



**DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS**  
**BOX 89, FORT SIMPSON, NT X0E 0N0**  
**Ph: (867) 695.2610 Toll Free: 1.866.995.3748**  
**Fax: (867) 695.2038**  
**EMAIL: [dcfn@dehcho.org](mailto:dcfn@dehcho.org)**



---

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly Draft Minutes**  
**Pehdzeh Ki, Denendeh**  
**June 28-30, 2011**

**Attendance:**

Chief Stanley Sanguéz  
Elder Ernest Hardisty  
William (Billy) Norwegian  
Margaret Ireland  
Ariel Sanguéz  
Clifford McLeod (Proxy)  
Elder Gilbert Bouvier Sr.  
Jessica Minoza (Christie)  
Annadette Bouvier  
Chief Dolphus Jumbo  
Arthur Jumbo  
David Jumbo  
Ernest Gargan  
Proxy Ted Cayen  
Elder James Cayen  
Florence Cayen  
President Marie Lafferty  
Elder Barb Sloat  
Chief Jim Antoine  
Elder Rita Cli  
Peter Cornielle  
Peter Tambour  
Ernest Martel  
Clara Sabourin  
Elder Gabe Hardisty  
Albert Moses  
David Moses  
Elder Flora Cli  
Peter Marcellais

Richard Hardisty  
Joseph Horesay  
Gerald Hardisty  
Johnny Denethlon  
Beatrice Antoine  
Sharon Allen  
Shelly Hardisty  
Wilbert Antoine  
Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge  
Elder Ted Landry  
Jim Elleze  
Sam Elleze  
Bernice Bonnetrouge  
Laura Sabourin  
Henry Bonnetrouge Sr.  
Eric Gargan  
Tyler Minoza  
Daylon Matto  
Robert Lamalice  
Charlene Bonnetrouge  
Chief Roy Fabian  
Fred Tambour  
Rachel Martel  
Chief Tim Lennie  
Henry Hardisty  
Nicole Hardisty  
Chief Fred Tesou  
Jayne Konisenta  
David Etchinelle

**Dehcho First Nations  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly  
June 27-30, 2011  
Pehdzeh, Denendeh**

**Day One (Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>)**

**10:00 AM – Fire Feeding Behind the Complex**

Chief Tim Lennie welcomes the delegates to Pehdzeh Ki and just summarizes the activities that will be happening during the assembly. If for any reason the delegates and the visitors have any problems please do not hesitate to contact the workers and they will try to fix the problems.

Grand Chief Sam Gargan, thank you Chief Lennie. Going to the next item the appointment of our chairs, we have here Sharon Pellissey and former Grand Chief Herb Norwegian that we want to appoint to chair this assembly in Pehdzeh Ki. Can we get someone to do the motion, to move to appoint, okay moved by Gabe Hardisty, seconded by Chief Bonnetrouge. Are there any discussions, question be call, all those in favour to select Sharon Pellissey and Herb Norwegian, opposed if any. Okay it's unanimous, thank you.

**MOTION #01 ASSEM 27/06/11**

**The Dehcho Annual Assembly move to approve Sharon Pellissey and Herb Norwegian as Chairs.**

**Moved by Gabe Hardisty**

**Seconded by Joachim Bonnetrouge**

**Passed**

Chair Herb Norwegian, thank you for allowing us to chair this meeting, myself and my co-chair, Sharon Pellissey. Just to go over the general rules with the delegates and to stay focus to the issue at present and also welcoming delegates from other communities. Also if there are any guests that needs to be recognized please let the chair know so that we can recognized them as assembly like this we try to acknowledge people that have done work in public areas whether they are MLA's or Chiefs, former Chiefs, Elders we try to recognize them.

Co-chair Sharon Pellissey introduces herself and advises the assembly that any messages for the delegates, Chiefs and Elders will be posted up on the bulletin board outside the Band office.

Chair Herb Norwegian, the next item is the address from our Grand Chief, Sam Gargan.

Grand Chief Sam Gargan if you want to read the report that I have done it's on tap one. Just to summarize, it's been almost two years that I have been the Grand Chief for Dehcho Region. This meeting is to get together and acknowledge how we can work together with Canada and renew relationship and sovereignty and the way the land is used. Back in 1996 Royal Commission and Aboriginal People also said that at that time, said restructuring our relationship and we have to think about that too. Today, there are a lot of things that came out that is very powerful that were made. And a lot of people since 1982 where the constitution was brought back to us Section 35 that was the reason why it was brought back to us. With regards to our land how we want a settlement and all that stuff was started.

1996 Royal Commission and Aboriginal People we talk about that one too also. They made a statement in regards to that and the statement was how we are going to be our own government and how we are going to work with the Federal Government and we made a number of statements in regards to that.

In 1998 we look at the reconciliation that's where it started and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation was founded. In 2007 UN declaration was passed. We review it on how we are going to be self-government and how we can get resources from our, funding from resources that we give to the government. We did that in 2008 and we also heard Prime Minister Harper with regards the Residential School apology to all the survivors. So there were a lot of things that were important that was brought out but still we didn't go forward with it.

It seems like we are holding onto our land and being our own government, we need to still address that. When we do things like that we need a lot of statements and lot of good definition so that it will go forward. We need to do that and every since Dehcho Process we still will be doing that. In the past when Chiefs were together, the elders that were here, that are not here right now. They made a strong statement they seen it for the future so that's the reason why they made a statement. How they see things, how we are going to make out a strong statement to become our own government we need the Dehcho Declaration of Rights. A lot depends on it and along with the 21 Common Ground Principles.

With regards to the Framework Interim Resource Development Agreement we need that and we are also still working on that. So who are those people that made the statement we need to follow it through with the Dehcho Process that's how they did it. Today we are still working towards that I am pretty sure. You see a number of Chiefs that are sitting around here and who are at home, all Chiefs of Dehcho, the leaders of Métis Nation and all the Elders I want to express my thanks to them. What we do here with regards to a big meeting like this assembly we have a lot of work ahead of us and if that happens there's lot of things people do even during the weekends.

We got to remember those people to that are preparing for the meeting. So I would like to thank the staff of Dehcho First Nation my thanks go to them and they are doing hard

work and if I forget anybody I apologize I want to thank them. Now here we are sitting around here with the leadership and the young people, elders, women, men, people that come from far away that are here and have travelled a long ways I want to say thank you for their safe trip here.

The Dehcho Process is still something that is important and it still ahead of us. We need to all pull together, the Chiefs, we got to follow what they say and we will go ahead. All the people that are sitting around the table also and we are here to protect our land and that's what we are going to be doing and that's what we are going to be talking about. So I can't say I am the boss of the land, but everything that is on the land is very important to us and that's how we are going to protect it. If we think that way then we probably won't be here and we want to settle this and it is very important what we are going to discuss with regards to protecting our land. Also up until now people like Georges, Patrick, Bernadette, Richard, Violet, Leona and people like that are lawyers and all of those that are with us today.

In 1993 after the Dehcho Declaration up until now it's been a long time now, we came along ways. So in the end maybe there will be a statement coming out of this. Right now, from now until next year it will be about three years that I will be here and it is still a lot of things. That one community, we got to think as one community that's what we have to do. Think as one and we got to work out of one house concept so that's what we still thinking of and also what government gives us a treaty that's what we have to stand on too.

Last Thursday Premier Floyd Roland wrote to me and then on Friday Minister Duncan from Ottawa they call me and talk to me in regards to Ehdezhie. The statement there is that they change the statement around so now we got to revisit it again and we have to reinstate what we are protecting. We did that and I am very grateful for that. Up until now what is going to happen we don't know but things that have been said before that, if we are going to have a meeting then we need to make a statement with regards to how Ehdezhie, is Simpson and all of these communities like Providence and all those areas that the working group comes from, they need to work together and they need to look at the co-management group of Ehdezhie. Now they will look at the surface and the sub-surface that's what they are going to have a meeting about, they need to discuss that.

Also right now what we are meeting for is looking at litigation and lot of money has been spent there and how they are going to repay us with regards to that too. Wildlife Act has been address many times and lot of the Chiefs has put their inputs forward with regards to Wildlife Act. Dene Nation also has gone over it at the Dene National Assembly, but before this happens what I am thinking is, at the Dene Nation Assembly we should look at this and review it and how we are going to stand on it and maybe we need to address that and get a report.

In regard to devolution there is still lots of things that came out with regards to the statement that we did. Spring Leadership they said we didn't like it so we don't want to stand on it. That's why we have annual assembly and we should stand on that same statement that we put forward. All the other things that are important with regards to the statement, but we are still waiting for them to make a statement and for the people that are here, we need to review all the statements that come out from the government.

When we look at the devolution in the Dehcho Process that's the one is our devolution it's not theirs. We gave the Government the statement therefore that's how they are thinking with regards to devolution. With regards to Land Withdrawals I believe is left with Ottawa. When I had a meeting in May the protected area strategy, Land Withdrawals they gave us another two years but how did the statement change it is because when the Dehcho Land Withdrawals was written is not the same way. Today the way it is written is that Aboriginal Claims Negotiation Withdrawals that's the new name so they change it around. So we need to discuss that and what they are saying is that the people from the Acho Dene, Fort Liard Acho Dene and Métis, South Slave Métis, Akaitcho them they settle their self and if they went right over on our land then what's going to happen. What is happening is that they are pushing us from every direction to try and get us away from it.

Now the Dehcho Trust, I will say in English because it is very important so I am going to say it in English. With the acknowledgement of the Executive Committee we have been advised the Dehcho Trust was suppose to be audited every three years. This is six years since the Dehcho Trust has been created and we haven't had a second audit done on it. But another subject to an audit since it was conceived in 2006.

The Dehcho First Nation has able to credibly inspect and hold accountable the Dehcho Trust. Its board and its Investment Manager, the wooding group and CIBC Wood Gundy. Three years ago the Dehcho Trust suffered a large lost due to a down turn in the economy. The world economy farm global risk reports warns of a long shadow of recent financial crisis and a need for re-thinking risks in the financial management. A question, what if the board of our Trust is sufficiently involved and acknowledgeable about the potential risks of recession and depression and whether your investment managers are sufficiently involving our board members in the Trust decision. All our investment money is in one basket and one financial institution.

I will recommend a comprehensive review by a financial expert on our Dehcho Trust operations, in time for our fall leadership meeting five months away and extent an expression of interest for a new member for the fall leadership. As most of you know serving as speaker of Legislative Assembly and the Management Service Board of the Legislative Assembly for six years I know enough about Trust and Pension to question the risk that exist at the moment. I also believe the composition of the board should also be review to include our leaders and finally how they can help with the deficit we now face. Samba K'e, Nahanni, Fort Liard they are still adjusting their boundary issues.

With regards to the pipeline when they are going to do we don't know yet when the pipeline is going to go through. In March the Arctic Gas Symposium we went over there in Calgary and then we went to Inuvik we look at the petroleum show, we went over there too. These are the things that we look at with regards to the pipeline and maybe it might go ahead that's what they are thinking. The Aboriginal Pipeline Group access and benefits, social economic all those that are related to pipeline in social economic there is nothing on that one. John Duncan even though I talk to him and I wrote to him and but he hasn't responded back to me, we don't know what going to really happen so I can't say too much on that. But still the last two weeks in Inuvik they are saying that they are going ahead.

In December 2010 Imperial Oil said if we are going to make a statement, this has to happen in 2013. If we say no, then we are looking at 2016 and this maybe going on for 5 - 3 years, they might be putting the pipeline through but they don't know yet. This depends on the funding and money and how much work has to be done and all that has to be look at. If we look at recession or depression, if this happen again there will be no more money. When we look at all of these issues and the oil companies are aware of it and even though we do a good statement for them they might go for it but right up till now they are waiting for us. What they are thinking I don't know and all the others, like Land Use Plan, when you talk about Land Use Plan you make a statement were going to have to look at AIP and when we sign it then we have to look at the Land Use Plan to go ahead.

All others like Access and Benefits we still need to make a statement in regards to that. If you want to wait for Access and Benefits and for AIP what do you think of it and we to continue with the planning so it does not fall apart, therefore I need feedback from you. In October around the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> we will be have another meeting about the Economic Development. There is not enough funding for it so they don't know what is going to happen, all of us sitting here around the table, if they pull money back but this is very important to us, this has to be discuss by all of you so I will wait for your feedback.

In regards to Housing this is very important so we have to discuss this with Georges. In all, housing is very important to our people and in the end if we have self-government then this is what we should think about. What I am saying is that in Dehcho there is no work. The school students also have no work and they were taught the white man system and seem like slowly getting away with this because of their system. (Inaudible.....) bush and it is important to us so we hope to..... (Missed a bit of translation) In other words one million dollar has been cut back in regards to things that we have talked about.

And those things that we are trying to tell them, the process is just half of what is being talked about in the Dehcho Region. If we only have money for it then we will be able to talk about it, but if there is no money how can we have these kinds of meetings, assembly and meetings in our communities. What I am saying is that there are some



people from Ottawa here and we have to listen to them. Them too, they have to listen to what we have to say because they have put us in a bad position therefore we have to think about it. We have to tell them what we think is happening to us. Also when we talk about Treaty and Dehcho Process and if there is no money how are we going to go ahead, it's not all dollars and cents so we have to work this out without money.

In Inuvik they are having the Truth and Reconciliation is being talk about and John Duncan is in the meeting. I talked to John on Friday and he did say he is going to Inuvik therefore is unable to attend this assembly. However maybe in September we can have a look at these documents and discuss it in Ottawa. Therefore maybe we can all go over to Ottawa and discuss these issues with them. What John is saying is that they are looking over the documents and if at this assembly we discuss these issues then we should let him know about it. Therefore those that are all sitting around this table we need your support on this. If you are talking about the Harper government, the Dogrib when they fix their land claims, the opposition said no to them so they are having problems too.

Right now the Harper government they are all sitting together and they are suppose to be there for all Canadians, for Inuits, native people, Cree, for everybody in Canada. They were all Opposition before but now they are Government and they are suppose to be there for us. But it seems like we are fighting with them, so this delegates at this meeting should say how we are going to fix this for the future.

I would also like to Thank Chief Tim Lennie for hosting this assembly in Pehdzeh Ki the food that is provided by the cooks. We are all friends and related. We only see each other once a year so we have to respect each other and be grateful that we are all here meeting together and share our concerns. Thank you.

Co-chair, Thank you Grand Chief. Just brief announcements with regards to the seating of the delegations of this assembly. We want all the delegations to either sit at the table or directly in the back for quorum purposes.

Chair, before we continue on with our agenda just to acknowledge a few people in the audience. We have a first nation from Popular River, Manitoba, Sophie Rabliauskas who will be speaking to us about their Land Use Plan that they finalized in their community. The Federal Team, Caroline Dennill, Eric Porier and Joachim Copp. We also have GNWT team, Cathy Paul-Dover. We have been asked to ask the Chiefs and Métis Presidents to introduce themselves and their delegates. (All delegates representing their community are being introduced by their chiefs etc....).

Co-chair thank you Chiefs and delegates, we going right into the next agenda item which is the appointment of Resolution Committee. We would like four volunteers, thank you.

Chair, we would like to get four volunteers or by appointment, people that can write and who had some experience in writing up Resolutions. Is there anyone out there who is interested in sitting on this committee? This committee is about writing up the decisions that this assembly will be making and requires some writing skills. Once these Resolutions are written up they become almost equivalent to Dehcho Law so we like to have somebody that actually can write and of course if there are some Slavey speakers who can translate these Resolution will be great. Can we have some volunteers or shall the chair make an appointment? (Someone in the background asked Mr. Lafferty if he is interested).

Mr. Lafferty, yes Rick Lafferty accepts, another Bertha Norwegian accepts, Rita Cli accepts. The Grand Chief mention Chris Reid....he is volunteering okay. We have a good committee, Rick Lafferty, Bertha Norwegian, Rita Cli and Chris Reid, so with that we have a Resolution Committee that is ready to go. Any Resolutions that go to the Committee, the Chair would need to take a look at them so that we can direct them to the appropriate people. So with that I want to thank you for making the volunteers and the appointments.

Our next item is the approval of the Agenda. We have an agenda before you, if we can go through it briefly and once we have adopted the agenda we can take a 10 minute break. Reading the agenda as it stands. Joachim, Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge....

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, thank you chairman, it's going good, but maybe after the break people from Ottawa who are working with us are here and they will be speaking to us.

Chair, okay Chief Bonnetrouge is suggesting that after we have our break, maybe we will have the Federal Team come to the table and give us a brief presentation to acknowledge and to get acquainted with the team. Back to the approval of the agenda, I like to go through the agenda as it stands. (**Reads out the Agenda for the next three days**). With that I would like to get a mover and a seconded so we can get into the discussion of the agenda. Moved by Chief Roy Fabian, seconded, Henry Hardisty.

**MOTION#02 ASSEM 27/06/11**

**The Annual Assembly moved to approve the agenda.**

**Moved by Chief Roy Fabian**

**Seconded by Elder Henry Hardisty**

**Passed**

Co-chair, Chief Jim Antoine.

Chief Jim Antoine, thank you, good morning everybody. Chair, Herb Norwegian you have a mover and a seconded to approve the agenda as is?

Chair, Herb Norwegian no, will have a discussion.



Chief Antoine...well....

Chair we will move the agenda then we will have a discussion and once we have approved the agenda, make some adjustments then we will vote on it afterwards, accept it.

Chief Antoine okay.

Chair Okay.

Chief Antoine okay well can I get right into it then?

Chair, sure go ahead.

Chief Antoine, I have been with you for the last two years and what is very important to me is the Dehcho Negotiations and we will be talking about it so I am very thankful. Tomorrow is when we should be talking about the big items which will be better as we have more time and I would like the Grand Chief to talk to us about that. When the Grand Chief showed us all the agenda, it seems like all the important things are on the second day and we run out of time. Because on Thursday most of the delegates want to go home in the evening. We have three days here and it's very important, some of the key things that are important because Dehcho First Nation this political group here collectively with all the Chiefs and Métis Leader we meet once a year and we make resolution here to give direction to the Grand Chief and organization to carry out the work. What is important here is the Dehcho Process which is today, which I agree with.

Perhaps we could have our guest elder Sophia from Popular River speak today as well. Tomorrow we should have like a real working day because; we should move the Devolution, Mackenzie Gas Project, National Energy Board with Enbridge, and Wildlife Act Action Plan to tomorrow. The reason I am saying is that everybody knows we have been to these meetings for quite a few years that every big items get jammed to the back and we never completed and move these items to leadership meeting later on. Those big items that we need to discuss should be spoken too tomorrow.

I have talked to some people and elders before I came here and they suggest that we should talk about the bigger and important items up front. All the other stuff we should leave it for the last day. Thank you. Mr. Chair are you hearing what I am saying or you're having another discuss there.

Chair, Herb Norwegian announces it is lunch and we can sit down with Jim and go through the agenda and make changes that you want and go to the movers and seconders and maybe after lunch we will finalize the agenda.

Chief Antoine, point of order?

Chair yeah.

Chief Bonnetrouge, we also want to speak to the agenda.

Chair okay we will break for lunch.

## **LUNCH BREAK**

Co-chair announces the changes and approval of the agenda. After conferring with Chief Antoine and Chief Bonnetrouge and Grand Chief, this is what the agenda will look like for the next three days.

After the approval of the agenda item #6, we're going to move into a brief presentation by the Federal Negotiations Team. After that will be the Dehcho Process Up-date to and then Executive Committee Report, the core budget approval that should take us into the afternoon and closing prayer after that.

Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> item #1 Opening Prayer, item #2 and I hope Sophie is around to hear this as we have move her to do her presentation first thing in the morning after the opening prayer. After that item #3 Devolution, item #4 Mackenzie Gas Project (access and benefits), #5 National Energy Board-Enbridge, correction we will leave NEB-Enbridge for Thursday. Wildlife Act Action Plan and under that agenda item we have a sport fishing, right after that, AAROM Report, Georges Low and we have DFN Master Trust, then closing prayer that should be a full day.

Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup> item #1 Opening Prayer, item #2 Dehcho Land Use Plan, item #3 we will have Chief's community reports issues and concerns. Can we get a mover and seconder to agree with the changes made to the agenda as is? Rita Cli.

Rita Cli, when you are making reference to Dehcho Process that Dehcho Process and Dehcho Land Use Plan is connected together so we should concentrate on this first. Also I would like to get a revised copy of the amended agenda. You know when we sit here at the Dehcho Assembly and this is the high power sitting and the leadership has to make sure that our priority is addressed. Dehcho Process is the priority, we need to know where we are at and where we are going and Land Use Plan is the big part of it. We have a guest who came all the way from her First Nation to visit us and they also done their land use plan which has been approved. If we can have her move up, so she can talk to it because somehow whatever she tells us is going to impact on Dehcho Process.

I am very concerned because when we sit we are talking about where Dehcho Process is and you know from the presentation made by our Grand Chief he was saying that the Federal Government has cut backs and there is things we need to know. I would recommend to our leadership that they stay on topic and deal with issues that is very,

very important because it's history in the making therefore we have to stay on top of all the issues that's going to affect Dehcho as a whole.

Also I would recommend that, even though we have to work late into the night, let's do it because whatever we do is going to affect our kids. They are the future generations that is going to be holding what we as leadership sitting here are going to be deciding. Thank you.

Co-chair, thank you Rita. I believe that Peter Cizek will be speaking tomorrow on the Dehcho Land Use Plan. Now we are able to move to Wednesday opening prayer and then Popular River Land Use Plan presentation and right after that Dehcho First Nation Land Use Plan. Then Devolution, Mackenzie Gas, Wildlife Act, AAROM and Master Trust Plan. On Thursday we have opening prayer, chief and community reports and resolutions. Mover and Seconded agree?

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, just a point of order, if you can't get a plain copy in front of us can we have one of the staff put it on a flip chart or something?

Chair, again the agenda with the changes I will read it slow so you can write it down for today. On Tuesday following the adoption of the agenda we will have a brief presentation from the Federal Team. Then followed by Dehcho Process Update, the Executive Director Report, Core Budget approval and that should bring us to the end of today. The staff is in the process of typing that out for us. Okay we have been told that there should be a change because we have the auditor that is here and he is leaving this afternoon. Again the agenda should read that once we approve it we will get into the Executive Director's Report, is that correct Georges? Fed's first then followed by Executive Committee Report and Auditor's Report. Okay we have so many people running at us here we are trying to stabilize the situation. Again the approval of the agenda, the Federal Team, Executive Committee Report follow by Dehcho Process Update.

Ria Letcher, the whole purpose of putting the Executive Committee Report ahead of the Audit is because there is a recommendation to the assembly to approve the Audit. I know the Federal Team want to present and they are press for time as well as our auditor. So which do you want to do first? The Federal Team or..... The Executive Team and then the Audit.

Chair, again finally there is just so many schedule here that we are trying to accommodate everyone. Following the agenda we have the Federal Team making the presentation and then follow by that the Executive Committee Report and the Auditor and then we have the Dehcho Process Update.

For Wednesday we will have the opening prayer, then the Popular River First Nation do their presentation on their Land Use Plan. By then Peter Cizek will be available to

present the Dehcho First Nation Land Use Plan. Follow by Devolution, Mackenzie Gas which will be access and benefits, Wildlife Act, AAROM and Master Trust.

On Thursday we have the Executive Director's Report which will include the core budget, Chief Community Report and Resolution. Mover and Seconded agree with that? We have both agreed, any discussion, discussion. All in favour raised your hand. Motion passed we have an agenda. We will have the Federal Team come to the table to do their presentation.

My name is Eric Poirer, senior negotiator on Dehcho Process for the Federal Team, Caroline Dennill, team member from Yellowknife and Joachim Kiel, the assistant negotiator. You will remember former Chief Federal Negotiator, Tim Christen represent Canada for a number of years. When Tim retired in March after seven years in negotiation with the Dehcho, he was very optimistic about the direction of the Dehcho Process and these negotiations. Since Tim's retirement the Minister hasn't appointed a new Chief Negotiator, I am here to address you now as Canada's Negotiator.

Within the last year of working on these negotiations I can say that I share Tim's optimism. Within the last year we have made some very good progress and we have actual proof of that with a completed chapters in our draft in agreement and principles and other chapters are close to completion and that came with some very good, very frank discussions among the negotiating team. On very difficult issues sometimes, and we have good conversations on things like, governance and land, land selections and it's important to have those discussions and we do have some tangible results. It's important for us on the Federal side to be able to go back to our bosses in Ottawa and show the progress that we are making and very fundamental issues. In the last little while we've heard the statements by the leadership, in the news and at the table as well about the proposing a bit of a push between now and Christmas to try and work harder to produce more and have more of those very important discussion to see where the parties are and if we're heading towards a successful AIP. On our end we reacted very positively at that and from team perspective there is a lot of work we can do between now and then. T

Here are a lot of issues that needs to be addressed and it's going to be heavy work load. There is going to be a number of issues that is interest to the party so we are going to be able to make quick progress. There are other bigger issues that were not able to close everything by Christmas, but the idea is get as much done as we can so we can show not only my bosses, but the bosses of the other negotiating teams of the Dehcho and GNWT the kind of progress that everybody wants to have around the table.

If we look at what's coming in the fall when we start our regular negotiation session, one of the big themes that you can see in the work plan items revolves around Land. The party spend a lot of efforts in negotiating a draft intern Land Use Plan and we are hoping once the technical work is completed we will be able to see that plan at the main table and discussion the issue.

In terms of other issues around Land there is the Dehcho Intern Land Withdrawal that comes to expire in October and we have already informed the Dehcho Leadership of the extension of three years. Further discussion on the topic of Land selection will take place and we have some good discussions on this already and hoping to make more progress. The party has also talked about certainty very important topic for all parties. We draft language we discuss the issue and hopeful if all goes bring it to a closure on that. We have quite a bit of work in front of us for the next few months and we won't always agree on everything but we will push hopefully is to have more of those important chapters done and try to get some resolutions. It is very important for us on the Federal side to have a sense to what are the important issues to address and to talk about and to sell to certain extent.

