

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

for the

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COUNCIL OF LEADERS

June 11, 2021

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING entered into as of the 11th day of June, 2021

BETWEEN:

The Acho Dene Koe First Nation,

The Akaitcho Dene First Nations,

The Dehcho First Nations,

The Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government,

The Gwich'in Tribal Council,

The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation,

The Kátł'odeeche First Nation,

The Nahanni Butte Dene Band,

The North Slave Métis Alliance,

The Northwest Territory Métis Nation,

The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated,

The Salt River First Nation,

The Tłı̨chǫ Government,

and

The Government of the Northwest Territories

Collectively known as the "Members"

Whereas Dene, Inuvialuit, and Métis are aboriginal rights-holders under the Constitution. It is on the basis of this special relationship that Indigenous Members are entering into this multilateral partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories to address NWT-wide shared priorities;

Whereas the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to continuing to strengthen its relationship with Indigenous Members based on respect, recognition, responsibility, cooperation, and partnership as a path to the broader goal of reconciliation between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Indigenous peoples in the Northwest Territories;

Whereas the Members are committed to working in partnership to address issues that will benefit all residents, in particular the Indigenous peoples of the Northwest Territories;

Whereas negotiation and implementation of land claim and self-government agreements are recognized to be foundational to strengthening Dene, Inuvialuit, and Métis self-determination, and contribute to the benefit of all residents of the Northwest Territories;

Whereas the rights of the Dene, Inuvialuit, and Métis, especially their rights to their lands, traditional territories, and resources are recognized;

Whereas the languages and cultures of the Indigenous peoples of the Northwest Territories are recognized;

Now, therefore, the Members have reached consensus regarding the creation of the Northwest Territories Council of Indigenous Leaders to collaboratively identify and act on shared priorities and monitor progress going forward.

The Members to this Memorandum agree as follows:

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To establish a Northwest Territories Council of Indigenous Leaders (NWTCOL) to build a more constructive and broad system of decision-making relating to shared social, economic, and cultural issues within the Northwest Territories (NWT).
- 1.2. The NWTCOL will provide a forum for a strong and unified approach on these issues within the Canadian federation and internationally with a view to improving the social and economic well-being of all Indigenous peoples and residents of the NWT.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. The objectives of the NWTCOL include, but are not limited to:
 - Address social, economic and cultural issues of mutual concern;
 - Build healthy, strong and resilient communities within the NWT;
 - Establish a process to collectively research, review, discuss, and determine common priorities and opportunities for cooperation and collaboration;
 - Promote positive and productive working relations between and among Members; and
 - Strengthen the capacity of all Members to address social and economic issues through the coordination of information and resources.
- 2.2. The NWTCOL will be flexible, efficient, and cost-shared to ensure it is able to plan and respond to changing circumstances in the NWT.

3. MANDATE

3.1. In pursuit of the objectives, the NWTCOL will:

- 3.1.1. Serve as a forum where Members can share and exchange viewpoints, information, knowledge, and experiences;
- 3.1.2. Work together to find solutions, when appropriate, on social, economic and cultural issues that are of common concern to the Members;
- 3.1.3. Analyze actions or measures of the federal government or GNWT that in the opinion of Members have a major impact on all Members;
- 3.1.4. Address any social, economic and cultural issues of priority which, in the decision of the Members, requires the pooling of expertise, collective dialogue, or the coordination of their actions.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. The NWTCOL members are:

1. Acho Dene Koe First Nation
2. Akaitcho Dene First Nations
3. Dehcho First Nation
4. Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government
5. Gwich'in Tribal Council
6. Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
7. Kátł'odeeche First Nation
8. Nahanni Butte Dene Band
9. North Slave Métis Alliance
10. Northwest Territory Métis Nation
11. Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
12. Salt River First Nation
13. Tłı̨chǫ Government
14. Government of the Northwest Territories

4.2. Additional Members may be added either by a consensus decision of all current Members or, if consensus is not possible, by majority vote of the Members.

- 4.3. The GNWT shall be represented by the Premier of the NWT and Minister or Ministers of the GNWT as appropriate based on the agenda.
- 4.4. Indigenous Members shall be represented by their elected leader or a designated alternate elected leader.

5. SECRETARIAT

The NWTCOL shall establish a Secretariat to coordinate the work of the NWTCOL. Each Member shall designate one senior official who shall be their principal supporting official for the purposes of this Memorandum.

