

# Dehcho First Nations

*Strong and Proud People, now and into the future of our Nation*



Never quit in the pursuit of your Vision, cradle it, nourish it, praise it, raise it in the golden light of the sun

## Dehcho First Nations Elect new Grand Chief, Samuel Gargan



Jean Marie River June 22-25,  
2009

Excerpts from JMR.

It was going to be a hot day, you could feel it in the morning air on that Wednesday of June 24th. Waking up in the stillness of the morning, you knew it was going to be an exciting day. The candidates forum for the Grand Chief election began as the second order of business in the newly awakened day.  
**Grand Chief Samuel Gargan;**

I would like to thank everyone for believing in me and for placing this great responsibility before me. I am deeply honoured to serve the people of the Dehcho.

We have a difficult task ahead of us, to strive towards a unified Dehcho Nation. As I consider the priorities that has been placed before me, your priority that have been voiced, is the youth. Everything we plan from now on is for them. And secondly, it's for those who are no longer with us today. So what do we have for the youth? I don't have the answers, but I do need to hear from you. We need to hear from everybody, including our youth, our elders and our leaders. When we plan for them we have to make sure our youth prosper in our traditions or in the modern ways. That's what we need to focus on.

So when we look at our Dehcho Process, we have to make sure it stands the test of time. If it does not exist in 500 years from now, then it won't be worth the paper it's written on. We have to talk to each other, support one another in all of our endeavours.

The word Dene reflects who we are in our natural environment. For the Dehcho Dene, the land cradles us and owns us, not the other way around. The word De; meaning river, Ne; meaning land.

The Dehcho Dene are kind humble people. Sometimes even when we have little, we share all we have. Beneath the layer of our outer fabric, there is a dense and rich history, a history that has accumulated much wisdom in our blood. Our traditions, our culture and spirituality have values and principles based on the natural and social order

of our world. We understand the natural cycles of the world we inhabit - our "homeland."

Dehcho Dene consider the land as a source of their being, our link to the land is ancestral and spiritual. We are not partial to the communities we live in, families such as, Antoine, Bonnet-rouge, Chicot, Deneyoua, Elleze, Fabian, Gargan, Horesay, Isaiah and so on have areas that were established before the fur traders or missionaries established those centres which still bear their mark, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, Fort Liard etc. The communities we live in don't necessarily reflect our family origin.

Willow Lake, Black Water Lake, Tathlina Lake, Bischo Lake, Fisherman Lake all have evidence of thriving communities in the days gone by.

During Tribal Trade and Commerce seasonal gatherings, marriages and consummation were performed; tournaments, as was the old fashioned tea dance through the night, which is still common today.

Elders in our region will bring to your attention to their struggle, the huge obstacles they faced, and the injustices our people continue to face. Their observation, experiences and heart-wrenching disappointment in the way things have turned out for our people continues to be voiced.

They don't believe in borders which prevent others from accessing our hunting areas or exercising a way of life. They value the importance of living on harmony with others and have embraced this philosophy as the basis for our physical and cultural survival. With these basic

values, there is little room for excessive concern over the Euro-Canadian notion of sovereignty.

In the Dehcho, the Creator holds deed to our territory. For this reason any legal argument presently raging about the Governments on whether or not an "Inherent right" implies sovereignty seems somewhat irrelevant.

Today Dehcho Dene still have the same rights our forefathers had, because we did not choose to give them away, not as long as the rivers flow, the grass grows and the sun shines.

In this sense our right to govern ourselves is "inherent" It is part of our being. It is a part of our relationship with Canada; it is a part of our history and our contemporary presence in this world. The intent never implied a desire to have borders to restrict others from realizing their legitimate destiny and live in harmony with us.

Our self-reliance comes from our economy. Our Self-determination comes from our way of life, therefore Self Government emerges from those two.

I do not believe our authority to provide services for our people flow from the graciousness of the Governments, but instead from our inherent right to

govern ourselves with no legislature interfering. Being in politics for most of my adult life, I can assure you, I know what I am talking about.

As we make commitments to represent our members to the best of our ability, we will ensure that the information we share with the public will be accurate, honest and truthful.

We want the lands of our ancestors are protected, so that we bring them honour by upholding onto our sacred values, principles and spirituality from the Creator. This is what we pass on from one generation to another, the knowledge we hold because it is our duty to fulfil this responsibility.

It is my responsibility as the Grand Chief to see that every member who wishes to express themselves is accurate, educational, informative and factual.

In maintaining a way of life, today the focus for those who still care, is on protecting a way of life. As we continue with great concern to addressing the disappearance of our Dene language and culture, our way of surviving, our way of discipline and our strict ways in which we practice conservation, we are more than merely observers on our homeland.

Many of these challenges we face by previous generations are not new but do prove to be formidable as we move rapidly into the new millennium. However with great challenge come great risks. The pressures and pitfalls along the road to success and realization of our aspirations are many. We represent many interests and great expectations.

We need to strike that elusive balance between industry, government and First Nations.