Governance a lot discussion will be happening in order to draft some chapters and really see where the Dehcho wants to go on Self Government and hopefully see what the Dehcho agreement will bring. There is a few items that we don't have control over the timing of certain directions, certain decisions that are made back in Ottawa. One of them is around the Action Plan for Regulatory Reform the work that Mr. John Pollard had started while back. We tried to keep the Dehcho Negotiating Team as informed as possible on the status of things which is not always much information. I think it's important to keep that information flowing and all though we have to wait for that part we have to keep in mind that this is not something that is holding us up in terms of making progress.

There are a lot of issues, lots of things that we can do and even if we can wait a little longer on that one we can do a lot of progress in the next little while. Questions we get often in relation to the Dehcho Process, how long is it going to take us to get to an Agreement In Principle? Within the last year we have made a lot more progress than we did in previous years in the high level of the process. It is still difficult to predict with guarantee when we are going to be done. In looking at our work plan were looking in the next two years to have the AIP wrap up, so I think we are working hard towards that goal. There is a lot of things that may come our way as we go along but I think you have the commitment of the Federal team to push as hard as we can to put as much efforts as we can to bring further progress on these negotiations. Thank you again for allowing us to be here and to meet you and to hear your thoughts as much as we can, but unfortunately we have to leave today.

Chairperson, thank you, thank you. We wanted to have a couple of questions put to the floor, we can do so, and the floor is open for question for the team. Elder, Gabe Hardisty of Pehdzeh Ki First Nation.

Gabe Hardisty, how long have you being involved in this negotiation before replacing Tim. Have you been involved for a number of years or you have read everything right from the beginning of the negotiations or what I was just wondering?

Eric Poirer, I started my work in Public Services about 9 years ago with the office of the Auditor General. Then went over to what is now called Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. Dealing with negotiations of land claims and self government agreement. I started on implementation and financial negotiations first. I have been doing land claims negotiations for a while now so I have worked on self government agreements and land claims as well, so it has been seven years and one year on the Dehcho Process.

Gabe Hardisty, I have been involved since 1972 and in 1980 Dene/Métis Negotiation Team I was part of that. Today I am still involved in our Dehcho First Nation and when the Federal Government bringing young face in, makes me wonder if they know what they are doing? That's why I am asking you these questions, thank you.

Eric, thank you and that's a good question actually and one thing important to remember, something that Tim always said as well he was surprise that when he came in to work for the Federal Government in these negotiations that it's not just the Chief Negotiator, it's a whole team. There is a lot of people at the table and in the back ground that do a lot of the work so it's definitively a team effort.

Chairperson, thank you. Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation.

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, what I wanted to say is that these people that work for Canada Federal Government it seems like just when the meeting starting and they are here. The meeting hasn't even started and they have come to our land and they are like relatives so we should shake their hands. They have the floor first, but there is two things that I want to talk on is back in 1970 and to this date, we are still talking about Dehcho Process and what is it we want.

What the Dehcho are struggling for and we are still holding onto our words. He has to bring what we said here back to Ottawa, so it has been 30 years and we are still sitting here talking among ourselves. We are still struggling and the young leaders are going to be taking over and they have to know what is going on as to what the elders, leaders are saying. What we are struggling for and what we are talking about is our land. We are, they are always coming to see us for our land and they help us with little things for our land, but they are always bothering us for our land.

It seems like Canada is going broke, Canada having little or no money and this is what we have been told by them and sometimes it's our fault, like I see it in the newspaper . It seems like there is more people in the Dehcho region. We are talking about our land, it seems like we are doing wrong for some people when we are talking about our land. We know that, the youth are following us and those elders all know that what we are talking about when we are talking about our land.

Since 1993, there hasn't been anything done when we talk about the land. Now that there is Conservative Government, maybe they can't say anything about it. There is a



new Canada Government in Ottawa and it seems like they are putting us down in the Dehcho Negotiations for our land and it doesn't seem right for me. For Canada it seems like we don't exist and this is what I don't like and if he can bring this message back to Ottawa that will be good. Thank you.

Chairperson, thank you Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge.

Eric Poirer, thank you Chief Bonnetrouge like you said I am certainly going to bring your words back to Ottawa and that is one of the important roles that the team plays is to bring back information that we get from the people here and from your negotiator as well. We tried to explain the best interest and the thoughts of Dehcho back to the big machine in Ottawa. There is lots of people that we need to talk to and explain the reality of the Dehcho. Sometimes they can't come and see for themselves like we do and that is our job to try and convey those messages back to them, therefore I will certainly keep those words in mind when we are at the table. Thank you.

Chairperson, thank you. Chief Tim Lennie, Pehdzeh Ki First Nation.

Chief Tim Lennie, thank you, sorry I didn't get your name but I understand you are the new Chief Federal Negotiator?

Eric Poirer, yes I am the senior negotiator on the file so I have been working with Tim Christen before he left and now that he is retired and the Minister hasn't yet appointed a Chief Federal Negotiator. I am doing that role now until such time as the Minister decides either to appoint another contact Negotiator like Tim or he is going to leave it to me and the team to negotiate the Dehcho Process table.

Chief Tim Lennie, okay. We realize that we do have a new government in place which is the Conservative and in regards to the actual negotiations that are happening today with the Dehcho. What is your mandate in regards to the Conservative Parties, their platform in regards to claims, settlement and so forth. As a Chief of Pehdzeh First Nation I've been in this position for a little over a year now.

Over the past year, because of the political upheaval, disruptions in regards to elections and so on there has been very little instability in regards to negotiations. Even as we sit today, Government to this day talks about consultation it's all over of how you consult with First Nations. The question I have is how you are going to accommodate the issues that I bring to the table. Because for the past 15-20 years being in this leadership I have not been accommodated yet to this day. I've been consulted with, my people have been consulted with but our wishes, our aspirations are not been considered.

You talk about negotiations; the only thing I heard out of negotiation in the past year is about our land. All I heard this year was the Dehcho Process in regards to the negotiations underneath the comprehensive claim. Whether we like it or not there will

be an extinguishment , there will be a bit of certainty. Back in the day when treaty came to our community, small boy (sharing this with my elder here) your people came to our communities and would ask how can we help you. Our Elders said these are not our houses, you can help us with houses. Our widows, wives and children do not have any food you should help them with money. Treaty time, so what I look at this is part of consultation, so I am going to ask again how can you accommodate the wishes of the Pehdzeh Ki First Nation?

The wishes of the Pehdzeh Ki First Nation are to acquire the financial human resources. So we can sit with you, sit alongside you, sit across you even sit on you to make you understand where we are coming from. But without the resources this community, these people, whether I am in leadership or not it's going to be a slow process. I understand the government over the past number of years and it's coming from our negotiator's, community, want community dollars to work on the Dehcho Process, you have to go for loan funding. While I would like to charge the government and your institutions, your affiliates over a number of years over a back pay of rent. So my negotiations are actually paid for, because as a Chief I find it very frustrating today.

Every day I come into this office, when I am in this leadership is try to acquired the resources, because one of the thing they do not talk about, when you talk about Pehdzeh Ki Denendeh. Pehdzeh Ki Denendeh does not belong to the Dehcho, Pehdzeh Ki Denendeh belongs to the Pehdzeh Ki First Nations people, so you talk in a fair way. I think we need to be in an equal strength. You talk about your department as a negotiator where you don't work along, I believe that. Because all the people that work for you as a government they all paid for.

As a Chief of Pehdzeh Ki First Nation, do you see anybody sitting behind me today? What resources do we have in our First Nations organization as a community to do our diligent in regards to our land and the issues that have been discuss today. So I like you to bring that message back to your people and this is not going to get done overnight. We have been at this for over 40 years, like I said you know maybe another 40 years from now maybe my grandson could be sitting here talking about the same thing and I wouldn't want that, because it takes a lot of time and energy. It sure taking a lot of our people, so with that I like to thank you for coming to visit our community and hope you enjoy your stay in Pehdzeh Ki Denendeh.

Chairperson, Thank you Tim. Chief Roy Fabien before we go I like to recognize our MLA, Kevin Menicoche, Nahendeh. Chief Roy Fabien, Katlodeeche First Nation, then Chief Jim Antoine, Liidlii Kue First Nation.

Chief Roy Fabian, I got a couple of things I want to say but I like to invite our elder and former Chief Pat Martel he wants to say something to you in our language.

Pat Martel, thank you. My friends, my people we are gather here together and I am thankful for that. We do not know what the future holds we hope the best. That's one of

the things I want to say thank you about. Right now it's being a long time since I have been here with you Dehcho people, how it started I pretty well understand it. As we go forward it's still, we do not understand where we are going yet. Our elders when they speak to us we listen how it is in Dehcho and how we are going to fix it, it's still far from it. That's the reason why, when you see and heard what Chief Tim Lennie says about our elders what they are thinking.

How the treaty was made and how people have help us in the past we want to fix that more better that's what we want to work towards. Talking about the treaty, that's one of the big thing that our elders, I think about them when I hear things like this. When you think about the elders and you know them, when they talk about treaty even though it's in the past and how we look at us Dene people living today we are living in today's world it has to change. That's the reason why the elders are the ones that hold onto the treaty and you have to set these things ahead and whatever problems you have you have to ask the elders for help and we are suppose to help you that's what they said to our people.

Today we give money and you people live on our land and whatever you want to do, trap, hunting anything and you will be in charge of all this. I remember that and they are allow to do whatever they want but today all things are different and that's the way I look at it. And that's the reason why like what our elders said to us, we have people that are in charge of those things that he talks about. This person here, if someone talks to him and he brings back our message you think it's going to be good for them. Even you, you bring your message to your boss, you think you will be begging them on behalf of us what you guys are going to do to us. Will you do that, will your boss accept that, that's my thoughts on this and how are you going to approach this.

The elders when they talk to us in the past how they ask for help, this is a long ways from it, nobody is asking the elders for help anymore and the government too they are like that. We in the Dehcho we are like the government we are following them now and that's what we have to think about and where we are going. So Roy I told him to ask these questions, but he said he wanted me to say it which will be better coming from me. So with this, keep in mind of what I said so we can use it in the fall when we get together as a region how is it going to help us, what's going to help us. Maybe we can have a better message coming back to us from you, the government. Thank you.

Eric Poirer, thank you Pat. Like I mention the team does bring back a lot of information back to Ottawa and it's not always easy for us to convey and to explain what we hear. We need to understand I think your negotiating team does a good job by bringing Chiefs and Elders to the negotiating tables to explain the teaching of the elders and the thoughts of the Dehcho on what we are negotiating. I think it's very important that we get the information and we are not always be able to do exactly what the Dehcho would want, but that's a reality of our negotiation unfortunately. But we do the best we can to arrive at that agreement that's works for everybody and to do just what Pat mention to try and improve things for the Dehcho.

Chairperson, Roy....

Chief Roy Fabian, I cannot express myself the way Pat did as he is an elder and his thoughts are more stronger than mine. Explains the negotiation with the Federal Government that we do not like what we heard. As we look at history and this is what Pat is referring too and what took place in the first Land Claims settlement in the Northwest Territories and it's call Treaty 8. In the negotiations, people like you came to our Chiefs when they gather in Fort Resolution and you made a lot of promises. We negotiated for three days with the Dene Chiefs and my grandfather was one of them. What they understood and you know we know history now, and that's the fear I have with this whole land claims process. So this time we got lawyers, negotiators and other people and sometimes we can read this stuff ourselves, we don't like what we hear. You are not negotiating; Canada hasn't negotiated with us yet.

You have a policy called a comprehensive policy that you got before you and you live by and you negotiated according to the policy. But that's not negotiations, all your doing is, you are telling us here it is, here is your negotiation this is your settlement, in there it tells us exactly how it's going to be written out. So for us sometimes I am a little bit embarrassed by this whole process. Because I know I am sitting here and I am talking for nothing, because you have a policy you going to live by. And there is nothing I can do about it because I didn't make the policy, I sure would like to negotiate that policy. And once we have finished negotiating that policy maybe negotiations can take place, but right now as Dene people we have been railroaded. Railroading us base on the comprehensive policy and we as Dene people we refused to talk about that.

We want to really believe we want to believe that Canada is honestly coming to the table and saying that I am negotiating with you honestly. And in that what your concerns is are and what you see your land is going to be considered and were are going to negotiate it and were going to somewhere come in the middle. But your comprehensive policy doesn't allow you to do that and yet you come here and tell me you are going to negotiate with me.

You know as a Chief, I'm the head of my First Nation, the same way that my great grandfather went to the Treaty 11 negotiations. And today it's a lot worst then it was for him because back then I think it might of been pretty bad because when Canada showed up, when the negotiator's showed up with Treaty 8 there was a written document which was written in Ottawa before he left Ottawa. We were told under no circumstances you are to change a word in this and that is exactly the same as your comprehensive policy there is no difference. So my grandfather got railroaded in 1900 and today I'm getting railroaded by a different team of people.

You know the Minister is up here in the Northwest Territories I understand today. I like to sit down with him and talk to him as a Chief of a first nation and him as a Minister, maybe I should be calling the Prime Minister I don't know. I want to tell him this, you

know this is illegal, your comprehensive policy is illegal. According to the Canadian Constitution section 35 you cannot do what you are doing with the comprehensive claim and nobody is challenging that. Unless something is done about that, nothing changes for us as Dene people. We are going to keep negotiating, just like Gabe Hardisty I have been at this for over 30 years, almost 40 years I have been at this negotiation.

And I heard the same thing over and over and when in 1996 when we were working on the 21 ground principles, I had some hope. We went through a process but in the end Canada disregarded the 21 ground principles. Today as Dene people we are still standing according to that agreement, but Canada as normally never follow the treaty with us. They are doing exactly the same thing. You know I'd seen the policy, we have land withdrawals, now you change the policy on that. You are now going to have a different policy on land withdrawals and yet you have an agreement with us Dehcho Dene people. And your policy you should of consider what the Dehcho Agreement said but you didn't do that.

And here you are you want to negotiate with us; you know I hope the Minister would just come to the table. At least we have something to say to him and for sure he is going to hear what I have to say like I am putting all my faith in you. Eric I am putting all my faith in you to tell him exactly what I am saying here because you are the only messenger that is here. We have to be careful here, I need you to go and tell the Minister exactly what I am telling you here.

Are we going to have a land claim settlement base on the comprehensive claims? Because the comprehensive claim is just like the old Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 that were written in Ottawa brought here and we were told we were negotiating. Our people were told that your way of life will never change, your culture and your language will be upheld. Today look at us were losing our language and culture and you can't change that. So you know Canada has broken the agreement big time but then they didn't write into the treaty so it doesn't matter.

The Treaty is that the Dene Chiefs said okay here is what we want in the Treaty. They negotiated that, it took them three days to negotiate the things they wanted in the Treaty but they were never put in the Treaty. And here today your telling me that I got to live according to your policy because my grandfather signed the Treaty in 1900. And yet that was the biggest lie that was ever told.

I want to let you know as a Katlodeeche First Nation and I got 8, 9 members here and if I am wrong about this, let them stand up and tell me I am wrong. But our people believe that this land, the traditional territory, the KFN belongs to KFN alone and were sovereign over that land. It's hard for you to look us in the eye here, I know it's difficult. Because of the wrong doing of the past and a lot of times today I heard people say well my father did it and so why am I being held responsible for what my father did. And for us Dene people that's not the way we understand things in life. You have to raise your



children according to the way you want them to be in the future so that they can have integrity. But if there is no integrity there is no hope for us Dene people.

So I said a lot here, I am really concern about the way we are negotiating here. I am concern about your comprehensive policy and how wrong that thing is. Get your lawyers to look at it and take a look at the Canadian Constitution and tell me, you come back I want to hear from you, telling me yes, the comprehensive policy is according to the Canadian Constitution. I want to know that, I want you to bring me a lawyer to show me how that comprehensive is according to the Canadian Constitution. Because I'm told to listen, so that's your challenge to you. You need to come back to me and tell me that your comprehensive policy is according to the Canadian Constitution where my aboriginal treaty rights are protected. Is the comprehensive claim protecting my aboriginal treaty rights? Then maybe we can negotiate. Thank you.

Chairperson, thank you Roy. Response then follow by that with Chief Jim Antoine.

Eric Poirer, thank you Chief Roy Fabian. As you mention I am going to certainly relay that information back. It is our job as Federal Team to take the instruction that we are given and come to the table and negotiate with those instruction and that's what we do and those instruction yes they come from the comprehensive policy. And directions from cabinet as well and that's our reality. The Grand Chief has already signaled as much, at the negotiations table some concerns around the policy and again we will get that back, hopefully the Minister will have a chance to meet with the Grand Chief and Chiefs to discuss further, so hopefully that will happen.

Again we do our best with instructions we have and we do believe that when we come here and when we go to the table that were trying to do something with the Dehcho and with the GWNT. To try and improve the lives of Dehcho and to try to address those concerns, but it's not always perfect, but that's our job so we will relay that back to Ottawa and hopefully that will be heard.

Chairperson, Chief Jim Antoine.

Chief Jim Antoine, good afternoon everybody, and welcome to the Federal Government negotiating team and the Territorial Government Negotiating team. I attended a few negotiations sessions, not recently but previously and I know the sense of what happens at these talks and the negotiations have been going on for us for too long. We cannot go on forever and we had leadership meeting in Trout Lake in May 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. We really had internal discussion I'm sure that was brought to the negotiations but I wanted to say this to you as a Chief of Liidlii Kue First Nations.

We represent a lot of members, population wise is huge and the point here is that we want to have a good settlement to deal with our lands and our resources and a governance system on it that is what we've been working on it for so long. And our elders set the course for us and a lot of them are not here with us anymore however the



general direction is there. The Dene in the Dehcho, as a Chief I only speak for the Liidlii Kue First Nation, but we are affiliated and part of the Dehcho First Nations political entity there but we are all individual First Nation are part of the Dehcho First Nations. There is a sense of our own traditional land base and where our members go and have been.

Research has been done with maps and so forth dated back in the 70's that prove beyond reasonable doubt that this is our territory, this is our land and we continue to stand on it. You are there presenting the Federal Government and through our Treaties we've been told time again and at the treaty conference last summer that \$5 a year that we receive is just a symbolic jester on the part of the representative of the British Crown that we continue to allow non-Dene people on our territory. We did not sell our land, we did not give it up, the power and authority that we have as leaders in our community comes from our people and our land. We never given that up, we never told Floyd Roland not all power land or land resources was never turn over to him. We never turn it over to the Federal Government.

I said this to Chuck Strahl when we met with him, told him Minister we never took upon authority and turn it over to the Federal Government and say all that is yours, now you tell me what to do we never said that and we never given it up. And that is bottom line is what we are talking about right here. We live in Canada and for me the process that we are going is planning an arrangement with Canada and how we as a Dene fit into today's Canadian society and how do we work. Our negotiating team get directions from the leadership at these meetings, at the assembly and we are going along. We are told that the Federal Government is slowing the process down. You guys are slowing it down like all you have to do is agree with us and we are done right. On the land and resources you have the pollard and a process following the McCrank report. That is a big key part on our land and resources that is holding us up.

Whenever that is raised you say you got to go back to Ottawa and get directions so I've been there I heard you guys say that and it's always going back. Now we have a Federal Government that is a huge majority for four years, conservative party and they could do whatever they want. I call it a democratic dictatorship basically and nobody can do anything to them. They have already done a lot of things that the Canadians don't like and they are going to continue to do it. They going to do damage to people they don't like and I think were high up on the list of a group that they don't like and that's the way my gut feeling tells us.

So at the meeting we had in Trout Lake, we said that we would like to have a meeting with the Federal Minister and Northern Affairs. We are getting ourselves in order here we have to seriously look at what it is that we are doing. What it is that we really want and what it is that we may not get. We like to go see the Minister and sit down, tell him this is where is at and this is what we are working towards, this is how we like to get it done and how much time we need to get it done.

We never met with this guy (John Duncan) and I wasn't there in Yellowknife when the whole devolution debate was going on but he refused to meet our representative our Grand Chief Sam Gargan and he refused to meet some of the chiefs who are sitting at this table here. This is the guy that you are working for, that's the guy that gives you directions and he is the one who you give your report too. The report that I like you to give to him following this meeting is that we were deeply insulted, we were put to shame by a guy that is suppose to protect our interests and we don't like it, we need to sit down and meet with him.

Grand Chief made a report saying that there might be a possibility of a meeting in September and we look forward to that meeting. In the meantime we don't have access to the Minister, we don't have money to do a lobby in Ottawa where we knock on the beau racy door and say this is what we are doing. Maybe we go to Ottawa once or twice a year. I know your predecessor, Tim Christensen on March at the last negotiations session when he spoke finally he says my advice to the Dehcho is that you have a presence in Ottawa and that you knock on doors because we're sitting up here in our communities, personally I don't travel very much anymore, anybody that has any concerns to come to Simpson and ask the Chief. So there is few people start coming because we don't have any money in our budget to travel. The Federal Government has all the money to travel so they got to do all the travelling.

But in this case I personally prefer to see the Minister in his home ground because if he comes here he is going to be well brief and he's going to tell us something. We want to go over there and we want to tell him something, the other thing is we want to do some lobbying about other things so we have an opportunity to do a lot of things. That is basically what I would like to tell you is that when Tim was there he was the only contact with the Minister and he was negotiating against us so it was a really...I don't know what kind of a report he makes to them but he definitely is affected by whatever he's told by you now. I just wanted you to relay the message, thank you.

Chairperson, thank you. Comments and then follow by that Grand Chief Sam Gargan.

Eric Poirer, thank you Chief Antoine. Certainly right that a meeting with the Minister would be great and I understand that it's been a long while since you have a chance to meet with our Minister. It is important that like Tim mention to make the Dehcho thoughts known not only to the Minister but to the Federal system. I know as the theme here throughout the comments here that the funding and the money around the negotiating is a challenge and it is certainly true and it is a challenge for us too as a team, we don't have infinite resources despite what some may think. Whatever you can do to better explain and inform our Minister, Department and our Federal colleague and that goes a long way in clarifying things and sometimes it actually provides us with new options and sometimes it changes people's mind so it's something that the team would encourage.

Chairperson thank you. Grand Chief Sam Gargan.

Grand Chief Gargan. Just a few statements that I wanted you to remind you of and these are statements that are made when I first got elected. We had negotiating session in Trout in 2009, September 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> and when Tim was there I told him that we are one of few words of government. Transparent, fairness and honesty should be the focus of our directions.

However it becomes vaguely clear it's not the case then it begs a question how committed we are, granted while denying others. This process is not just about resolving outstanding issues nor should it be about controlling people but about transparent, flexibility and good faith. Trust each other that we represent the interest and the resolutions, the opportunity be restore upon us to restore faith in the government and that control will ultimately be the people themselves. Don't assume as government you would require this amount of control over people's lives. This land way processes much unique and justify, satisfy our members. Don't plan in physical terms in generations and also just to remind you that in our framework agreement provided, in reference to the treaty we recognized that this is a bilateral discussion between two parties. That's DFN and the Federal Government and when it comes to treaty issues, education, health, child care and so on then it should be a process where a lot of pretences is put on by the leaders to respect the treaties, to honour the treaties. If you do want to honour it the best way is that these jurisdictions under the treaties is between yourself and I. Thanks.

Chair, Herb Norwegian that should pretty well bring us to end of this portion of our meeting. Okay we want to thank the Federal Team for coming before us. Couple of elders here mentioned the age of Federal Team and it's always something that concerns the people because many of us are just young when we got involved with this whole process. Over the years they brought in negotiators and we wore them right out,

Today we're getting old and they bring in young negotiators so they probably think two things either they are here for the long haul or else they are here to wore us out or something. But the spirit of the Dene I just want to say that it is strong and it will never die, and we will remain young forever. Let's break for 10 minutes for coffee break.

## **2:30 PM - COFFEE BREAK**

Co-chair Sharon Pellissey, Executive Committee Report and I have here with me Bertha Norwegian, she's a member of the Executive Committee.

Bertha Norwegian, thank you, good afternoon everyone. It's wonderful to have an opportunity to speak with you once again and I would like to extent my regards to all the elders that are here, all the leaders, all the delegates and most especially the youths. It's absolutely wonderful to see so many young people participating in our meeting and I hope we give you lot of information that you can take home with you and share with your friends.

Before I get into my very short report I would like to recognized the other members that I work with on the Executive Committee, that includes our Grand Chief Samuel Gargan, Executive Director Ria Letcher and elders Margaret Leishman and Ernest Cazon, Chief Fred Tesou and member at large Victor Constant. I wanted to thank all of them for a very challenging but a positive year in our meetings that we held. Often time's decisions are difficult to make but ultimately we do receive our directions from the membership and the members at large and it would be wise to consider us more as a working group than anything else because really we are here to do the work that is being delegated to us by the Fed's leadership.

If you want to go to tap number two and you will find all the motions and as I have given a fairly good update at the most recently leadership meeting. I thought that we would go quickly through the first few pages so I can update you as to where we are at. Motion #01 reads as follows, moved to recommend to the leadership that there be an increase in the size of the investment management board from three members to five members as per section 5.1 of the Master Trust Agreement. 5.1 reads as; the leadership shall by way of the Dehcho First Nations Resolutions appoint at least three but not greater than nine person as members of the Investment Management Board. The composition of which shall read the following qualifications, that's the quotation from the actual agreement itself. The motion is put forth to have more involvement in the administration management in the investment funds at the head quarters level at the Dehcho First Nation in Liidlii Kue.

Now the reason why we are asking for an increase in the numbers of board members to the Investment Management Board is to insure that you always have a quorum. You have three members right now and often times there are some difficulties in getting the work done by the Investment Management Board Fund for moving ahead with meetings and decisions making.

The other thing about the IMB is that there headquarters is presently located on the Hay River Reserve which costs a great deal of money and further on tomorrow you will be looking at the core budget and there are going to be some funds that we will be no longer receiving from the Federal Government. So as a means and a cost saving exercise we are hoping that the leadership will agree to moving the headquarters from the Hay River Reserve to Fort Simpson. This way we can have an office establish at headquarters, we would have a hands on approach to the business of the IMB board and have better understanding of where the money is and how it's been invested and how can people of the region, the members benefits from the investment management funds.

