



DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS

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Dehcho Annual Assembly
June 26-29, 2012
Fort Simpson, NT

Resolution #01

Moved by:

Chief Wayne Sabourin
Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band

Seconded by:

Steven Jose, delegate
Liidlii Kue First Nation

FOR: 43

Certified copy of Resolution
made in Fort Simpson, NT
on June 28, 2012.

Herb Norwegian
Grand Chief

RE: Dehcho Process

WHEREAS the Dehcho Process is continuing towards an Agreement-in-Principle on land and self-government, in accordance with the direction given by Assembly resolutions; and

WHEREAS the DFN continue to have strong concerns regarding the positions taken by Canada and the GNWT, especially regarding

- land quantum and land selection criteria
- attempts by the GNWT to force the DFN to transfer lands with high economic potential to the GNWT through the Dehcho Agreement and devolution
- the need for a DCRMA which operates independently of the MVRMA
- management of natural resources throughout the Dehcho Territory, and
- the jurisdictions and authorities of the Dehcho Government and Dehcho Community Governments; and

WHEREAS the DFN Leaders have also expressed concerns regarding the attempt by the GNWT to establish other forums for negotiations on lands and resources, outside of the open and transparent Dehcho Process; and

WHEREAS most lands and resources issues are treaty issues which should be negotiated bilaterally between Canada and the DFN, not between the GNWT and DFN, as required by the Dehcho Framework Agreement,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT DFN insists that all negotiations related to ownership, jurisdiction and management of lands and resources take place at the Dehcho Process table, with treaty issues addressed bilaterally between Canada and the DFN.



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Dehcho Annual Assembly
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Resolution #02

Moved by:

Chief Wayne Sabourin
Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band

Seconded by:

Jim Antoine, Delegate
Liidlii Kue First Nation

Certified copy of resolution
made in Fort Simpson, NT
on June 28, 2012.

Herb Norwegian
Grand Chief

RE: Edehzhie PAS Candidate Area

WHEREAS, the Edehzhie PAS candidate area was protected under an interim withdrawal until October 2010, when Canada unilaterally terminated protection and opened the area to mineral exploration and mining; and

WHEREAS, the DFN were forced to undertake an application for judicial review of Canada's decision to open the Edehzhie to mining and exploration; and

WHEREAS, in December, 2011 Canada issued a new Order-in-Council (OIC) which restored protection to the area which the Edehzhie Working Group recommended as the final boundary for the Edehzhie National Wildlife Area; and

WHEREAS, the new OIC would leave much of the Candidate Area exposed to mineral exploration and mining, despite the fact that the PAS process is incomplete and ownership of the lands remains in question pending the conclusion of the Dehcho Process,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the DFN asks that Canada restore full protection of the Edehzhie Candidate Area until completion of the PAS and the Dehcho Process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the DFN will take all necessary actions to prevent mineral exploration or mining or any other development in the exposed portions of the Edehzhie Candidate Area.



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Dehcho Annual Assembly
June 26-29, 2012
Fort Simpson, NT

Resolution #03

RE: Sexual Abuse Court Case in Fort Simpson

Moved by:

Debbie Matheson
Jean Marie River First Nation

WHEREAS, Two young men laid charges of sexual assault and three others testified in their support in a court of law in Fort Simpson; and

WHEREAS, At least one of the Plaintiffs expressly asked for expert witnesses on the nature, impacts and long term effects of sexual abuse perpetrated against children; and

Seconded by:

Chief Clayton Konisenta
Nahanni Butte Dene Band

WHEREAS, Crown Counsel, decided, for budget reasons, to not bring expert witnesses on the nature, impacts and long term effects of sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, The attorney for the Defence is recognized as one of the most experienced and costly in Western Canada; and

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WHEREAS, the observations of the public about the court proceedings were that the process was both demeaning and abusive of the Plaintiffs; and

Herb Norwegian
Grand Chief

WHEREAS, the lives of young people in Fort Simpson continue to be negatively affected, both directly and indirectly by sexual abuse in our community; and

WHEREAS, on June 15th J.Z. Vertes, J.S.C, ruled on case *R. v. Carvin*, 2012 NWTSC 47, Docket: S 1 CR 2011 000104, as follows:

"In this case, as I said previously, there is clear evidence as to the opportunity for collusion. That, together with the evidence that there were discussions between these witnesses, together with the remarkable similarity in much of the language used by the witnesses (particularly in their explanations as to why they did not disclose these allegations earlier), raises this to the level of suspicion giving collusion an air of reality. The Crown has failed to satisfy me that the similar fact evidence is not tainted by collusion. Hence, I ruled this evidence to be inadmissible as similar fact evidence.";
and

WHEREAS, the evidence was given in a "*voir dire* within the trial ... and the similar fact evidence was inadmissible.", resulting in the case being dropped and never resulting in a verdict; and

WHEREAS, this constitutes, for us, that the experiences of abuse in residential schools is an ongoing reality under new forms, and of no apparent consequences in Canadian law or budgets.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Leadership and Delegates to this the twentieth Dehcho Assembly do not accept the Judges decision; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an open letter be written to Prime Minister Harper to cover the following points:

- a. Canada's judicial system has a serious flaw;
- b. Our Dene communities continue to be abused today as during the era of Residential Schools by the continued imposition of culturally inappropriate legal procedures;
- c. With Canada's help, our children are openly abused by Canadian authorities which Canada professes to be present in our communities to protect and keep the peace;
- d. In our experience Canadian law and its' agents protect the perpetrator who abuse the Dene;
- e. Our people are left to suffer debilitating lifelong shame, guilt and mistrust of all authority figures both within our culture and also of Canada's because they grow up in this environment which teaches them Canada doesn't care;
- f. This environment severely impacts all of us and makes it unnaturally difficult to experience healthy relationships at home and with others;
- g. Our living environment, created by Canada's policies and laws during Britain's colonial rule, continues to be imposed on us. This is the definition of colonialism and assimilation; and it is still being practiced by Canada against First Nation Peoples; and

BE IT RESOLVED In the light of the Prime Minister's apology to Aboriginal People for the abuses of residential schools, the Parliament of Canada needs to recognize that it is the systems of colonization imposed on our people, of which residential schools was only a small part, that continue to abuse our people and to take the necessary actions to resolve this for all Canadians by in the least providing for it employees in government to take the following action when dealing with Aboriginal Communities:

- a. Well qualified representation shall be assigned as Crown Prosecutors to handle cases of such historical significance between Crown employees and Aboriginal people;
- b. That the RCMP be required to disclose the questionable character of any of its members before deploying such members to any Aboriginal community in Canada;
- c. That the RCMP present to us a plan to train its members in securing statements of sexual abuse from the aboriginal peoples;
- d. That the RCMP inform the parents of any youth that disclose sexual abuse and provide for the parents and youth a safe environment in which they can come to terms with the emotional fallout to achieve mutually supportive positions in the healing process needed;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT education and prevention programs on sexual abuse and how predators influence young people be introduced to all students of the schools in Dehcho, and that we support the statement of appreciation for the support they received from the residents of Fort Simpson, as presented by the young men “we all encourage others out there to not take our verdict as the norm. If you have suffered your own form of abuse we encourage you to report it to the police and press charges. When you are given a forum to tell your stories you will find it liberates you”; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the open letter to Prime Minister Harper, and this resolution be sent to the Crown Prosecutor, RCMP Commissioner, Premier Robert McLeod, National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, Dene Nation Chief Bill Erasmus, Native Women’s Association of Canada, President Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, Office of Public Prosecution of the Northwest Territories, chief Federal Prosecutor Sandra Aitken, Member of Parliament, Dennis Bevington and Senator, Nick Sibbeston.



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Dehcho Annual Assembly
June 26-29, 2012
Fort Simpson, NT

Resolution #04


RE: Review of Dehcho Process

Moved by:



Chief Wayne Sabourin
Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band

Seconded by:



Steven Jose, delegate
Liidlii Kue First Nation

FOR: 44

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Herb Norwegian
Grand Chief

WHEREAS, the Dehcho member communities would like to review the Dehcho Process; and

WHEREAS, the member communities will develop strategies and positions to either enhance the Dehcho Process or to look at ways to clarify Dehcho positions on all issues being negotiated; and

WHEREAS, the review will also look at the federal Comprehensive Claims Policy to determine if it will give the Dehcho Dene what they expect through the Dehcho Process,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Grand Chief, Executive and Negotiations Team will develop a strategy to assist the member communities to review the Dehcho Process.