Traditional knowledge is not just about the past, it's about who we are, it's about our environment, our place names, our spirituality, our

must be a clear understanding of the consequences. Your commitment to conduct yourselves appropriately will also serve as your commitment to upholding the morals bestowed upon you. Collectively we have the duty and responsibility for ensuring we listen and treat every other with the proper attention they deserve, with equality and fairness.

We are fortunate to be chosen representatives of our people. It brings us an honour that is bestowed on very few people. As we have accepted the responsibility to work to make a better life for the people in our communities, we must decide each in our own way, whether we will merely make decisions on their behalf



or provide a kind of leadership that goes beyond words to give our people and our children hope for a better future.

This true commitment will be reflected and realized in our actions. As we begin our journey, we must be mindful that the foundation upon which we build our success is our commitment to work for the common good of our people, for humanity.

I know you will represent your duties fairly, honestly, and to the best of your ability with integrity, sound personal

wildlife habitat, our history, it's about harmony in the Euro-Canadian sense towards sustainable development.

The word sustainability, balance and harmony all give a level of comfort, depending on whose point of view it is derived from.

For Governments and Industry, "sustainability" leans towards revenue, profits and royalties. For First Nations, harmony means relationship. How do we blend them together?

The stress and anxiety that comes with pursuing such a balance can often seem overwhelming. In meeting this particular challenge, we must remember to treat each other with respect and dignity. Our time and energy will severely test our commitment to move forward with a common agenda that may benefit us all. Our members put their trust in us, hopefully with the spirit of mutual respect, openness and honesty.

Our conduct clearly places the responsibility for sound judgement on the shoulders of each and every one of us. Personal conduct involves personal choices. As these choices are made, there

judgement and in the manner that justifies that trust placed in you.

The Dehcho Dene have lived in relative harmony since time immemorial with their natural environment. We cared for it and in return, it cared for us. We realize our way of life is the only insurance future generations will have.

As leaders we wish to raise the conscience, awareness, and attention of Euro-Canadians and the world of our struggles and the pressures we face.

The Indigenous people of the Americas desperately need your wisdom, your strength and your support in insuring that this is not just an exercise of transparency, but a real effort to resolve those outstanding issues First Nations are struggling with collectively. It is achievable.



# DFN Annual General Assembly

*The Resolutions of 2009;* Resolution #02

RE: Dehcho Process

**Resolution #1**

**Re: Grand Chief Election Process**

**Whereas**, the 2008 Annual Assembly authorized the Leadership to appoint an Election Committee with a mandate to develop and recommend rules for the election of the Grand Chief; and

**Whereas**, the Election Committee developed an Election Code, which includes, among other things, criteria determining who is eligible to run for the office of Grand Chief; and

**Whereas**, the Election Committee, acting under the authority of the Leadership, also screened potential candidates to determine which names could appear on the ballots for the election of Grand Chief at this Assembly; and

**Whereas**, the procedure developed by the Election Committee is different from the procedure for the Grand Chief elections in the past, and therefore must be approved and adopted by this 2009 Assembly,

**Therefore be it resolved that:**

1) The Assembly approves and adopts the procedure developed

*Cont.. Resolution #1*

for the election of the Grand Chief, including the process of screening candidates to determine whether they are eligible to run under the criteria determined by the Election Committee; and  
 2) The Assembly approves and adopts the eligibility criteria developed by the Election Committee for candidates for the office of Grand Chief.

Moved by: President Marie Laferty, Fort Simpson Metis Local  
 Seconded by: David Moses, Delegate Pehdzeh Ki First Nation

**CARRIED**

**Resolution #2**

**Re: Dehcho Process**

**Whereas**, the 2008 Dehcho Annual Assembly adopted a resolution which provides that,

1) the highest priority for negotiations with Canada at this time will be the completion, approval and timely implementation of the Land Use Plan;

2) once Canada has approved and agreed to implement the Land Use Plan, and comply with their commitments under the Interim Measures Agreement, the DFN negotiating team will begin negotiations on self-government arrangements which are appropriate for the unique needs and circumstances of the DFN; and

2) following self-government negotiations, the DFN will begin negotiations on other AiP matters, including the ownership of selected surface and subsurface lands, primarily outside of conservation areas; and

**Whereas**, Canada and the GNWT refused to negotiate on the basis of the 2008 resolution because of their position that completion and

implementation of a Land Use Plan must be tied to ratification of an AiP based on land selection; and

**Whereas**, Canada also objects to negotiations being held in distinct phases, in which the LUP phase must be completed before AiP negotiations begin and AiP negotiations on governance must be completed before negotiations on lands and resources occur; and

**Whereas**, this impasse resulted in Dehcho Process negotiations with Canada and the GNWT being stalled; and

**Therefore be it resolved that:**

1) This assembly endorses the resolution passed by the Leadership in February, 2009;

2) The highest priority for negotiations with Canada at this time will continue to be the completion, approval and timely implementation of the Land Use Plan;

3) Negotiations towards an AiP based on land selection under Canada's Comprehensive Land Claims policy will proceed concurrently with work on the completion and implementation of the Land Plan;

Dehcho  
 June 22  
 Jean M

Cont.. Resolution #2

4) Once Canada has approved and agreed to implement the Land Use Plan, and comply with their commitments under the Interim Measures Agreement, the DFN negotiating team's highest priority will be negotiations towards an AiP which provides for self government and land arrangements which are appropriate for the unique needs and circumstances of the DFN; and

5) Following self-government negotiations on other AiP matters, including the ownership of selected surface and subsurface lands, primarily outside of conservation areas.