Motion #02 moved to recommend to the leadership that the consideration for the appointments of the Investment Management Board position be deferred to the fall leadership meeting. Because of the nature of the discussion that needs to take place with respect to possible moving the headquarters over to Dehcho First Nation in Fort

Simpson. We understand that it may require a lot of discussion and we understand that this discussion may not reach a conclusion at this assembly therefore we are recommending that perhaps we will be able to make that decision in fall hence we make the recommendations.

Motion #03 moved to recommend to the leadership that there be a greater investment by the Investment Management Board in our Dehcho communities by way of conducting DFN business within the Dehcho Territory. All meetings are to occur in one of the Dehcho community. Presently the Investment Management Board meetings are held in Edmonton or Calgary and holding them in the Dehcho communities will not only increase revenue for the communities but as I have indicated earlier we would have a closure hands on approach to the business of the organization.

The other thing about having meetings in the Dehcho region is that instead of having three of the present board members travelling to the south to Edmonton or Calgary periodically for their meetings and generally those meetings are four hours long. It is a really costly investment. If we were to instead have our investors being Wood Gundy I am not really sure who it is, the lawyers and the investors, have them come and attend meetings at the leadership level here in the Dehcho Region and we believe that it could be a real cost saving exercise. That's something for all the leaders and delegates to consider.

Now I am going to move on over to the June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 motions and directions. Motion #03 moved to authorize the Executive Director to conclude discussion to secure a five year commitment from the Arctic Energy Alliance to transfer one position to the Dehcho First Nation office payable by the Arctic Energy Alliance. We have already moved forward with this particular motion in that we have Dean Green, I am not sure if he is in the....okay we have Dean Green over here. He is from the Arctic Energy Alliance office in Yellowknife. It is our hope that we will be able to hire one other Dehcho member to work with Dean on Energy and Environmental issues. It is also our hope that we will be able to have one young individual working with Dean for the time he is here with us in the Dehcho region and at this point we are not really sure how long he will be working within our region.

We are going to move onto direction number #01, the Executive Director works with the Investment Management Board to develop a position here at DFN to administer their board decisions and directions as per their concerns with lack of administration. DFN can cost share for this position to administer the IRDA resource royalties as well. A job description will be brought to the next executive committee meeting for review. Discussion have begun and the Investment Management Board had suggested their portion of salary dollars that they are willing to contribute to the new PY or person year at \$25,000 dollars. Clearly this is not enough and therefore talks are ongoing between IND and Dehcho First Nations.



We are hoping that we will be able to open up a full time position at the Dehcho office. That position will include not only working with the Investment Management Board dollars but with the IRDA resource royalties as well. We feel that this would also be a very timely thing to do considering the challenges we had face over the time with respect to the IRDA resource royalties dollars.

Direction #03, the Executive Secretary does a memo to leadership notifying them that a Chief and an Elder will require appointment to the Executive Committee at the upcoming assembly. This year, the month of June is the last month for elder Margaret Leishman participation as a member of the Executive and I really want to acknowledge her good work, integrity and wisdom something we always admire and hope to achieve within our own lives. Therefore we are looking for an elder and we did have Chief Cayen appointed to the Executive Committee at the most recent leadership meeting. But since that time he has resigned so we are therefore hoping that the leadership will be able to identify another chief to replace Chief Cayen.

Direction #04 and #05, I will read both of them consecutively, the Executive Director grants a donation to team NWT to attend the Native American Basketball Invitational tournament providing that the team members agree to assist at the assembly. Direction #05 the Executive Director grants a donation to Amber Erasmus for the Canada World Youth Exchange Program 2011 providing that she agree to assist at the assembly. As DFN does not provide donations, we recognized the importance of these games and these events, therefore instead of providing them with a donations the Executive Committee agreed that perhaps that it would be a really good idea for these young people to participate and assist in the work that's required during the business of this annual general assembly and we really believe that the youth can benefit by the work that they are doing here.

And you know having the opportunity to participate in the Native American Basketball tournaments or World Youth Programs is really a significant for our young people. They need to have the opportunity to go outside of their jurisdiction to see what's happening in the bigger world. Because really the big picture is not about games or whatever, it's about knowing what's going on outside and bringing new learned knowledge back to the community. That is the reason why we agree as members of the Executive to move forward with their request for assistance. It is really important to know that we do not have any funds for donations or otherwise.

Motion #06 moved to recommend the approval of the March 31, 2011 audited report to the assembly. The auditor Mr. Bob Stewart will be speaking to the assembly immediately after I am done. Mr. Bob Stewart presented the DFN audits statements for 2010 and 2011. Reiterated the importance moving the Investment Management Board administration to Dehcho First Nation Headquarters. We will see cost savings in both the administration and the audit as well, is all in the best interest of the DFN and its membership.



If you recall I did make this statement at last year's annual general assembly where we requested from the leadership whether or not they would consider that we have one auditor doing the audit for DFN and IMB Management Funds. We really feel it is a significant importance because this is your dollars that we are talking about and if you have one auditor doing DFN and another auditor doing the IMB do we really know what the big picture looks like. No, we don't and we need to have a better hands on knowledge of what the dollars is looking like so that we know how much money we are working with so that we can give to the people that was intended for. This is for investment funds and economic development and all kinds of things that are really in need here in our region. So I really would like for the delegates and the leadership this due consideration and it maybe that the auditor when he does his report will provide you with further advice in that direction.

To go over briefly on some of the issues that we discuss during the course of the year in addition to these that I have just listed. The Executive Committee has discuss the Dehcho Process as we had many people come indicating that they had concerns about the lack of discussion with respect to social justice issues and we had lots of discussion on housing but really we hadn't had discussion with respect to the jurisdictional issues, youths and the prison systems, violence against women, human rights and all of those kinds of issues needs to be discussion. A more detailed discussion with respect to housing, education, health and social services because when we become our own government we really need to have a plan in place. It is estimated that perhaps our present negotiations maybe concluded within a year maybe three. If they were to come to a conclusion within the three year period where are we going to be if we don't establish a committee to address social justice issues. It is something that needs to be discussed by the leadership so that we can work forward to establish a formal committee to address those issues.

Those are all the points I have to make today and I want to thank everyone and if you have any questions I be happy to take them at this time even if I can't answer them I am hoping that either Ria or Grand Chief Gargan will assist me with the answers. Thank you.

Co-chair advises that the Executive Committee also wants an appointment of one Elder and a member at large to the Executive Committee Member and she will also bring that to the Resolution Committee for Friday. Moving along we have the Audit Report, I believe that's Robert Stewart. Just before we go into the Audit Report, I am going to bring up the Resolution Committee Recommendation. The Resolutions Committee recommends to this assembly that all resolutions be drafted and submitted to them by 4:00 PM tomorrow, because late Friday will be a rush date for them. They would like the assembly to show hands and approved this rule from the assembly. Chief Antoine.

Chief Antoine thank you madam chair, I don't want to disrupt or slow down the process but, the Executive Committee report are we going to have an opportunity to question

any of that stuff or? It's like it's done and it's over and that's it or? Is there an opportunity to say something about it?

Co-chair, okay we will do that, were back with Bertha Norwegian and take couple of questions for Bertha at this point.

Bertha Norwegian, yes I did asked if anybody had any questions at the table. As I indicated during my presentation that I was prepare to take questions and if any questions I couldn't answered that I was hoping that Grand Gargan or Ria Letcher, Executive Director will be able to assist me.

Co-chair, Chief Jim Antoine.

Chief Antoine, Question here, the role of the Executive Committee. Has the..what is it, what is the role of Executive Committee?

Bertha Norwegian, the role of the Executive Committee is to implement the directions and resolutions and over see the administrations of Dehcho First Nation. Ultimately the power and the authority comes from the leadership of this table, we do not make decisions independent of the organization.

All of the decisions that we make are based on the directions we received from you, as an example if you look at motion number one, it starts of as; moved to recommend to the leadership, so we do not make decisions. We make recommendations to the leadership so that the onus is on the leadership to make the decision that are relevant and most important to its members that we work to represent.

Chief Antoine, okay. The reasons I am saying this, is that as a Chief of Liidlii Kue First Nations, we are busy with everything First Nations do and we need to have a...I like to know what is going on. Sometime I don't maybe it's not important as a Chief to know what the organization that is supposed to represent my First Nation is doing. So there is a need to better co-ordination, more communication. I just wanted to like, is the Executive Committee in the organization had taken the power away from Chiefs and Métis President or?

Bertha Norwegian absolutely not Jim no.

Chief Antoine, can I finish this, so well you say it right away but in reality like if as a Chief if nobody tell us what he is going to do and all of sudden you read about it, it's...I don't know maybe I am more hands on, maybe other people is okay to let things slide. But in an organization like this if this going to be eventually our government, that's what we are working on.

I heard lot of language of one house and Dehcho First Nation Government and so we have some issues as Liidlii Kue First Nation on certain programs and certain way

decisions are made. I just want things to work better and easier. We try to have a social get together last Friday with the staff and Dehcho First Nation but they were too busy. As a Chief I feel that there is certain decisions I should be notified about. Because once decisions are made members come to me and says do you know what is going on, this was done and it's kind of embarrassing to say I don't know anything about it. So I think there should be better line of communications to let us know what is going on or give us a heads up. I would like to recommend that.

Another point in here, you go in camera quite a bit and what is that about, maybe it is legitimated, maybe it's personnel issues if that's the case I understand, I just need some clarification. You also work on a new term for the resources revenue sharing between ....you've already approved it or implemented it so it will be good to know what it is. So I guess that's basically the in camera one and the resource revenue sharing, when are we going to know about it. Just those two concerns I have for clarification.

Bertha Norwegian thank you Chief Jim Antoine. With respect to improved communications, there's always room for improvements. All organizations sometimes have set backs with respect to meeting the impediment of what is good communication. I believe that at Dehcho First Nation that as an Executive Committee member that we have been very transparent , we have been very good about letting the leadership know about the nature of the work that we do, resolutions that are put forward. I believe that we do work to represent the people. We have board members that participate as a Executive Committee member s and all of the board members that I have worked with during the short time that I have been here have had their priority as the members comes first.

As well it's of significant importance and we take great pride in working to implement the direction of the leadership. Your decisions are very important in moving the Dehcho agenda forward and we have a means to insure that work is forwarded, therefore we try to exercise our duties with due diligent as Tim Lennie has so often said. So communications, yes definitely there is always room for improvement and perhaps we should find a means to provide a specific communications for First Nations people.

With respect to the IRDA Resource Royalty dollars, yes there is improvement that needs to be made with respect to the way that it is administered. The administration of the IRDA resources is not done by the Executive Committee but by members who have been selected either by a member of the staff or Patrick Scott. I believe that often times it is very difficult to get members who are not in conflict in any way shape or form with respect to proposals that are submitted to the IRDA programs. It's a one million dollar program and many individuals have established small businesses and have applied for funding. The decision making behind who is approved and who is not approved is very, very challenging. Because we are so close to each other as friends, relatives and neighbours that often times someone has to declare a conflict somewhere. We are hoping to be able to resolve that type of conflict by hiring an individual to prepare all of the necessary documentation to make that process easier for us. There does needs to

be changes and there is a report that's been developed and in fact I am the one that is responsible for it not being here today and I apologize. I will have that report for you in the fall leadership.

It's really important that you understand the role of the Executive Committee members that we are here for the people and the people are our priority. Our other priority is insuring that we implement the decisions and the direction put forth by the leaders at this table. I am not sure if I...I believe I have answered your questions Chief Jim Antoine and if you need a point of clarification. The in camera stuff, a lot of it has to do with personnel issues specific to personnel at the Dehcho First Nation with respect to pay scales, performance evaluations, those types of administrative activities and proxy issues. And times you will note that when we come out of camera there is a motion that follows and so that would be the issue of discussions.

Co-chair, Chief Antoine.

Chief Antoine thanks for clarifications on the....you said that the Executive Committee works on the resolutions and motions coming from leadership meetings and the assembly. Are you the only entity in this organization that does it or does the Executive Director and the Grand Chief doing any of that work or is all the resolutions and the motions from the assembly goes to the Executive Committee and it's up to you to deal with it or? I just need some clarification.

The other question is that I always wonder since the organization started there is many resolutions and motion that goes way back. I always remember specifically one resolution in 2007 that dealt with communications and some attempt was made at it, but there are a lot of resolutions and motions from this organization that I don't think that has been dealt with. Are you going on a backlog, going all the way back or are you just doing it for the last couple of years. How does that work?

Bertha Norwegian the resolutions and everything is provided to the Dehcho First Nations administration. It goes out to the appropriate staff member whether its negotiations, land use planning or languages whatever the issue might be. The royalties resources would come to the Executive Committee or DFN would work to establish a committee that would work to divide out from the IRDA programs. Not all resolutions or motions are impacted or implemented immediately, it depends on the nature.

Like today we asked that we deferred some decisions to the leadership meetings. That would give us time to be able to administer the work that is required to be able assist in the decision making that is done by at the leadership level basically we are the administration body. The resolutions that have been worked on, is only being during the time that I have been here. What happened in 2007 I am not really sure but perhaps a long term employee or staff member of the organization will be able to speak to the

issue? We do exercise our responsibility with due diligence, with due respect to the leadership, the elders and the member at large. Thank you.

Co-chair, Chief Antoine then we will move right on to Grand Chief.

Chief Jim Antoine I just needed some clarifications on the resolutions and how the organization runs. Because you said you dealt with resolutions and motions, therefore I thought you guys were responsible. I know you also create other resolutions because you make recommendations for us to make decisions as well. It's not only you are dealing with resolutions from leaders and chief from the organizations but you are also making recommendations for other motions and resolutions for us to make.

Co-chair, thank you Chief Antoine and Grand Chief Gargan.

Grand Chief Gargan, just in closing we are no different or unique when it comes to the running of an organization. Every organization has a small group that works on behalf of all the groups. It just makes more sense to do that than having 5,000 members to deal with issues that is a concern to them. The Territorial Government, Federal Government, the Dehcho First Nations and all the regions all have a small little group that represents the interest of everybody. It just makes more sense, it's transparent, it's fair and there is nothing there that is hidden as far as we're concerned.

When I was with the GNWT as a MLA, I spoke on behalf of all the members on salaries, honorariums, travel and everything. This is the same kind of function that we do as an Executive Committee. Dene Nation has all the region represented and that's what composes the running of the organization. I don't think that we have anything here that.. we have two leaders, two chiefs on the Executive Committee. Also have two members at large and two elders to run the organization there is nothing hidden here. The leaders have issues and they also got representatives that represent their interest on the board. Thank you.

Co-chair thank you Grand Chief and Bertha. We will move along, we have Robert Stewart the Auditor for the Dehcho First Nation.

Robert Stewart , I am one of the charter accountant and certified management consultant of the Northwest Territories. I have served the people of the Dehcho for the past 30 years helping them get through the year end accountability process. I have been the auditor for Dehcho First Nation for over 10 years now. My report to you today is of two parts, one is the Financial Statements of the organization which gives the accounting of things for the past fiscal year. The other is I will give you some findings that I wish to share with you.

Under Tap 3 is the audit financial statements, on page 3 its entitled Management Responsibility for Financial reporting. This acknowledges the fact that these financial statements were the responsibility of the management of Dehcho First Nations, as are

the bookkeeping, the management system and the internal controls. My responsibility as the auditor is to provide an independent objective opinion on the financial statements as to their accuracy and completeness.

On page number 4, entitled Auditor Report and this report is on the financial statements that are attached. It basically says I have done an examination of the books and records of Dehcho First Nation following general accept accounting standards and auditing procedures. The financial statements do reflect in a fair reasonable manner the financial position and results of the operation for the year. In my letter I do say that there is a couple of items that weren't part of my audit and they are part of Dehcho First Nations. That's the settlement agreement Trust Fund and the Economic Corporation those are audited by separate people. I will have a recommendation on that at the end of my presentation.

On page number 5 which is the first page with all the numbers it's called the statement of financial position, previously known as the balance sheet. Basically it's a picture of your financial position at year end, March 31, 2011. It also has the figures from the prior year in the right hand column just for comparison purposes. The top part of the statement shows your financial assets that's what you own and the middle part shows your liabilities, those are debts you owe to third parties. As you can see under the financial assets, Dehcho First Nations had cash in the bank at year-end of \$976,376.00. Accounts Receivable of one million four hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars that's detail in note three. It's basically of funding related to contributions agreements that the funding agencies owe you but you haven't receives the cheques yet by the year end.

The third line is your Trust Fund assets which were sixteen million five hundred and eighty three thousand dollars. You have a separate report on the Trust Funds assets under Tap 8 which would be the subject of discussion on another day. The middle part of this statement shows liabilities that's the money you owe and first line is accounts payable and accrued liabilities, one million three forty-five that's what you owe to suppliers and contractors that have delivered programs and services before the yearend but didn't get paid until after the year end. There is deferred revenue two hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars and that's listed in note five. That's monies you have received from your funding agencies but haven't spend yet, but that's available generally to carry over to spend in the following year.

The bottom section shows a couple of items tangible capital assets, they are just showed at a nominal one dollar acknowledging their existing. Basically it includes the building in Fort Simpson Dehcho First Nations operates out of, some vehicles, furniture and equipment. All of that is expense in the year that it is purchased so it's only shown as a dollar but there is note that explains in a more detail. In a small amount of prepaid expenses of twenty-seven thousand three hundred and fifty dollars. Basically those are things that you paid for prior to the yearend which will actually used up in the following year. In the very bottom line then is the accumulated surplus over the years of seventeen million four hundred and fifty-seven thousand dollars.



Basically looking at this picture of your financial position shows that Dehcho First Nation is in a very sound financial position with cash in the bank a working capital that can carry you through the times when you are waiting for funding to come in from funding agent and that. Of course this also shows the Trust Fund assets of sixteen point five million. Page 6 just shows how your surplus has accumulated. I like to talk about page 7 which is the most important schedule. It's called the Statement of Operations and basically it shows the revenue for the year and that's the money coming into Dehcho First Nations. The expenditure for the year that's the money that has gone out for programs and services and the fourth line from the bottom is called the operating deficits before extraordinary item. As you will see you have an operating deficit of hundred and eighty-seven thousand one hundred and forty-two dollars then the extraordinary item is your Trust income. Your Trust Fund assets increased by one million two hundred and fifty-seven dollars in the year, so as a result the bottom line was in total assets in the year of one million zero seven zero.

Because the Trust is a separate entity the figure that I key in on is that the operating deficit which was \$187,000.00 dollars. Largely that came about as a result of two programs of which significant expenditures were made without revenues to offset it. One was litigation they were going through had expenses of \$126,000 dollars and then there was the Ehdezhie program which you expended \$119,000.00 dollars of which there was no revenue at the time. The rest of your operations is basically a balance budget which is very good when you considering the overall expenditures for the year is 7.7 million. Obviously Dehcho First Nation is one of the larger organizations certainly in the Dehcho and the Northwest Territories.

This Statement of Operations summarizes your activities during the year with dollar values attached to them. Shows your overall revenue sources and the nature of the expenditure you incurred. If you want more detail following this statement is a number of notes to the financial statement is the narrative story of your accounting principles and what makes up the various amounts. Following those notes there is a number of spread sheets which shows all of the programs of Dehcho First Nations which is over fifty separate programs. In those spread sheets you can see the revenue and expenditure associate with each programs. That is all I like to present with respect to your financial statements.

I would like to take a few minutes to discuss some observations that I had with recommendations that I had made to your Executive Committee when I met with them earlier this month. Basically I have three recommendations that I felt is important to share with you in the highest and best interest of the Dehcho First Nations. The nature of this is the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Investment Officer duties or responsibilities. Acting as an extension of the leadership insuring that you have financial independence and long term liability.

My first observations relates to the Trust, I was happy to see under Tab 8 is the report on the Trust and this is the first time I have seen it today and probably all of you. I did a quick review of the document and my observations of it, unfortunately it is not really in plain language. I found it difficult to understand, it doesn't answers some key questions that I had and it is a report coming from your Investment managers of CIBC, Wood Gundy. Not really coming from your own Dehcho First Nations managers or your own people.

The questions that I asked with respect to the Trust are as follows: is the leadership and Dehcho First Nations being adequately being served by the Trust and getting the information that you need, are your principles and policy being followed. Is the Trust performing ultimately and achieving its potential. Are the programs such as the Economic Development, Community Development and Education etc that you wanted the Trust to fund, are they achieving their potential. Is the leadership adequately involved investment decisions in particularly risk management in light recent world events and financial crisis.

Because I have questions like that, that I wanted to share with the Executive and the leadership, I am recommending that these types of questions that deserve your attention because obviously the Trust Fund is a very large part of your organizations at sixteen and half million dollars. What I am recommending is an independent expert second opinion similar to what I would refer to is a Chief Investment Officer. Taking a look at the Trust and performances compare to your expectations and acting as a bridge between the Investment Managers and your Leadership Executive and members.

My second observation is with respect to the Dehcho Economic Corporations, it's very similar to my observation with respect to the Trust. With looking at your binder this year I didn't see a report coming from your Dehcho Economic Corporations. My question is whether again the leadership is being adequately served by the Dehcho Economic Corporations in getting the information that you need. Are your principles and policy being followed by the Dehcho Economic Corporations is it performing ultimately and achieving its potential. Are the programs that you wanted the Economic Corporation to fund achieving their potentials?

I am recommending independent expert to look at the Dehcho Economic Corporations and its operations in acting as a bridge between with you, the leadership and the Executive and your members are wanting from this corporation and the Economic Corporations management and board. Finally my third observation that I wanted to share with you, what I mention to you a year ago and I wanted to expand on it more. I have been visiting most of the communities in the Dehcho for many years now and I believe one of the things that is holding back in terms of development of the Dehcho is lack of adequate accounting, bookkeeping talents in your community.

The type of thing I am recommending is like a chief financial officer, type of responsibility that can bring a senior level of financial expertise to your programs and to your communities. I strongly urge a consortium people looking at the possibility of establishing an accounting service bureau and training bureau in the Dehcho to help bring along young people and teaching the skills of bookkeeping and accounting in financial management. They are very good jobs and are sorely needed and I believe it would be a successful operation, it's not an easy job but I think it's very important to help advance the Dehcho financial independence and liability. Those are my observations and I welcome any questions that you may have.

Chair, thanks you Robert. The floor is open for questions. Rita Cli elder Liidlii Kue First Nation.

Rita Cli, this has been a concern of mine as a previous leader and now I am sitting here as one of your upcoming elders. That is still a great concern of mine and for that simple reason those recommendation that you have brought up I would like to be circulated to immediately to the Leadership because the money that are there, if we play our cards right our kids will benefit from it. That is where we want to go but we need to work together to make that happen. I agree with the recommendations your giving to the leadership and I would like that information circulated so we can do something about it right away. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Rita. Rick Lafferty to the issue.

Richard Lafferty, I just wanted to make a few comments. I am one of your Investment Management Board members. I am also a board member on Dehcho Economic Corp, but right now I am not going to talk about the Economic Corp but I just want to deal with the Trust. You have raised some very serious issues and I think with a big of dialogue most of them can be taken care of.

First of all I want to take issue again that the Trust is even in the Dehcho Financial statement and I tell you why. This comes from our Trust financial advisors and that is because it artificial inflates the value of Dehcho First Nations. The money in Trust is never actually realizable unless you break the Trust. So the sixteen five point million dollars and there was comments made that we drastically lost money in '08 and that is completely untrue. What happened when the market crash is we had fifteen million dollars invested in assets, in the stock markets and bank notes and so on. The value of what we owe went down and we never lost anything because everything we had was really solid investments and the risk management component that you speak about we were in the top ten for sure probably the top five in terms of assets protection and risk management. That is why fair so good, we drop down to thirteen point million in approximately in '08 when the market crash and now look we are back up at sixteen point five million dollars. So that shows incredible risk management and incredible bounce back most pensions are just gone.

Many businesses in the world are gone, big banks included, so risk management is steadier here. In fact our finance manager is known for his risk management and it is all lay out in the Trust. There is ranges of what we can invest in, there is lower limits on what type of assets we can even attempt to purchase, also the manager we got gets us into stocks that we are not even be eligible for. Because some investments set a minimum investments of hundred and fifty million dollars, we only got fifteen million dollars, well sixteen point five. What he does is get a group of investors, there might be one hundred and fifty of us with a million each and we get access to these triple stocks and bonds and shares, but we otherwise we won't have access too. Therefore with a hundred and fifty of us with a million dollars will buy a minimum block of shares and that's how we get way up there.

Back to the Dehcho First Nations audit, that sixteen point five million dollars, that bottom line figure changes extraordinarily and you will get a better picture of what Dehcho First Nations is actually doing. The Trust doesn't belong in there and our advisors tell us that part of the reason why these big banks fell is because they had assets like this on their balance sheet which they couldn't realize. So to put the Trust figures in the Dehcho First Nation operation audit is giving you a distorted picture. You are not actually worth seventeen point one five million. You have to take that sixteen million and something out of there to find the useable cash.

There is a statement in there where it says the revenue of the Trust and in this one year as being one point three million in this fiscal year. That's not true, that is the net increase of the value of what you own its not actually revenue. Your revenue was more in the area of about five hundred thousand a year which is been consistent. Even in the terms that it is written in this audit review do not show an accurate picture of what your Trust is doing.

The other issue of insisting on another audit, I will tell you why the Trust, Investment Manager Board decided not to have an audit this year. The same reason we didn't have one last year and maybe next year we will be having one, but the reason we didn't audit the Trust because there is so many checks and balances in this system that an audited was actually redundant. So we had our auditor just do a general paper review and do some testing to make sure that everything is in order. Because what happens is the Trustee, we pay the Trustee, the Trust pays the Trustee. The Trustee checks the Investment manager's work and our auditor checks the Trustee work and the money manager review what's been review of them. So there's such a tight circle in there and everybody's checking everybody's last cent on this, that it is really redundant to have full blown audit which would cost literally thousands. We did fifteen thousand dollars audit to find out that we made nine thousand dollars in secondary income, so that audit costs us more money then we made the last time we did an audit. So with all those checks and balances, risk management, it's our call as an Investment Management Board to have or not have an audit.

