

Dehcho First Nations

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Margaret Leishman (l) and Debbie Berry from Kakisa -
July 2004

Dene Principles

1. This land was created by "the one who provides for all", and we came from this land. We recognize our equality with this land and all living creatures.
2. We recognize and respect the cycle of seasons, the rhythms of the earth, the ways of the animals.
3. No one individual has the right to own the land. As the ones who came from this land we have a collective right to use the land and its resources to ensure our survival as a people. We also have a collective responsibility to protect the land and resources for our children and grandchildren.
4. We take only what we need from the land. We honour and give thanks to the spirit of the land and that which we take from the land. We do not waste anything that we have taken from the land, but share it with all who are in need.
5. The survival of the whole group (family, community) is more important than the accumulation of individual wealth or status.
6. Individual rights and freedoms are respected and encouraged within the larger, more important context of a collective identity and collective responsibility for the survival and well-being of the entire group.
7. The laws of the Dene, which have been passed down to us by our elders, teach us how to respect the land, ourselves, and each other. They teach us how to live in balance and good health, and how to protect ourselves and our children. We must continue to live by these laws and pass them on to our children.
8. We respect and care for each other. In particular, we honour and provide for our elders, who cared for us and passed on gifts of generations past. We also honour and provide for our children who will pass on the ways of the Dene to generations yet to come.
9. We come from male and female, and we respect and honour the contributions which both men and women make in working together for the survival of the people.
10. We respect and honour our leaders and medicine men and women who share their special skills, experiences, wisdom, and powers for the benefit of their people. We don't expect them to work for us or serve us, but we look to them for guidance and instruction to help us govern ourselves in a good way.
11. Everyone has the right to be heard and to take part in the decision-making process on discussion of matters which will affect us.
12. We respect the right of the Dene, in family groups, in communities, or in regions, to make decisions, without interference from outside, with respect to matters which affect them alone in their territory.



Volume 1, Issue2

October 2004

Special points of interest:

- Court Action
- Cultural Content
 - recipes
 - slavery words
- Negotiations Update
- DFN schedule/calendar
- Community information
- Assistant Negotiators Report
- Dene Principles

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Dehcho First Nations

Dehcho Visions



Dehcho First Nations Launches Court Action

The Deh Cho First Nations filed a statement of claim in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories on the review process for the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

"We have been forced to this action by the federal government," says Herb Norwegian, the DCFN Grand Chief. "We have tried all other routes to pursue our legitimate desire to have representation on the panel to review this project. We have a responsibility to our people to represent their interests. Forty percent of this proposed pipeline will cross Deh Cho lands. We could not just sit and watch as other people made the decisions on what is best for us."

The DCFN had asked the federal government to be allowed to participate in the appointment of two people to the seven-member panel that was set up to review the proposed pipeline. That is the same allowance as was given to the Inuvialuit Game Council, representing the interests of Inuvialuit people, further north along the pipeline route.

"We are being discriminated against because we do not have a settlement of our land and governance rights," notes Grand Chief Norwegian. "This is clearly against section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, that says 'Every individual is equal before and under the law'. It also is against section 35 of the Constitution Act which recognizes and affirms our aboriginal and treaty rights."

The statement of claim asks the court to consider granting an injunction, stopping the pipeline review until the Deh Cho First Nations are included in the review process. Alternatively, it asks the court to consider giving an order that invalidates any decision reached by the review panel.

"We are simply asking the court to recognize our right to have a say in this project," says Keyna Norwegian, chief of Liidli Koe First Nation in Fort Simpson. "This is the biggest development project to ever hit the Deh Cho. It has the potential to totally change our lives. We need a voice in this process."

AROUND THE DEHCHO

West Point First Nation's Schedule of Activities for the Month of October 2004

Community Members Hunting	October 1
Legal Challenge Up-Date	October 4
Sewing Classes	October 5 (7—9 p.m.)
Cecile Bonnetrouge & Dave Poitras	October 6
Awareness Workshop	(7 p.m.)
Governance Information Update	October 7 (6 p.m.)
Building Stronger Communities for	Oct. 11-14
Kids—Need 6 People to Attend—16 and over	
Regional Wildlife Workshop—.....	Oct. 18—21
(Fort Simpson)	
Elders' Gathering	Oct. 19—20
Chief & Council Meeting	October 14 (7 p.m.)
Fall Leadership Meeting	Oct. 25—29
(Fort Prov.)	