Moved by: Chief Isadore Simon, Jean Marie River First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Jim Antoine, Liidlii Kue First Nation

**CARRIED**

**Resolution #3**

**Re: Investment Management Board Budget 2009-2010**

**WHEREAS**, the Dehcho Annual Assembly has the responsibility to approve the IMB budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chair of the Investment Management Board (IMB) has presented to the 2009 Annual Dehcho Assembly, a draft IMB operating budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the operating budget is an estimation and best efforts will be made to ensure that the IMB operate in a cost-effective manner;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the 2009 Dehcho Annual Assembly approve the 2009-2010 budget, as presented.

Moved by: Stanley Sanguiez, Delegate Jean Marie River First Nation

Seconded by: Raquel Michaud, Delegate, Liidlii Kue First Nation

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Resolution #4**

**Re: Dehcho Treaty Conference**

**WHEREAS**, Treaties 8 and 11 confirm that the Dene of the Dehcho Territory are the owners and stewards of lands and resources in their territory and forms the basis of the Dehcho Process; and

**WHEREAS**, there continues to be uncertainty with respect to ownership and jurisdiction because the written form of the Treaties does not match the Dene understanding of the Treaties; and

**WHEREAS**, the intention of the Dehcho Process is to produce a final agreement which will achieve certainty by clarifying and building upon Treaties 8 and 11;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, a Dehcho Treaty Conference be held in Liidlii Kue, Denendeh in the fall of 2010.

Moved by: Chief Isadore Simon, Jean Marie River First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Jim Antoine, Liidlii Kue First Nation

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Resolution #5**

**Re: Communications- Dehcho Process**

**WHEREAS** the 2008 Dehcho Process is critical to the future of Dehcho First Nations communities and the governance of our people and our land; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dehcho Process is a completely open process of negotiations, in which anyone may attend and observe negotiations and all documents exchanged by the parties are available to the membership of the Dehcho First Nations; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that Dehcho First Nations members continue to have access to accurate and timely information about the Process; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that DFN members keep themselves informed with respect to the Dehcho Process; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the fact that the Process is open and all documents are available for public review, some individuals still say that they do not understand what is happening in the Dehcho Process;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**,  
1) DFN Leaders will take responsibility for ensuring that their members are aware of the progress of negotiations through community meetings and other measures and will encourage their members to access and review minutes of meetings, tabled documents and correspondences; and

2) Upon request by any community leader, members of the DFN negotiation team will attend community meetings or workshops, either in person or through video teleconference to discuss the Dehcho Process and response to questions; and

3) DFN communities are encouraged to develop and implement

Resolution #02

RE: Dehcho Process

WHEREAS, the 2008 Dehcho Annual Assembly  
... a resolution which provides that

Cont.. Resolution #5

their own strategies for increasing awareness of the negotiations, including the appointment of community committee on the Dehcho Process; and

- 4) Brief minutes of all negotiating sessions and other relevant meetings, as well as copies of all tabled documents and correspondences, will be available to all DFN members through the DFN website and at Band and Metis offices; and
- 5) The DFN Negotiations Coordinator and the Chief Negotiator will develop and implement a cost effective strategy to increase awareness of the Dehcho Process within DFN communities, making use of information technology, community visits and other measures, including workers.

Moved by: Elder Ernest Cazon, Liidlii Kue First Nation

Seconded by Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, Deh Gah Gotie Dene Council

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Resolution #6**

**Re: Dehcho Community Culture & Heritage Centres**

**WHEREAS**, Treaties 8 and 11 confirm that the Dene in the Dehcho territory are owners and stewards of lands and resources in their territory; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dehcho First Nations have a long-standing commitment in protecting their core traditional territory in order to protect and revitalize Dehcho language, culture and heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, Dehcho language, culture and heritage are intricately and symbiotically connected to the land of the Dehcho;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Dehcho First Nations work with each community within the Dehcho territory to establish and maintain Community Language, Culture and Heritage Centres for every Dehcho Community, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, each Dehcho Community Culture and Heritage Centre will display the history and heritage and provide workshops of cultural significance specific to each and every Dehcho community.

Moved by: Chief Jim Antoine Liidlii Kue First Nation

Seconded by: Elder Barb Sloat Fort Simpson Metis Local

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Resolution #7**

**Re: Reaffirmation of Past Dehcho Dene Dispute Resolution Practices**

**WHEREAS**, in the past, before adopting the Indian Act election procedures for community Chiefs and Councils, the Dene of the Dehcho Territory got along and did not fight amongst each other; and

**WHEREAS**, since the Indian Act, some of our communities have been at odds after adopting a foreign system of elections; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past when the Dene of the Dehcho Territory had problems, natural community Leaders or Head Men got together to understand and fully discuss disputes until an agreed upon action was taken to solve the problem to the benefits of all involved, and

**Whereas**, today we have let go of that practice and adopted a way of governance that has been imposed on us by Indian and Northern Affairs;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Dene of the Dehcho Territory return to past customs and recognize natural community leaders in our communities and support them to let them lead us so that our families will work together for the benefit of all;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the 2009 Dehcho First Nations Assembly reaffirm past Dene traditional dispute resolution practices instead of relying on Indian and Northern Affairs to strengthen the community for West Point First Nation of the Dehcho.