One is due in the near future but we are secure and professionals that we have working for us and the checks and balances are in place already, so we didn't want an audit this year. There is one more thing, but I will speak to it later when the Trust comes up in the agenda because it's more of an Executive Committee report than what was spell out in your audit report and I like to have a copy of the rest of the concerns because they are really serious concerns. With a little bit of dialogue and a little bit of communications between your investment management board and your auditor, most of those questions would be answered quite directly and easily. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Rick. Grand Chief Gargan.

Grand Chief Gargan what we wanted to address is the same company checking itself out. It's not an outside agency that is going over there and checking everything out, so that's one of the issues. The other issue is that we haven't spread out our risk, it's all in one basket. If we lose, we lose everything from the one company. If we have five other, whatever the case maybe financial institution that took our investment and so on and did the same type that Gundy is doing then we spread our risk. We cannot honestly say that this, what Richard is saying is accurate. Because its only Richard that is saying it nobody else can tell us that, maybe that's not quite correct. There are some risks here and this is the way we see it but nobody has the expertise, so we only have Richard's word to rely on.

What I am saying is that you should get someone outside the institution to take a good look what we have and whether we are getting our monies worth. That is why we decided that maybe the Executive Committee should recommend to the leadership that you should consider that. Not saying you do it but you can consider it because it is in the best interest of everybody here and everybody that is the shareholder in the Trust.

Chair, thank you Grand Chief, Rick and then Roy.

Richard Lafferty, just to your points there Grand Chief, point number one that it is one group checking on itself that is not accurate. We have CIBC Trust, CIBC Wood Gundy for sure and they are part of a large corporate entity and that's what gives us security. Because if they were to lose our money by fraud or something other way they have deep enough pockets to just re-establish our sixteen and a half million. That's why we have in one large corporate entity but they are check on by our own auditors who are MacKay and Partners. So we have an independent auditor review CIBC, yes we do. With respect o risk management, I said one component of it earlier, if there was fraud or anything inside the CIBC that cause the Trust to lose money, they have deep pockets to replace it.

The other thing is like we review all of the other trust companies years ago like Peace Hill Trust, all of the major banks that have Trust Companies like Royal Banks and Scotia Banks and so on. We found the best value here so we stuck with them, so by all means have any kinds of reviews you like and we will participate but I am totally confident that

these questions can be answered without the expense of Dehcho First Nations paying for this huge big third party review, but that of course is your decision. Personally as an IBM member I feel confident that all those auditor's questions can be answered completely without that expense. Thank you.

Chair thank you. Roy and then....

Grand Chief Gargan, just one more question Richard and this MacKay Auditor do they have the expertise in the statutory auditing of this investment plan.

Richard Lafferty, yes they do and one of the principle works with us directly. In fact CIBC co-operates completely and they are happy with the work that they are doing. They are base out of Yellowknife and a lot of you might have used them over the years.

Chair thank you Rick. Roy Fabien, Katlodeeche First Nation and again to the issue please.

Roy Fabien, thank you, finances are really difficult to understand and at times it's because of the situation were in, we have to place our trust in auditors and managers and other people. We trust that their integrity in the whole process and I do have a couple of issues that I wanted to asked about. One, Richard talk about is, recently we were involve another business and that business had a other assets at another company it was involved in. It inflated what our true value was and when you took away those assets you ended up in zero. We weren't making any money and just the way the auditor's work. They were saying you guys own this company or part of it, so you got income coming in, but the actual fact we had no money in the bank but yet the auditor was telling us, well you guys have couple of hundred thousand dollars that you made last year. Where is our money, because the money like other company that we own did make money and did really well, but they never gave us any money?

So it was really hard to figure these out, so what confuses me about this Trust Fund, like we don't pay taxes right. Dehcho pays the tax so this Trust Fund that we set up, are we paying taxes on that, because that will be my biggest worry. My biggest worry is that all of sudden were showing seventeen million accumulated surplus. That means accumulated surplus, you got seventeen million dollars sitting somewhere. At first I didn't see this Trust Fund, holy we got seventeen million dollars. But that's not the case, but I think that's where Richard is making a point that if you take that sixteen five out we are only left with eight hundred and seventy-four thousand surplus. So it inflated and we are all happy and doing good, but in actual fact this Dehcho Trust Fund is over in somewhere else and the money is being used over there for other things and we hope it's going to grow. We hope that this Trust Fund is going to grow and a hundred years from now it's going to be worth over trillions of dollars. I wish I was going to be around then but I not going to be so it's kind of investment into the future I guess. That's what I like about it but in actual fact if you took away Trust Fund and everything, we actual made only eight hundred seventy-four accumulate surplus.



So this is sort of an untrue picture, we've been and that's because of this Trust Fund. But I don't know what happen, but I know in our case we can never show a profit, we got this company and we never show a profit. Because once we start showing a profit Canada starts looking at us, hey you guys owe us some money, you have to pay taxes on the profit. So I don't think that happens here and I don't understand the Trust Fund, I tried to follow it but it's confusing. I am not financial expert by any means but we need to somehow this Trust Fund is making untrue picture of where we are really at Dehcho. What the auditor recommended to us in this other business is set up a company separately.

But again if we did that it will show a surplus and then the government will say you make five hundred thousand last year, you owe us the percentage in taxes. It's confusing to say the least but maybe somebody can explain that to me. I just don't think..I kind of agree with Richard that by having a part of...maybe we should be doing a separate report on the Trust Fund because it doesn't give us an untrue picture.

Chair, thank you Roy. Rick...

Richard Lafferty, just to explain for Roy, the Trust currently is a taxable entity. What happens is only the secondary income is taxable so the money that was given to us out of a settlement agreement out of court is never tax. The money we own in there is never tax but what happens is that money earns money and that little bit of money that we make from this original investment is taxable, that is call secondary income. But because it operates as a business what we do is we spend that revenue generated first, so it is considered a business expense and GST exempt so that's how we avoid taxation.

What we have with the GNWT, we actually drafted them legislation that looks like other legislation across the country and throughout the commonwealth. That legislation is design to make our type of Trust tax free and without perpetuity clause so actually working with government to change the law because it's happening all over the country.

There is an audit report under Tap 8 from MacKay and Partners; there is also 2010 trustee report which we will get to later on the agenda so that information is there separately. I do agree with you that we are agreeing together so basically now that it should be removed from the Dehcho First Nations financial statements. It's your money, it's your Trust and it's presented in its own audited by professional so it doesn't needs to be reproduced here in the Dehcho First Nations financial statement. I feel the same way about the Development Corp but I will leave it at that. Thank you.

Chair thank you Rick. Ria Letcher, Executive Director.

Ria Letcher, there is a requirement by our funders that we do provide consolidated financial statement that includes all Dehcho First Nations entity. That includes the

Master Trust and it should include the Economic Corporation. All of the First Nations communities are held to the same standard under your PKFN, using PKFN as an example you would have your contractors listed as your entity, under your audit and the same goes for Dehcho First Nations. The Trust is a child of Dehcho First Nations and therefore it should be on Dehcho First Nations books. This is a requirement by our funders and too the audit report in Tap 8, the report prepare by MacKay is a qualified opinion. They are not able to review all of the information so they qualified that opinion, so that's not a good audit. It is not a detail enough audit so this is Bob's point.

Chair, Chief Roy Fabien Katlodeeche First Nation.

Roy Fabien, I appreciate that, I understand all that because that's what happen to us like all our businesses never make money. We make sure they don't make money because otherwise we have to pay taxes. Just the way it works so we got to play a balancing act all the time. The problem we ran into was that one time the balancing act went the other way where we went completely broke. We lost millions of dollars at Katlodeeche First Nation so I understand what you are talking about.

I know that there are some issues regarding what kind of audit is done. There is an audit that gets done, band councils have to have an audit. When you are doing business they just do a review of the business and it's not a real audit. The review just kind of gives you an idea what your company makes and it gets added. The thing about it here is it makes it look like we got a whole bunch of money that we don't have and that's what happens.

It is a balancing act and the auditor's keep us inform on how things work and sometimes it is confusing. I didn't know the difference in auditing and review. What makes an audit and what makes it a review I don't know, but it is important that is the reason why I was wondering where is the Dehcho Corporation or Economic Corporation. I don't know if they have any businesses and at one time they had a survey company and they are not on here. If we are going to play the game we might as well play it all the way.

Chair, Ria Letcher

Ria Letcher, we have made this point before about the consolidated audit and over the years we have not received our Economic Corporation audit in time for the consolidated audit. It is usually presented at the annual assembly at the same time as our audit. So to consolidate them has been difficult. It hasn't been done for a number of years but and that's Bob's point that, the same auditor should be consider for all of Dehcho First Nations entity so that you have a clear snapshot on the Dehcho financial position. We did make this point a number of years but the issue of having separate auditors but giving MacKay and Partners qualified opinion that the time is now to give this further consideration. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Ria, Rick.

Richard Lafferty, there are two things, first of all the qualified audit is what we asked for. I will take a couple of seconds to explain the difference, a full audit, you know reviews and your auditor can tell you. Review in detail the transaction of the structure and to do an audit on this Trust is an enormous task that should be done periodically. You have sixteen and half million dollars in invested in little shares out there. Some of them are forty bucks, some of them are hundred bucks, some of them millions, but you got millions of dollars there.

Dehcho First Nations gets a monthly report of all of the assets you have and there are on the website. You can log on and go to the component of the website and they are there in plain day every month. To go into the detail of what is all held in those funds, it will just say base on capital market and it will have one point five million. All of the detail of the shares that are owned and that are extraordinary and there is like is this been done right and is that been done right and is this okay. That's why it's qualified and it didn't go through every last detail of the whole picture, but in the qualified approach by taking sample everything works fine.

To get back to the consolidated audit, I don't have a problem, but don't re-audit and audit. You get three audits, you get the Dehcho Economic Corp, Dehcho First Nations, the Dehcho Trust put them all in as a consolidated figure and send it to your funders. But your independent audits would more clearly reflect exactly what's happening in each of those respective entities you own. I don't believe for a minute that all those entities got to be owned by one other entities or one of those three entities needs to be owned by other entity. Or one of those three entities needs to own by the other two. You could have a hundred different businesses and be all independent business with their own audit and I hope someday you do. That's where at anyway and I gladly continue the debate and bring more of our professional staff in on it if require, but it's clearly your decision. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Rick. Is there any further comments, we can kind of wrap this up because I think this is way out of league for many of us. Rita elder of Liidlii Kue First Nation and we will go back to Robert.

Rita Cli, this trust money is Dehcho money and it should stay with Dehcho, because the leadership is the ultimate authority on it not the bankers. The Dehcho leadership is the ultimate, ultimate authority. You are going to be the government of Dehcho you got to assert that right. You are the ultimate authority of that money. You tell give the bankers the directions they don't tell you what to do. It's your money, it's your investment remember that. Its Dehcho money and ultimate authority is the leadership. Whatever recommendations comes from the highest power sitting today is what must happen. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Rita. Okay Robert if we can go back to you to shed some light on this for us. I think we had enough exchange, but maybe you can give us some focus.

Robert Stewart, I think the major points that I want to express is that this leadership should know everything that is important to know about the Trust or the Economic Corporation. My impression is somebody said this stuff is confusing. I am a chartered accountant I read the report under 8 and I was confused. I hope you understand it better than I, but I think it will challenge you and the other key thing is that Trust is very important to your ultimate success sixteen and a half million dollars right now.

I think it is wise counsel to get a second opinion of somebody with the expertise to check up on your investment managers. MacKay and Partners do not have that qualifications their charter accountants, I am a charter accountants and I don't have that qualifications.

I talk to professional investment counsellors and they told me stories about how investment manager operates and the smoking mirrors part of this. You really need somebody with the expertise snap business to keep your investment managers honest. That's my advice that I hope that maybe in a year's time from now you get a plain language report on both the Trust and the Economic Corporation that you understand and can see. Yes they are following the principles and policy that you want them to do. And you feel full a part of the process and not that you devolved it to an internal expert and you got your eggs in that basket. Thank you.

Chair, thanks Robert. Any final comments. Lloyd Chicot , Chief of Kakisa Ka'agee Tu First Nations.

Chief Lloyd Chicot, just a comment on, the last couple of months in Kakisa went through a similar exercise with a regular, internal, forensic audit. You can put a lot of policy in place but they are only as strong as what the people want the policy to do. Give out directions and it seems like it's never enough. On behalf of our community, that's the recommendation, way things have to be done.

I think there should be a resolution to that effect, and I don't speak for that many people in the region, but there needs to checks and balance along the way. The Dehcho Trust is one of them and there is other issues that we haven't touch on and it needs to be audited. There is a requirement, for example in Kakisa we have development corporation, some funding we get and it exceed the cap like \$30,000 and I think it's the normal cap that INAC goes with. Anything above that you have to do an audit and we get a lot of our people requesting things to see in front of them.

The wise way to go is to have separate audit done on this and have those checks and balances in place. If it is too big of risk the other option is to spread risk around, like break up the Trust Fund into different pieces. Start looking at your First Nations communities and invest in some money in there and basically this is the other options. We have gone down this road especially in smaller community, there is a lot of funding through MACA but we don't get too much from INAC. There is no way to invest in our

people in the long run in terms of pensions and benefits. We hire a lot of our first nations people, in a small community like Kakisa there is no benefits there to ensure there will be a pension when they are finish. Something to think about, you need to start put these checks and balances in place.

The Trust I see it hundred years from now building to hundred million mark and from there on moving forward with those monies and that. We need to put it in place not just from our community and if there is money spend then it should show on paper. I think that's the message that the people have been giving us for the last twenty years. There is no trust there and there's jealousy and everybody knows when you are having elections like we did last year, all those issues are going to come up. People needs to see it on paper so that they can see for themselves what is happening and we in my community will support something like that. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Chief Chicot. Chief Jim Antoine, Liidlii Kue First Nation.

Chief Jim Antoine, thank you Robert Stewart for the work you do. The Trust Fund is only the little pot of money we have that we know for sure and I hope it stays in tack. Your wise word of advice and Liidlii Kue First Nation we take it, we had a quick pull of our delegates and we like the suggestion or recommendation to have an independent assessment.

I am sure what they are doing is okay but all of us here we are not trust money expert and of investment people and everything, some of us don't understand it. I think the money is safe where it is, but I think it's worth looking at because we would like to know more about it. If another group were to assess the situation, have them give us written form in the language that we can understand of where the money is at and who's handling it, how and why they are doing it. Perhaps some recommendation on how to do it a different way so that the money we have safe there can grow. Original plan is good, but it is always good to double check, re-assess and re-strategize so I totally support the independent assessment. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Chief Antoine. Again, the Trust discussion will come up tomorrow afternoon towards the end, so people will have a better picture of what this Trust entails. With that we like to bring this discussion to close. We need to have a motion to accept the 2010/2011 consolidated audit for Dehcho First Nation.

**MOTION#03 ASSEM 28/06/11**

**The Annual Assembly moved to approve the Audit Report for fiscal year 2010-2012**

**Moved by Jim Antoine**

**Seconded by Proxy Clifford McLeod Fort Providence Métis Local**

**Passed**

Chair, okay we have a second one here Ria.

Ria Letcher this is a draft resolution that was drafted with the help of the auditor regarding a comprehensive audit review of Dehcho Trust. It starts by saying whereas the Dehcho leadership has not been able to sufficiently inspect the plan and performance of the Dehcho Trust, it's board and investment managers.

And whereas three years ago Dehcho Trust suffer a large lost due to a down turn in the economy and world expert warn of the long shadow of the recent financial crisis and need a for re-thinking risk management in financial services.

And whereas the Dehcho Trust was establish to fund programs in community development, economic development, education etc, but has not reported on program plans and implementation to the leadership.

**Resolution #01 – Comprehensive Audit/Review of Dehcho Trust**  
**Moved by: Gabe Hardisty, Elder Pehdzeh Ki First Nation**  
**Seconded by: Chief Tim Lennie, Chief Pehdzeh Ki First Nation**  
**Motion Carried**

Chair, Discussion, Chief Roy Fabien, Katlodeeche First Nation.

Chief Roy Fabien, in regards to what Robert said, I am not sure maybe I misunderstood, but what I heard Robert said we need to hire trust expert to do a review or something. It's not actually an audit, was he requesting an audit, I am not sure what it is that he is requesting. I thought I understood him as saying, we need to hire an expert to make sure the right things are happening so I don't know. Because you are asking for an audit, consolidated audit and I thought I heard him say something different.

Chair, okay thank you Roy, Robert can we get some clarification.

Robert Stewart, what I am suggesting is not a statutory audit like you are used to with the typical year end band audits that are required. That we as accountant refer to as Statutory or Physical Audits and that's not what I am recommending.

What I am recommending is what I call a comprehensive audit or comprehensive review which involves investment counsellor with the expertise matching that of the investment managers. It may involved a charter accountant as well to help bridge the communications between the southern investment experts and the Dehcho First Nation. It is a comprehensive review audit that I am talking about.

Chair, thank you Robert. Do you think that the motion capture that from what you heard/

Robert Stewart, yes that was the words that was included in the motion.



Chair, okay the floor is still open. Rick Lafferty to the issue please.

Richard Lafferty, I just have some issues with the inaccuracy like the Dehcho Trust did not lose a whole bunch of money. I like to review the wording of that so it accrual reflects what went on. What happen was the value of your asset drop temporarily and you never lost any asset or cash. The value of them now came back up and it's worth more than fifteen million. We sold a few and we change a couple of managers, we don't have just one investment manager. We have one investment manager, Tom Wooden who oversee nineteen other investment managers. Those nineteen others are where your money is at. By no means do we have it all in one basket.

So we have one guy overseeing those guys, so smoking mirrors doesn't happen. What I am hearing is you want structural audit to see if those checks and balance are all there. I welcome that, but I like to see the actual wording of the motion so I can comment on the accuracy of it . Thank you.

Chair, thanks. Robert.

Robert Stewart, I would suggest if that works for you, they use the term comprehensive audit /review in the motion and this is for the leadership to provide direction to the Executive to act on what the leadership is requesting. The Executive would of heard the comments and understand that they will in process of getting a proposal to do this comprehensive audit/review. Come up with terms of reference to take into account the leadership wishes.

Chair, Rick again to the issue without trying to confuse it more.

Richard Lafferty in some ways it's so confusing, it needs to start over because what happens here and the assembly agrees with it and in fact the Leadership send the direction to the assembly in order for the assembly to make a decision. Now the Executive and the Leadership have no say in how the IMB works and it suppose to be separate from politics. You have to be clear to what you are doing here because if this assembly gives direction to IMB we have to sit up and listen. We already know that the leadership doesn't follow all the assembly instructions.

The IRDA money was not handled this year how this assembly directed to be last year so you got to watch where the direction is coming from and how much authority you are ascertain on it. It will be done if this assembly request it through the IMB and it will be expensive that's what you're dealing with but it's your decision. I like to see that resolution before we have any further discussion just for accuracy.

Chair, Jim Antoine, I'm being asked to call a break here so we could review that. Jim Antoine, Chief Liidlii Kue First Nation.

Chief Jim Antoine, I moved that motion and the intent, the wording is there but I'm going by the advice of our auditor here and the intent of the motion is that, in lament term is to get a second opinion. To analyze where we are and that's all the motion is for me. I am not playing politic I'm just saying that there is dollars there and there is a way to make money, let's take a second look at it and that's basically the way I understand it. I just want to clarify the reason why I moved it and this is going to be raised again tomorrow.

Chair, okay thank you Chief Antoine. Again Rick just briefly.

Richard Lafferty, while we are waiting, I just wanted to show in the audit papers here, under tap three, page number seven. I'll show you exactly what it means and how it distorting your view of Dehcho First Nation. It starts out Dehcho First Nation statement of operations and right at the top it says revenue and another line says expenditures, at the bottom it says operating deficit before extraordinary item. So actually Dehcho First Nation over spend and in fact what happen this year is Dehcho First Nation overspend what they received by a hundred eighty-seven thousand one hundred forty-two dollars. When you go to the next line extraordinary item, its trust income net and that's not even accurate, that's the value of the trust went up I believe.

It's not the actual cash money that it made that we can use for economic development or community development or elders heritage fund. That's just the total value of the trust went up that much. The money it generate is not that amount of money so there is two things, it store what you think your trust made and then if you look down at the bottom line access revenue it stores what you think Dehcho First Nation made because it wipes out the one hundred eight-seven dollars operating deficit . And it still makes it looks like you made a million and seventy dollars which is in fact you didn't.

Chair, okay. Roy Fabien

Chief Roy Fabien am I hearing that correctly that we actually lost a hundred eighty-seven because of the trust fund we kick in some money from the trust fund and we are showing a million dollar access revenue. And it's all base on the trust fund in actual fact we lost money last year is that correct, Robert.

Chair, thank you Chief Fabien, Robert .

Robert Stewart, yes, as it says in the statement there the normal operations of the Dehcho First Nation and as I explain earlier had an operating deficit before that extraordinary item of a hundred eighty-seven thousand one forty-two. That was because of two programs the litigations that you are pursuing and the Ehdezhie program. Underneath that operating deficit and basically that operating deficit was funding by accumulated surplus from regular operations of past years. The organization is still in a solid financial position even with that.

The change in the trust value is shown as an extraordinary item beneath that, the terminology we happen to use is the trust income net. We could use terminology like the increase in equity in the trust if that would, but that's kind of semantical and we can change that wording for next year. That is showing as an extraordinary item one point two five seven million for bottom line of one million zero seven zero. It does not mean that the operating deficit of Dehcho First Nation got funded by anything in the trust that's two separate items. This is why it's important to understand what financial statements like these are communicating to you.

Chair thank you Robert. Again in final how do you want to handle this Ria, do you have some suggestion. We have a motion on the floor. Chief Roy Fabien, Katlodeeche First Nation.

Chief Roy Fabien, the motion, what is the motion is, but Richard have some problems with the some information, maybe Richard and Ria can get together and straighten out those things. But still need what Jim wants to do so they can do that while we are taking a break.

Chair, okay can we do that, well have a little caucus to look at the motion and then come back and give us a report of what you've done on the motion and then we will see if we can pass it. Ten minutes break.

## **COFFEE BREAK**

Chair, we have a revised resolution, if a mover and seconder agree it will go ahead and read it into the record.

Chief Tim Lennie, what is the earliest, can we have a specific date to this please. Soon, what is the dates, three months, six months, next leadership meeting, let's be exact.

Richard Lafferty, Mr. Chair, the trust reports to the assembly at the winter leadership meeting. It's going ahead we probably have it done by then because it's going to take quite a bit of time to do a complete audit.

Chair, okay thanks. Mover and seconder, you....yes Tim

Chief Lennie, they will make them changes.

Chair, we done the changes.

Richard Lafferty, there is a couple more recommendations they have for change because the wording is inaccurate.

Chair, excuse me Rick, didn't you had a working session here earlier.

Richard Lafferty, no I wasn't part of that working session but this is not the issue of unrealized as long as unrealized means is a significant reduction in value of its holding and I am fine with it. But there is another thing therefore be, it resolve that the DFN leadership, I think that should read DFN assembly because this is the assembly making this decision. I don't know if the assembly wants to direct the Executive, I think it should be leadership there.

I would like to see that under item number one that we add in to read; complete independent comprehensive audit review of the Dehcho Trust by an RFP. We want to put out an RFP to qualified people to review it and see which has the best value coming back. Then again if you want it to report to the assembly or the leadership but also you can put in the report to the leadership at the winter leadership assembly for timeframe.

Chair, okay those are drafted changes there.

Richard Lafferty, no it's just clarity and who the direction is coming from and who is going too. It is very significant especially from the Trust perspective.

Chair, okay somebody Ria or Robert want to touch on that for us.

Ria Letcher reads the changes to the trust.

Richard Lafferty, yeah if that's your choice, I think that DFN shouldn't, the assembly shouldn't leapfrog the leadership so I think the assembly should be directing the leadership and then.....the Executive therefore take it on once the leadership makes that decision.

Ria Letcher, it is semantic because.....

Richard Lafferty, no not really because the Trustee will not take direction from the leadership in this regard.

Ria Letcher, well in the master Trust agreement everything was first to the leadership and where in there does it refer to the assembly, I look it over.

Richard Lafferty, yeah.

Ria Letcher, so we are fine with the leadership. We are words this thing to death and I think as it was delivery is fine. And I think we will achieve what we want to achieve in the resolution as it is written.

Richard Lafferty, but this is not the Dehcho Leadership this is a Dehcho Assembly given directions.

Ria Letcher, so therefore be resolve that Dehcho First Nation Assembly directs the Leadership to direct the Executive.

Richard Lafferty, no, no you don't need to go that far.

Ria Letcher, that's what it sounds like.

Richard Lafferty, what I am saying is strike out leadership put assembly, strike out Executive and put leadership that simple. And add in under number one via RFP, because we don't want to just direct this to anybody we want to put RFP from qualified groups to give us a best value to do this work. It is a significant amount of work and it's going to be tens of thousands of dollars. We need to put an RFP to make sure that we get qualified people in there and get good value for that.

Georges Erasmus, could I recommend that you leave Executive in there because you don't want to have the leadership meeting to direct the Executive; the reality is the administration will carry out the direction of the assembly, don't put another bum on the road there. Unless you have a leadership meeting to direct what's going on, you are going to be caught up. I think you are right in saying that it should be the assembly resolving but leave the rest alone.

Richard Lafferty, what's your view on the RFP concept?

Georges Erasmus, it could be done..... (inaudible) .....

Richard Lafferty, I think so.

Chair okay, Tim Lennie.

Chief Tim Lennie, when you start playing with words, just a ripple effect. Really simple questions, we need a review of the Master Trust, now how that is paid for, how that is done, it really doesn't concern me. As far as I am concern that Trust has been there for how many years, a number of years. We have not to this day benefited from that trust. So how are we going to go about doing it, you said it before in some of your reports that we can move some of this money around where we can utilized some of it. When you started dealing with lawyer words and resolutions it just gets snowball out of proportion. When you start using as, therefore, there as, as a regular Dene person of the street I wouldn't understand what you guys talking about. So why make it so difficult, what are we hiding, we want a review so let's do it. If we continue in this word playing and it just weaken our discussion.