K'atlodeeche First Nation

Announcements

Health and wellness coordinator Jennifer Lafleur wants to announce our new employee Mindy Sabourin who will be running the Prenatal and Nutrition program.

The Radio announcer for K;atlodeeche First Nation Fred Tambour will be having a birthday on October 4, 2004. Happy Birthday Fred.

Fort Providence Metis Council Business Associates

Hello. My name is Louise Cave and I have recently started working as an Administrative Assistant at the Fort Providence Metis Council—Local No. 57. I applied for this position through an organization called Frontiers Foundation. I will be working on a wide array of projects with the Council, as well as day to day administrative duties at the Metis Local office.

I am a recent graduate from the University of Ottawa, with an honors degree in history that included three co-op placements. I have spent three four month terms working in the federal government, one term at the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Implementation Management Branch, and two terms at Canadian Heritage, Aboriginal Affairs Branch. Please feel free to contact me at the office from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday.

I look forward to working with you.

Louise Cave,
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Pehdzeh ki First Nations

Dehcho First Nations would like to congratulate Chief David Moses and the newly elected councilors; Doris Pellisey, Lawrence Nayally, Raymond Pellisey, Albert Moses, Leo Moses, George Williams and Darcy Moses.

Scheduled in Camera session on October 8, 2004 with the Dehcho First Nations Negotiating team.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

New Challenge to Pipeline—Dehcho First Nations Ask Federal Court To Halt Northern Gas Pipeline Hearings

The Dehcho First Nations (DFN) have filed an Application in the Federal Court to halt the Joint Review Panel appointed to review the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project until the First Nations agree to the panel. The DFN are also asking for an injunction stopping the panel from holding any hearing until the court application has been heard.

The court filing is the second in a series of legal actions by the DFN challenging the pipeline project. The first action was a statement of Claim filed in the Federal Court on September 2 in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories. (see front page)

"This new filing is asking the court to take specific action, to stop this review panel and the government from trampling on our rights, says DFN Grand Chief Herb Norwegian. "We would rather have avoided going to court, but this is the only route left to us to protect the interests of people in the Dehcho communities. There will be no pipeline through the Dehcho territory, because Canada has refused to consider including us in the decision making process. We will use every means necessary to stop it."

The DFN had asked the federal government to be allowed to participate in the appointment of two people to the seven-member panel that was set up to review the proposed pipeline. That is the same allowance as was given to the Inuvialuit people, further north along the pipeline route.

"This is clearly unfair," says Grand Chief Norwegian. "The federal government, and Aboriginal people with settled land claims get representation. They get to make decisions over our land. Forty percent of that pipeline is supposed to run through our territory. Because we are still negotiating our land and governance rights with the government, we have no voice on the panel that is to recommend whether or not this project should go ahead. This is the largest development project the Dehcho has ever seen, with the potential to completely change our lands and our society. We cannot be silent."

Since the statement of claim was filed, new information has emerged that make the DFN even more uneasy over the way that the review panel will do its work. Some panel members have already publicly said that they are in favour of the pipeline project. This is in breach of the Panel's obligation under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act to make impartial recommendations to the Environment Minister. Copies of the statement of Claim are available upon request. They can also be found on the internet.



