcho Process negotiations. However, in 2008, they separated from the Dehcho Process negotiations and the Dehcho First Nations to pursue their own community-based land, resources and self-government negotiations process.

* The Kátł'odeeche First Nation (Hay River Reserve) and Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (Wrigley) have each been exploring the possibility of pursuing their own separate negotiating processes.

What they are Negotiating:

- The Dehcho First Nations are negotiating a land, resources and self-government agreement.

- In 2001, the Dehcho First Nations, GNWT, and Canada completed the *Deh Cho First Nations Framework Agreement*.
- Also in 2001, the three parties completed the *Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement* that would protect the interests of the Dehcho First Nations in order to advance negotiations. This Interim Measures Agreement also called for the negotiation of a Dehcho Land Use Plan.
- The Dehcho First Nations and Canada also completed an *Interim Resource Development Agreement* in 2003.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the parties are working towards concluding a land, resources and self-government Agreement-in-Principle and an interim Dehcho Land Use Plan.

Other Information:

- The Dehcho First Nations are signatories to Treaty 8 and Treaty 11, and were part of the Dene/Métis comprehensive land claim negotiations, which broke down in 1990.
- Overview of negotiations: http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Dehcho.aspx
- *Deh Cho First Nations Framework Agreement*: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/dcf_1100100032119_eng.pdf
- *Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement*: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/dci_1100100032115_eng.pdf
- *Dehcho First Nations Interim Resource Development Agreement*: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-NWT/STAGING/texte-text/ntr_pubs_dird_1330724324385_eng.pdf

Acho Dene Koe First Nation

Who is Negotiating:

- The Acho Dene Koe First Nation is negotiating a **land, resources and self-government** agreement at the community level.
- The indigenous Métis of the Fort Liard area (Fort Liard Metis Local #67) are participating in the negotiations.
- These negotiations are using a “phased” approach. Phase 1 (which is being negotiated right now) will lead to an AIP and Final Agreement focusing on land and resource matters. Ten years after the Phase 1 Final Agreement, Phase 2 negotiations can begin, which will lead to an AIP and Final Agreement focusing on self-government matters.

What they are Negotiating:

- The Acho Dene Koe First Nation was formerly part of the Dehcho First Nations regional organization. However, in 2008, they separated from the Dehcho Process negotiations and the Dehcho First Nations to pursue their own community-based land, resources and self-government negotiations process.
- In 2008, the Acho Dene Koe First Nation, GNWT, and Canada completed *The Acho Dene Koe First Nation Framework Agreement*.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the parties are working towards concluding a Phase 1 Agreement-in-Principle.

Other Information:

- The Acho Dene Koe First Nation is signatory to Treaty 11, and was part of the Dene/Métis comprehensive land claim negotiations, which broke down in 1990.
- Overview of negotiations: http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/AchoDeneKoe.aspx
- *The Acho Dene Koe First Nation Framework Agreement*: http://www.daair.gov.nt.ca/_live/documents/content/ADKFrameworkAgreement-signed.pdf

Akaiitcho Dene First Nations

Who is Negotiating:

- The Akaiitcho Territory Dene First Nations (represented by the NWT Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation) is negotiating a **land, resources and self-government** agreement at the regional level. This is sometimes referred to as the Akaiitcho Process negotiations.
- The NWT Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation represents four Akaiitcho Dene First Nations:
 - Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)
 - Yellowknives Dene First Nation (N'dilo)
 - Łutselk'e Dene First Nation (Łutselk'e)
 - Deninu Kue First Nation (Fort Resolution)
- The indigenous Métis of the region are not part of the Akaiitcho Process negotiations, and are pursuing a separate negotiations process.

What they are Negotiating:

- In 2000, the Akaiitcho Territory Dene First Nations (as represented by the NWT Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation), the GNWT, and Canada completed the *Akaiitcho Territory Dene First Nations Framework Agreement*.
- In 2003, the parties completed the *Akaiitcho Interim Measures Agreement* that would protect the interests of the Akaiitcho Dene First Nations in order to advance negotiations.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the parties are working towards concluding a land, resources and self-government Agreement-in-Principle.

