



## Xat'áá (Fall) Newsletter

# DEHCHO GQNDI



*"We the Dene of the Dehcho have lived on our homeland according to our own laws and system of government since time immemorial." - Dehcho Declaration of Rights, August 19, 1993.*



## Message from the Grand Chief

*Kenneth Cayen*



With this newsletter we are reviewing the last annual quarter (July - September). On September 30, 2021, the Canadian government implemented its first **National Truth and Reconciliation Day**. I hope you all celebrated, mourned, and took rest as appropriate.

As we close the federal election, Dehcho First Nations is continuing forward with the re-elected Liberal government. From a Dene perspective, I don't care much who is elected. For negotiations, the most important point is to face the bureaucracy head strong and with square footing. **As Dene people we need to get back to Dene Law.** This is the law of the Creator that treats us all as one. This year I want to focus on lands and resources and asserting sovereignty over those resources. For this to happen, we need to be on the same page. For those who are our allies, please continue to support us as we seek our truth; recognize that there cannot be reconciliation without truth. We Dene have lived through a lot this year, and trust has been broken. So, we need to work together to bring trust back between us in good faith. If you are a member of the Dehcho, please think about how to take back your personal power and decolonize your land and your family so that you are not swayed by the promised benefits of the greater Canadian politic.

Please remember to stay safe. Harvest our land and water medicines and help each other to harvest and stay healthy this season. Mahsicho.

## FEATURED

- Message from the Grand Chief
- Staff Updates
- Leadership Resolutions
- Negotiations
- Scholarships
- Program Updates
  - Health & Wellness
  - Edézhíé
  - AAROM
  - Climate Change Strategy
  - Master Trust
  - Indigenous Language Revitalization
  - Regional On-the-Land
- Dehcho First Nations Staff
- Promotional Items
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## Staffing Updates

New Edézhzhíe Team Member!

My name is **James Tsetso**, a Dehcho Dene and long-time resident of Łíídlıı Kúé. My family's roots run deep through this region and I am proud to call these lands my home.

I have recently decided to switch careers so I can be on the land more often, which I am extremely passionate about, and to contribute to my community. As a part of the Edézhzhíe Protected Area team, I am directly involved in the monitoring and protection of a culturally significant area, along with our Guardianship. I do feel I have many skills and a vast array of resources to contribute; I believe that Dene-led conservation will be key to moving forward with the protection of all Dehcho lands and resources so that we may all prosper. I look forward to contributing to my team and community, and commit to engagement with Dene leadership.

### James Tsetso



Edézhzhíe Łíídlıı Kúé  
Community Coordinator

## New Term: 4 years



Erwin Cli, James Christie, Clifford McLeod, Joachim Bonnetrouge

## Introduction to the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee oversees the operations and administration of the Dehcho First Nations. During the **28th Annual General Assembly**, Leadership changed the term of the Executive Committee to four years, concurrent with the Grand Chief's term. Leadership also decided to elect a Youth, an Elder, and two Leaders.

Leadership accepted the following four members for four years to the Executive Committee:

- **Youth Erwin Cli**, Pehdzeh Ki band, Pehdzeh Ki
- **Elder James Christie**, Fort Providence Métis Council, Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé
- **President Clifford McLeod**, Fort Providence Métis Council, Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé
- **Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge**, Deh Gáh Got'ie Dene Band, Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé



# Resolutions

*Mandates that guide the actions of the Dehcho First Nations.*

Dehcho Annual Assembly  
June 23-25, 2021  
Fort Providence, NT

## Resolution # 01

### RE: Investment Management Board Appointment Recommendations

Moved by:

  
Gerald Antone, Chief  
Liidlii Kue First Nation

Seconded by:

  
Marie Lafferty, Proxy  
Fort Simpson Metis Local

CARRIED

Certified copy of Resolution  
made in Fort Providence, NT  
on June 23, 2021

  
Gladys Norwegian  
Grand Chief

WHEREAS, the 2021 Dehcho Assembly has received recommendations from the Investment Management Board (IMB); that Lorraine Whiteman of Deh Gah Gotie First Nation, Ron Hardisty of Jean Marie River First Nation and Sylvia Scow of Liidlii Kue First Nations be appointed to the Investment Management Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Investment Management Board recommends that the 2021 Dehcho Assembly:

1. Re-appoint Lorraine Whiteman for consecutive three-year term to the IMB commencing July 2021;
2. Appoint Ron Hardisty for a three-year term to the IMB, commencing July 2021; and
3. Appoint Sylvia Scow for a three-year term to the IMB, commencing November 2021

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the 2021 Dehcho Assembly accepts the recommendations of the Investment Management Board and appoints the aforementioned names to the Investment Management Board.

Dehcho Annual Assembly  
June 23-25, 2021  
Fort Providence, NT

## Resolution # 02

### RE: Grand Chief Acclamation

Moved by:

  
Stanley Sanguet, Chief  
Jean Marie River First Nation

Seconded by:

  
Lloyd Moses, Chief  
Pehdzeh Ki First Nation

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified copy of Resolution  
made in Fort Providence, NT  
on June 24, 2021

  
Gladys Norwegian  
Grand Chief

WHEREAS, the 2021 Election Committee provided their report to the Dehcho First Nations Annual General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Dehcho First Nations Annual General Assembly had the opportunity to review and consider the 2021 Elections Committee Report; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the 2021 Dehcho First Nations Annual General Assembly hereby accept the 2021 Elections Committee Report, as presented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, 2021 Dehcho First Nations Annual General Assembly approves the acclamation of Kenneth Cayen.

## RE: #01: Investment Management Board Appointment Recommendations

## RE: #02: Grand Chief Acclamation

Dehcho Annual Assembly  
June 23-25, 2021  
Fort Providence, NT

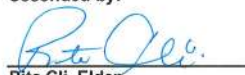
## Resolution # 03

### RE: 2021/22 Operational Plan & Budget

Moved by:

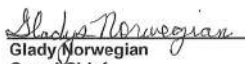
  
Stanley Sanguet, Chief  
Jean Marie River First Nation

Seconded by:

  
Rita Cui, Elder  
Liidlii Kue First Nation

CARRIED with 12 Abstentions

Certified copy of Resolution  
made in Fort Providence, NT  
on June 25, 2021

  
Gladys Norwegian  
Grand Chief

WHEREAS, the 2021 Dehcho Assembly has received the 2021/22 Operational Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is suggested an addition to the Office of the Grand Chief to undertake a Fall Leadership strategy session with the Plan was added.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, that the 2021 Dehcho Assembly hereby adopts the 2021/22 Operational Plan as added ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Grand Chief elected is directed to work on a Fall Leadership Meeting to further discuss plans and dollars for issues important to our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the 2021 Dehcho Assembly fully support this initiative.

## Get Involved!

These resolutions were passed in Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé between June 23-25, 2021 during the Dehcho Annual Assembly. These resolutions required no follow-up.

To get involved in the next Dehcho Annual Assembly, please contact your community Leadership to apply as a delegate.

## RE: #03: 2021/22 Operational Plan & Budget

# Negotiations

*"Our laws from the Creator do not allow us to cede, release, surrender or extinguish our inherent rights. The leadership of the Dehcho upholds the teachings of the Elders as the guiding principles of Dene government now and in the future." - Dehcho Declaration of Rights, August 19, 1993.*



## Message from the Negotiations Team

*Michael Nadli, Bradley Thom, Leona Tanche, Violet Jumbo*

In the past few months the Negotiations team has been focused on planning the department's work for the next four years. Recently, we have worked on the West Point First Nations side table, and issues concerning the East side of the Dehcho. We will publish a report about the **Leadership Strategic Session** that took place in August in the next few weeks. The proposals for Negotiations funding were submitted on September 1st, 2021. Positive updates are expected in November, 2021. In the proposal, we have detailed the plan to enhance community participation and fulfill the mandates given to us historically by the Elders. We will move in alignment with previous Negotiations resolutions. With Negotiations expected to ramp up in early 2022, the communities can expect to see many Negotiations items at the upcoming Annual General Assembly.