6. WORKING GROUPS

The NWTCOL may establish working groups to carry out any tasks assigned by the NWTCOL. The NWTCOL Members may each designate one or more officials to participate in any working groups established by the NWTCOL.

7. MEETINGS

- 7.1. The NWTCOL shall meet at least once per year, unless otherwise agreed.
- 7.2. A meeting of the NWTCOL can only take place if the majority of the Members are represented by their respective leaders or their designated alternate elected leaders.
- 7.3. The NWTCOL may decide, from time to time, to hold special meetings to which it may invite other participants including the Federal Government or other agencies.
- 7.4. Meetings shall be held in Yellowknife or virtually, unless an alternate location is agreed to by the Members.

- 7.5. NWT COL meetings will be chaired on a rotational basis between the Members, unless otherwise agreed to by the Members.
- 7.6. Only NWT COL Members or their designated alternate elected leaders, and the Premier and the members of the GNWT Executive Council may sit at the meeting table.
- 7.7. The NWT COL may invite observers to its meetings and determine whether and to what extent they may participate. Without limitations, this may include representatives of boards, agencies, councils, or other entities.
- 7.8. The NWT COL may make rules respecting its practice and procedures.
- 7.9. The Members will agree to a meeting date by a consensus decision of all current Members or, if consensus is not possible, by majority vote of the Members. and an agenda.
- 7.10. The Secretariat shall work together to plan and prepare for meetings, including preparation and sharing of agenda, lead notes, briefing materials, reports, or other documents to be shared between Members in advance of the meeting.
- 7.11. Prior to the end of each meeting, the Members shall agree upon a joint summary of commitments and a joint communique.

8. DECISION MAKING

- 8.1. The NWT COL shall strive to carry out its decisions by consensus, if consensus is not possible, by majority vote of the Members. Although consensus is desired, unanimity on any one issue is not required to advance action on that issue.
- 8.2. The proceedings and directions of the NWT COL may give rise to commitments or undertakings.

- 8.3. The commitments or undertakings of the NWTCOL are not legally binding on the Members.

9. FUNDING

The GNWT will administer the NWTCOL and pay for hosting, but participating costs are the responsibility of each Member. The GNWT may provide funding through the Indigenous Intergovernmental Meeting Fund to support participation costs.

10. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROCESSES

- 10.1. Proceedings of the NWTCOL shall not take the place of other discussions, forums, or formal Aboriginal consultation obligations between GNWT and the other Members.
- 10.2. The NWTCOL Members may provide advice to, or may take advice from, those discussions and directions:
 - under bilateral or multilateral accords or arrangements;
 - in respect of particular fields of responsibility and authority; or
 - in the context of meetings to which Canada is also a party.

11. EFFECT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Nothing in this MOU:

- 11.1. creates or affects any legal obligations.
- 11.2. abrogates or derogates from any aboriginal or treaty right of the Indigenous Members, as protected under the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- 11.3. is intended to preclude, replace, or substitute the participation of Members in any other intergovernmental processes or agreements.

- 11.4. shall constrain the Members from exercising their powers and responsibilities, nor impose any financial obligation on them.

12. TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement:

- 12.1. shall be in effect for a period of four (4) years from the date of signing.
- 12.2. may be periodically reviewed and, upon written consent of all the Members, may be renewed for a further term as agreed to by the Members.
- 12.3. may be reviewed and amended upon written notice being given to the other Members at least 60 days in advance with the mutual agreement of the Members.
- 12.4. will allow any Member to leave at any time by providing written notice to the Members.

13. FINAL PROVISIONS

- 13.1. It is envisaged that the NWTCOL will evolve, as required, to ensure its maximum effectiveness.
- 13.2. The NWTCOL shall take the steps necessary to ensure the performance of its mandate is shared in the official languages of the NWT.
- 13.3. Nothing in this Memorandum alters or affects the respective legislative or constitutional rights or authorities of the Members.

14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This *Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders* shall come into effect on June 11, 2021.

**The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories
Council of Leaders**

Signed in counterpart on May 31, 2022 at

Fort Liard, NT.

For the **Acho Dene Koe First Nation**

Brenda Berreault

Brenda Berreault
Sub-Chief

Mark

Witness

**The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories
Council of Leaders**

Signed in counterpart on June 11, 2021 at
Yellowknife, NT.

For the Akaitcho Dene First Nations

Louie Balsillie
Chief

Edward Sangris
Chief

Ernest Betsina
Chief

Darryl Marlowe
Chief

Witness



Witness



Witness



Witness

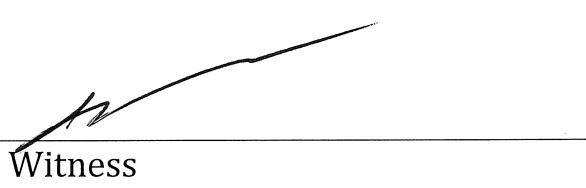
The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders

Signed in counterpart on June 11th 2021 at
Yellowknife.

For the **Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government**



Leeroy Andre
ɻekw'ahtłdé

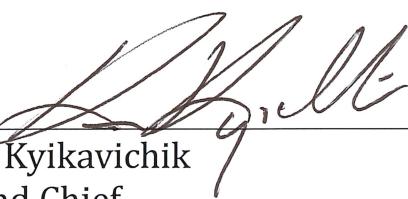


Witness

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders

Signed in counterpart on June 11, 2021 at
Yellowknife, NT.

For the **Gwich'in Tribal Council**



Ken Kyikavichik
Grand Chief

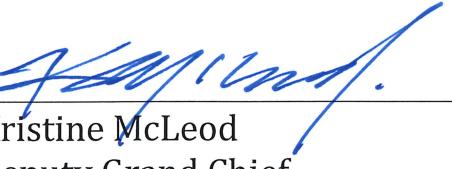


Witness

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders

Signed in counterpart on June 11th at
Yellowknife, NT

For the **Gwich'in Tribal Council**


Kristine McLeod
Deputy Grand Chief


Witness

**The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories
Council of Leaders**

Signed in counterpart on June 11 2021 at
Yellowknife.

For the **Inuvialuit Regional Corporation**

Duane Ningaqsiq Smith
Chair and CEO

Witness

**The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories
Council of Leaders**

Signed in counterpart on June 11, 2021 at
Yellowknife, NT.

For the Kátł'odeeche First Nation



April Martel
Chief



Witness

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders

Signed in counterpart on June 11, 2021 at
Yellowknife, NT.

For the **Nahanni Butte Dene Band**

Steve Vital E. M. Weller
Steve Vital E. M. Weller
Witness

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders

Signed in counterpart on June 11, 2021 at
Yellowknife, NT.

For the North Slave Métis Alliance

Bill Enge

William (Bill) Enge
President

Shirley C. C. C.

Witness

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders

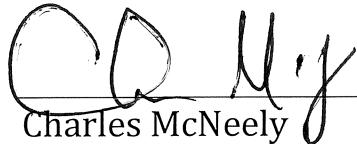
Signed in counterpart on June 11, 2021 at
Yellowknife, NT.

For the Northwest Territory Métis Nation

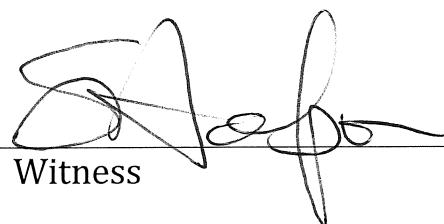
**The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories
Council of Leaders**

Signed in counterpart on June 11, 2021 at
Yellowknife, NT.

For the **Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated**



Charles McNeely
Chair



Witness

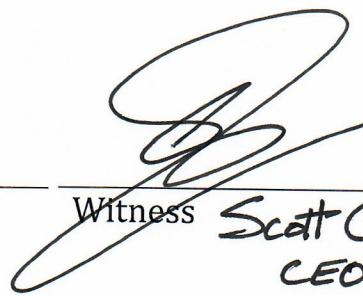
**The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories
Council of Leaders**

Signed in counterpart on June 23, 2021 at
Town of Fort Smith, NT.

For the Salt River First Nation

David Poitras

David Poitras
Chief


Witness Scott Carle
CEO, SRFN

**The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories
Council of Leaders**

Signed in counterpart on June 11, 2021 at
Yellowknife.

For the **Tłı̨chǫ Government**


George Mackenzie
Grand Chief


Witness

**The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories
Council of Leaders**

Signed in counterpart on June 11, 2021 at
Yellowknife, NT.

For the **Government of the Northwest Territories**

Caroline Cochrane

Caroline Cochrane
Premier

S. J. Wal

Witness

**The Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories
Council of Leaders**

Signed in counterpart on _____ at
_____.

For the **Dehcho First Nations**

Gladys Norwegian
Grand Chief

Witness