



DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS

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PRESS RELEASE

Annual General Assembly 2021

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For Immediate Release

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| 28th Dehcho Annual General Assembly Acclaims New Grand Chief |
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The 28th Dehcho First Nations Annual General Assembly was held in Fort Providence from June 23rd to June 25th, 2021.

On Thursday, June 24th, 2021 West Point **Chief Kenneth Cayen was elected as the new Grand Chief of Dehcho First Nations**. Following the Dehcho election process, an ad calling for nominations was sent out forty days before the due date to submit nomination packages. 3 applicants submitted nomination packages, and the election committee reported that 2 of the nomination packages were not finalized by the due date of June 4th, 2021. As a result, Dehcho Leadership decided to open the discussion on whether to elect Chief Kenneth Cayen through acclamation to the delegates and members of the communities. After several hours of discussion, the Assembly came to a consensus to acclaim West Point First Nation Chief Kenneth Cayen to the position of Grand Chief.

The Assembly also reviewed and accepted the new Grand Chief Terms of Reference. The changes include a change from a 3 - year term to a 4 - year term, as well as a transition period from the outgoing to the newly elected Grand Chief. Under the new transition period, the Grand Chief will be officially sworn in within one 1 month of being newly elected.

Dehcho First Nations represents First Nation and Métis communities in the Dehcho Region of the Northwest Territories. Specifically, Dehcho First Nations represents Tthets'édh'edéł First Nation (Jean Marie River), Sambaa K'e First Nation (Trout Lake), Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation (Kakisa Lake), West Point First Nation (West Point), Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation (Fort Providence), Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (Wrigley), Fort Providence Metis Council, Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation (Fort Simpson), and Fort Simpson Métis Nation.

A quote from the outgoing Grand Chief **Gladys Norwegian** states: *"With recent discoveries of mass graves across Canada, it is very important that we speak loudly to the issues not just now, but through the future, and keep it to the forefront. In doing that, we also need to continue to strengthen ourselves in unity. I wish Chief Kenneth Cayen every success in moving the Dehcho nation forward."*

A quote from the incoming Grand Chief **Kenneth Cayen** states: *"We need to start working on intergenerational trauma and building support societies for residential school survivors and their descendants. I'd like to thank all the leaders and delegates for believing in me. I look forward to working on making our documents stronger and inspiring the youth to get involved."*