Every time we come about money this happens all the time. What this paper is written in regards to the money that is there the funding. The money that is there is for children's children that's what it is for. We have to strength it and after that we have to put it forward and we haven't seen it and we are just asking for a review and that's what

we are saying. Money is there, and it's been almost two months what is been happening and we have been preparing for this assembly in our community and how we have to go hunting, we need to bring meat for the assembly all this but, we need money for harvest.

Many years, there was 15 million dollars Trust Fund put aside and to this day we did not see it and how much of it goes out to the communities to help us. People that are performing with the drums and they don't ask for nothing and how do we help these people out. Even with that you guys can help us with the performance, what is that money there for. Today it's for our children's children and we teach them, that is why the money is there. So when you work on the resolution always saying let's review, let's look at it and make it better that's all were saying and not tear it apart.

Let's do this review and quit the word playing and Richard was just here, five minutes ago we told you three to sit together and write this up. You as staff have to be here and hear what is been said by the leadership and if it has not been adhere to and then this when the confusion comes. So let's here, let's hear each other, what's important is not outside there. If we don't communicate how are we going to go ahead, so the next two days, we are here till Thursday and let's bring out our stuff. If we have to we might to until Friday or Saturday. Thank you.

Chair, okay again the chief had just re-reiterate that there is a need for a comprehensive review and this resolution does exactly that. Again the two changes that are being put into the resolution is the second whereas after large lost in between large lost will go unrealized and then moving down to the therefore be it resolve that the DCFN, it was leadership I will change it to Assembly direct the Executive and we've been told that the rest should be able to take care of it. Again Tim you are getting what you are asking for so again with the mover and seconder, do you both agree with the change, yes.

Gabe Hardisty, direct to Executive, is that Executive change to Leadership or stay as Executive?

Chair, stays as Executive.

Gabe Hardisty, alright.

Chair, okay good Tim.

Chief Tim Lennie, its okay. We have a mover and seconder, discussion, discussion. Questions in call all those in favour please signal by rising your right hand. Thank you, two against, abstentions, no abstentions okay thanks motion carried. If we can move on we finished the audit report we want to Thank Robert. We like to move into the Dehcho Process do we have time. We will ask the Negotiators Team to come forward. We have been reminded here, this note is coming from the resolution committee they recommend that all draft resolution be submitted to the committee by 4:00 PM



Wednesday tomorrow, no exceptions. Need to show of hands for assembly approval of the rule of this assembly. Could I have, they are asking for a show of hands for this decision to shut resolutions done by four o'clock.

**MOTION #04 ASSEM 28/06/11**

**Moved to approve the submission of Draft Resolutions by 4:00 pm.**

**Moved by Gabe Hardisty, Elder Pehdzeh Ki First Nation**

**Seconded by Marie Lafferty, Fort Simpson Métis Local**

**Carried.**

Chair, if we have the negotiators, we will turn the floor over to the negotiating team, Georges, Chris and Pat. Pat is circulating information around to you.

### **Chief Negotiator's Report**

Chief Negotiator Georges Erasmus we pass out a number of things and there is a news letter out by Felix about Government Structure and he uses a number of sources, some workshops that were held in the past, leadership meetings and the Dehcho framework agreements. There is some interesting ideas in there for instance what the Dehcho government might look like, what the Executive look like and these are just some ideas. The kind of powers that Dehcho government might exercise and the kind of powers that the community government might have. We also hand out the separate binders, brown ones and that's what we will be using. The other big binders, there is some background documents, intern agreements.

We have asked for a little binder that has chapters that we are working on right now and that's what is in the brown documents. We notice that at least one chapter was not in there and that was the preamble which we handed out separately. A good place to put it in is right behind the listing of the chapters because it is what will come first. Just some general comments first, the Federal Negotiator, Eric when he was presenting to you and told you that there has been some progress over the last year. Its true there has been and what is interesting is we are making more progress at the table in the last three sessions after Tim Christen left then before. In some ways the Federal Government was more open, better exchange of information and so forth. We did have some interruptions over the past year.

Because of the court cases Canada stop negotiations for a while, while they review documents that were going to be submitted. They were concern that we might be suing Canada on Ehdezhie or the one with the overlap with Fort Liard. On some of the same tops that we are trying to negotiate, Aboriginal Treaty rights and so forth. The same items we are on at the negotiating table then they would of consider stopping the negotiations, but both those court cases were carefully put together so that we weren't using aboriginal titles or treaty rights.

We had a number session that didn't take place because of that and we were actually thinking that they might shut us down right after the election. During the election we also had to stop negotiations and what was interesting was right after the election when Tim Christen was there, he had to go and meet with the minister before the negotiation started up again. Because we had a staff person working as a negotiator now for Canada they have a standing mandate they don't have to go back on basic things like that. As soon as the election happened we were suppose to meet a week after and we went right ahead. Had we been negotiating there with Tim Christen he would have had to go back to the Minister and say is my mandate the same and all the rest of it.

We have been making some progress in a number of areas and if you will look at the first tap binder, small report there which gives you a better background in relation to the court case. We have 30 items here and each one is a chapter, some we have been moving very quickly on others have been slower and some we've been off/on for years and there is a few that are still not being discuss because of the Pollard process.

A few years ago Canada decided that they were going to look at how they can speed up on decisions on new resource development. Whether it was oil and gas, mining or whatever they figure it just takes too long. This review that took place on the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline convince them that it was much too slow. So they wanted environmental assessment to be done much faster and they ask McCrank to take a look at how things could be done faster. His report came out and sat on the shelf for awhile and while that was going on we couldn't talk about land and resources, how development should go ahead. We of course had on table for many years the concept that Dehcho develop that there should be a Dehcho management authority. So that any development on land, on water or air subsurface, surface whether it's mining, oil and gas, forestry should all go through the Dehcho management authority. This should be done jointly with Canada and perhaps even with the Northwest Territories Government.

We couldn't talk about until this process was over so then what happen was of course the pollard process started and that's been on the way for over a year. It was suppose to have been really, really fast and it wasn't of course. We had a ministerial change and we had an election. It started with Minister Strahl and we are not sure what kind of direction pollard getting from the new minister because he wasn't in place very long. They had a cabinet shuffle and Strahl went to other things and Minister Duncan took over. He then apparently had some medical problems and the election happen and all the rest of it. The impression we're getting is that Pollard didn't really get new instruction or wasn't even sure of the old instructions really worked. So that part we haven't been able to work on because of that. I think everybody including Canada team and us hope that all gets clarified soon. The things we have been working on and there is a few chapters that we have been working on.

One of the first one in the report is certainty, I could go through the chapters, the 30 chapters or else go through it very quickly. For certainty this is alternate to extinguishment that is been around for a long time. Canada wants to make sure that at

the end of the process what is agreed is going to be there for some time. They don't want to reopen the whole thing again in the future because people say we didn't know what happen and that wasn't what we agree and all the rest of it. They are really hoping at the end of the process there is clear understanding all the way around of the table. At the one version of how to approach this and there are other ones so we will be overtime working closely with the leadership to come right down hard on exactly what we should be doing in this area.

This is beginning of our work here and we are bringing at least one person that is senior lawyer that work with the Royal Commission when I was working with them and he is going to help us in this area. The preamble is something we just started you will notice the wording in it is probably familiar to you and the reason is Chris when he was developing this after we had some basic discussions that we would like to have a preamble. We went to declaration, we went to the Dehcho Declaration basically he is using the number of the main points that is in the declarations.

One for instance we assert, the Dehcho Dene assert that the aboriginal title and rights cannot be extinguish by any government. Another one the Dehcho assert that the laws of the Dehcho Dene are from the creator and are not allow to be seeded, release, surrender or extinguish. One of the other one goes on talks about how teaching of the elders with regards to the principles of the Dehcho government operations in the future.

We are looking at something that would be at the beginning of the agreement. This is something that we just started working on and we don't yet have clear directions from the assembly or the leadership and it just a working progress and the beginning. We showed it to Canada a few weeks ago and explain that we don't have clear direction on it yet. So we don't how it is going to look like in the end because there is going to be a lot of input. It gives you an idea of what we are thinking at for the beginning, most agreements have some kind of....and what they are after in certainty isn't in some way contradicted here. There is going to have to be some work done here for sure.

We have done a lot of work on harvesting basically the aboriginal rights to harvest or the treaty rights that were recognized in 8 & 11 and will continue to be recognized in the Dehcho Agreement. We have been looking at harvesting rights in a number of areas, first of all for Wildlife, Migratory birds, trees, plants. We actually have different chapters covering different parts. On the lands that the Dehcho will keep for themselves that they would retain, or Canada says select. The harvesting rights of the Dehcho is throughout the Dehcho territory. Trees for instance, on the lands that you would be keeping for your selves and retaining you would own the trees so you can do with it as you wish. You will be able to pass legislation to decide what kind of rights the Dehcho people will have and if you want to use it for economic development and you will be able to control it. Likewise with the plants and berries and so forth on the lands that you will be keeping. Off those lands and the rest of the Dehcho territory you will continue to have rights to harvest trees, plants, animals and bird so forth year around. If you want to see the specifics when you go to the actually chapters themselves there is a chapter

on Wildlife Harvesting and Migratory Birds, elsewhere there is a chapters on plants and trees.

In addition there will be a chapter on what is call a Harvesters Compensation and this something similar to other agreements but there is some changes in this proposal. In the Sahtu, Gwich'in and Tli Cho agreement if someone is trapping and their trap line is damage by developers then you can be compensated. Here we are trying to get more than just hunters and trappers; we are also getting compensated for people that have areas that would be affected.

We are having a bit of trouble in that part and the government has no problems in relation to what other agreement we already have in relation to hunters and trappers been affected on the land, their cabin and trap line. When we try to go a little bit further on other agreement then they start having problems. We are also trying to get something we are calling a traditional advocate.

We are thinking that it would be very useful to have an office that can help people that are on the land, help process their claims if something happens. We are thinking that all government should be involved in it, Canada, Dehcho and GNWT should be involved in it. This office should be recognized by all three government and if somebody's trap line is affected and they can go to this person and say here is the facts, can you put a claim together for me. What we keep been told is sound like a great idea why don't you guys go ahead and do it. You can do it on your own, you pay it for yourself, you have the authority in the Dehcho Government to set it up.

Our response back is that's true and in the end if we can never can convince you, the Dehcho can do it themselves. But it would be better to have an office that is recognized by all three Governments right off the top, if somebody comes forward and makes a claim and this advocate comes forth and everyone recognize it. So far we haven't been able to come on board with that.

On governance, in relation to self- government and the jurisdiction of the Dehcho government and the community government, there is a number of chapters which are here; some of the jurisdiction is broken out by itself. Like education, social services and social housing and so forth, but in other instances it's together. For instance on tap 26 you will notice it says regional government or another term which we normally use is Dehcho government. We have a chapter that outline some basic what we call boiler plate things that all governments in this agreement kind of go through. It talks about how the government would be able to borrow money and enter into contracts. Internal things like amending the constitution, at the time of effective date which will be when the Dehcho agreement is finalized.

We also have to have a Dehcho constitution, which some work was done in previous years, but it would be expected that at that time the constitution would also have been pass through assembly, referendum or something like that. One of things that the

Dehcho government would be able to do is make changes to that constitution. You will notice that in the 1-3 at the bottom of the first page it talks about the Grand Chief. One of the things at some point we are going to need some clear direction from you, yes or no, we have a Dehcho Grand Chief. We say the person always has to be a Dehcho Dene, in this case here were saying elected at large.

We are taking the direction that happened a few years ago. There was a possibility that the Grand Chief would be elected by everybody and the office took a look at how much it is going to cost to have an election were every Dehcho adult old enough to vote. To have an election was going to cost quite a bit of money so at that point they say let's wait until we have Dehcho government. One of the important points here is the Dehcho resident that means not only Dehcho citizens but also people that have been among the Dehcho long enough. They say residence at the moment should be five years, Canada is saying two years, somewhere along the way we will arrive at an agreement. Anyway those people could also vote and we will keep bringing it up until we get clear direction. We are also saying that the Dehcho would also be the Chief of every Dehcho community government.

In the Dehcho community government chapter you will notice that to become chief you have to be a Dehcho person. So the Grand Chief has to be a Dehcho citizen and each of the chiefs has to be a Dehcho. This model has each chief immediately when they get elected for their community Dehcho government they also become a member of the Dehcho government at the regional level. Bringing you back to the previous page just before the Grand Chief, it says the governing body of the Dehcho Government that exercises its law making power and its primary executive functions will include **“at least”**. At least the Grand Chief, a Chief from each community and the next one (c), one representative from each Dehcho community selected by the residence of that community.

All we are working right now is Agreement In Principle, if you want to leave it just like this for now that could be okay. But in the final agreement, in the Dehcho agreement you will probably want to decide one or two things. When we have a leadership meeting we have the same number of people from each community, big or small come to the leadership meeting. When we have an assembly like this we take into consideration population size. Now we are talking about what the Dehcho Government is going to be like in the future and we had discussions with the leaders, we had workshops and we also held community meetings in communities where we've ask people what they think.

We are not getting unanimity; we're not getting the same answer. The answer we are getting so far is when we go into bigger community says we think it's fair that our population is taking consideration. Sometime it is not always when we've been in a small community they say we should keep it the same. In the end we are going to have to come down one way or another on this. One way it might be resolved is that every



community could have at least the Chief and one other and depending on size of the community then they could have more for those bigger communities.

Another thing that Richard Lafferty did for us, he brought up at one of the leadership meeting is, he took a look at how expensive it is to have the MLA's, the members of the Legislative Assembly for the NWT. It is quite expensive to have even one member, never mind two or three. That is something that needs to be look at and decide at some point. For AIP we can probably get away with this but at some point we are going to have some clear directions. The majority of the members will be Dehcho citizens, on and on it goes. The Dehcho constitution should be assessable to everybody. If we start going through a whole series of general powers, which are very simple straight forward, this is what any government in the world can do. Can enter into contracts or agreement, can buy and sell property, houses, buildings, lands and that kind of stuff. Can raise money, borrow, can be sued, can form corporations and so forth. You can delegate some of your powers, the only thing you can't delegate is law making, you can do administrative delegations.

Under law making, we start listing out some of the things that are going to be in the list of powers that the government is going to have. Remember we also have other things like education stand on their own and everything. Here we have under law making for the structure of Dehcho Government, internal management and the management of the exercise of rights and benefits provided under the Dehcho Agreement for the Dehcho citizens. You will notice the word exclusive there, there is a little number beside it. It says for then there is a footnote at the bottom talks about for. When you are reading this you will notice that there is little footnote, the footnote are there because those are the areas where there is disagreement or there is something to keep in mind for the future. Most of the time its area where we actually have to do some negotiating with Canada or the GNWT as the case may be.

In this instance what they are getting a little excited about is the word "exclusive". Canada is approaching the recognition of the Dehcho Government, the same as they are doing across Canada. There approach is that is has to be concurrent any jurisdiction you have has to also be exercise by another Canadian Government. For instance if you are exercising the power to come up with laws in education then obviously if you are in southern Canada the province would also be able to do that. In the north of sixty is the Government of the Northwest Territories. We push back and forth on this and finally became clear that they were quite adamant.

In our regular reporting to you we made it clear that "exclusive" is an area that they get quite hot under the collar about and so the way around it is to clarify who has the more dominant power. Another way is whose law pushes the other out if there is a disagreement. You will notice as you are reading there is always a section call conflict of laws and in this case each area of jurisdiction you will have section dealing with conflict of laws. The reason that's the case is in case another government legislated in the same area as you, we wanted clear whose laws overrides the other one. Sometime



it's very simple we just say it's Dehcho Government, sometime we say it's ninety-five percent is Dehcho Government and a little area that either Canada or GNWT is keeping so it gets clarify in each area. There is a whole list there under law making and we list out a number of things.

Going onto some other areas and look at how the powers continue, let's look at Adoption. We are looking at adoption as the head of power that the Dehcho Government would be able to enjoy. Right at the top, little number two, says base on the premises we are dealing with public government. Dehcho Government would have jurisdiction with respect to adoption of children; (a) Dehcho citizens in the Northwest Territories, right throughout the NWT. Then (b) persons residing in the settlement area, the reason we have an a & b is the first one is for Dehcho people, Dehcho citizens and their children and you will have jurisdiction throughout the NWT for your own. In relation to the fact that you are a government that will make laws not only for Dehcho citizen, but for people that are living among you. You will be able to have jurisdiction in relation to adoption for other people living in your area.

There is certain principle in (a) (1) (2) that the government is asking the Dehcho people to keep in mind. These fairly typical kinds of principle that government operate by and this is something GNWT operates by. In regards to social work, the laws made under one up above should be in accordance with the principles of acting in the best interest of the child. Shall require that the person, or the person having lawful custody of the child consent to the adoption of the child and persons or persons having lawful custody of the child consent to the application of the Dehcho Government Law. There is a "may", in (e) it says may, if the birth parents or parent do not have lawful custody of the child to be adopted give the birth parents the opportunity if practical to express the preference for the adoptive parent. Under standard it says the Dehcho Government laws made pursuant to (1) (a) shall provide for standard comparable with the NWT adoptive core principle.

In the back there is some principles that they are referring too and its things like the best interest of the child, stable, safe family this kind of stuff. They want to make sure that your laws in the future will conform with a certain kind of high standards. Information sharing, the government will share information back and forth when going to court proceedings. A person adopting a child under the Dehcho Government Law may make an application to the Supreme Court to certify the adoption. We asked them what would that be for and basically they said it is comfort for the parents. Under conflict, every time we come up with jurisdiction we have to clarify whose laws can bump out the other one in case there is a conflict. Here it says in any event of a conflict in between the Dehcho Government Law made pursuant to this chapter and the Federal Law or NWT Law, the Dehcho Law prevail to the extent of conflict. I will leave it there for now and continue in the morning.

Chair, thank you Georges. Again we will bring our meeting to an end, but I like to call up Joe Tambour to address the assembly and then we will wrap up with closing prayer by Elder Gabe Hardisty.

Joe Tambour advises that he is interpreting for the assembly but has been notified by family that his wife's nephew has died in Edmonton by a passing vehicle hitting him while on his run. Therefore it is getting hard to translate and I am asking the Creator to give me support. A person close to family passing on is hard and I feel that way now. I am asking the members of the assembly for their support and prayers for my family. I will be leaving Thursday afternoon. Mahsi Cho.

**6:30 PM - Closing prayer by Elder Gabe Hardisty.**

**Dehcho First Nations  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly  
June 27-30, 2011  
Pehdzeh, Denendeh**

**Day Two (Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>)**

9: 30 AM Chair Herb Norwegian, call meeting to order.

Opening prayer by Elder Ted Landry.

Chair Herb Norwegian, thanks Elder Ted Landry for prayer. Today we will continue with the Dehcho Process and following that by AAROM Report.

Chief Negotiator Georges Erasmus continued with the Dehcho Process report and just summarized what he went through yesterday. We will stay with the brown binder and continue.

Tab 4

DFN Child & Family Services

First we define the Child and Family Services the protection of children, support of family. Under jurisdiction it says the Dehcho Government would have jurisdiction in the settlement area. It's not only the retain lands or the land selected but for the whole settlement area the Dehcho Government would have jurisdiction in relation to Child and Family Services. The Government would prefer that you have one person that has the responsibility to determine whether the child is in need of protection, therefore within your government you would create such an office. The Dehcho government would be requested to have standards for the protection of children and be that would apply the principle of acting in the best interest of the child. Court proceeding in regards to a child in the NWT is brought before courts and if it's a Dehcho child and Dehcho Government would have standing.

There are a numerous heads of power that Dehcho Government would exercise. In the brochure it shows the jurisdictions and covers the government structure, internal management, citizenship, management and protection of Dehcho land outside of the communities including parks, renewable resources, non-renewable, including minerals, mining, rivers, lakes, pollution control, environmental management, protection of heritage, language and culture, training, social assistance including social housing, child and family services, adoptions, intoxicants things like liquor. Wills and estate, education including post-secondary education, marriage, vital stats, alternative dispute resolution services, practices of traditional medicine, taxation including income tax, in the communities, the community would have control of property tax. Regional economic development, education services, sub-surface land and resources including royalties,

roads, election, public safety, inter-government services, regional protected areas, borrowing, emergency measures, justice which we are just starting, we had one presentation from the justice department and Canada is doing a first draft of what justice chapter might look like. Research license, tourism, gaming, museum artefacts', intellectual property, labour standards, holidays etc.

Some of these things we are seeking and which government either Canada or the GNWT might resist. For instance things like professional certification and standards, I think the GNWT had suggested that they would prefer that not be something that the Dehcho Government controlled. Getting back to the big book then you will notice that of the things I listed in many instances we are beginning to have chapters in that area, but in some instances we may not yet have a chapter. For instance you don't see one on justice and that is still been work out.

## Tap 5 Community Governance

Over the past winter we brought to the leadership meeting a number of times and final we have been given approval at the spring session to go ahead and presented to Canada so we have begun the process of negotiation with Canada. The footnotes in the bottom of each of the chapters means that's the area needs to be work out. Usually it outlines an area of dispute and so either Canada or GNWT will say we don't think that is right or here is a different way to go.

In this one here it outlines the first thing we will do is list out the communities and one, one we will have a full list of our communities. The first thing will be each community will have a clear boundary. The approach we are taking at the table is that each community will outline how much land they will need for a hundred years of development. Then we will have some boundaries, those lands will be community lands, each community will control their own community land. We expect that it will mean that the parcel of land that the communities outline will be quite large.

The first thing is structure and administration of Dehcho Government at the community level would be under the control of the community. It means that you can change your structure, your administrations as time goes on. We will have to provide for transitional arrangement which means that to go to a Dehcho Community Government we now have of course a Chief and Council under the Indian Act. In some communities we have hamlet council or system of local government from the Territorial Government and we also have some Métis Local in some instance. So in the future we will have one political structure so there will be some transitional arrangements.

The next thing is we will set out the powers of the Dehcho Community Government; it will describe the process in which the Chief and Council of the Dehcho Government will be selected. In (g) talks about title because the lands in the communities will be handed over to the Dehcho Community Government. We now have different kinds of title,

sometimes we have Commissioners Land we have land reserve for Indian housing and we have different types of land including privately held land. What will happen is that in the future most of that land will be handed over to the Community Government and we will go from there. Privately held land will continue to stay with the private title holders. And so what (g) means is that certain types of titles will be cancelled and (h) there will be a new issuance of title.

In the next area under Community Governance we have the structure of the Community Government. We say that the Community Government will be comprise of a Chief and an even number of councillors and no community will have less than two councillors. Footnote (5) the suggestion from the Government of the NWT is that there should be a minimum of four. Then we have a listing and that could be very good advice. This is not, you have too, it's just saying you can't have any less than that.

You will notice that depending on the population there is a listing of how many councillors we could have for the time being that's the terminology that is being used. We held a number of meetings in the communities and at one point we were talking about up to four, for communities less than five hundred. The direction we were given from the community consultation was that we should go up to six that was because a number of our communities already were doing that and they found that it was quite useful even though they were from the smaller communities. What we have here is that the maximum numbers of councillors for a community of less than five hundred would be six. From five hundred up to a thousand the max will be eight and from a thousand or more would be ten.

Following that in (2) (2) we list out a number of interesting thing, the first one is that and remember this for agreement in principle, so there will be a final agreement after that. The first one says that the Dehcho Agreement which is what we are calling the final agreement would recognize the right of Dehcho communities to choose their own leadership according to Dene custom rather than by election. Canada is wondering about that how that would work in relation to fact that not only the Dene but residence would be involved. Never the less that has been the position form the original Dehcho position and so we have continue to carry on with that. So it means that whatever the custom it will be it could change from time to time but that is one method of choosing a leadership. In (2) we say in the communities where residence would be important, to define residence in the Dehcho community for the purpose of this chapter.

The reason we are saying that is that because we are going to have a government that is going to be both of Dehcho Dene getting elected plus or appointed, selected however the custom may be. We are also going to have resident that are Canadian that have been here enough years to participate. At the moment we've been seeking five years, Canada is suggesting 2 years be sufficient and they could be right. We are also working on guarantee seats so the question of residence then becomes quite important. Those communities that will be electing their councils to describe the eligibility criteria for Dehcho community government elections.

We would also expect that the communities would describe the grounds upon which and the process for removing chief and council. And (e) just goes on and say that, for those communities that elect their Chief and Council provide for a candidate for chief or candidate for council to be acclain without an election if there is only one person. And (g) we thought it was quite important were looking at a Sub-Chief position and because of the way that we are looking at Dehcho Government regionally and Dehcho Government at the community level working together, is the role of the Sub-Chief becomes quite important. The way we have looked at this is that when you elect the Chief, Chief is the leader of the community and community government but then immediately the Chief is also on the Dehcho Government at the regional level.

In the future when you have Dehcho Government fully operating, you have departments of government, cabinet perhaps and you have political leader, perhaps it is the Chief running the community and sitting at the Dehcho Government when they are holding sessions away from home. But then if they are running a department , let's say they are Education Minister may not be home very often. So the person at the second position at the community level of Sub-Chief might end up being kind of a de facto community leader for part of the time, so we think the Sub-Chief is going to be important.

We go on to some detail in (2) (3) if you are electing your Chief, I would go ahead, Canadian citizen, this is clarifying who is eligible to vote for the Chief. Canadian citizen is resident in Dehcho community for at least six months and has been a resident in the Dehcho Denendeh that's the retain land or in the Dehcho community for at least five years. Canada is suggesting two and they may have a point and at least 18 years. The recent Sub-Chief elections with the Grand Chief for the Tli Cho pointed out something interesting for us. They have two years before one of their members can run.

James Washee for instance was living in Yellowknife for a long time and the way the Tli Cho have their agreement, if you are a Tli Cho citizen and living in Yellowknife you can vote for the Grand Chief and you can vote for other things. But to actually, if you, yourself want to run for the Grand Chief you have to live in Tli Cho territory on their land or in one of their communities. So James discovered that when he, in previous election when Joe Rabesca ran and got elected a couple years down the road, he wanted to run but he had been living in Yellowknife for so long and he didn't have the residence. Anyway he had a house built in what use to be Edzo and he moved there. When the by-election happen now he wanted to run again and he just made it under the wire, he was just a little over two years by then so back in his home community, so he could run. But James had been one of the people working on the Tli Cho agreement and he had been pushing for five years, so had he been able to do what he wanted he still would not be able to run for another three years.