Other Information:

- The Akaiitcho Dene First Nations are signatory to Treaty 8, and were part of the Dene/Métis comprehensive land claim negotiations, which broke down in 1990.
- Overview of negotiations: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/Akaiitcho.aspx
- *Akaiitcho Territory Dene First Nations Framework Agreement*: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/documents/content/ADFN_Framework_Agreement.pdf
- *Akaiitcho Interim Measures Agreement*: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/documents/content/Akaiitcho_IMA.pdf

Northwest Territory Métis Nation

Who is Negotiating:

- The Northwest Territory Métis Nation is negotiating a **land and resources** agreement at the regional level.
- The Northwest Territory Métis Nation represents the indigenous Métis of the south slave region, and is organized into three Métis Councils:
 - Fort Resolution Métis Council
 - Fort Smith Métis Council
 - Hay River Métis Government Council
- These negotiations are using a “phased” approach. The current negotiations will lead to an Agreement-in-Principle focusing on land and resource matters. Once the land and resources Agreement-in-Principle is complete, final agreement negotiations will begin, including negotiations on how to approach and address self-government for Northwest Territory Métis Nation.

What they are Negotiating:

- In 1996, the South Slave Métis Tribal Council (now the Northwest Territory Métis Nation), the GNWT, and Canada completed the *South Slave Métis Framework Agreement*. This document described the first phase of negotiations focusing on land and resources.
- In 2002, the parties completed the *South Slave Métis Tribal Council Interim Measures Agreement* that would protect the interests of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation in order to advance negotiations.

Status of Negotiations:

- At this time, the parties are working towards concluding a land and resources Agreement-in-Principle.

Other Information:

- The Métis of the South Slave region have been involved in negotiations since the Dene/Métis comprehensive land claim negotiations. After the Dene/Métis comprehensive land claim broke down in 1990, the Akaitcho Dene First Nations initially decided to pursue a Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement, which the Métis of the region could not participate in. At that time, Canada and the GNWT agreed to enter into negotiations with the indigenous Métis of the South Slave.
- Overview of negotiations: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/NorthwestTerritoryMetisNation.aspx
- *South Slave Métis Framework Agreement*: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/documents/content/NWTMN_Framework_Agreement.pdf
- *South Slave Métis Tribal Council Interim Measures Agreement*: http://www.daaair.gov.nt.ca/_live/documents/content/NWTMN_IMA.pdf

Transboundary Negotiations:

Transboundary negotiations involve an Aboriginal group whose home communities are outside the NWT, but whose asserted traditional territory includes some of the NWT. These negotiations are intended to clarify and provide certainty regarding the Aboriginal group's Aboriginal or treaty rights in the NWT. Transboundary negotiations are normally tripartite, including the Aboriginal group, Canada, and the GNWT. Transboundary negotiations often focus on the Aboriginal groups' harvesting rights in the NWT.

Current transboundary negotiations in the NWT include:

- Manitoba Denesuline (court monitored negotiations, which arose from litigation initiated by the Manitoba Denesuline, intended to conclude a Final Agreement)
- Saskatchewan (Athabasca) Denesuline (court monitored negotiations, which arose from litigation initiated by the Saskatchewan [Athabasca] Denesuline, intended to conclude a Final Agreement)
- First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun (Yukon) (exploratory discussions)

CONCLUSION

Completing land, resources and self-government negotiations is in the interests of all residents of the NWT. For Aboriginal people, these agreements recognize and protect their rights. These agreements also clarify and provide certainty surrounding Aboriginal and treaty rights, which benefits all residents of the NWT. Land and resources agreements clarify and provide certainty concerning who owns the land, whose rights and interests need to be considered when activities could impact the land or wildlife, and the rules for obtaining approval for developing or using land. Self-government agreements enhance self-determination by recognizing Aboriginal peoples' authority to design and deliver programs and services for their citizens in their communities. This sets the foundation for lasting government-to-government relations.

Negotiating and concluding these agreements is no easy task. Final Agreements are often intended to be treaties that the parties can rely on for many years. As a result, amending these agreements is a very formal and significant process. While many agreements cover the same range of subjects, the unique priorities and circumstances in each region or community means that a 'one size fits all' approach does not work. As a result, considerable time and attention go into negotiating Aboriginal rights agreements, and the negotiations often take many years to complete.

In the conclusion of this series, we will explore the results of these efforts – Aboriginal peoples, the GNWT, and Canada working together to fully implement land, resources, and self-government agreements and to build and maintain positive relationships founded on respect, recognition, and responsibility.