



Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada

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# AKAITCHO PROCESS

Photography: Tessa Macintosh

## QUICK FACTS:

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Canada

# AKAITCHO PROCESS

## WHO IS NEGOTIATING?

There are three parties negotiating: the Akaitcho Dene First Nations, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The negotiations involve four First Nations from around Great Slave Lake: the Deninu Kue First Nation (Fort Resolution), the Lutsel K'e First Nation and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Ndilo and Dettah).

## WHY ARE THEY NEGOTIATING?

The Dene living in the area under negotiation made treaty with the Crown on July 25, 1900 at Deninu Kue. However, the Dene and the Crown do not have a shared understanding of the terms of that treaty and are working to resolve outstanding land, resource and governance issues through negotiation.

## WHAT ARE THEY NEGOTIATING?

The objective of negotiations is to come to an agreement that will clarify ownership and rights to lands and resources in the region and how they will be managed. It will also describe the structure, operation, legal status and extent of the Akaitcho government and will include measures to enhance the capacity of the Akaitcho to participate fully in the economy.

## KEY AGREEMENTS

**Framework Agreement (July 2000)** - Established the process, subjects and timetable for the negotiations.

**Interim Measures Agreement (June 2001)** - Put in place temporary arrangements to clarify the role of the Akaitcho Dene in resource management decisions while negotiations continue. Schedules were later created to describe these arrangements in more detail for: Commissioner's Lands; Crown Lands; Forest Management; Land Use Permits; Surface Federal Crown Lands; Territorial Parks; and Water Licences.

**Ministerial Policy Directions (February 2004)** - Provided direction from the federal Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board further clarifying the Akaitcho Interim Measures Agreement and giving guidance for its implementation.

## CURRENT FOCUS

**Interim Land Withdrawal** - Will identify and protect certain areas while an Akaitcho Agreement is being negotiated.

**Agreement-in-Principle negotiations** - Will lay out the principles for an agreement between the Akaitcho Dene First Nations, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories on land, resources and governance.

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