Fire feeding ceremony with elder, Daniel Sonfrere—Kakisa 2004

Traditional Food Section

MOOSE STEW

BROWN 2 CUPS OF CUBED MOOSE MEAT

1 CHOPPED ONION

1 CHOPPED GARLIC CLOVE

DRAIN FAT AND STIR IN

1 CAN TOMATO SAUCE

2 TABLESPOONS FLOUR

STIR IN PEPPER

1/2 CUP CHOPPED CARROTS

1/2 CUP CHOPPED CELERY

3 DICED POTATOES

1 CAN TOMATOES

1 CAN KIDNEY BEANS (IF YOU WANT)

BRING TO A BOIL THEN COVER AND SIMMER OVER

LOW HEAT

Culture and Technology - Slavey Words and Translation

<u>Slavey</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Slavey</u>	<u>English</u>
dahkúé godah	Attic	náts'edéh k'é	Dwelling (place)
ejie kúé	Barn	łue kúé	Fish house
kúé gocho	Building (big)	łue daht'oh	Fish stage
kúéa	Cabin	ezhahts'ıłı kúé	Hospital
kúé dumagoehdıh	Cabin (abandoned)	nats'eneteh k'é	Hotel
daht'oh kúéa	Cache	kúé gotth'əné	House (empty)
ndudechıé	Cache (on the ground)	kúé aetséle	House (small)
		tę kúé	Ice house
zhú kúé	Clothing store	dechı dendalı	Log cabin
łéats'edéh k'é	Community hall	t'áh kúé	
dahgodhe kúé	Dance hall	kúé gozhəa	Old shack

Cultural Content



October 2004
(This schedule is subject to change)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 ASEP Sign- ing Cere- mony in Inuvik	2
3	4 Executive Commit- tee meeting— LKFN Board- room— 1:00 p.m.	5 Community Meeting - Katlodeeche FN - 10 a.m. WPFN—3 pm (in-camera)	6 Comm. Mtg. KTFN—3 p.m. FP Metis—7 pm (in-camera sessions)	7 Comm. Mtg. LKFN—12 noon FS Metis—7 pm (in camera session)	8 Community Meeting PKFN—2 pm (in-camera session)	9
10	11 Thanks- giving Day	12 Community meeting Sam- baa Ke First Nations	13-14 Naxecho Gathering Constitutional Working Group Snowshoe Inn - Providence		15 Community Meeting—ADK 1 p.m. (in camera)	16
17	18-19 Grand Chief in Ottawa for meetings		20	21 Calgary Meeting	22 Circumpolar Insti- tute, Edmonton	23
	24-26 RWED—Wildlife workshop - Fort Simpson					
24	25-30 Fall Leadership Meeting—Fort Simpson					
31	 Halloween					



Assistant Negotiator Ria Letcher

I am pleased to provide an update of the activities that have been undertaken to date with the negotiations team.

Dehcho Constitution

Work on the Dehcho Constitution – Towards a Dehcho Government continues. We have been continuously seeking input from people on the constitution. Maximum input into development of the constitution will ensure that the constitution truly represents the values, principles, customs, practices and beliefs of the Dehcho Dene.

Community visits, house visits, public forums, open houses, mass mail outs of brochures, newsletter contributions, website access and newspaper advertisements are the ways we communicated the Constitution to the people.

The Constitutional Working Group will be meeting on October 13 & 14, 2004 in Fort Providence to do further work on the document bringing it to Draft 5. Leadership will review Draft 5 at the Fall Leadership meeting in Fort Simpson from October 25 -29, 2004.

Dehcho Process Video

The Dehcho Process video provides a complete history of the process through interviews with key players.

The video and script were reviewed for the final time. We should be receiving the videos in the near future. The videos are to be circulated to all the Dehcho communities. We would like to maximize the video circulation. If you are personally interested in viewing the video, please do not hesitate to contact the Dehcho First Nations office.

Information Officers continue to work to ensure that the information flows to the communities. If you require print or audio copies of meetings transcriptions, those can be made available by request.

Rosa Wright - If you have specific information requests Rosa will be more than happy to be of assistance. She can be reached by telephone or email at rosa_wright@dehchofirstnations.com. Currently Rosa is working diligently compiling the background information on the Cooperation Plan and a Joint Review Panel Agreement. The information will be used by the lawyers in the Legal challenge. Rosa is also heading the upgrading of our very informative website. The website has discussion paper, minutes of meetings, press releases, program information and a photo gallery.

Marilyn Hardisty - After a brief period of employment with the organization, Marilyn has decided to move on. Her last day of employment was October 1, 2004. We would like to say thank you for the work that you have done while employed with Dehcho First Nations. Your contribution of skills and knowledge will be missed. **Thank you and the best of luck.** 😊