This year, Canada's Federal election and the COVID-19 outbreaks in the Dehcho presented unique challenges, however, we have continued working diligently. When Parliament begins again, the **Speech from the Throne** will give us a good idea about Canada's intentions as a party. Our work now involves making strong preparations for the work ahead of us and consulting with our Leadership about resuming Negotiations under the modular approach. Mahsi.

### Important Dates

- **09/01/21** - Submission of the Negotiations Proposal
- **09/20/21** - Federal Election
- **10/26/2021** - Swear-in Federal Cabinet
- **11/--/2021** - Proposal acceptance
- **11/22/2021** - Parliament returns with new Throne Speech
- **11/--/2021** - Strategic Planning Session report
- **11/--/2021** - Planning for the start of negotiations
- **12/--/2021** - Preparations for the start of negotiations
- **01/--/2022** - Negotiations begins
- **01/--/2022** - Negotiations team builds capacity in region to consult with communities

# 2021 Scholarship Recipients

## \$5,000 Scholarship

### Athletic Scholarship

1. Liam Gill – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
2021 Elite Level European Laax Open &  
5th Men's Canadian Halfpipe Ranking List, Calgary AB

## \$3,000 Memorial Awards

### Mary Cazon Memorial Award

Environmental Sciences, Health & Wellness and/or  
Naturopathy

2. Delainea Anderson – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Bachelor of Arts Psychology & Anthropology at  
University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford BC
3. Nyssa McKenzie – Fort Providence Métis Council  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at University of Victoria,  
Victoria BC

### Mitch Landry Memorial Award

Environment & Resource Management,  
Humanities/Social Sciences, Aboriginal Languages  
and/or Linguistics

4. Jennifer Gast – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Bachelor of Science at Grant MacEwan University,  
Edmonton AB
5. Coleen Hardisty – Jean Marie River First Nation  
Environment & Natural Resources at Aurora College,  
Fort Smith NT

### Albertine Rodh Memorial Award

Native Studies, Women/Gender Studies, Political Science  
and/or Education

6. Akeshia Hardisty-Norwegian – Jean Marie  
River First Nation  
Bachelor of Education at University of Alberta,  
Edmonton AB
7. Kleo Skavinski – Pehdzeh Ki First Nation  
Bachelor of Arts Sociology, University of British  
Columbia, Vancouver BC

## \$4,000 Memorial Awards

### Phoebe Nahanni Memorial Award

Natural Sciences, Law and/or Political Sciences

8. Meah Lamothe – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Doctor of Medicine at University of British Columbia,  
Vancouver BC

## \$2,000 Scholarships

### Aboriginal Governance/Leadership Scholarship

9. Brittany Casaway – Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation  
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology at University of Alberta,  
Edmonton AB
10. Mike Modeste – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Masters Business Administration at Athabasca University,  
Edmonton AB
11. Gavin Wilkes – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Juris Doctor at University of Alberta, Edmonton AB

### Business Scholarship

12. Angela Boutilier – Pehdzeh Ki First Nation  
Bachelor of Business Administration at Mount Royal  
University, Calgary AB
13. Winona Letcher – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Bachelor of Business Administration at Vancouver Island  
University, Nanaimo BC
14. Cydney Nahanni-Kwasney – Łíídlıı Kúé First  
Nation  
Bachelor of Commerce at University of Calgary, Calgary  
AB
15. Lynnette Sabourin – Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation  
Hospitality Management at Camosun College, Victoria BC