Moved by: Chief Isadore Simon, Jean Marie River

Seconded by: Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, Deh Gah Gotie Dene Band

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Resolution #8**

**Re: Dehcho Economic Corporation Request for funding**

**WHEREAS**, the primary objective of the Dehcho First Nations is to strengthen our independence as a self-governing Nation of people, based on our values, customs and traditions of which the philosophy, desires, and ideal of our nation are intended to set the stage for future generations to benefit from the wealth and health of First Nations people and lands, and

**WHEREAS**, Dehcho leadership and administration ensures that future economic opportunities that arise through negotiations for land and access to Dehcho lands be maximized to its membership, and

**WHEREAS**, the Dehcho Economic Corporation is one vehicle through which the Dehcho will one day achieve economic self-reliance, and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Dehcho First Nations Annual Assembly support the Dehcho Economic Corporation for their request of \$500,000 to ensure that economic opportunities to its membership is maximized,

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Dehcho Economic Corporation provide strategic plans in advance for every future funding from the Dehcho First Nations.

Moved by: Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, Deh Gah Gotie Dene Band

Seconded by: Delegate Margaret Ireland, Jean Marie River

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

DEHCHO VISIONS



# SCHOLARSHIPS 2009

## Dehcho First Nations Leadership Awards \$87,000 to 44 Scholarship Recipients



Leadership accepted the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee and awarded the following scholarships:

### One \$12,000 Multi-Year Scholarship

*Phoebe Nahanni Memorial Scholarship - Sciences*

**TIJU CLU** *Liidlii Kue First Nation*  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Aurora College, Yellowknife

### Thirty-five \$2,000 Memorial Scholarship & Program Scholarships

*Mary Cazon Memorial Scholarship - Environmental Protection or Land Use Planning*

**VANESSA GERLOCK**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Bachelor of Applied Science in Ecotourism & Outdoor Leadership at Medicine Hat College

*Mitch Landy Memorial Scholarship - Environmental & Conservation or Land Use Planning*

**JARRET HARDISTY**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Wildlife & Fisheries Conservation at Lakeland College, Vermillion, AB

*Albertine Rohd Memorial Scholarship - Native Studies, Aboriginal Leadership/Political Science*

**AMANDA HOPKINS**  
*Fort Simpson Métis*

Bachelor of Management in Human Resources at University of Lethbridge

*Nursing Scholarship*

**AMANDA BRADBURY**  
*Fort Simpson Métis*

Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Aurora College, Yellowknife

*Engineering Scholarship*

**SACHEY ANTOINE**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at the University of Alberta, Edmonton

*Social Work Scholarship*

**ELIZABETH SUNRISE**  
*K'atodeeche First Nation*

Bachelor of Arts in Human Services - Child & Youth Care at Rocky Mountain College, Calgary

*Education Scholarship*

**SHARON ALLEN**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Bachelor of Education at Aurora College, Fort Smith

**ANITA LAFFERTY**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta, Edmonton

**MARTINA BERTRAND**

*Acho Dene Koe First Nation*  
Bachelor of Education at Vancouver Island University

**SHERRI-LYNN VEGSO**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Bachelor of Education at Aurora College, Fort Smith

**SHAWNA SCOBIE**  
*Pehdzeh Ki First Nation*

Bachelor of Arts in Education at Douglas College, New Westminster, BC

*Business Scholarship*

**TINA FABIAN**  
*K'atodeeche First Nation*

Commerce Management Administration at Grande Prairie Regional College

**MOLLY DUNTRA**  
*Acho Dene Koe First Nation*

Business Administration at Aurora College, Fort Smith

**DENNIS DENEYOUA**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Business Administration at Yukon College, Whitehorse

**ROBERT SQUIRREL**  
*Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band*

Business Administration at Aurora College, Fort Smith

**SHERMAYN MENICOCHÉ**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Bachelor of Arts in Management at the University of Lethbridge

**NICOLE SABOURIN**  
*K'atodeeche First Nation*

Business Administration at Mount Royal College, Calgary

**MARCIE LAFFERTY**  
*Fort Simpson Métis*

Computers in the Workplace & Office Administration at Aurora College, Fort Simpson

**CHRISTINE CHAMPAGNE**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Bachelor of Business Applications at Academy of Learning, Yellowknife

**DELPHINE ELLEZE**  
*Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band*

Advanced Accounting Certification at Mount Royal College, Calgary

*Indigenous Arts Scholarship*

**STEVIE NANDE**  
*Acho Dene Koe First Nation*

Foundations in Indigenous Fine Arts at En'lowkin Centre, Penticton, BC

**ALANA LAMALICE**  
*K'atodeeche First Nation*

Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking at Capilano University, Vancouver