In the end maybe Canada has a point in that two years might be enough and it's the guarantee seats that in the end are the real protection because what we are looking at is the Chief is always a Dehcho Dene and half of the seats are guarantee Dehcho Dene



at the community level, likewise at the regional level in the Dehcho Government. The Grand Chief has to be a Dehcho Dene and at least half of the seats have to be guarantee Dehcho Dene. When we say guarantee we don't mean the other seats are guarantee for other people, the other seats are just open so anyone can run for them. Sometimes when we describe this I get the impression that some people think oh, were going to have half non-Dene, half Dene that's not the case. It just means that half of the seats can only be Dehcho Dene; no one else can run for them they have to be guarantee.

The other seats are open so means Dehcho Dene can run their own people, they can get elected and you could fill it completely. But some people still get a little bit confuse maybe it's the translation but it means that you can never lose the majority. Maybe we can go to the powers, some of the powers of the community government in (4). It starts listing out a whole list of things, the management and use in the protection of lands, the purchase of real property, expropriate so if the Dehcho community government wants a certain piece of land or say a school, fire hall or a road then they can go to the person that owns the land and say can you sell us this land, we like to build a school here or community hall, fire hall whatever. If the person says I don't want to sell and the community looks around elsewhere and comes back and says this is the best place, sure you don't want to sell can we offer you more money, no, I don't want to sell.

In the end like all other government in the world the Dehcho Government will be able to expropriate the land if they want. They can take the land, they will have to pay for it, pay a fair value for it but like other government they will be able to expropriate it. They also have controls of everything like public order, peace, safety, programs and services, water and sewer obviously, garbage, public nuisance, by-law enforcement, again intoxicant, liquor, community roads, local transportation, business license, local domestic animals like dogs. Gaming, fire protection, motor vehicles, emergency preparedness, community logo, flags; crest this kind of stuff and other matters of local private nature.

Again we have inconsistency or conflicts making it clear that the community government laws overrides, in some instances obviously wouldn't be the case but where the laws are very clear in relation to community government and obviously community has the power to override other government. We have possibility of expansion of the community boundaries, so we are going to start with large piece of land but down the road if the community needs to expand we can do that. We also have a section talking about relocation or in some cases maybe even shutting down the community, dissolving the community. Possibility of creating new communities if that happens and we have an appendix talking about if the expansion of new community is going to happen how we would go down the road. So this is something that we have recently introduce and have had maybe two or three session now, the footnotes describe the areas where either Canada or the GNWT had some issues.

One interesting point is that with the Tli Cho government negotiations this area was something that was provided through the Government of the Northwest Territories Legislation, it wasn't provided through the Dehcho Agreement. We are approaching it a little bit differently and so is the Government of the Northwest Territories. The agreement will basically outline the powers of the Dehcho Community Government.

#### Tap 6 Dehcho Community Land

We have just begun working in this area and as I said earlier on the effective date the lands would be transferred to the Dehcho Community Government. The lands would be survey by Canada, paid for by Canada and we would know where the clear boundaries are. As I said earlier the private title land would continue, that's existing interest. There is a section on contaminated sites and in case we have a problem with contaminated sites obviously it should be deal with very clearly as to who has the responsibility to clear them up. In case there is a problem it would go to the dispute resolution chapter. There is going to be a chapter in the agreement dealing with different dispute and that's actually one of the chapters where we have more or less finish the chapter now.

#### Tap 7 Culture, Language and Heritage

On the language and culture, this is something that we have been plucking away at for couple of years. Recently it came back to the table with something that where beginning discussion on and we will have to get clear direction from the Dehcho on this one.

Basically the approach is to have Dehcho Government in charge of language and culture rather than other government. We are looking for things like exclusive law making on Dehcho Denendeh in relation to the preservation and management of burial sites, heritage resources, heritage sites, sacred sites, spiritual sites, there's been a lot of work done trying to figure out the difference between what is sacred sites and spiritual sites. Some of the elders have been consulted on this and I am sure that we will have many, many more presentation from people before this one is finished. Language and Culture the Dehcho Government would have the authority to enact laws in relation to Dehcho cultural, heritage. We know that language revival, retention and development is extremely important.

For some time now we presented to Canada that we would expect that the government provide us some monies to help revitalized the Dehcho languages. We brought this up a couple of years ago and the way we brought it up was we were having a discussion on the two official languages in Canada French and English. The importance of Dene Zhatie for the Dehcho and the government surprisingly agree with us that it was very important that they provide some monies in this area. The obvious issue comes up,

how much money are we talking about because obviously if you are talking about what's happen with the French language across Canada, we are talking about a tremendous amount of money. It's not an open ended thing by any means but what is interesting is that they even acknowledge that this was an area that they supported us in getting. So we have not come up with a figure and it's going to be one of the areas where we are going to have to cost out what we are talking about.

In the end that's where the battle will be I am sure is how much money we are seeking for numerous things. One of the recent suggestion when we had a discussion on this in the last negotiations was that from one of the government was that maybe heritage should be removed from this and be put in its own and just have culture and language by itself, so maybe in the end that will be the case. You will notice that if you flip to the back in tap 4, looking at the numbers on the left hand side. It says cultural and language advocate we thought it was important to push for a position and we are calling it an advocate, you might want to call it something else.

This position we are suggesting should be funded jointly by Canada, ourselves and the Government of the Northwest Territories. This office would advise the governments in how to use their respective authority that would respect and promote Dene Zhatie and culture ways of life of the Dehcho Dene. A person might be appointed for a specific period and resident in the NWT is fluent in at least one of the languages. We are looking at a Dehcho Language Board and we thought that this person would naturally work as the chair of that board.

Tap 8

Dehcho Resource Management Authority/Forest Management

Dehcho Resource Management Authority this document is old and the reason is we haven't been able to do a lot with this. It caught up with us and the Pollard exercise the whole business of how the development is going to go ahead. Canada has not made any final decision on it so they are not ready to discuss this. But I just want to point out a something here which is still involving thing. Original the Government wanted to go down a different route besides plugging in the Dehcho Management Authority but in the end they were prepare to consider that.

There is two things to keep in mind, the approach to trees is that, the trees on the land will be retain or selected by the Dehcho will be owned by Dehcho. The rest of the trees and how management should occur there, our thinking was that the Dehcho Resource Management Authority was the best way to proceed. So the discussion we get into with GNWT and we haven't had the discussion for a while now is whether the Dehcho Management Authority will actually made decisions or will be advisory for the trees that are beyond the lands that are selected by the Dehcho.

Tap 21

Migratory Bird Harvesting

Migratory Bird Harvesting as I said yesterday this is basically finished. Some of the definition that are being used in the Migratory Birds and the Harvesting chapters. Anywhere in the chapter there is a word in capital and in the middle of a sentence and it doesn't make a lot of sense. The reason that the word is capitalized means that the term is going to be defined.

We are starting to define the terms as we go along and in Tap 9 there, this is an example of some of the definition that is starting to come along. For instance here the first thing is it defines harvest, means the taking or attempting of taking a wild life, migratory birds, trees, plants, fish etc. Harvesting includes the following activities, hunting of wildlife, migratory birds, trapping fur bearers, fishing for fresh water etc. We had to define subsistence and personal use and that is there. Commercial is going to be defined and cabins so the work continues. There is a small definition for trades, means to barter exchange buy or sell in the context of harvesting.

The reason we had to define that is in each of the harvesting chapters there is a number of things you can do with it. One of these you do is you can barter trade the parts of the birds, plants, and wildlife. You have the rights to harvest birds throughout any time of the year. In appendix A, we are going to in the end come up with a map and that is probably going to be an interesting discussion. Migratory bird means, migratory birds referred to in migratory birds convention and it includes the eggs embryo and parts of the birds.

This particular chapter is something that Canada is very interested in and have been keeping a very close eye on because of course they are responsible for migratory birds. They have migratory bird convention with USA and Mexico. You have general rights to hunt migratory birds throughout all times of the year. That rights can be limited for a few small reasons, one might be for the purpose for conservation and there might come a time when the birds are threaten, public health and public safety.

In 1-4 we said Canada will consult the Dehcho Government prior to limit or restriction. Then we talk about in the event of emergency Canada may impose an interim limitation. There was lot of discussion on this and other harvesting chapters, it all became real because we had the caribou situation and so all of sudden harvesting any of animals or birds became very real. Therefore we had to discuss what would be the cases those limited instances in which Canada might impose limitation and how short it would be.

In 1-5, in the event of an emergency Canada may impose interim limitation or restriction under 1-2 as soon as possible or after Canada will notify the Dehcho Government and provide reasons for that decision. Canada will consult the Dehcho Government with respect to any ongoing terms and conditions which may result from that event.

In 1-6, Canada is quite insisted on this one, nothing in the Dehcho Agreement will be construed to a) recognized the right to harvest migratory birds for commercial harvest or sell. They are quite adamant on that. What they are saying is you have the rights to hunt any time of the year, they might restrict temporally for some reasons, no right for commercial harvest, you don't own the birds and they can't guarantee the supply. There have been a lot of discussions on 1-7, Dehcho citizens will be not subject to any tax fee or requirements for license for migratory bird harvesting. There is no disagreement in substance here, Canada keeps telling us no we are going to impose a fee or requirement for a license to be paid for the Dehcho citizens to hunt birds. We wanted to put tax in there to go even a little bit further and they brought in their tax people and we had a discussion and we made our case because we wanted to be sure that in the future no Dehcho Dene has to pay for a fee or requirement for license there, no problem with that and they completely agree.

Then we said we don't want in the future to be taxed in case down the road they decided to cost us for hunting migratory birds. We might not be able to win this one as they are quite adamant that the word "Tax" is something that they have serious problems with. The department of finance would prefer we use anything else rather than tax and so that's why the little footnote is there. In essence there is no real disagreement. Canada is definitely on side that there would be no fee for the Dehcho to hunt birds.

When they talk about documentation so that in the future when you are on the land and in case someone comes along and says what are you doing there, you can also show them an ID card it says I am a Dehcho citizens and I have the right to live here hunt, fish and trap etc.

1-9 talks about method, you can use any method and 1-10 we had a fair amount of discussion on. This is if you are taking parts of migratory birds to other parts of Canada, we had a lot of discussion on this. In the end we said there will be no fee, no requirement to penalized license from Canada or the GNWT. We had discussion about the provinces and they said we can't force them to agree, so you are dealing with two governments here GNWT and Canada. We can tell you that for us you will not have pay for this or be subject to getting a license.

Gifting and trading these are part of the reason why we had to define trading and in 2-1 it says Dehcho citizens have the right to gift. And on gift we have a "G" that is quite large in capital. It means that gift has to be defined and it has been. The first thing is a) you have the right to give non-edible parts of the birds to anybody and in b) the edible parts to any individual for non-commercial consumption.

Then in trade 2-2, the Dehcho citizen has the right to trade. First we deal with non-edible parts that will be bones and feathers etc. Dehcho citizen can trade non-edible with any individual. Second part is the meat, the edible parts can be traded to other Dehcho citizens or members of another aboriginal group with whom the Dehcho had

traditionally traded. And we had been asked to provide a map or a list or both of all the people that overtime, traditionally the Dehcho traded with. Some other agreements, I think the Tli Cho just took Alberta, they just said we traded with people from Alberta so they are just going to use the province as the boundary. We started looking at maps from the old days where all the Athabaskan speaking people, all the Dene were and were looking at how close people were. In the end we are probably looking at Western Canada that we can gift and trade with. We are dealing with Migratory Birds, but the same kind of thing happen for Wildlife, plants and trees. So in each area you can harvested year around, you can gifted and trade.

### MB.3.0

#### Overlap and Shared Use Agreements

Dehcho First Nations may form a relationship for harvesting with other aboriginal groups through the overlap or shared agreements. For instance if we want to arrive at an agreement with the Tli Cho or the Sahtu so that they can hunt and fish in your area and you can do the same in theirs. In Access, we say Dehcho Citizens have the right of access to all land and water for the purpose of harvesting migratory birds, so again Appendix A is going to be that map. On crown land you can establish camps to do your hunting and in 4-3 it says there is a limit on access and this kind of interesting one that they had for some time and I think they use in southern Canada on Indian Reserve. Also lands held in pre-simple so that's private land or if they have a surface lease for their house. But there is a limit on that if it's a really, really big piece of land, you will notice that in (b)(2) if the land is less than 10 hectors. Or (3) if the harvesting of the birds is what they would call visibly incompatible with the use of the land, or if the land is being used for national security or military purposes. So then we say if there is no unusual interference with the accruable use and peaceful enjoyment of the land. If you are going on people's private land and you shouldn't establish a camp or any kind of structure on people's private land for hunting.

Then in 4-5 if you have an agreement with the owner or the Government to hunt on their private land or go on the Indian Reserve or the military says "well we have a big piece here", no problem. As long as you have the go ahead, no problem. Under consultation in (5) Canada will consult the Dehcho Government prior to introducing any new legislations or amending the existing legislation that have any effect on the rights to harvest migratory birds. Our role in management what we say is that, prior to the final agreement, the role of the Dehcho in the management of the Migratory Birds will be sorted out. Final under emergency nothing in the final agreement will prevent any individual from killing any migratory birds for survival and emergency.

As I said when we look at each of the harvesting chapters whether it's Wildlife, Trees or Plants then it's the same you are able to...first of all on the lands that you selected you own the trees and the plants. Off it then you have the right to harvest it all year around and you have the right to gift and trade. You will notice that some definitions after emergency, we started working on some of the capital letters and some have not been



done yet. Some point of interest take a look at personal use, it says "camp". It means a group of structure capable of easily being removed. Dismantle without permanent foundation meaning a minimal impact on the land incidental to excess harvesting rights under the agreement including a lean to, tent frame etc. I have been going on for quite a while maybe we will open up for questions then we can....maybe we will have a break.

Chair announces a quick break and open up....Jim Antoine, Chief Liidlii Kue First Nation.

Chief Jim Antoine, Georges is not done he is only half way through his presentation thru the taps. What we have been doing is making notes of different areas we have problem because if we get into it, it's just going to open it up so what we said here is that if we just make note and let you finish and we will go back. I wanted to speak on Community Governance, but because of the time, maybe after the break.

Chair, okay before we take a break we just wanted to recognize some people that have come into our meeting here. We have some new people, Land Use Planner, Peter Cizek and the members of the ENR personnel. Ten minute break.

## **Break**

Tab 29

Traditional Activities Advocate Chapter  
Georges reviews the chapter.

This is connected with 16 and 16 is all about harvesting compensation. We are suggesting in Tab 29 there should be a traditional activities advocate and we have a definition for it there. This is going to be a define term, the traditional activities advocate means a person funded by the parties, by the parties we mean Canada, Dehcho Government and the GNWT to act as an independent advocate for the protection and enhancement of the Dehcho citizens harvesting activities. We then list out the things we talk about. This person would be somebody to champion people that are living on the land and they come into any kind of difficult or anything like that with the development.

The traditional activities advocate will a) assist Dehcho citizens in filling claims for compensation under the harvester compensation chapter of the Dehcho Agreement. 2) will investigate and report issues and complaints by Dehcho harvesters relating to traditional harvesting. For instance the oil spill that happen not far away from here if harvester discover that and they wanted somebody to file a complaint this office here would have been able to do that.

Next, issuing annual reports on the state of harvesting and the traditional activities in the Dehcho settlement areas, investigating and identifying threats, potential threats to harvesting and traditional activities. Making recommendations to developers and

appropriate Government for reducing, mitigating or eliminating such threats. Final to act as an ombudsmen on behalf of the harvesters. Yesterday when I mentioned this, Canada says to us sound like a wonderful idea, GNWT says the same things. The big issue is getting the other governments on site, they don't have a problem with it just getting them to agree that we would all funded together and that we would be a position everybody would recognized.

Tab 12

Education – Two Options for Approaching Kindergarten to Grade 12  
Georges reviews the chapter.

In March we had a negotiation session in Fort Simpson, it was interesting candidates sitting on the side and watching the GNWT on this because as you know for a number of decades the GNWT has been administering education for Ottawa. All of sudden they came with two options, prior to that they have been only being offering us one option.

Basically the first option is what they have always been proposing. Which is that the Dehcho Government would have jurisdiction from Kindergarten to Grade 12, but there would be some very close tie ins with the GNWT. They will have a education framework, curriculum framework for instance which we would have to work with. It would be very broad and very general but the thing is something that the NWT, Yukon, Western Provinces all kind of work together and they come up with these broad educational standards. They would want us to work within that and they wanted to maintain grade 12 graduation. Teachers Certifications, a few things this they wanted to keep for themselves. So it meant that if we are going to go down this road we would have to agree with those things. Nevertheless there was a pretty broad recognition of jurisdiction from kindergarten to grand 12. We could come up with our own curriculum and all the rest of it. We have been pushing them all winter why it should be so narrow and why couldn't we choose what grade 12 should be like and all the rest of it. During March session they came up with two options for kindergarten to grade 12.

The first one was what they had been saying before and all of sudden they came back with option two which was more broad. Again they would recognized the jurisdiction of the Dehcho Government and kindergarten to grade 12. It would be stand alone, the Dehcho Government could operate its own system and the thing being that if you create a whole new system and you are starting fresh, nobody knows you. Nobody knows how good your education system is so it doesn't means necessarily that when you have people graduating there are going to be recognized by anybody. They are going to say who are the Dehcho Government, what kind of education system do they have, is it very credible and all the rest of it. So there is a down side to it but there is lots of upside.

As we were saying in the last discussion maybe in just last week or very recent, we had a video conference and we took another look at this and basically Steve Iveson was saying even if the Dehcho went with option two they don't have to implement it off the top. Which was what we were arguing at the beginning is that why can't we have this

option for down the road that allows for Dehcho when they are ready to set up their own system completely independent of the GNWT. It maybe that for a while you want to basically take over what they are doing and overtime create your own system. First you may make basic changes that you want that improves things particular perhaps in relations to Dene language, culture, traditional educational activities that you want in beliefs and so forth that you want in there.

Anyway option two allows you to do that and so this is something that we like people to think about and as a team, the negotiating team is quite excited with this breakthrough. But we see that there could be some downsides in that if you create a completely new government somewhere and you are starting fresh then you have the uphill battle of well here is who we are and this is what we have been doing. So it may will be and I would think that our people are very practical we would probably start by taking over their system and improving it. But this allows you to create your own system whenever you are ready.

#### Post Secondary Education Review of chapter.

The Dehcho Government would have jurisdiction in respect to post secondary education. To establish post secondary education programs services, institutions including curriculum. And to regulate post secondary education programs, services created by Dehcho Government. In PS 1.2 it says this is referring to those institutions created by the Dehcho meaning that there might be other university in the north, GNWT may continue on with what they started with like Aurora College etc.

It's taken a while to get here as Canada and GNWT were kind of holding back and they were saying that this was an area that was not necessary and they didn't believe that such a small population should have it. That it should centrally maintain. We kept pushing that we don't see Dehcho creating a university tomorrow but who's to say down the road that Dehcho shouldn't do the same thing as everybody else in the world when they are ready. So this recognizes the ability to do that.

#### Adult Education and Training Review of chapter.

Dehcho Government would have jurisdiction again it says in the settlement areas, it's the whole region it is not only the retain lands for adult education training, education support system etc. Under agreements is to have agreements with other governments so that you entering into shared information, again conflict of laws.

#### Early Childhood Education Review of chapter.

This is pre-school, so that Dehcho Government would have jurisdiction for early childhood education. To be able to license and recognize that the Dehcho Government would provide which are compatible they don't have to be the same but they should work with what the GNWT is doing. Again we have a conflict of law and I said earlier because of the concurrent jurisdiction, another government also exercises jurisdiction in the same area it is good to know who's laws override.

Out of School Care  
Review of chapter.

Out of school meaning that somebody has left school but they are still old enough to be in school. So the Dehcho Government has jurisdiction with respect to out of school care for children to licence and regulate facilities, to certified care givers. And once more we have the conflict of laws.

Tab 13  
Eligibility and Enrolment  
Review of Chapter

So from the start the people that are eligible are the Dehcho Dene and we define right at the top under definitions who we mean by Dehcho Dene. So a person who is descendant of a Dene who have resided on or use occupied land in the Dehcho Territory. There is going to be a map showing what the Territory is, it will be Appendix A. Prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1922 that date was chosen way back when the Dene Nation and Métis were negotiating together. Everybody has been using that same date in their agreements whether it's the Gwich'in, Sahtu, Tli Cho.

So somebody had resided or occupied that land in the Dehcho asserted territory December 31, 1922 and who identifies as a Dene or as a Métis or a person who was adopted as a child under laws recognizing Canada or by Dehcho custom. By a Dehcho Dene who resided on or use occupied land in the Dehcho territory or is a descendant of a person so adopted. We are going back to the people that were here in the Dehcho Territory December of 1922.

Then in one under eligibility we say an individual will be eligible to be enrol as Dehcho citizens in the final agreement if he or she is a Canadian citizen, permanent resident and who is a) a Dehcho Dene. 2) ordinary resident in the Dehcho settlement area and who is accepted as a Dehcho citizen pursuant to community acceptance. We are creating a category where you can have a community acceptance for someone that is not necessarily a Dehcho Dene but you want them to be part of your agreement. Some agreements have allow this and you are able to then as a community vote in some particular person or family or small group etc. Another category somebody that is adopted as a child and final is a direct descendant of anybody that is eligible. We have four categories;

1. Dehcho Dene

2. Community acceptance
3. somebody that is adopted
4. In the future a descendant of those people.

There is a category here that deals with people that are not eligible. Someone that is already in another agreement they can switch over if they want if they are eligible. There is a number of people that are eligible to be involved in more than one agreement. Most of us are I think because of family connections and so forth. If somebody has been part of another agreement or another band they can switch over. Enrolment committee will be established and we say no later than sixty days following the signing of this agreement. That is to begin an initial enrolment and the intention is to have people be enrol between the agreement in principle and the final agreement. Eventually that enrolment process would come to an end probably and will shut down for awhile. Probably with the final agreement it would resume again later on.

Part of the reason that this is important is to figure who is going to be involved in the ratification vote. People that are eligible and are 18 years and older will be involved in the ratification vote. There is a whole chapter on ratification and there will be a ratification committee. They will take the list from the enrolment and work on that list and continue the work and embellish that list to make sure that they have everybody that is possible to vote. It is important to get this work underway, it won't stop once the Dehcho Government is created and this work will continue on by the Dehcho Government.

You will notice that in three it talks about registrar and so in the future the Dehcho Government will take over the list of the Dehcho. Each community will have their own list for registrar then the Dehcho Government will have the master list. So as people are born are put on there, as they die they are taken off and marriages would be recorded. People can apply to be removed if they wish, so that's possible too. Sorry, I don't have much time to go through the whole chapter to full the extent.

Tab 18  
DFN Income Assistance  
Review of chapter.

This is one of the areas of jurisdiction that the Dehcho Government would control. And again it is in the settlement area so it is not only just the retain lands. An interesting point, the GNWT and Canada both are suggesting that 1.2 needs to be there. We cannot set residence requirements for people that are going to be eligible for income assistant. We are not able to use the residency requirement here, for instance we can't say have you been here five years. We are told that if they are in need, they are in need. You have the jurisdiction obviously you can create the kind of income assistance program, but we have been told that you shouldn't be able to restrict it.

Tab 27

## DFN Social Housing Review of chapter

The Dehcho Government will have jurisdiction over social housing and you can create programs to deal with public housing, provide for construction of new houses, to buy houses, acquisition, private ownership, renovation, rental etc. Many people have had complaints about their housing and the kind of stuff that GNWT had done in public housing, their housing programs and the rest of it. The Dehcho Government will be able to come up with their own programs in this area.

They are excluding at the moment certain items right under jurisdiction if you go to 1.2 the jurisdiction does not include 1) landlord and tenant relations; building and construction codes; and does not include social program housing provided by Canada or the GNWT.

So we can do our own thing, the Dehcho can create their own but they are saying these items are not included. We have some areas there that we are still battle away with but basically you have the jurisdiction and with some restrictions. We are also having some discussion in relation to standards. They are suggesting that standards are a must. 1) that access to social housing should be acquirable and also dealing with households that are in need.

Again we can have agreements and it's going to be conflict, clear that in the event of a conflict between the Dehcho Government Law and Federal Law, the Dehcho Government Law prevails to the extent of the conflict. This is not really the big issues, I guess the issue is what is left out to deal with landlord and tenant relations and building codes.

## Tap 28 Taxation Review of chapter.

Like other Government around the world, the Dehcho Government both at the regional level and community level will be able to tax. The final agreement will recognize that the Dehcho Government may make laws in relations to; a) direct taxation for Dehcho citizens within the Dehcho Denendeh and the Dehcho communities. This is similar to what the Tli Cho Government now have and what is the way in which agreements have been reached across Canada with First Nations Government; b) to implementing taxation agreement entered into between it and Canada or the NWT. This refers to the kind of taxation agreement that are been reached outside of the actual treaty.

We have been pushing here for the Dehcho Government to be able to tax anyone living in the Dehcho area. Since its the government that is going to have a non-Dene participating run for office, vote, we don't understand why the taxing power that in the agreement is going to be limited to Dehcho citizens only. They are telling us no



problem, no problem you are going to be able to tax everybody but we want to put the rest of your powers in a side agreement. This is what they did with the Tli Cho but there is quite a big difference between the Tli Cho Government and the Dehcho Government.

The Tli Cho Government is basically one that is restricted to the Tli Cho only at the regional level. The Grand Chief is Tli Cho, there chiefs are Tli Cho, the other members that are there from the communities are basically also Tli Cho. The Dehcho Government that's not the case. Yes we will have a majority that are Dehcho but the non-Dene will be able to vote for the Grand Chief, they will be able to vote for members sitting on council and they will be able to run for office for half of the seats.

