

Northwest Territories Council of Leaders Meet in Yellowknife

Yellowknife (September 4-5, 2024) – Indigenous leaders and leaders from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) gathered for the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders (NWTCOL) meeting on September 4 and 5, 2024 in Yellowknife, NT.

Key discussions and direction included:

- **Health and Wellness:** Approval of a Terms of Reference for the creation of a NWTCOL Health and Social Services Working Group. Through that working group, they agreed to continue to work collaboratively to address mental health and addictions issues in their communities and throughout the NWT.
- **Emergency Management:** Develop a working group with representatives of the GNWT and Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations to review the *Emergency Management Act* and consider potential amendments informed by the recommendations of the 2023 After Action Review, discussions with Local Authorities, and discussions of the Emergency Management Working Group.
- **Infrastructure:** Accessing remote communities and regional projects including the Mackenzie Valley Highway.
- **Economic Reconciliation:** Develop a working group with representatives of the GNWT and Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations to identify opportunities to maximize economic growth and reduce barriers in every region of the NWT. The GNWT reiterated its commitment to enhancing the inclusion of NWT Indigenous businesses and individuals more effectively in GNWT procurement policies.

The NWTCOL forum offers members the opportunity to discuss territory-wide social and economic issues that are of interest to all member governments and work towards solutions.

The NWTCOL continues to be a productive forum and an example of meaningful partnership between the Indigenous and GNWT leaders, consistent with the principles of reconciliation.

Leaders attending the meeting included:

- ʔekw'ahtı́dó Danny Gaudet, Délı́ne Got'ı́ne Government
- Délı́ne K'aowədó Kə Member, Leonard Kenny, Délı́ne Got'ı́ne Government
- Délı́ne K'aowədó Kə Member, Georgina Dolphus, Délı́ne Got'ı́ne Government
- Chief April Martel, Kátł'odeeche First Nation
- Councillor Robert Lamalice, Kátł'odeeche First Nation
- Councillor Peter Sabourin, Kátł'odeeche First Nation
- Chief Steve Vital, Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- Councillor Eric Matou, Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- Councillor Jayne Konisenta, Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- Vice President Alan Harman, North Slave Métis Alliance
- President Garry Bailey, Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- Vice President Paul Harrington, Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- Chair Charles McNeely, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
- Chief Toni Heron, Salt River First Nation
- Grand Chief Wilbert Kochon, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
- Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty, Tłı́chǫ Government
- Chief Clifford Daniels, Tłı́chǫ Government
- Chief Alfonz Nitsiza, Tłı́chǫ Government
- Chief Doreen Arrowmaker, Tłı́chǫ Government
- Chief Adeline Football, Tłı́chǫ Government
- Premier R.J. Simpson
- Minister Caroline Wawzonek
- Minister Lesa Semmler
- Minister Caitlin Cleveland
- Minister Vince McKay
- Minister Jay Macdonald
- Minister Lucy Kuptana
- Officials only, Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Officials only, Acho Dene Koe First Nation
- Officials only, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Akaitcho Dene First Nations

Quick Facts

- The *Northwest Territories Council of Leaders Memorandum of Understanding* was signed by leadership on June 11, 2021. The MOU was signed for a four-year term.

- NWTCOL strengthens intergovernmental relationships between Indigenous governments and Indigenous organization with the GNWT and enables the advancement of shared priorities.
- Signatories to the NWT Council of Leaders include: Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Akaitcho Dene First Nations, Délı̨ne Got'ı̨ne Government, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Kátł'odeeche First Nation, Nahanni Butte Dene Band, North Slave Métis Alliance, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Salt River First Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Inc., Tłı̨chǫ Government, and the Government of the NWT.
- This is the NWT Council of Leaders fourth year of meetings since the inaugural meeting in June 2021.
- The MOU commits the NWT Council of Leaders to meeting annually.

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