**JONATHAN ANTOINE**

*Pehdzeh Ki First Nation*  
Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking at Capilano University, Vancouver

*General Studies Scholarship*

**BIANCA KOTCHEA**  
*Acho Dene Koe First Nation*

Social Work at Aurora College, Yellowknife

**JESSIE LOUITIT** *Fort Simpson Métis*

Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology at the University of Calgary

**KERI-ANN LOUITIT**  
*Fort Simpson Métis*

Bachelor of Arts in English at Mount Royal College, Calgary

**JULIA TSETSO**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Dental Therapy Program at First Nations University of Canada, Prince Albert, SK

**OLGA CONSTANT**  
*Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band*

Office Administration at Grande Prairie Regional College

**CHELSEY SANGUEZ**  
*Jean Marie River First Nation*

General Studies in Science at Mount Royal College, Calgary

**MARY ANN ANTOINE**  
*Pehdzeh Ki First Nation*

Preparation for College/University Program at Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton

**JERALD SIBBESTON**  
*Fort Simpson Métis*

Bachelor of Arts in Law at Carleton University, Ottawa

**JASMYN DOUGLAS-SCHMITZ**  
*Fort Simpson Métis*

Culinary Arts at NAIT, Edmonton

**ROBYN MCLEOD**  
*Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band*

Bachelor of Arts Transition Year at the University of Alberta, Edmonton

**VANESSA WAUGH**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Bachelor in Fine Arts at Emily Carr University of Art & Design, Vancouver, BC

### Five \$1,000 Short-Term Scholarships

**DORIS CAMSELL**

*Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band*  
Indigenous Land Base Education at the University of Saskatchewan

**JORDAN SNIDER**

*Nahanni Butte Dene Band*  
Culinary Arts at NAIT, Edmonton

**JEREMY ANTOINE**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Electrical Apprenticeship Program at NAIT, Edmonton

**SHARON CORNEILLE**  
*Liidlii Kue First Nation*

Millwright Program at Fairview College

**BRITTANI WILLIAMS**  
*Pehdzeh Ki First Nation*

Pre-Pharmacy Technician at NorQuest College, Edmonton

### Four \$500 Conditional Scholarships

**RONELL LANDRY**

*Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band*  
Cinematography for Film & Video at Capilano University, Vancouver

**ANGIE MATTO**

*Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band*  
Bachelor of Education at Aurora College, Fort Smith

**KYLE CAMSELL**

*Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band*  
Bachelor of Commerce at Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton

**MAUREEN DENERON**

*Sambaa Ke Dene Band*  
Academic Studies at Aurora College, Fort Simpson

Congratulations  
to the scholarship recipients and  
best of luck  
in your studies!

Dehcho First Nations would like to acknowledge and thank the DFN Scholarship Committee for their three-year commitment to students of the Dehcho.

### Thank you to:

Elder Fred Norwegian • Elder Barb Sloat • Delegate Ethel Lamothe  
Member at Large Gladys Norwegian • Member at Large Margaret Thom  
Member at Large Betty Hardisty

*Please Note: An Expression of Interest for the 2010-2013 DFN Scholarship Committee will be posted in the near future*

Dehcho First Nations P.O. Box 89, Fort Simpson NT X0E 0N0 Phone: (867) 695-2610 • Toll Free: (866) 995-3748 • Fax: (867) 695-2038

**Resolution #9**

**RE: Representation on Boards and Committees**

**WHEREAS**, numerous committees, boards, working groups and advisory groups have been created by the DFN, Canada and the GNWT addressing various issues of concern to DFN members; and

**WHEREAS**, the DFN are usually represented on these committees, boards, working groups and advisory groups by our Chiefs; and

**WHEREAS**, this situation results in our Chiefs being absent from their communities too often and denies other community members, particularly former leaders, the opportunity to sit on these various committees, boards, working groups and advisory groups,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the DFN will, whenever possible, nominate former leaders and other members to sit on committees, boards, working groups and advisory groups.

Moved by: Chief Jim Antoine,  
Liidlii Kue First Nations

Seconded by: Chief Isadore Simon,  
Jean Marie River

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**



# Negotiations 2009, Yeah!! Year of the Beaver, work hard and love your life.

*Only sovereign peoples make Treaties with each other. The Treaties of 1899 and 1921 with the non-Dene, therefore recognize the inherent political rights and powers of the Dehcho First Nations. Our aboriginal rights and titles and oral treaties cannot be extinguished by any Euro-Canadian government.*

The three negotiation teams met in Yellowknife, June 3-4 2009. With a work-plan all three parties agreed to from the May 12-13, 2009 session in Fort Simpson. The three Parties, Canada, Government of the NWT and the Dehcho First Nations continue to work towards is an Agreement in Principle (AiP) which will outline the jurisdictions (the areas where laws can be made) by the Dehcho Government and will explain the relationships between the three governments.

Within the AiP are "Chapters" These chapters deal with specific departments within a government, i.e. Education, Health, Human Resources, and Resource Management. So each chapter will eventually become to guide to how the Dehcho government will work.

The chapters discussed in the June session were: Education, Enrolment and Eligibility. The Enrolment and Eligibility chapter is almost complete, which means the negotiators have agreed to the wording of the clauses in that chapter.