We do not understand the reason for narrowing of the taxation power and we are going to continue to push for a broadening of your ability to tax everyone in the area. They are telling us very, very clearly that you will have that power, no problem but it wouldn't be in your treaty it will be in a side agreement. The problem we are having with the side agreement is that's all it is a side agreement and it can be change. There is some work there to be done and the way it will work is that the tax law would fill the space that the Federal Government normally enjoys. What they did with other areas in Canada where they recognized the taxing authority for the First Nations. Canada removed itself from the field and it allows the First Nations jurisdiction to fill the field. The tax that is collected is personal tax, so when you work you pay tax it is collected by Canada and it comes back to your government. This is what's happening in a number of incidents across Canada, right now the Tli Cho being the only one North of 60 that's doing it. But it's going to be the way of the future for sure.

I think I will leave it there, just a few final general comments, one point of interest that is happening every year for a while we have been getting reduce dollars. When I first came on we were getting 2.3 million for three programs that funded the negotiations. We had a bum in the negotiations money after the settlement agreement because of the out of court agreement in relation to the pipeline review process, but that expired after 3 years. We had a lot of money that could go into the communities for their sport and enhance negotiations and more meetings etc.

They started reducing that 2.3 million and last year we receive something in the range of 1.6 or something like that. This year we were told last week verbally we haven't seen the letter yet, that what they are offering us is a million dollars. It is a massive drop from where we started out. They said if we want you could go into loan funding but that's what we are going to offer you is not a loan. I recommend that we do not do that I really don't think it is necessary. We have taken a look at what we can do to make this work and we are going to continue to look at how we can keep our cost really, really tight.

First thing is that the negotiations that we have been planning for the next year. We have been doing about a quarter of our negotiation were by video conference and we are now going to basically use that system rather than travel so we can keep the cost down. We will look at other kind of measures but so we are going to have very limited

travel for the rest of the year, but there will be a little bit. I suggest that we don't take this lying down we, the chiefs and the planning meeting and the Think Tank we had in Trout. We are talking about a major trip in the fall, Chief Jim Antoine and the Grand Chief mention earlier about a trip to Ottawa. When we do that I suggest we pound on the doors for some more money. I think if we keep it really, really tight we should be able to do it without a requirement any kind of loan money. I know that there are other areas that I could of gone in here, but I am more than prepare to answer questions but I think I will leave it there as a presentation. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Georges. It is almost lunch time, we will break for lunch now and resume. Before we break we have a member of the opposition party from Canada, Dennis Bevington, MP.

### **11:50 LUNCH**

Co-chair Sharon, requesting all the delegates to come back to the table. Introduces Dennis Bevington to address the assembly.

Dennis, good afternoon I am very pleased to be here in Pehdzeh Ki which I consider to be one of the most beautiful places for a community in the Northwest Territories. Driving over is very beautiful with the mountains, overlooking the big river, tall trees and I really appreciate an opportunity to speak here today. I want to take a moment to thank all the people in the Dehcho region many of whom supported me in the election and recommit to working with you in parliament. Representing you in the very best way that I can, representing what you want from the Government of Canada. That's my goal is to represent you as you want me to in the House of Commons.

I feel that this time I am in a better position to represent Northern issues; I'm northern development critic for the party in the official opposition. I am vice chair of the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Committee. In the past when I sat on a committee I was one person, one person from the NDP on that committee. Now when I am sitting on the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Committee we have 4 people. One of them is an aboriginal guy from Northern Quebec an Inuit and we also have our critic for Aboriginal Affairs is a person that knows Northwest Territories really well, Linda Duncan.

Linda wanted to have me say to you she was thankful for the invitation to come to the Dehcho Assembly, she couldn't make it here. She is planning to go to Fort Providence for the Dene Nation Assembly and we will have a chance to meet you and talk with you there. We have a strong team working for First Nation in parliament, our work is cut out for us because of course we have a conservative majority government and there is going to be many times where we will simply out voted on issues.

I think we need to work together very well with you to make sure that what you want to accomplish in parliament in the next while. I look forward to your schedule, I know you

are talking about coming to Ottawa in September or October when parliament opens up. That's good and it's good to come not too early after parliament opens up and it's good to come at right time. We will certainly can advise you on that as well when you do come to parliament use me as your MP, I can get you a room on parliament hill for a greeting room, to hold a reception for all the MP's there. I can arrange for invitations to be send out to all of them so if you want to make a bigger effort on parliament hill my office, people work there and myself are there to help you to do what you want to do there.

There is many issues I know that I see you are making moves as well here in the Dehcho with some of the agreements you are making with the mining companies, you are making decision here and I will support you in what you are doing. It's obvious too that your concern about what happens on the land here and we of course we had this unfortunate incident at the Willow Lake River where the existing pipeline had a major spill. What we see from there that there is always, when we do something there is always cost to doing it. We have to be vigilant with the processes that we entered into to ensure when we do invite industry into the country that they come up with good solution that protect the land, that protect the environment. By engaging with industries you have on the Prairie Creek for instance you going to be able to deal with some of those issues up front in a better fashion. I encourage you in what you are doing and I hope to that we will be able to see progress on the land claim and on your land use plan which I support completely.

I find that the work you have been doing on that has brought it forward to a point where it should be well accepted by people that land use plans are instrument that are going to work for the future of everyone in the region and that they should be supported and move forward as expidiously as possible. There are many opportunities but there is many road blocks as well moving ahead. I think that we also need to consider how we are all working together in the Northwest Territories. That is going to be the debate that is going to be taking place over the next couple years about devolution. I always feel that we need to put devolution in context of a constitutional arrangements that should be among the people of the Northwest Territories. How we are going to work together in the future and is what we are doing with devolution going to move forward in the way we want constitutional development to go?

I think that's a question that we all have to ask ourselves, are we taking on powers that are going to lead us in one direction where we never said we want to go or are we taking on powers that is going to take us to where we want to go as a people of the Northwest Territories. That is to me is still a question that has to be on everybody's mind. I am not to going to take a lot of time here I want to thank you for letting me speak, but if there are any questions or anybody has any statements I like very much to heard from you as well.

I am sorry I don't have much time here today, my whole schedule got compress by the fill buster we did in parliament we did over the weekend and now I have to get to Hay River tomorrow morning for their graduation so I have to leave by the end of the day today, but I certainly will be back here every year I can. Mahsi.

Co-chair, thank you Dennis. We are going to continue on with the Dehcho Process questions and discussions. Can we have Georges and Chris back at the table?

Chair, if we can we have the Chief Negotiator back at the table and what we like to do is because we have a lengthy agenda we want to keep the discussion brief and to the point, so we will the people to be making raising questions and Chief Negotiator will try to answer them the best way that he can, so Georges do you have any further comments or that is it.

Chief Negotiator, Georges Erasmus, I will answer questions. There is lots of stuff we can go through but that's answer people's questions.

Tap 26  
Dehcho Government

Chair, the first question is from Chief Stan Sanguetz, Jean Marie River.

Chief Stan Sanguetz, thank you Georges. You give a lot food for thought when you do these chapters when you are negotiating. Of course my thinking around the lands we cannot control you mention about the DCR may controlling those outside areas. It is so important to my community and the region that DCR may...is not an advisory group it should be a group that make laws for our communities. I think one of it would be the concern that we have over the wild was the GNWT touring our communities on our wildlife act. It is something that we need to seriously look at because it is a concern. While we are negotiating GNWT is doing these things and it's ironic for them to still proceed on what they are doing after negotiating this. The only thing that I am really concern here when you brought up is about this language.

I think the recommendations maybe from this assembly or for myself and the community here is that...I think we seriously need to ask to set up this language board right away. What I am talking about is our language is fading and it is true. Therefore a while ago our children started to talk Dene language and the language being taught is good too. It is good that you are teaching yourself good language but sometimes your words are not being followed. So now with this new generation and in the future our language changes then it will very difficult for us. Therefore our language is very important to us, so when you talk about language,

Georges I wonder if we could make up the board right away. If this happens then the board would listen to us on how we can proceed with it. You are talking about powers that you have. We live in our communities we don't have powers. If we made our own constitution strong in our community it would be good. If we are going to talk about it in the future, can we start working on our own constitution and where we are going to get the money from, this is what I want to find out. In talking about money why are they taking back the money. This out of court settlement, the 31.5 million dollars that they have given us and this is our money. Therefore they are thinking that we have all this money so they are always cutting us back. It's not up to them to do this how can we work without this money and why are they cutting back on this money. They are always cutting back and how are we going to work together in the future. It is not only me saying this and others have said this also.

We need resources in our community and how are we going to do this if they keep taking money away from us. This is why I am talking about money and we don't want to go loan funding. How can we go about talking about this and it is getting harder for us but if we can get it sorted out then it will be good I think. This is why I am asking about language, thank you.

Co-chair, thank you Chief Sanguéz. Chris or Georges?

Georges, thank you Chief obviously the point you made about the need to do something right away on language is something we wouldn't disagree with but we haven't convince anybody yet about this particular office. We have brought it to their attention but at the moment we don't have any agreement about setting it up. So it's for down the road and as far as doing things like community constitution obviously that's part of the work that has to be done by the time of the final agreement.

We should have community constitutions and if you want to start on it you do have some way of requiring money that you know please do. Whatever you can without money if you want to start collecting your ideas at some of your meetings then that will be wonderful. As far as the wildlife act I guess that's coming up on the agenda so we can wait for that.

The only point I want to make at that is, at the moment Canada has certain jurisdiction they are exercising and then they let the GNWT administer some of those. As far as they are concern it's business as usual for the time being until you have Dehcho Government in the future. At any rate what they are approaching wildlife on is they are trying to keep control of wildlife management. They keep suggesting that the GNWT would be better to manage all the wildlife, the Dehcho, Gwich'in, Sahtu and the Tli Cho has the right to harvest and is there, but it better for the GNWT to do the management of the larger part.

The role they are suggesting we should have is participation in the management through advisory process. That's not the mandate we've been provided so we have

been loggerheads with them on it and that's one item that continues to be on the agenda yet is the wildlife management. But for the time being they feel that they have a right to do that and they are upgrading or modernizing their agreement because the old agreement is been there for a while, the old legislation.

Chair, okay thanks, Elder Gabe Hardisty Pehdzeh Ki First Nation.

Elder Gabe Hardisty, I will speak in Slavey. All that big binder that you guys made and lots of work had gone into it. In 1994 we had an assembly in Ka'a'gee Tu that is when they put words for us and if you sit around the table and work really hard you have to strive to make it strong for the land claims that's what the Elders told us. This word they have given us I have been thinking about it a lot and the elders that have come before us and before the white man started living among us, we are all Dene people.

How we have work on land and how we survive either winter or summer and since man time we all have our own constitution and that's how we survive and we have come a long way to this day. If you have to follow the Canada Constitution then it is not strong. Elders told us to be strong and make our own constitution and when talking about land claims bring it to the table and use our own constitution to negotiate. Rene and some people have work on the constitution and come around and gather information, but it is not strong. You seem to be following the Canadian Constitution and want it your way so that is why the word is strong on their part. If we as Dene follow our own constitution and how we survive maybe this way it will work out for us. That's what I think about when I go to these meetings.

It seem like we are letting go of Elders words and that's why we are not strong anymore. Our elders if they have been alive, they live on the land and surviving on land and know what they are talking about is good. They have been living by their constitution therefore their words is strong. This is what I wanted to say and thank you for working on the big binder but maybe it's too late or not. Our constitution is what we are working on now and you as a negotiator working on our constitution is what I am asking about at this time. If it's good or not maybe you and Chris can look it over and think about what the Elders have told us in the past. If it is good then we can go ahead and work with our constitution, but if it's not good then we can work with the Canadian Constitution. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Gabe. Georges.....

Georges, thank you very much for that Gabe. You know you just pointed out something that is not in here. There should be a chapter here on the Dehcho Constitution the items that should go in the chapter. As we brought out to you before in other meetings the Dehcho Government will have a constitution and it needs to be approved before the Dehcho Government becomes into effect. So it would be work that has to be completed between the AIP and the final agreement. What we are talking to Canada about it is the



items that will be deal with in the Dehcho Constitution. So it's kind of listing out the agenda items, Chris points out that we may actually have it in here.

In tap 26 it is in part of the regional Dehcho Government. You will notice that it outlines some of the items that is going to be deal with in the Dehcho Constitution. So it basically internal business to the Dehcho so they are not actually having to approve what the Dehcho Constitution will actually look like. But there listing out and we are agreeing with them on the items that should be deal with in the actual constitution. As you know there has been some draft done in the past, work has begun on it. It was something that a couple of times in assemblies we have looked at. There is even a time Ria before she was Executive Director came up with some others in a version that was in the Dehcho language and we had a corresponding translation in English. It is not that there is no work in the area it just that it's not finished.

Chief Roy Fabien at one point did some work for the Dehcho on that too, so at some point the work will be picked up. It will have to be finished by the time of the final agreement and so this list out here in this area some of the things that would be in the actual Dehcho Constitution. As to whether or not we are using the Canadian Constitution we are not so much using the Canadian Constitution as we have to make sure that the effects of the constitution don't hamper the aspiration of the Dehcho because we are in Canada and so yes the Canadian Constitution does apply, the charter applies. There is a basic definition of many things in there including human rights and we have aboriginal treaty rights in there.

Also then there is division of jurisdiction between the Federal Government and Provinces and the jurisdiction of the Dehcho Government will primarily be in areas of where of Provincial jurisdiction would normally fall. The reality is there is really no way around the Canadian Constitution applying and from my understanding right off the top from Dehcho position which I had no hand in drafting but it is the bases which we are approaching the negotiations on.

It says right in there that the Canadian Constitution and the Charter will apply and as far as I know those predate both Chris and I and so we are just carrying out the instructions. That will have very little effect on the Dehcho Constitution which will be the main way in which the rights of the Dehcho will operate and the way the Dehcho Government will have to operate. For instance the rights of individual Dehcho citizens will be protected against the Dehcho Government and etc. Thank you.

Chair, thanks Georges and next is Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation then follow by that is Lloyd Chicot, Ka'a'gee Tu.

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, thank you I will be speaking my language, we are settling very important issue with Canada so I will also say it in English. Chief from Jean Marie talks about language and culture of the Dene people. We need to have a language board committee because for the last 10 years I have review and there is a lot of things

that involve our language. The territorial government I don't know what they have been told, but Dehcho First Nation should put forth this committee and I want to support the Language Board committee. It's very expensive to do this and if we have it on paper it will happen.

This spring we went to YK to do a workshop. I thought after that Think Tank workshop, but still after reviewing everything to this day we haven't heard anything about it. This fall maybe what we are going to be using should be put on the table and get some people to Ottawa to present it. Dehcho have been a long time in representing us and let's get some Elders down to Ottawa and have this done. The negotiation is smaller now and that's what we have been told.

When the Elders talk to us they say protect our land, we should continue to do this and we also should protect our language. We need funding for this. Who has time and smart enough to tackle this issue and maybe we can get a committee to do this. One thing that I am kind of mix up by us, about treaty that what's we depend on in regards to negotiation. Treaty 11 how much do we have. It just like an obstacle in front of us so they stop or slow us down. Treaty rights and benefits how much is left and maybe they can tell us how much is left. Something this big like the land and Treaty 11 is about 100 percent. If Dehcho agreement is made and that day Treaty 11, if you look at the paper, Treaty 11 extends to the arctic ocean are we letting half of this go or trade it in and this is what I am thinking about. Some things are hard but if you find out about right away and it will go okay if we tell each other.

In regards to Community overlap some people are still concerns about this, so we need to work together to talk about it and let's try and work out some kind of a protocol or process. About 10 communities are concern about the boundary and how it is going to look like so we should look at this right away. We have to work together but this is hanging over us so it is not going good. We are all relatives but we live in different communities therefore we don't see each other often so this is my concern also. For now this is all I wanted to say, but there is still lots to talk about in regards to negotiations it is very important, so I thought I'll share this with you. Mahsi.

Co-chair, thank you Chief Bonnetrouge and Georges...

Georges, thank you. You brought out a couple of good points. On the Language board that is being outline on page four of the Language and Culture chapter which is in tap 7. It is something that Dehcho Government would create obviously since we don't have that yet it would probably have to wait for that, but nothing stops you from creating something in the interim if you wanted to start a board that is going to do something like help in the preservation, promotion and development of Dene Zhatie. There is nothing stopping you from doing that and we can try and track down what kind of money is possible and start the process of looking at how language can be preserved and promoted and all the rest of it obviously.

The only thing is what we are talking about here is for after when you have the Dehcho Government recognized by Canada. If you want to proceed nothing is stops you from creating something immediately. You asked about the report from the workshop I understand the facilitators are working on it. We were expecting it before now and I am not sure what's held it up maybe what it meant was that they were going from one workshop to another, to another and maybe they are back up on their reports. My understanding it is probably going to be coming pretty soon now.

In relation to the treaty rights obviously there was a lot of discussion in Trout on how we are talking about expanding and building on the existing treaties and the process obviously is all about that. So it's going to be good to see the report because it is very useful. As far as the general tone of the recommendations from the Trout Lake workshop, one that we left with was that we need to try and get as much done in a 6 month period is possible. We are considering that basically Christmas and so that's what we communicated to Canada and GNWT. Yesterday the Federal Negotiator when he was giving his report said that they will do their part to try and get as much done as possible.

Ironically since then we have actually been able to finish some chapters up to as much as we can do for the time being. It actually is starting to get there, normally we have all these chapters with all these footnotes in the bottom where there is disagreement and we have to continue on working with the rest of it. But we actually have some chapters that we can say we concluded for the time being so it's really good. Some of your other comments Chief were directed to the Chiefs, things like protocol, internal issues and stuff like that I will just leave for you guys to work out.

I'm wondering if there is going to be a lot of questions its two o'clock now I know you have a lot of major items on the agenda you want to accomplish before the supper. I wonder if we could let you guys move on to some other stuff. We have the land use presentation which you were hoping to do in the morning. We have a guest that is going to talk about her land use plan and then you want to talk about the pipeline and all the rest of it. How about it, if we leave it until the tomorrow morning and we can continue on with questions?

You can have the document you can look at through the night and you may have some more questions just from reading this stuff. That way you can deal with a number of items through the afternoon, I think Peter Cizek was hoping that he could make his presentation today and carry on he got his committee waiting for him in Simpson. So that will be my suggestion to the chair but if you want to continue on with questions we can do that too.

Chair, okay I don't see any hands of objection maybe what we will do is, we will just put it on hold for now and then will resume first thing in the morning because....Joachim, Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge.

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, can we go at least another hour on this item, I like to hear what peoples thoughts are on what is in front of us. For me this assembly could be a turning point on how where the Dehcho is going to go and what the future may look like.

Georges Erasmus, for me I wasn't trying to limit any questions or anything. Just trying to manage the meeting so if you want to spend half a day on it tomorrow or whatever I don't have a problem. We could take the rest of the day on this. Just that earlier I was listening yesterday when you guys were managing the agenda and you had some big items you wanted to deal with today like the pipeline and devolution and etc. We are not going anywhere were staying so we could, we could start tomorrow at nine and could go till noon. Not trying to limit any questions or anything like that in fact I am trying to encourage it so you can have the document longer and work on it some more. That was something that I talk to the co-chair before about how we might get these big items you guys want to deal with today that's all. Just a suggestion, if you want to keep going that's no problem.

Chair, do we keep going, most of the chiefs are nodding their heads to keep going. We have some presenters here that needs to be going today so people want to keep going, go for another hour, yes there is a nod let's continue then. Next speaker is Lloyd Chicot.

Chief Lloyd Chicot, good afternoon, just my thoughts on where we are going with negotiations and I think Joachim did hit a lot of these points. I think for our community Kakisa, the membership back home we are thankful that we do have Georges and Chris there at the table. The people that support them to do this work so on behalf of our community we like to thank them. In saying that also the other issue that people talk about is one of them is having the...you know negotiations is good everything is there we are negotiating the chapters, but one thing we lack in the community is we don't have any resources that Tim keeps always saying. As a Council you know we, for example at home most of the money that we get through our office goes through the Municipal services. Not so much through INAC we get maybe \$95,000 to basically run the office have a phone, fax machine, internet is there too but doesn't really apply.

You know we are talking about running our own government and services, taking part in education and economic development. The majority of the money that we are looking at and running all of these things are under \$100,000, probably be a salary of one person to oversee all these things. At the same time one of the things our Council tried to look at before is if there is a ratification coming how are we going to address these issues?

How are we going to set up as a First Nation? Is it going to be a straight First Nation Government, traditionally or is it going to be a municipal style government? Along with that we got Elders Advisory, those things like. You know we talk about all these issues but we don't look at those big items and that's a concern to me and to my counsellors.

Once this assembly is over we are going to have to go home and revisit those issues and see how we are going to participate at this level.

There's a lot of unanswered questions on my part, if we are going to get all this government going is there any additional money once we sign the AIP? Are we going to be using existing funds that we have through INAC? I know one thing that money is not going to increase, it's going to decrease. This is the way things happen so that's the way I see it happening. If there is going to be an increase in funding for us to do all these things and to ensure that our government is going to be in place. That additional funding is it going to come to the communities or go to the regional level to run this government and those issues that we need to clarify. We talk a little bit about it in Trout Lake and it started the ball rolling.

It got me thinking about where are we going with this and at some point these things needs to be implemented. When are we going to start looking at implementing a lot of these issues. We can talk for the next 10 years or so, but we need to start looking at how long this negotiation is going to go on. From today and we are saying we are going to go to Ottawa in the fall time. So I am thinking along those lines. Is there a message to the assembly from the negotiating team, from the leadership or is there direction from the assembly? Is there a time frame that we are looking at? These things we need to know and that is one of my concerns as one of the Chiefs that make up this region.

When does the planning start, are we going to leave it for tomorrow morning or when we are driving home? For myself I need to know what are we going to be doing within the next year, even this fall. Is there going to be a special assembly, I need to let my counsellors and the staff know these things. That's the message we should be giving out and the Grand Chief should be giving out this message to the assembly.

The assembly should be taking and giving direction to the negotiating team and to the Chief to start. We can't leave it because we did quite a bit of work within the last 20 years and it's all down here and we just need to move with it. The longer we carry this forward and it's going to cost money. At some point we are going to have to borrow money to continue this process. There's a lot of issues here and there is the Economic Development that we really need to look at. Is that on our lap or is that direction the assembly should be given the Grand Chief to move forward with. And this is the message I want to bring to the assembly. Mahsi.

Georges, thank you for the questions and positive comments on our work. We realize that the communities don't have all the financial resources they would have in this area there is no question about that. You asked a really good question in relation to what kind of money is going to be available and we have just started looking at this about a year ago.

One of the areas of money is going to be what I consider own source funding. Whatever monies you have internally if you have companies that you are running and



stuff. The taxes that you are going to be issuing and at the Dehcho Government level the ability for Dehcho Government to tax personal income means that the money that normally would of gone to Ottawa for Canada will come back to the Dehcho. Anybody in your community as long as they are paying Canadian tax on their income, the money will be collected and given back and that will be part of revenue.

Whether there is going to be more money that's hopefully the goal. It's not going to be easy because both Ottawa and GNWT are going to be tight with money. But on the other hand the reality is if you are going to be delivering service like education, social services, etc and the GNWT is going to be stepping back then obviously those monies that would be there for the GNWT will be there for the Dehcho Government. We don't have the full answers on money, but it will become a lot clear by the time we get to the AIP. We will have those answers for you for sure.

The reality is if you are going to have a government then you are going to need money to run it. There is no two ways about it and everybody knows that the closer you get government to the people if you are decentralizing then it cost more. It cost more even just to do the same thing but there is more value for it because the government is closer to the people and hopefully it means that the actually government services, programs and laws is what the people want. And getting back to cost again that's why yesterday when we started presenting what kind of government we might have and the numbers of people we might have in the Dehcho Government.

One of the things I pointed out to you was each individual that sits on government is going to cost lots of money. Even the whole NWT only has so many people, likewise in Ottawa little over three hundred kind of thing. All of that would have to be taken into consideration when you are framing your government . You ask in relation to how long for negotiations the work plan that we develop earlier this year look at when we might finish all the chapters that are necessary to get to an AIP. This is suggesting a couple of things would happen one is that somehow we would get beyond the block that Canada is put on the negotiation in relation to the Pollard process. So we can actually deal with land resources, management of new oil and gas and mining development etc. The regulatory process that has been kind of under review for ever it seems up here. Hopefully that gets out of the way in the next while and so we can actually deal with that.

Anyway the work plan suggested that by a year from this fall we would be ready with an AIP. It would of been nice to have for next June but I suspect that it will be in the late fall maybe closer to Christmas, not this coming Christmas but the next one, Christmas 2012. That's the time frame we are looking at and it maybe a little bit sooner. Obviously in there it means that there is going to have to be a tremendous amount of consolation otherwise it's not going to go away where. There is going to also a lot of decision making from people, leaders the very least but obviously many items going to have to be decisions that are made at assembly level. But that's the time frame that we



are working on and as for beginning the work on planning so that your more ready, obviously I couldn't disagree with that it makes lots of sense.

The reality is if we are going to get there it's going to have to be because a lot of people wanted us to get there and we are all working together and going in the same direction. If we are not then it's a very tight time frame. Part of the reason it's taking this long is the language of these chapters. If you were to compare it to AIP that were signed say ten years ago or even maybe five, six years ago you will notice that there is a lot more general language in the AIP. The language that is being use in these chapters is must more technically and it's much more detail. It's more the language of final agreement and hopefully the benefit will be that between the AIP and the final agreement that there will be a shorter period because there is been a lot of work done for the AIP, so that we will benefit on that part.

Chair, okay the floor is open Chris.

Chris Reid I just want to add to what Georges said I don't disagree with anything he said but it has been said several times that people want to see negotiations proceed at a faster paste. I don't think anybody wants that more than Georges and I do. We have been at this for a long time and we would really like to see the paste of the negotiations increase too. It's important for people to understand that the only way to make the negotiations to go faster is to reach agreement faster. If our instructions are not to compromise that's fine, we won't compromise we will do exactly what you instruct us to do.

But when we don't compromise we don't negotiate that's why there has been no negotiations on lands or resources in over two years. Because we table the position that's says the Dehcho insist on very, very broad jurisdiction over lands and resources throughout the whole Dehcho Territory. We understand that, that is our job to represent your views at the table and when we table that Canada says we have no mandate to negotiate that. The only mandate we have is to negotiate that is comparable to other northern agreements. So negotiations stall, that's fine I mean I am not suggesting that you should compromise neither should is Georges.

