



Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners Meeting

Yellowknife (April 27, 2021) – Leaders from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the five Indigenous governments with modern treaty and self-government agreements held their second meeting as the Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners on April 23, 2021.

Leaders reinforced the importance of everyone who is eligible getting vaccinated for COVID-19.

Leaders discussed a range of issues of mutual interest related to implementation of land, resources, and self-government agreements, including:

- implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the NWT, especially Article 37 that states treaties and agreements must be respected, recognized, observed, and enforced;
- working collaboratively on the implementation of the economic measures chapters in each of the respective land claim agreements and their periodic review;

- engaging on the procurement review and development of an Indigenous procurement policy that ensures equitable opportunities for Indigenous governments and meets the parties' obligations under their respective land claims;
- opportunities for social and economic recovery and closing the gap following the COVID-19 pandemic;
- opportunities for joint engagement with the federal government;
- monitoring obligations under the modern treaty and self-government agreements; and
- the importance of working together to keep northerners safe from COVID-19.

Members of the Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners include: GNWT, Tłı̨chǫ Government, Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

Leaders attending the meeting included:

- Grand Chief George Mackenzie, Tłı̨chǫ Government
- Chief Charlie Football, Tłı̨chǫ Government, Wekweètì
- Chair/CEO Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Chairperson Charles McNeely, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
- Vice-Chairperson Sherry Hodgson, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
- Grand Chief Ken Kyikavichik, Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Deputy Grand Chief Kristine McLeod, Gwich'in Tribal Council
- ʔekw'ahtı̨dá Leeroy Andre, Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government
- Deputy ʔekw'ahtı̨dá Leonard Kenny, Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government
- Premier Caroline Cochrane
- Minister Caroline Wawzonek, Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Department of Finance

Quick Facts

- Strengthening relationships with Indigenous governments is a priority of the 19th Legislative Assembly.
- The five NWT modern treaty and self-government agreements include:
 - *Inuvialuit Final Agreement, 1984*
 - *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, 1992*
 - *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, 1994*
 - *Tłıchǫ Agreement, 2005*
 - *Délıne Final Self-Government Agreement, 2016*

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