This chapter outlines who can be a beneficiary of the Dehcho Agreement. It explains what you will have to do to be enrolled by filling out an application.

Discussions on Education are just beginning. If you have ideas or concerns please let the DFN office know.

Another session was held in Trout Lake September 1 - 3. One of the main topics of discussion was harvesters and cultural compensation when damage occurs as a result of development. DFN negotiators presented a document which outlined the concerns and interests people have expressed. Some of the ideas included forcing companies to compensate harvesters automatically. The proposal also included having a harvesters Advocate who would help anyone who had been affected by a developer to get the compensation they would be entitled to.

The negotiators also discussed what authority or what law making powers a Dehcho government would have over lands and resources throughout the Dehcho territory, on lands selected as Dehcho lands and on lands that would still be called 'crown lands' For example, would a Dehcho Government be responsible for managing all forest permits and licences, as well as determine what needs to be done to conserve the forests. Should the Dehcho control fire suppression in the Dehcho or should the GNWT continue being responsible for it. These discussions are just beginning. Canada and the GNWT asked for some time to think about what was presented to them before they respond.

**INTERIM DEHCHO LAND USE PLAN**

Following completion of Edehzhie final boundaries and the expansion of the Nahanni National Park Reserve about 47% of the Dehcho Territory is in one of Federal Protected Area Initiative Zones that prohibit mining, oil/gas, and commercial timber development. The revised zoning balance is supported by Canada and Dehcho First Nations. The GNWT has expressed concerns that the current zoning balance may not allow for sufficient "Open" Crown lands for devolution once DFN land selection is complete. (Currently GNWT is seeking devolution from Canada, meaning that in the eyes of Canada the GNWT has no power over lands and resource royalty revenue because of the fact that the GNWT has territorial status not provincial. So the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) oversees all expenditures, downloads an annual budget to the GNWT and relays a percentage of resource royalties back to the GNWT.) GNWT stated that it wants a clause in the AiP stating that at least 45% of the Dehcho territory will remain as "Open" Lands available for development following land selection. The next session on September 29th and 30th will be done by video conference to save money on travel expenses.

To have the Dehcho Process 100% transparent is quite spectacular. In other negotiations across the country, the Dehcho Process is one of the few that has an open process, so that means you can come to any session and help form the future for your children, few other negotiations have this. Usually the negotiation process is completely behind closed doors.



