

ACHO DENE KOE

Community-based land,
resource and governance negotiations



Photo: Tessa Macintosh

QUICK FACTS:

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Canada



ACHO DENE KOE



Northwest
Territories

ACHO DENE KOE NEGOTIATIONS

WHO IS NEGOTIATING?

- The membership of Acho Dene Koe First Nation (ADK), and the Métis Local in the Fort Liard area
- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- The Government of Canada

WHY ARE THEY NEGOTIATING?

In 2008, after almost 10 years in the Dehcho Process, Canada and the GNWT agreed to enter into negotiations with ADK focused on its particular needs and interests. From 1999 to 2008, ADK participated in the regional Dehcho Process. However, for over 20 years, ADK had advocated for a separate process to settle its outstanding claims in the Northwest Territories (NWT), the Yukon and British Columbia, and advance economic opportunities for its members and community. These current negotiations are the first in the NWT to deal with a community-based comprehensive land claim agreement, also known as a modern treaty.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED?

On July 14, 2008, the parties signed the Acho Dene Koe Framework Agreement. This agreement sets out the process and “ground rules” for negotiations. It deals with matters such as: objectives, subjects, timetables and funding. Negotiation of the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) began shortly after and the parties have been making steady and substantive progress ever since.

WHAT ARE THEY NEGOTIATING?

The parties are taking a phased approach to negotiations. The Framework Agreement lays out this two-phased approach.

Phase I

Right now, the parties are working on a Phase I AIP. It will deal with land, financial payments, wildlife harvesting, public community government and a range of other issues related to the community of Fort Liard, ADK/Métis settlement lands and ADK/Métis beneficiaries. After an AIP is reached, the remaining legal and technical details will be negotiated to complete a final agreement.

Phase II

Once the Phase I final agreement has been in place for 10 years, the parties may start negotiations of a Phase II agreement that would deal with issues that were not addressed in Phase I, such as additional governance matters. The Framework Agreement sets out the basis for entering into Phase II negotiations.

The parties also recognize that outstanding claim issues in British Columbia and the Yukon are very important to ADK's members. Once a draft AIP is almost complete, Canada will approach the governments of British Columbia and the Yukon to discuss these issues.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The parties encourage you to learn more about these negotiations. Now is a good time to get involved by stopping by the First Nation/Métis office or by contacting your negotiation team using the information provided below.

Up-to-date membership information is an important part of the ADK's preparation for an agreement. Potential Dene and Métis beneficiaries of the agreement should make sure their membership information is current, no matter where their family lives.

Potential beneficiaries and other residents can prepare now to be part of the future of their community. Find out today what skills and abilities will be needed and how you can get ready.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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