

## CONTACT INFORMATION



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### STAFF

Grand Chief  
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Executive Assistant to Grand Chief  
Special Advisor  
Finance Manager  
Senior Executive Administrator  
Administrative Secretary/Receptionist  
Human Resource Development Manager  
Employment Development Officer  
Employment Development Officer  
A/Resource Management Coordinator  
A/Resource Management Coordinator  
A/Negotiations Coordinator  
Language Manager  
AAROM Coordinator  
AAROM Technical Advisors

Gladys Norwegian  
Alison de Pelham  
Jackson McDermott  
Rosemary Gill  
Dora Tsetso  
Sara McLeod  
Lauren Corneille-Lafferty  
Josanne Kenny  
Diane Simba  
Vacant  
Nicole Hardisty  
Kristen Tanche  
Leona Tanche  
Violet Jumbo  
George Low  
Mike Low  
Melaine Simba

You are invited to:  
Dehcho Annual Assembly  
Host: Łíídłıı Kúé First Nation

Dates: June 25-27, 2019

Travel days June 24 & 28

Theme: Treaty

We hope to see you there!



# DEHCHO GONDI

**“We the Dene of the Dehcho have lived on our homeland according to our own laws and system of government since time immemorial.”**

May 2019

Volume 1, Issue 2

## Greetings from the Grand Chief

### **Climate Change**

The month of March has been unusually warm, double digit degree Celsius for a period of two weeks in the Dehcho. Although we welcome this warming, it seems to be an indication that, indeed, we are witnessing climate change at the regional level. One needs only to listen to the news where scientists indicate climate change in the north is happening three times the rate of anywhere else. Our people out on the land can attest to the changes they see first hand. We have been supporting research conducted at Scotty Creek by students from Wilfrid Laurier University who are studying how climate change and permafrost loss is affecting our back yard. They are finding that the melting of permafrost is connecting separate bodies of wetlands so a larger area is covered with water. The research also found that there appears to be an increased in “drunken forests” (trees leaning every which way) which will eventually die from too much water for their root system to handle. This is a topic we all must become aware of and impress on our leadership to do their part to lessen the impact this will have on the Dene. Climate change mitigation strategies will be included in the Dehcho Land Use Plan (DLUP).

### **Dehcho Process**

In this edition, I would like to inform our members of where the Dehcho Process stands. To-date, the Dehcho Process has been suspended due to the issue of ownership and jurisdiction over Dehcho lands and resources. The Dehcho have been and continue to be opposed to land selection in our negotiations. As well, the Dehcho leadership maintained that treaties are only negotiated between sovereign nations, thus objected to the GNWT sitting as a full partner at the negotiations table.

I, along with a delegation, met with both representatives from Canada and the GNWT, March 8, 2019 to relay the message that the Dehcho would like to resume negotiations. We indicated we would be willing to set aside the issue of lands and resources temporarily, and look at moving ahead by implementing certain chapters such as governance, education and health in the Final Agreement in Principle. By doing this, we would begin to implement our agreement and set up our government. Canada has indicated that they would be open to discuss moving forward with modular self-government negotiations. Please note, they are open to discussions but have not said they would return to the negotiations table, meaning no additional funds for negotiating. Our next discussion is scheduled for May 30th, 2019 in Fort Providence.

### **Devolution**

GNWT maintains that because of devolution, they now have interests that make their presence at the negotiations table appropriate. We disagree, since Canada transferred authority over lands and resources to the GNWT, putting the Dehcho in the position of having to negotiate lands and resources issues with GNWT instead of Canada. This is no longer Sovereign to Sovereign negotiations. Because the Dehcho will not sign on to Devolution, GNWT is not distributing Dehcho fair share of resource royalties nor is the Dehcho included in the intergovernmental Council which basically leaves us out of the consultation process in the development of new legislation. The Dehcho leadership has indicated their displeasure in where this leaves us and has directed our legal council to prepare a statement of claim.

