



# DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS

BOX 89, FORT SIMPSON, NT X0E 0N0  
TEL: (867) 695-2355 FAX: (867) 695-2038  
E-Mail: [dcfn@dehchofirstnations.com](mailto:dcfn@dehchofirstnations.com)



Fall Leadership Meeting  
October 9-12, 2007  
Wrigley, NT

Resolution #01

RE: AiP Negotiations

Moved by:

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President Marie Lafferty  
Ft. Simpson Métis Local

Seconded by:

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Chief Lloyd Chicot  
Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation

Certified copy of resolution  
made in Wrigley, dated  
October 11, 2007.

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Herb Norwegian  
Grand Chief

**WHEREAS** Treaties 11 and 8 confirmed the nation to nation relationship between the Dehcho Dene and Canada which continues to be fundamental to the relationship between the Dehcho and Canada; and

**WHEREAS** Treaties 11 and 8 confirmed that the Dehcho Dene are the owners and stewards of the lands and resources in their territory, and that the Dene agreed to allow the subjects of the Crown to live on Dene lands in peace and friendship, and that in return the Crown would provide certain benefits to the Dene; and

**WHEREAS** there continues to be disagreement between Canada and the DFN with respect to ownership and jurisdiction because the written form of the Treaties does not match the Dene oral version 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 11 and 8; and

**WHEREAS** the DFN reaffirm our commitment to the Dehcho Proposal which rejects land selection and would achieve certainty through shared stewardship of the whole Dehcho territory; and

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President Marie Lafferty  
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Grand Chief

**WHEREAS**, Canada has declared that they will only negotiate a land and self-government agreement with the Dehcho if it is based on land selection; and

**WHEREAS** the DFN seek a lands and self-government agreement with Canada which balances the need to protect ecologically sensitive areas and key harvesting areas with the need for Dehcho communities to have sufficient lands and resources and governance powers to ensure that they can achieve economic self-reliance, cultural integrity and self determination; and

**WHEREAS** the November, 2006 Special Assembly authorized the DFN negotiating team to enter into exploratory discussions on an Agreement-in-Principle based on land selection; and

**WHEREAS** the 2007 Annual Assembly reaffirmed the mandate given at the 2006 Special Assembly; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that:

1. The Dehcho final agreement will recognize and affirm Aboriginal and Treaty rights and achieve certainty by clarifying and building on Treaties 11 and 8, not through extinguishment of rights; and
2. DFN will continue exploratory discussions with Canada on an Agreement-in-Principle based on the selection of surface and subsurface lands, including discussions on land quantum; and
3. The DFN Chief Negotiator is mandated to table draft AiPs and AiP provisions, on a without prejudice basis, addressing options for land quantum, governance, jurisdictions and other matters; and
4. The timely implementation of the Land Use Plan, regardless of progress in AiP negotiations, will continue to be a high priority; and
5. AiP negotiations will address self-government and jurisdiction relating to lands and resources which are appropriate for the unique needs and circumstances of the DFN and for the use and enjoyment of the Dehcho Dene; and
6. AiP Negotiations will address governing structures and jurisdictions at both the regional and community levels based on the inherent right of Dehcho Dene to self determination under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*; and
7. The recently adopted United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Rights will be a guiding principle in AiP negotiations.