### Early Childhood Education Scholarship

16. Annadette Bouvier – Fort Providence Métis Council  
Bachelor of Child & Youth Care at Vancouver Island  
University, Nanaimo BC

### Engineering/Computer Science Scholarship

17. Sadee Lamothe – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Bachelor of Science in Physics at University of Alberta,  
Edmonton AB

(cont)



# 2021 Scholarship Recipients

## \$2,000 Scholarships

18. Breeya Matheson – Jean Marie River First Nation  
Bachelor of Science at University of British Columbia,  
Vancouver BC

### Fine Arts/Performing Arts Scholarship

19. Sage Fabre-Dimsdale – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Bachelor of Arts Contemporary Dance at Concordia  
University, Montreal QC

20. Hannah Isaiah – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Classical Animation at Vancouver Film School,  
Vancouver BC

21. Kelly Leishman – Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation  
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing at Alberta University  
of the Arts, Calgary AB

### Medical Scholarship

22. Amanda Bradbury – Fort Simpson Métis Nation  
Master of Nursing at University of Saskatchewan,  
Saskatoon SK

23. Brandon Hardisty – Acho Dene Koe First Nation  
Bachelor of Science at Vancouver Island University,  
Nanaimo BC

24. Sarah Sibbeston – Fort Simpson Métis Nation  
Doctor of Medicine at University of Alberta,  
Edmonton AB

### Open/General Studies Scholarship

25. Dahetlea Antoine – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at University of Victoria,  
Victoria BC

26. Alisha Hardisty-Isaiah – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Open Studies at Mount Royal University, Calgary AB

27. Nathaniel Tsetso – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Kinesiology at Grande Prairie Regional College,  
Grande Prairie AB

### Social Work Scholarship

28. Lenny Fabian – K'at'odeeche First Nation  
Professional Counsellor Diploma Program at Rhodes  
Wellness College, Vancouver BC

### Teacher Education Scholarship

29. Janelle Minoza – Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation  
Bachelor of Social Work at Vancouver Island University,  
Nanaimo BC

## \$2,000 Scholarships

### Teacher Education Scholarship

30. Patricia Bouvier – Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation  
Indian Teacher Education Program at University of  
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon SK

## \$1,000 Scholarships

### Short-Term Scholarship

31. Raynna Bonnetrouge – Deh Gáh Got'ie First  
Nation Descendant  
University Preparation Program at MacEwan University,  
Edmonton AB

32. Meghan Breen – Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at University of Alberta,  
Edmonton AB

33. Emily Hardisty-Marcellais – Nahᑭᑦ Dehé Dene  
Band  
Academic Upgrading at Mount Royal University,  
Calgary AB

44. Courtney Vital – Pehdzeh Ki First Nation  
Descendant  
Addictions Counselling at University of Lethbridge,  
Lethbridge AB

### \$3,000 NorZinc Scholarship

35. Darren Hardisty – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
University & College Access Program at Aurora  
College, Yellowknife NT

36. Loyal Letcher Jr – Łíídlıı Kúé First Nation  
Aviation Management at Sub-Arctic Leadership  
Training College, Fort Smith NT



# Program Updates

## Health & Wellness

### Health & Wellness Gathering

Dehcho First Nations hosted the Dehcho Health & Wellness Gathering in Fort Simpson/Łíídlıı Kúé, August 10-12th, 2021. The gathering brought together 59 people (participants, drop-ins, staff, and presenters). All Dehcho communities were invited to send community representatives and the event was shared directly with Dehcho Indigenous offices and on social media.

At the gathering there was a safe space created to talk about culture, healing, and networking. Information was shared about initiatives across the North and the Dehcho, updates were given on Dehcho First Nations work in Health & Wellness, and regional Dehcho Health & Wellness priorities and goals were discussed. This gathering was part of the larger Dehcho First Nations Health & Wellness initiative, and will help inform future Health & Wellness planning. **An in-depth report of the gathering** can be provided to interested people. You can contact the Health and Wellness Coordinator at Dehcho First Nations for a copy.

Photo credits: Jonathan Antoine and Charles Blondin



### Dehcho Health & Wellness Working Group

Early in 2021, a regional Health & Wellness Working Group was formed. It is made up of a members from Dehcho organizations/communities. The group has now met several times, with the intent of informing Dehcho First Nation's Health & Wellness plans. The group has been hard at work and has developed a draft vision and guiding principles.

### "Nezųh Aoht'e Gha Edek'eh Eghalaęhnda – Journey to my Best Self" follow up program

A follow-up program is being planned for the participants of the March 2021 Journey to My Best Self healing program. **The original participants of that program will be invited to come back together** for a week sometime this winter. More information will be released as planning occurs.

### Planning for more Health & Wellness Programs

After the success of the Journey to my Best Self Healing Program, Dehcho First Nations will be looking to plan more regional programs and will be seeking funds to do so. In particular the organization will be looking at **another 30-day healing program in 2022**. Stay tuned for more information.

In addition, this winter there will be a couple new short term Health & Wellness programs offered. One of which will be a partnership with Shakes the Dust Hope consulting, to offer virtual counselling sessions in the region. When more details are worked out information will be shared via social media, posters and through your local Indigenous organizations.

# Program Updates

## Edézhíe



E D É H Z H Í E

Success for the Edézhíe Protected Areas Strategy recently as the Edézhíe Dehcho Protected Area passed the first round of the NWA screening process with a publication in the **Canada Gazette**. With this, Edézhíe is well on its way to becoming a National Wildlife Area. The Board approved the current year's workplan and budget which was later approved by both Parties Dehcho First Nations and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Leadership approved the **Edézhíe Trust** in February, 2021. The Edézhíe team intends to ratify the Trust Agreement during the **Winter Leadership meeting**.

## Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management

The Dehcho AAROM Guardians were on the Mackenzie River and local tributaries for most of the summer recording observations, taking pictures, monitoring water quality and wildlife. Guardians were also involved in maintaining the ENR water quality sites. Other major projects included scientific research by Heidi Swanson of University of Waterloo, this summer data was collected from **Deep, Greasy and Sanguet Lake as well as water samples from most major water bodies in the region**. Heidi's work is looking at how local catchments effect the amount of mercury in fish and also how to minimize the risk; **it turns out drinking tea and smoking/drying fish both decrease the amount of mercury available to the consumer.**

Deh Gah Gotine held a 2 week fish camp this august, this was a huge success with over 50 people participating; the objective was to hold a traditional fish camp to see how climate change is effecting fish runs. Interviewers from the community surveyed visitors on how the fishery has changed recently. **We hope to secure funding to carry this work out every year to observe effect of climate change.**

## Climate Change Strategy

DFN has secured funding for a **Regional Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategic Plan** moving forward into 2021 and 2022. DFN is looking for members for its **steering and advisory committee** to conduct a background review of climate research active or completed in the region.

We are looking for input from **Elders, youth, resource managers, local administrators, and community members** to help guide the strategy. We look forward to working with Arctic Energy Alliance and other regional organizations as well as the territorial and federal government to help with resource analysis in the region.





# Program Updates

## Master Trust

In June 2021, the DFN Leadership reviewed and approved two new board appointments and one re-appointment. We are pleased to welcome Ron Hardisty and Sylvia Scow to the Board. Lorraine Whiteman is joining the Board for a second term. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Kathy Tsetso, who has been instrumental in leading the IMB throughout her term and ensuring the continued success of the Board.

The Investment Management Board reports annually during the DFN Annual Assembly, however we are open to questions any time of the year. We accept investment proposals on an ongoing basis. For a copy of the IMB Master Trust Application Booklet please contact the IMB via email at "sara\_mcleod@dehcho.org."



## Indigenous Language Revitalization

Communities/First Nations/and organizations in the Dehcho may **submit proposals to promote, preserve, and revitalize Dene Zhatie**. There is no deadline to apply as funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline to spend funding is March 31, 2022.

## Regional On the Land

The 2021-2022 On the Land Healing Fund opened and closed for proposals over the last annual quarter. We are excited to be supporting another 4 On the Land Healing programs across the region in 2021-2022 and look forward to contributing to the land-based components of the follow-up to the "Nezųh Aoht'e Gha Edek'eh Eghalaęhnda – Journey to my Best Self" 30 Day Healing Program.

**Due to the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic Regional On the Land Programs have been postponed** until we can ensure we can safely come together for land-based programs. The region can look forward to updates on strategies/plans for the regional Youth Ecology Camp and Dehcho K'ehodi Annual Gathering over the next annual quarter.

We want to give a HUGE "mahsicho" to Dene Nahjo, Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, Lı́ldıı Kúé First Nation, Jackpine Paddle, and Deh Gáh Got'ie First Nation for their ongoing partnerships and support through this challenging annual quarter. We are grateful for all of the trust and support that the region has provided as we continue to find ways to run meaningful and innovative land-based programs.

If you would like to get in touch with the Regional On the Land Coordinator, you can contact Beth Hudson at the DFN office at 867-695-2355 or email her at beth\_hudson@dehcho.org.

## Dehcho First Nations Staff



<b>Grand Chief</b>	Kenneth Cayen
<b>Executive Director</b>	Alison de Pelham
<b>Finance Manager</b>	Dora Tsetso
<b>Senior Executive Administrator</b>	Sara McLeod
<b>Administrative Secretary/Receptionist</b>	Emma Amundson
<b>Education &amp; Training Manager</b>	Josanne Kenny
<b>Employment Development Officer</b>	Diane Simba
<b>Regional On-the-Land Coordinator</b>	Beth Hudson
<b>Regional Health &amp; Wellness Coordinator</b>	Kristen Tanche
<b>Chief Negotiator</b>	Michael Nadli
<b>Assistant Negotiator</b>	Bradley Thom
<b>Negotiations Administrator</b>	Leona Tanche
<b>Language Manager</b>	Violet Jumbo
<b>AAROM Coordinator</b>	Mike Low
<b>AAROM Technical Advisor</b>	Melaine Simba
<b>Edézhzhíe Regional Coordinator</b>	Ashley Menicoche
<b>Edézhzhíe Administrator</b>	Lauren Corneille-Lafferty
<b>Edézhzhíe Community Coordinators</b>	
Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé Coordinator	Trisha Landry
Tthets'ék'edélj Coordinator	Arial Sanguéz
Łíídlj Kúé Coordinator	James Tsetso
<b>Communications Coordinator</b>	Ramona Pearson



## Dehcho First Nations 2021 Promotional Items



Unsex dark gray Joggers	\$30.00
Ladies Climate Waterproof Jackets	\$65.00
Unsex Full Zip Lightweight Hoodie	\$50.00
Columbia Fleece Sweaters	\$52.00
Baseball Caps (Sandwich Cap)	\$20.00
Camo Panel Military Cap	\$30.00
Safeguard Aluminum Wallets	\$ 8.00
Dehcho Drum Music CD	\$20.00
Dehcho Drum Music Cassettes	\$ 5.00
Orange Pocket Notebook with Pen	\$ 6.00
Fold up Chairs w/cooler	\$15.00
Canvas Sailing Zip Tote bag	\$25.00
Zippered Cotton Boat Tote Bag	\$20.00
Rumble Bottle, Bluetooth Speaker 14oz Stainless	\$40.00
Spray Sanitizer 1 oz	\$ 5.00
Twister Smartphone Holder & Stand	\$ 5.00
2-Ply Face Mask	\$15.00
Wave Sandwich Cap with Face mask buttons	\$25.00
Small Tissue Packet	\$ 2.00
Deluxe Travel Duffel 22"	\$40.00







## Contact Us



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