## ISETP



Our new ISETP office

A couple changes occurred since our last Newsletter. Firstly, the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISETP) began on April 1, 2019 which replaced the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). This change was made by the Government of Canada as a result of their commitment to support the growth of Indigenous communities and foster lifelong learning, skills development and training.

The second change would be in our staffing. Josanne Kenny started as the Dehcho Human Resources Development Manager on April 15. Josanne joins us from GNWT where she worked with ECE for over 10 years. Shelly Hardisty's last day was April 18, 2019. Shelly has moved on to new and exciting endeavors and we all wish her well in all that she pursues. Shelly will be greatly missed as she was with us for over a number of years.

*"We will survive as Dene people. We will develop our own ways based on the strength and traditions of the old ways. We will always see ourselves as part of nature. Whether we use outboard motors or plywood for our cabins, it does not make us less Dene."* - Richard Nerysoo during the Berger Inquiry

As the 2019/2020 academic year fast approaches, please keep in mind the following deadlines:

### Work Readiness Programs & Skills Development Programs:

One full month prior to the start date of course/program

### Post-Secondary Programs:

- Fall Term (September to December): July 15
- Winter Term (January to April): November 15
- Spring/Summer Term (May to August): March 15

### Dehcho First Nations Memorial Awards and Scholarships – Deadline: July 31

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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 OR  
 Career Development Assistant, Agnes Bonnetrouge.  
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## DFN Annual Assembly & Leadership Meeting Resolutions

### 2018 Annual Assembly

- Resolution #01 RE: Edézhíe  
 Resolution #02 RE: Paramountcy of Assembly  
 Resolution #03 RE: Equality  
 Resolution #04 RE: Undah Gogha Royalty Allocation  
 Resolution #05 RE: GNWT Land Lease Fees  
 Resolution #06 RE: Dehcho Process  
 Resolution #07 RE: Assemblies & Dehcho Governance  
 Resolution #08 RE: Governing the Dehcho – Plan B

### 2018 Fall Leadership Meeting – Fort Simpson

- Resolution #01 RE: IMB  
 Resolution #02 RE: Departmental Approach to Self-Government  
 Resolution #03 RE: Denendeh Investment Incorporated  
 Resolution #04 RE: Devolution  
 Resolution #05 RE: Equality  
 Resolution #06 RE: PKFN Jurisdiction over Highway  
 Resolution #07 RE: WPFN

### 2019 Winter Leadership Meeting –Fort Providence

- Resolution #01 RE: IMB Youth Board Appointment  
 Resolution #02 RE: IMB Appointment Recommendation  
 Resolution #03 RE: Dehcho Land Use Plan  
 Resolution #04 RE: Departmental Approach to Self-Government  
 Resolution #05 RE: DFN Internal Review of June 27, 2016 Draft Interim Land Use Plan  
 Resolution #06 RE: Devolution

### 2019 Spring Leadership Meeting – Kakisa Lake

- Resolution #01 RE: Master Contribution Agreement  
 Resolution #02 RE: Climate Change  
 Resolution #03 RE: Resuming of Dehcho Process Negotiations  
 Resolution #04 RE: Education Director & Work Plan  
 Resolution #05 RE: Nahecho Council

### DFN Promotional Items

Women's Climate Jacket	\$65.00
Men's Full Zip Hoodie (BLACK & DARK CHARCOAL)	\$60.00
Ladies Full Zip Hoodie (OLYMPIC BLUE, WHITE & DARK CHARCOAL)	\$50.00
Ladies Tri-Blend T-shirts (ROYAL BLUE)	\$22.00
Men & Women's Tank Tops (CHARCOAL & ROYAL BLUE)	\$30.00
DFN Long Sleeves (NAVY & MAROON)	\$40.00
Safeguard Aluminum Wallet	\$ 8.00
Pocket Notebook w/Pen	\$ 6.00
Zippered Tool Kit	\$15.00
Twill Cap (BLACK & ROYAL BLUE)	\$25.00
Varsity Backpack	\$20.00
Bug Jackets	\$55.00
Poncho Rain Jackets	\$ 5.00
Pullover Sweater (youth)	\$40.00
Kid's T-shirts (BLUE & PURPLE)	\$10.00
Kid's Jogger Pants	\$10.00
Women's Syntrel T-shirts	\$15.00
Men & Women Track Pants (BLACK & NAVY)	\$30.00
Fold-Up Chairs w/Cooler	\$15.00
Water Bottles: 24 oz (GREEN)	\$ 5.00
16 oz (RED)	\$ 4.00
Steel Blue Water Bottles	\$ 8.00
Dehcho Drummers CD	\$20.00



