



# Dinàgà Wek'èhodì

## Candidate Protected Area



### **How this area meets the purpose of the Protected Areas Act to support and promote the protection, conservation and maintenance of biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural continuity of the Northwest Territories**

#### **Biodiversity**

Dinàgà Wek'èhodì is an area with rich biodiversity. Covering an area primarily made up of water, wetlands, and islands, this area is a key migratory bird site, with large numbers of tundra swans, Canada geese and other waterfowl using it as a staging area. Dinàgà Wek'èhodì also contains Canada's northernmost recorded breeding range of Caspian and black terns. The area also provides habitat for other birds, fish and wildlife, including several species at risk such as boreal woodland caribou, wood bison, wolverine, rusty blackbird, common nighthawk, barn swallow and short-eared owl.

#### **Ecological Integrity**

This area is largely undisturbed. Native components and conditions that are characteristic of the Northwest Territories are predominant.

#### **Cultural Continuity**

Dinàgà Wek'èhodì is culturally important to the Dene and Métis who have used the area for centuries for many activities, including hunting and fishing. The area has powerful historical, spiritual and cultural significance. It is a place of legends, sharing, teaching and learning for many Indigenous people in the Northwest Territories. The area is also an important harvesting area for Indigenous and local people, as well as a popular ecotourism and recreation area.

### **Manner of Interim Protection**

The candidate area has interim protection through a [land withdrawal order](#) under the Northwest Territories Lands Act, which expires on October 9, 2022.

**Approval Date:** June 20, 2019

### Summary of Known Values

Value	Summary
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive traditional use as a result of the abundance of wildlife, including fish, game, and furbearing animals.</li> <li>• Strong cultural and spiritual connection to Dinàgà Wek'èhodì, including many birth and burial sites, spiritual power, personal experiences, and cultural stories.</li> <li>• Use by all surrounding communities gives Dinàgà Wek'èhodì an intrinsic and shared value among these communities.</li> <li>• Passing traditional knowledge and cultural stories on to young people is very important to the Elders. The current generation of Elders have clearly directed the importance of protecting Dinàgà Wek'èhodì for future generations.</li> </ul>
Ecological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine Species at Risk listed under the federal Species at Risk Act occur there, including Little Brown Myotis, Wood Bison, Woodland Caribou, Common Nighthawk, Yellow Rail, Rusty Blackbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Short-eared Owl, and Peregrine Falcon.</li> <li>• The North Arm Important Bird Area (NT086) (IBA Canada, 2010) overlaps with Dinàgà Wek'èhodì.</li> <li>• Dinàgà Wek'èhodì includes part of the CWS North Arm Key Migratory Bird Terrestrial Habitat Site; it supports over 1% of the national populations of a number of migratory bird populations.</li> <li>• Waterfowl and other waterbirds, raptors and songbirds use the area as a migratory stopover and for breeding and brood rearing.</li> <li>• 223 bird, 33 mammal, 29 fish, and one amphibian species inhabit Dinàgà Wek'èhodì and surrounding area.</li> <li>• 15 land cover classifications have been identified, with coniferous forest covering about half the land within the area.</li> <li>• 539 species and 72 families of vascular plants occur in the area.</li> </ul>
Non-renewable resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential for dimension stone is high, but this stone is abundant outside the candidate area as well.</li> <li>• The potential for a small-scale craft clay industry and for silica sand are high. Silica sand currently represents the most viable non-renewable resource commodity with development potential, and this potential extends into the southern part of the candidate area.</li> <li>• The overall potential for finding mineral resources within the candidate area may be summarized as low.</li> </ul>
Renewable resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife and plants are the most important renewable resources due to their cultural and traditional value.</li> <li>• Subsistence harvesting and trapping have the highest present and future economic potential.</li> <li>• Timber has limited economic value and future potential.</li> <li>• Non-timber forest products are important to local harvesters.</li> <li>• Economic value from tourism, both current and potential, is high with</li> </ul>

	<p>four licensed operators using the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewable energy generation (wind, hydro, geothermal, solar) has limited potential.</li> </ul>
Socio-economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2012, the Dinàgà Wek'èhodì candidate area was estimated to provide between \$389,000 and \$437,400 of socioeconomic benefits on an annual basis.</li> </ul>

## **Description of Area**

Size: 790 km<sup>2</sup>

Settlement or other private lands: No settlement or private lands are included within this area

Map:

