



Intergovernmental Meeting between Salt River First Nation and the Government of the Northwest Territories

Yellowknife, NT (November 24, 2020) – Premier Caroline Cochrane, Minister Diane Archie, Minister R.J. Simpson, Minister Paulie Chinna and Minister Julie Green met with Salt River First Nation Chief David Poitras and Councilors April McAllister, Kendra Bourke-Schaefer, Archie Beaulieu, Henry Beaver Jr. and Levi MacDonald in Yellowknife on November 24, 2020.

The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest, including:

- collaboration including related to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,
- that responding to COVID-19 in the NWT requires all governments to work collaboratively to keep NWT residents safe,
- sharing information towards finding solutions that work to proactively deal with addictions,
- the federal *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families*,
- collaboration to advance shared priorities with the federal government,
- sharing information related to Taltson Hydro,
- maximizing housing opportunities, including federal funding programs,
- the transformation of Aurora College to a Polytechnic University, and
- Salt River First Nation's interest in having dog mushing designated as an Arctic Sport and added back into the 2022 Arctic Winter Games.

The Salt River First Nation and the Government of the Northwest Territories renewed their commitment to building a strong government-to-government relationship by signing a renewed intergovernmental memorandum of understanding for another four years . This formalized relationship provides a framework for the two governments to work together through dialogue and to facilitate cooperation and collaboration to address concerns to better serve the beneficiaries of the Salt River First Nation.



The two governments agreed it was valuable to meet to discuss issues of mutual concern and that the process was carried out with respect and trust between the two governments. Both governments look forward to working together in the future.

Quick Facts

- Strengthening relationships with Indigenous governments is a priority of the 19th Legislative Assembly.
- The Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding recognizes the importance of the government-to-government relationship between the Salt River First Nation and the GNWT.
- The agreement commits both governments to meet once a year.
- *The Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding* was initially signed in August 2015 and was renewed for another four years on November 24, 2020.

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