## AAROM

### AAROM

Dehcho AAROM had a busy winter filled with planning, meetings and projects. Mike Low and Melaine Simba attended the ENR Water Strategy workshop in October where Mike presented on the Mercury work that has been done in the Dehcho. The ENR water strategy has supported AAROM and the Dehcho very well, we are still the only region that gets funded to carry out its own water sampling program.

Over the winter several DFO meetings were held in Yellowknife to create an Indigenous Co- Management board and framework for the Great Slave Lake. There were also two meetings held to specifically discuss the National AAROM and other indigenous programs; at these meetings it was announced that increased funding should be coming for the Dehcho, however there was no specific timeline. Dehcho AAROM was also invited to the Indigenous Leadership Initiative gathering alongside Dehcho K'ehodi to see what other guardian programs have been doing and what funding is possibly available for the Dehcho.



At the beginning of May, Mike will be attending the Tracking Changes workshop in New York, where we will also have the opportunity to attend the UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues reporting on what changes are occurring along the Mackenzie River.

In between all the meetings AAROM, carried out a fish stock study on Kakisa Lake, Melaine supervised the fishing and sampled almost 300 fish. This project is DFO funded and is part of an ongoing study at Tathlina Lake, where each lake is sampled every other year. Melaine has transitioned well to her new role as Technical Advisor, she is currently monitoring the Kakisa River grayling run then will be supervising the Sanguez Lake Fish in May.

We are currently looking for a Kakisa community member to work alongside Melaine once she starts doing the ENR water sampling. Mike has completely taken over the AAROM coordinator position, while George remains working 6 days a month on research projects in an advising role.

## LANGUAGE

### Indigenous Language Revitalization Program

A three-day Elders' Terminology Workshop was held in Fort Simpson March 19-21, 2019. The workshop was facilitated by Andy Norwegian. There were 32 Elders from the region that attended this workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to collect old and new terminology in the Dene Zhatié. Also collected were words that have not been used often. The Elders broke into groups and discussed different topics such as; changes in Landscape, wildlife, environment and water, and modern terminology. Kristen Tanche and Nicole Hardisty with the Resource Management did a presentation of 'On the Land Wellness Program'. They updated the Elders on the programs that they had been working on. From the program there were new terms collected that had not been used in Dene Zhatié to put into a booklet.

The workshop was well attended, and the Elders would like to have another workshop on the land and invite youth.

The Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP) has wrapped up March 31, 2019. Eighteen active MAP teams completed an average of 300 hours/per team and a total of 4,891.5 hours of Dene Zhatié immersion from April 15, 2018 to March 31, 2019. Six teams did not continue as anticipated due to workload (full time jobs) and/or having a young family and did not have the time to pursue the program as expected.

This was a great opportunity for young adults/parents to learn to speak in Dene Zhatié. The one-on-one immersion with the mentor really helped them boost their language skills and were able to converse in Dene Zhatié when the program was completed. Their involvement in speaking Dene Zhatié has strengthened their identity, given them a sense of connection.

*“Language is the mind, spirit, and soul of a people.”*  
—Verna Kirkness





## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### **Enbridge Line 21 Project Post-Construction Environmental Monitoring (PCEM) work schedule**

EMC Members are in the process of approving the PCEM work schedule to include Dehcho Guardians and upcoming field work to start early June 2019.

### **Edehzhie Protected Area Landbird Monitoring Program**

Dehcho First Nations is scheduling with ECCC a Landbird Monitoring within the Edehzhie area and work is to commence May 5-12, 2019.