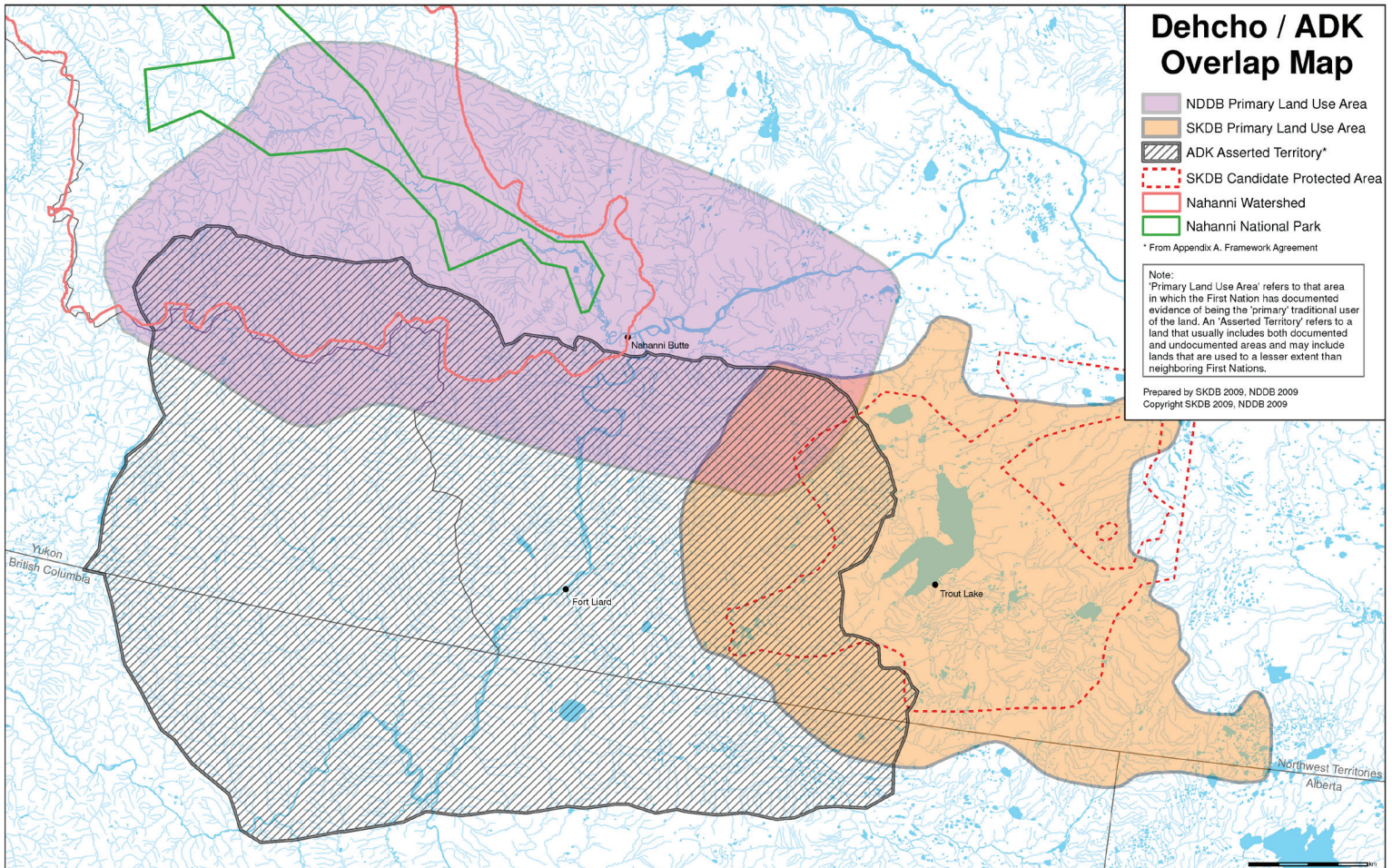
**SASKATOON Pemmican**

- 1 Cup -Roughly- Dry meat
- 1 Cup Dried Saskatoon or blueberries
- 1 Cup raw sunflower seeds or crushed nuts of any kind
- 2 Tablespoons of honey
- 1/4 Cup of peanut butter
- 1/2 Tablespoons of cayenne -Optional-

This version uses peanut butter as the binding agent, you can still use moose fat. Grind/pound meat into powder. Add the berries and seeds and nuts. Heat the honey, peanut butter/fat and cayenne until softened. Blend when cooled. Store in a plastic bag or sausage casing in a cool dry place. It will keep for months. Enjoy.



# Boundary Negotiations Acho Dene Koe - Nahanni Butte Dene Band - Sambaa Ke' Dene Band



In July 2008, Acho Dene Koe signed a Framework Agreement with Canada to negotiate a comprehensive land claim agreement for just their community. Section 12 of this Framework Agreement states that ADK must resolve "overlap issues" with other Aboriginal groups before Phase 1 of a final land claims agreement can be concluded. Attached to this agreement was

a map of the Acho Dene Koe (ADK) 'asserted territory', which includes large sections of lands within the Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte traditional land use areas (see map above). Both the Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte Dene Band were very offended that ADK would sign an agreement with Canada that may affect Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte's traditional lands without first consulting with its neighbours.

In response to the signing of the Framework Agreement, the Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte Dene Bands have informed ADK and Canada that they cannot make decisions or take actions affecting Sambaa K'e or Nahanni

Butte traditional lands without formal consultation and consent. Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte have also indicated a willingness to negotiate in good faith and have formed a Joint Negotiation Team to prepare for negotiations. This Joint Negotiation Team is made up of three representatives each from Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte, along with a negotiation facilitator. Chiefs Dolphus Jumbo and Fred Tesou will lead the team. Peter Redvers of Crosscurrent Associates Ltd. is providing facilitation services. Dehcho First Nations (DFN) is providing administrative support to the communities and will also have observer status during the negotiations' process, because negotiations will affect

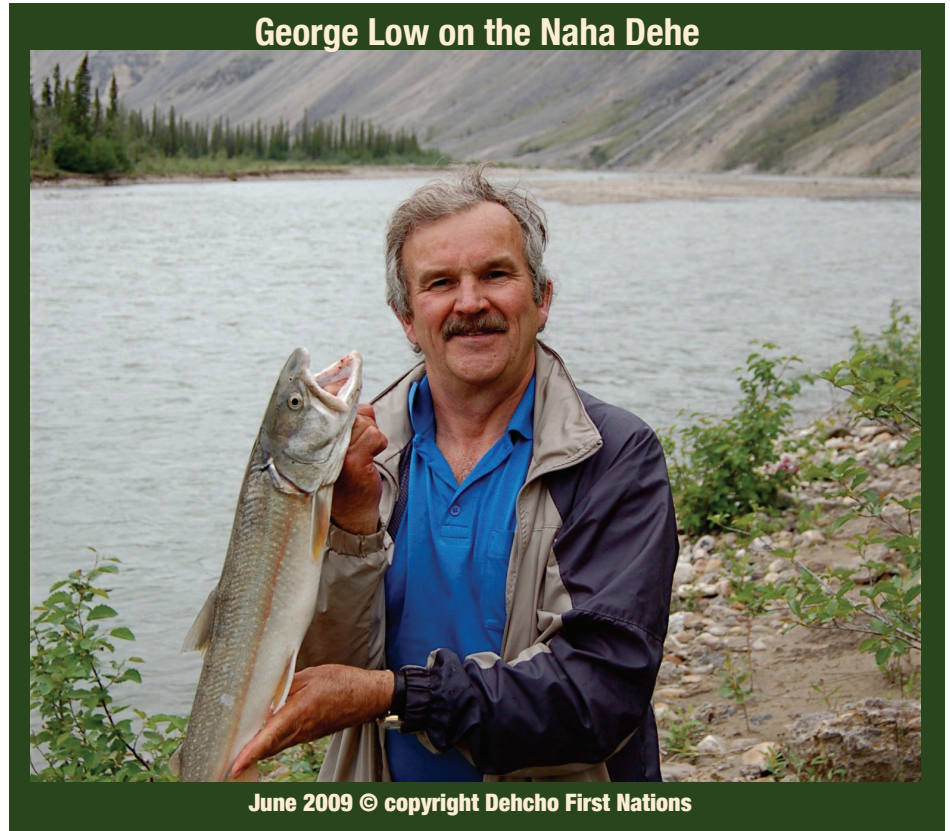
the south-western boundary of the Dehcho Territory. The significance of these negotiations cannot be underestimated. Although ADK has stated it wants to pursue land claims negotiations in British Columbia and Yukon (only 40% of its asserted territory is in the Northwest Territories), Canada has only agreed to negotiations in the Northwest Territories. It is not clear whether ADK will get all its land quantum in the NWT or whether its negotiated land quantum will be spread between B.C. and Yukon as well. Furthermore, it is likely that 'overlap' negotiations will require the establishment of a clear boundary between the 'ADK settlement area' and the