### **Edehzhie Management Board Update:**

Interviews are scheduled May 10, 2019 for the Edehzhie Regional Coordinator & Edehzhie Administrator/Finance and candidates will be announced on the next DFN Newsletter. The next Edehzhie Management Board teleconference is scheduled for June 19, 2019.

Edehzhie Management Board meeting is scheduled for July 9-11, 2019 at Ekali Lake Camp within the Edehzhie Protected Area.

Edehzhie Management Board Members are:

- Heidi Wiebe, Chair (Interim)
- Marie Fast, ECCC
- Priscilla Canadien, Ft. Providence
- Dawn Bell-Isaiah, Jean Marie River
- Tim Lennie, Wrigley
- TBA, Ft. Simpson
- Eric Menicoche, DFN

Senior Representatives are:

- Alison de Pelham, DFN
- Christian Bertelsen, ECCC

### **Regional on the Land Camps and Youth Events**

**Yundaa Gogha – Youth Canoe Excursion, Elder & Youth Gathering & Dehcho Assembly participation: June 10-28, 2019.**

Youth will be canoeing from Fort Providence to Fort Simpson then participate in an Elder and Youth Gathering and in the Dehcho Assembly.

For an application, contact Dehcho First Nations office or Nimisha Bastedo at [nbastedo@ddec.ca](mailto:nbastedo@ddec.ca) Applications due-May 21, 2019

**Yundaa Gogha, Elder & Youth Gathering and Youth participation in the Dehcho Assembly**  
• June 23-24, Elder & Youth Gathering  
• June 25-27, Youth participation in the Dehcho Assembly

12 youth from the canoe trip will be joining the gathering with an additional 10 Dehcho youth to join the gathering and 20 elders from the Dehcho region. Dehcho organizations will be contacted directly for names of their Elder and Youth Participants.

### **Youth Ecology and Traditional Knowledge Camp**

Location and dates of this camp will be announced in June.



## EDUCATION

Over the past few years, numerous headlines in the News/North Newspaper have depicted the state of our education system as “broken” and that the “NWT education system needs to be completely reworked unless failure is acceptable”. In response, the GNWT tabled plans for an education renewal, which is destined for failure since GNWT has not identified adequate resources in their yearly budget to make significant changes. A perfect example is the bungling of the Junior Kindergarten Program initiative and funding for staffing that is driven by a “numbers” based system rather than a more proactive system based on “needs”. Obviously, educating our children is not a top priority of the GNWT, as reflected in the contract concessions made last year. That move is impacting adversely on our students.

Dene Leaders, on the other hand, will tell you that education is important, that we want academically well-educated youth and adults who are proficient in Dene Zhatié, as well as, being well grounded in Dene Culture, traditions, and history. Community leaders are also well aware of the broadening gap that exists between where our students are and where they should be in their education. We, as community members and leaders, must have the courage to understand the state we are in and what we need to do to make improvements. We must make a paradigm shift, from the attitude that we can't change the present situation and that there are too many factors outside of our control to make a difference. To begin this process, requires dialogue, lots of it. Our words and deeds must focus on student success, new ways of doing things, and placing education first. At the rate we are going, the current dismal test scores will result in most of our students not having the numeracy and literacy skills to graduate grade 12. Who then, will fill seats in the new University of the North that the government is planning? Foreign students?

Any school improvement initiative must be a collective effort, the school cannot do it alone; it requires the whole community including: parents, educators, administrators, government and community leaders. To tackle the enormity of the task requires a buy-in, will and determination.

Dehcho First Nations is in the process of establishing a Regional Education Division. Terms of References for a DFN Education Committee has been finalized. Dehcho Leadership have approved the appointment of Lois Philipp and Margaret Fields to the Committee. Two other members are needed, if you have a sound understanding of the educational field, I encourage you to put forth your name. This Committee has the potential to be the catalyst for change in the Dehcho Region, should leadership agree and commit adequate resources to this initiative. In the meantime, elections are coming up, an opportune time to start asking some tough questions of the candidates that want to represent us, and identify those that will fight for changes to our education system.

-Rosemary Gill



*“Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.”*

— Socrates