Dehcho Territory, given that the resource management regimes in the two areas may be different. In its Framework Agreement, ADK has agreed that it will not be seeking any new regulatory or land management regimes for its settlement area. In contrast, DFN has been pursuing the establishment of a Dehcho Resource Management Authority for the region, guided by the final Dehcho Land Use Plan.

Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte had expected that negotiations would begin this past winter, but ADK would not agree to negotiate with the communities jointly – it wanted to negotiate separate agreements with each community. This approach was rejected by Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte because they share lands with each other and therefore want to work together. As well, ADK was telling Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte who these communities could or couldn't bring to the negotiation table. Again, this approach of telling the smaller communities what to do was unacceptable. In the meantime, during this past winter, the Joint Negotiation Team has been doing background research on the boundary issue and has held community meetings to keep community members informed on this issue.

As of May 7th, however, the ADK Chief Negotiator, Floyd Bertrand, has agreed to meet with the Sambaa K'e and Nahanni Butte Joint Negotiation Team in Sambaa K'e in June, so it appears that initial discussions will take place and a process for formal negotiations can be put into place. Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Peter Redvers  
SKDB-NDDB Negotiation Facilitator



The Dehcho First Nations has recently recruited biologist George Low to take on the task of rejuvenating the DFN's Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Management program (AAROM). No stranger to northern living, George was born and raised in a northern Manitoba, has a Science degree from the University of Guelph and has lived in the NWT since the early 1970's. He has worked for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, in Hay River, as a Fisheries Management biologist for much of his career; retiring from the federal government in 2006.

George is looking forward to working with the DFN and Dehcho communities. "I have felt very welcomed by the Grand Chief, Gerry Antoine, the Executive Director, Ria Letcher and the DFN staff in Fort Simpson who have been very helpful as I try to learn the ropes.

I wanted to take on this challenge since the Dehcho AAROM program is just too good a program to allow to languish due to staffing problems. I'm hopeful we can bring the program up to speed by fiscal year end and work

towards a multi-year proposal for DFO funding early in the new fiscal year."

The DFN AAROM is hosting a mid-February meeting of the Dehcho Watershed Ecosystem Advisory Committee (That's quite a mouthful for a down-to-earth community committee). This Committee was mandated by the leadership of the Dehcho First Nations, in 2006 to "protect and preserve the rights of all Aboriginal peoples to healthy waters, fish stocks and aquatic environments in the Dehcho." The Committee is to provide guidance to the Dehcho AAROM program and is made up of community representatives appointed by individual First Nations in the Dehcho and two Dehcho Métis councils.

So, what is AAROM anyway? The Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Ocean Management (AAROM) program (another mouthful) is a national DFO capacity building and collaborative (my dictionary says "working together") management initiative, designed with First Nation involvement, to "assist Aboriginal groups in acquiring the administrative capacity



and scientific/ technical expertise to facilitate their participation in aquatic resource management.”  
 In more simple terms, DFO wants to increase the involvement of Aboriginal peoples in the co-management of their aquatic resources.

The program will gain power by collaborating with other governments and government departments, NCO’s, universities, etc that also have a responsibility or interest in aquatic environmental protection and/or management.

George Low  
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 Dehcho First Nations  
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## Dehcho First Nations Quarterly Newsletter

If you have any news, reports, announcements for training that you would like to share or requests as what you would like to read in the Regional Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact

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September 2009

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## DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		Negotiation Session—Trout Lake				
6	7 Labour Day	8	9	10	11 Chief Negotiator & Legal Counsel Mtg. Ottawa, ON	12
13	14 LTC Meeting Ottawa, ON	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	Executive Committee Meeting Ft. Providence, NT		24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
		Negotiations Video Call—Yellowknife, NT				
		Fall Leadership Meeting—Ft. Providence				

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October 2009

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				1	2	3
		Fall Leadership Meeting—Ft. Providence				
4	5 LTC Meeting Toronto, ON	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Thanksgiving Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		← ← ← Tentative Negotiation Session—Yellowknife, NT → → →				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31