I think it is important for people to be realistic though about what is achievable in a short time frame and what is not achievable in a short time frame. The reality is in any negotiations compromises are made. I always said to people is, it is not what you compromise and in any negotiations nobody ever gets everything that they went into it. Otherwise why would Canada be at the table and if you asked yourself the only agreement that is possible for them to sign it one that gives Dehcho a 100% of what they ask for. They will leave the table tomorrow, they are walking, likewise Canada says to you take it or leave it there is nothing here to negotiate why would you be at the table if they are not going to compromise.

Negotiations always involve some compromise and the job for leadership. What leadership really consist of is identifying what you will compromise on and what you will not compromise on. Then you would give us those specific instructions. We fully respect those positions that you are in. You are the leaders you tell us what to do and we do it. Our point is simple to say that we can only work with the instructions that we are given. We never step outside of our mandate and you tell us not to compromise on the issue of jurisdiction over land so be it, it will not be compromise. But you need to expect then to that Canada position maybe then there is nothing to negotiate. Which is where we are right now on lands and resources. Just wanted to make sure that is clear and I think Georges said the same thing I just say things in a different way sometimes.

Chair, thank you Georges and Chris, Roy Fabien, Chief Katlodeeche First Nations and then Jim Antoine and then Elder Ted Landry.

Chief Roy Fabien, what I want to say is that we are people from long ago and to this land we love our land and we want it for our future children and that is why we are talking so much about it. I just want to touch base on this. Just like everybody else the amount of work that has been put into these negotiations we have come a long ways. For me I have been involved in this process since 70's and I been through the Dene/Métis negotiations as a negotiator for treaty back then. Where things are going we are repeating history here and we are doing exactly what Canada wants us to do and we.re just negotiating. Re-negotiating all the things Canada wants to negotiate with us no different than what we rejected in 1990.

But like I said there is a lot of work put into it and there are some things in here that are important to us but there are a lot of things missing too. That is probably the biggest concern that I have is what is missing. I read the pre-amble and I read the Dehcho declaration. I listen to the Elders what they wanted and I raised this issue. We are no longer negotiating the Dehcho Process the way we understood it in 1996. When we develop our Dehcho position, you are not negotiating comprehensive claim. I raised that issue and under Dehcho position we wanted to make sure that the community government or the First Nations were going to remain in tack. That somehow we are going to end up with some of the land and then we were going to share the rest with Dehcho. So we weren't going to disappear as First Nations, but the way this proposal is reading and this negotiation is reading is that there will be no more Katlodeeche First Nation and all the other first nations that are sitting around the table here.

When we talk about the Dehcho Process the whole idea was that we as the First Nations are the treaty holders and that we were going to give some of our jurisdiction to the Dehcho to negotiate a land claim for us. There will be a new government that we give jurisdiction as first nation, but this agreement doesn't come near that. In fact as first nations we completely disappear. There will be a Dehcho First Nation but there won't be a Liidlii Kue First Nation, Ka'a'gee Tu or Katlodeeche First Nation we will be gone. I raise that issue and exactly what Chris told us was what we were told.

As Chief we have no right to question the way things were going. We were told that the assembly directed them to negotiate a comprehensive claim the way Canada propose it. Like a Tli Cho Government and so that's the direction we are going. So as First Nations we are going to disappear and I wonder how many people knew that. When you authorize to go ahead with this comprehensive claim, how many people knew that you were negotiating yourself away as first nations. When I raised the issue I was told sorry we can't do nothing about that we got direction from the assembly to negotiate a comprehensive claim like the Tli Cho style government and there is no more first nation that's the direction were going. We are not going to change nothing until we get new direction from the assembly.

I am going to recommend that we make some new recommendations here. I think that is what Joachim and Lloyd was referring to. We need to look at this thing as first nation we are the treaty holders. We are the ones that sign the treaty and it's base on our jurisdiction and our sovereignty that Dehcho is getting to become a live. What is happening right now is I am be told bye-bye your gone and that's why we are no longer at the table when the negotiation happens. We wanted to try the other way but our community said "no". We don't want to give up the reserve, we created reserve under Treaty 8, the reserve exists under Treaty 8 and we are concerned. That by giving up the reserve somehow we are going to be giving up Treaty 8 and that's what we've been told here at the Dehcho table too.

The government said if Katlodeeche want to participate in the Dehcho Process you got to let your reserve go and that concerns me. Does that mean I am giving up Treaty 8? Because you guys, Treaty 8 is what creates the Hay River Reserve and I thought we were building on Treaty 8 here. As first nation we don't want to disappear and if I am going to share land with Dehcho I am willing to do that. So that there will be a Dehcho Government but that's got to be our authority that were giving to the Dehcho not the other way around. I am really concern about this and I ask a question last year at the assembly both negotiators absolutely refuse to admit that we are negotiating a comprehensive claim that the Dehcho Process although they are calling it the Dehcho Process, they would not call it the comprehensive claim. When we had the Treaty conference in Fort Simpson that's where it came out that we are negotiating our comprehensive claim. At that meeting I remember some people said "no" we don't want to be negotiating our comprehensive claim because we don't want to disappear. That's one of the concerns that I have, now I listen to the prayer this morning and I listen to Rita all the time talking about the importance of what holding, what the Elders told us to do in 1993 when they created the Dehcho Declaration. When I read the pre-amble I don't see it there.

As Dene people we have beliefs, values, knowledge and skills and our people thrive in this part of the world. Although the English people like to say you guys were surviving when we came along and just like what they are telling us is "boy you guys are lucky we came along". If we didn't come along maybe you guys would of all die but base on our Dene traditional beliefs values, knowledge and skills, Dene people were thriving when

Canada arrived. These concepts needs to be put into this pre-amble so that when we write up our Dene constitution it's going to be base on that.

Georges mentioned that I wrote the pre-amble for the Dene constitution for the Dehcho in Slavey. I included all our beliefs, what we believe as Dene people. I talk about our creator and how he said to harmonize the world. He harmonizes us with the world and he taught us how to live in harmony with creation. I talk about all that stuff but I did it in Slavey, I didn't want to translate into English because it defeats the whole purpose of what I was trying to do. But they said no translate it so I did.

Today unfortunately 90% of our people don't speak Slavey anymore. They couldn't understand what they are reading so I had to translate it. To me it really concerns me because what I am doing is I am practicing cultural genocide. I wanted people to learn how to talk Slavey so they could read what I wrote but they ask me to translate so I have to practice cultural genocide just so our people can understand. But that's the problem here this agreement when you look at this thing, I listen to the presentation they talk about cultural and language. Then they have another chapter on education what is education? This thing we need to name is what it is.

It's English education that's what they are talking about. They want to educate us, they don't want us to be Dene anymore. That's why English education was introduced. This Dene culture chapter to me is an education chapter is redone it. I say let's get rid of English education and let's talk about Dene culture and language. How are we going to do that and somebody said, Stan spoke and said he is concerned about the loss of language. I tell you guys we can do something about that today, we don't need a land claim to do that. That's our responsibility the education over language and our culture is yours and mine responsibility. All we have to do is go to the Department of Education and tell them look we don't want no more English teachers in our school otherwise we are not going to send our kids.

We don't our children to learn about English language and English culture because that's what they are teaching in those schools. So we need to change that and I talk about Dene immersion. What we need to do is take control of those schools and kick all those English teachers out and let's put our own people in there. Now what they are trying to do is they are going to have a course on the Hay River Reserve to certificate Dene teachers. We don't need to give our Dene people certificate because they are the best people to teach our culture. Therefore we need to take a look at this and we need to take control of the Department of Education and educate our children right now we don't need to wait for land claim. They want us to believe that we can't do anything until this land claim happens. Nothing is happening and Language and Culture are dying in our region.

Our elders told us this back in the 70's but they weren't saying it for the benefit of them. They were saying this for the benefit of us young people that were coming out of residential schools. We didn't know what being Dene was so they were trying to

educate us by going to Berger and coming to all the national meetings trying to teach us to be Dene. They taught me a little bit and I know a little bit now but I am still far from ever being someone like Flora who lives on the land and does everything on the land and know how to survive. The thing about it is here we have an opportunity because we are sitting together. We can pass a motion today and instruct the Ministers to turn all the Dehcho schools into Dene immersion programs otherwise we are not sending our kids anymore.

My recommendation here is somehow the chiefs need to get controls of this process and that we don't give the control to the negotiators. When the chiefs has questions we should be able to change direction in negotiations but we can't do that because they get direction from the assembly here. The negotiators get direction from the assembly and no matter what other chiefs say they will do what the assembly ask them to do. Was that the intention, I thought it was the chiefs that directed the process. We are the ones that hold the treaties and jurisdiction and we should be the ones that says this is the way it should go.

The assembly here should be directing the Chiefs and say this is the way we want you to go, they don't give direction to the negotiator. Give us direction and there is something wrong with this process because what I'm seeing is we are negotiating ourselves into a corner. Unless we change that process we are going to be in same position we were in 1990 when we voted that Dene/Métis land claims down because we weren't happy with the way it was. I understand their position and mentality but I need to let you the assembly, the people that are gather here that Dehcho Dene what is going on, what the real issue is here. The real issue is me as a chief and all other chiefs we don't have no control on what's going on. Even though we raised the issue nothing changes, I am asking you the Dehcho Assembly what is it going to be, is it going to be direction to the chiefs or directions to the negotiators. I am hitting the nail right on the head here, I am not mixing no words here. This could be a good thing and it is a good thing, but we need some direction on it. We need to be able to say Georges can we change this and he's got no choice he has to change it. The opportunity isn't there because he said well the assembly said, then I got no more authority you guys took my authority away. That's the issue I want to talk about and there is a lot of issues in here to speak to but we need to get direction to the chiefs. You need to let us control the process. Mahsi.

Co-chair, thank you Chief Roy Fabien, Georges...

Georges, thanks well Roy brought a lot of stuff and many of us heard what he had to say many times before. Most of the items were dealt with in Trout Lake and it doesn't seem to matter how we deal with them exactly the same issue comes up again. About First Nations disappearing no one is going to disappear and I thought we deal with it in Jean Marie. The only thing that the Chief is referring to is that first the British Crown and then Canada imposed an Indian Act on First Nations in Canada. And they created



an Indian Act because they expected First Nations to disappear. It was a way for people to enfranchise and become citizens in Canada.

When the Indian Act was first put in place no matter how old the first nation person became you never arrived at legal status. You couldn't vote, you couldn't run for office or hold property. You couldn't go to the bank and open an account because the whole idea was this was the way to get rid of First Nations. The amazing thing now is actually have a chief to be so colonized to the point where now it is that protects the rights. I

Remember going to one of the early planning meetings for constitutional talks and somebody stood up and said "what we should we entrance in the Canadian Constitution is the Indian Act". I mean we were so colonized that we have gone completely to the other side, so "no" first nations is not going to disappear. We are finally trying to get to the point where as much as possible of the original jurisdiction that First Nations had pre-contact is again legitimately recognized and going to be exercised by First Nation people themselves. There is no such thing as disappearing and it is final coming out of the shadows and taking the shackles of the Indian Act off you.

I don't know if people actually read the Indian Act because there is so little there that is recognized. The only authority they recognize you can bank on to do is by-law and the little by-laws they can come up with is very, very minor things. It's not finished when your Council vote on it and even if your community voted on it you have to send it to the Minister to get them to approve. If the Minister doesn't like it they don't even have to send you a reply. It doesn't happen, so no way are we working on something that is going to make First Nations disappear.

We are working on decolonizing the kind of shackles that First Nations have been kept under for so long. The only governments they recognize in the North are the Canadian Government and GNWT and whatever structures they create. They don't recognize the legitimate authority of the Dehcho people and their government so we are working on a process where that will happen and there is nothing going to disappear. Except the Indian Act, the Indian Act will be taken out of your lives, but if you want the Indian Act left in your lives then stop this process. You can continue to live on the way it is nothing needs to change. The thing is we have live with it for so long we become quite comfortable with it. We know how it operates now and if you want to keep it, far be it from me to change that I mean if want that all you got to do is nothing and it stays.

You have to work for change. I can't believe your telling us that we didn't tell you that this is a comprehensive claim process. We couldn't begin the process of these negotiations on land and quantum and other things until we were given clear authority. I mean we had this dragged out in the assembly a few years ago in Kakisa where we were debating about this resolution for just about two days. Margaret moved this compromise resolution where she talked to different people and all the rest of it and we had this first and that first etc and we try to come up with a compromise that everybody will be happy with. Still we couldn't get everybody we got just about everybody, there



was a few people voted against and everybody said lets go ahead it's the only way to go.

So how we can we now say that we are not working towards a comprehensive claim? We spend two days talking about it, there was a radio there and everybody in the world was listening to us debate it. CKLB was sending it to all the communities so in our reports it talks about how we are moving ahead on the comprehensive claim, nobody is trying to hide it, we can't how can we hide it, it has to be something we are completely aware of. I can't believe your telling us that we don't take direction from the leaders.

We brought forth a chapter that we have never been given authority before on community government. We took it to the communities, we had meeting with the leaders. We started in the fall and we had things that grab from document from before. And the leaders said give us some time to think about it. We brought it up at another leadership meeting a quarter of a year later and it is still not ready. We brought it up again and took it to the communities, we finally this spring after much debate and there was some really cautious concerns about it and we explain that nothing is fix in stones. Even when we say the chapter is finished if we find the people don't want it they want some major changes it can be changed.

The AIP we are working to is not going to be legally enforceable anyway. What is going to be legally enforceable is the finally agreement. All the way is going to be check and balance, the workshop we just had in Trout we just talk about how the leaders that were really tire of this, we got to move forward we got big issues here that we have been talking about for a long time. Everything is held up we want to do economic development we can't do that until we get our land settled. Can we move this forward, can we get something done in six months, obviously we are not going to finish it in six months, but we can we get as much done as possible. So what we said yes, but the leaders are going to have to work with us because there is going to have to be clear instructions as we are going along and things we don't have instructions on. Far from it us saying don't give us instruction what we did say, what you're talking about Roy is in relation to comprehensive claims.

The point that Chris keeps pointing out to you and I want him to say something because he was the one who is being questioned in some ways here, is that if you want to move away from the comprehensive claim model now, is the assembly that made the decision and it is the assembly that is going to have to change the model, that's the point that were making. Only on that one, on the specific about chapters and stuff like that I mean it's a moving target we need direction. It's very hard to be getting direction from a big group like this all of the time so we have to work with the Chiefs and the leaders.

For crying out loud I thought this is what we were doing I mean you look at the minutes of the leadership meetings for the last year. Who is taking up the most time were taking up the most time. We are asking you direction so I don't get it, I certainly don't want to call you a liar in front of these people but man the evidence is clear. If you don't want

me here it's no problem man I mean I can go and do something else and I never thought I was still going to be here six and half years later and still working on the AIP.

I thought this was going to be straight forward kind of thing so anytime this assembly doesn't want me to do this, no problem I have no need to be doing this for money I can go do something else. I thought I made a commitment to do this because people wanted me to do it and I was going to bring the talent of forty years of experience to this but I mean if it doesn't work for you no problem get somebody else.

I agree with the last half of what the Chief said on language and Culture. He said what are we waiting for to help to preserve our language and culture. Take our kids out of school and hire teacher, he is absolutely right, the reality is if you look around the world the languages are disappearing. Is where people don't care anymore, is where people pick up other language and so I couldn't agree more and I think Chris is in the same boat. We said this before that the reality if the Dehcho is going to preserve their language then they are going to start working on it. There is no need to wait for an agreement, Chief Fabien is absolutely 100 % right, there is no need to wait. The education process that's there right now can be made to work for you. On that point the reason is that we have a chapter on both it maybe repetitive or redundant as you said.

But for education, the reality is what we want you to have very clearly is the authority to come up with your own education legislation. In Quebec, I live there for sixteen years, it was their authority to make language law one head of power, and their language to control education another head of power that has created the kind of preservation and pushing forward their particular language and culture. We are sitting up the ability for the Dehcho to do the same thing here, but there is no reason to wait to move forward on those things. I don't see the need for the kind of concern that you have, I mean we can't do this job without the leaders giving us direction. We asked for it less than six weeks ago in Trout Lake.

We put the Chiefs on notice that if we are going to get this work done we are going to have to call on the Chiefs more often. We are going to have more meetings then, so what it means to me is this, we are not going to have physically always have to get together but we are going to have teleconferences with people and say look we are working on this chapter and everything okay up to here, but here we are not sure we need some clear direction. There is no other way we are going to get this done so as far as I am concern that's there already it has to be there. I am going to ask Chris to make some comments because I think he was squirming there when he was hearing what you were saying.

Chris Reid, actually I just want to add a couple of points to what Georges said and I completely agree with him. Chief Fabien's comments leave us in a great deal of doubts about a couple of very basic points. Let me deal with the simple one first, that is what is the meaning of Treaty 8 and 11. When I started working here I was told, by the way this is thirteen years now I have been working for you.

One thing I heard consistently from the time I started working for you is that the highest decision making body is the assembly. I will come back to that point in a minute. The other thing that I heard consistently is that the Dehcho Process is base on the oral Dene version of the Treaties not the written version of the Treaties. That's fundamental very basis. The oral Dene version of the Treaties says there were no reserve and that has been repeated for over ninety years, since Treaty 8 was first negotiated.

For the pass year I heard Chief Fabien say that the opposite is true that in fact that if there is no reserve there is no Treaty. Now the written form of the Treaty says reserve and it also says you siege, release and surrender your title to the rest of your land outside the reserve. So I think we need to know what version of the Treaty do you want implement is it the written version which Chief Fabien is relying on which say reserves are essential otherwise there is no Treaty. Or is it the oral Dene version of the Treaty which says that you are the owner of all the land throughout the territory not just reserves.

At the very fundamental point that I think we need to clarify because it is very troubling when we heard the very opposite of that for thirteen years and now it maybe reverse. The other point that needs to be clarify as I said at the beginning is, is the assembly the highest decision making body or not cause until very, very recently there was no doubt in my mind that the assembly resolutions are binding on everyone. They are binding on us of course, of course binding on the negotiators but there are also binding on the leadership. Binding on everyone, the Grand Chief must implement assembly resolutions, negotiators must implement them and the leadership must too.

But for the past year we heard in fact we should ignore assembly resolution when we are to do something contrary to those resolutions by the leadership. I am not arguing that point, I've never argue that point with Chief Fabien at a leadership meeting and I won't do it. I simply said that it is contrary to what I've been told since I started here. What I've been told that the Dehcho Constitution which not a written form is based on the assembly being your parliament, the highest decision making body and that everyone must implement assembly resolutions. That does not mean that we do not take direction from the leadership. Absolutely we do at every leadership meeting we go and ask direction.

The direction must be consistent with the assembly resolutions, to me that was always perfectly clear. If that's not the case please tell us now what the rule is, if the assembly resolutions are not binding on us we need to know that and we will do as were told. If you pass resolution here today and say "no" assembly resolutions are not binding on you then we'll operate accordingly. It will be confusing we'll have to work out how that would works but we will do our best to obey that as we always do. We will always obey leadership resolutions we've never done otherwise.

Georges said every single leadership resolutions, I am not aware of a single one that we haven't followed to the letter. I am trouble to heard that we are not following leadership resolutions, I am not sure where that idea comes from. I also heard that we were told that we told the leadership that we must negotiate an agreement base on the Tli Cho agreement. Or follow, and I think that Chief Fabien said that we told them that Dehcho Agreement must follow exactly the Tli Cho agreement. I am completely baffled as to where the idea comes from we have never said anything remotely like that.

In fact if you asked people who have been at the negotiation sessions and they are all open sessions not of them are secret. By all means please listen to the recording, go to session we at very single sessions we have reminded Federal and Territorial negotiator's that we are not bound by the Tli Cho agreement. We are negotiating Dehcho Agreement base on direction from the Dehcho Assemblies and Dehcho Leadership that is our mandate. That's why we go through these reports that we given you will see several instances where we are fundamental different from what the Tli Cho agreement says. And that is why in some areas there has been no progress for quite some time.

For example Tli Cho agreement says that the GNWT has jurisdiction over wildlife management throughout the Tli Cho Territory, throughout the NWT. Our direction is to say that the Dehcho Government will have jurisdiction over wildlife management on Dehcho lands and that what is in the documents that we table, very different than what Tli Cho says. On education we table position very different from that we reminded them every single time that this is, we are not bond in anyway by the Tli Cho agreement. If there are precedents there that are acceptable to the Dehcho of course we will use them, but only if they are acceptable to you.

We always follow the directions we were given to the letter, we will also however tell you the brutally honest truth as it our responsibility to do that. I will not sit here and tell you that we can go to the table and say to Canada you know what the Dehcho don't want a specific claim and don't want a comprehensive land claim. We will do that if you wanted us to but the truth is that I have to tell you that if we say that then Canada will say goodbye then good luck to you, go off and do whatever you have to do.

I have consistently advised the leadership and the assembly that you don't have to follow the comprehensive claim you don't have deal with TLE either those are the only two policies that Canada have. If you want to negotiate an agreement with Canada at this time yes you have to do one of those. It doesn't matter to me if fact I work with many communities that reject both those policies and assert control over their land. Some of them gone to jail for it and I have utmost respect for those people in fact I cut my rates drastically.

So don't suggest that I am arguing that you should do a comprehensive claim on the contrary. I have the greatest respect and admirations for First Nations that rejects the comprehensive claims and specific claims policy. But the reality is when they do that

negotiation ends, at least for a while and people will have to assert control over their land, they will have to kick companies out that are operating under Federal or Provincial or Territorial permit. Which mean the pipeline for example because all the permits are federally granted they are not, there is no Dehcho authority for that project.

If you want to assert control over your land you got to follow through and do that. I believe it's achievable if you are going to do that, you won't get funding to do it. You will have to take very aggressive action to do it. In the long run you might be successful and they might come back to the table and negotiate with you on your terms and recognize your authority over your lands. Some communities have achieved that but they didn't get that it just by talking they got it through a very aggressive action and as I said some people even went to jail for it. If that's the route you are going to go you have nothing but admiration respect for me and I would work for you like I said for almost nothing if you do that.

But I would lying to you, I would be misleading to you if I were sit here and tell you that you would achieve implementation of the Dene version of the Treaty with no compromise and you will achieve that with some very hard difficult choices. That you will achieve that simply by talking simply by finding different words to say to Canada. If I were to say to you that you can do that I would be misleading you I will be negligent I would be lying to you I am not going to do that. I know that's maybe not what you want to hear but that is the brutally truth. Georges disagree with me I am sure he will tell you.

Co-chair, thank you Chris and Georges, the next speaker Chief Antoine.

Chief Jim Antoine, thank you this is been going on so long I forgot what I am going to say. We are really off track for time because this discussion is suppose to happen yesterday afternoon and here we have a nice little plan and we were really going to work and do all these other stuff. Thank you Georges for your presentation and you guys do a lot of work and we know it is a comprehensive claim. I told the whole leadership in 1992 when I was MLA.

I think I am going to put Richard Lafferty on the spot you went to the newspaper and turn me into a sell out you never apologized publicly in the newspaper, now he is working for the sell out operation. But that hurts when you work for your people and somebody does that to you and I just need to say that. That was 1992 and it has been 17 years ago and it's been a long time and if people had listen to me then maybe we should have a claim by then.

Georges was leadership and I gave him some advice before and he never listen he had David Henniku elected, AFN National President. This is politics and this whole land claims process here and the more I hear Georges and Chris's presentation in April and we had a meeting in Hay River and they ran this whole scenery by us. And at the Think Tank in May we cover that and then we had workshop with the leaders and we discuss



this whole thing. There are specific parts of it that comes out of it and it's a big document it takes a long time to explain.

We have a few things in here that are of different parts that we are concerned with or some suggestions. I don't really know how to go forward with this because, first of all Georges spent over half a day of our time here on this one? We already have direction from the spring leadership to try and get something together right away. The big question for me is that we have a Conservative party that I call it democratic dictatorship for another four years and they probably do anything they want and they already started making some moves and the postal strikes etc. They had a bill all drafted up before they went on strike, it's all acculturated they do those kind of things.

The suggestion from the leadership in the Think Tank was to have a meeting with the Minister, but to get our house in order first, what is it that we are going for, what we really want to do. How are we going to do it and who is going to do and we have to be realistic and say "what is it that we want and what is it that we could get". We are not going to get everything we want and what are we prepare to live with I think that's a reality that's the bottom line. That is personal my concern right now is what is that we need right here to do, cause we are still going along and I don't think we are going to stop it.

I don't think, Georges is, first time I hear him saying that he could do something else but you know it's a real discouraging to hear something like that when you are in the middle of a roll. When somebody is thinking of getting out and in a middle of a serious situation like this and maybe he is just reacting to strong concerns of the Chief Roy Fabien. But we are dealing with our lives you know whatever is in this document here it's going to be what we going to live within the future, our children and grandchildren and the future generation in the Dehcho they are going to live with this package right here. It's a very serious time for us to consider this I don't like lots of it,

I still don't like the community government. I told them that at the leadership meeting and at the Think Tank, I talk to a lot of people in Liidlii Kue, I said how is this going to work. We blow up the Village Council and Band Council the Métis, put all of our assets together and you know how is it really going to work. We have a mix population there, I could see it where it could work here in Pehdzeh, Trout Lake, Jean Marie and Kakisa and places like that where it's all adamantly Dene people already exercising self government. Under Territorial Government service contract and so forth, they are actually doing it. In Simpson it's different so we...I told you that there and I need to share it here because I need to raise that. I talk to a lot of my membership as much as I can how it is going to work in Liidlii Kue.

First of all we can't just impose it on the non-Dene people we are going to have talk to them and I have mentioned it to the Village Council a few times and that's a start. At least there is heads up that there is something we are working with. I have no problem explaining it but selling part of it even to our members and the non-Dene members it's



going to be difficult task. It's going to be more difficult then. Doing the community government in Pehdzeh or Nahanni Butte or Trout so like an added pain

. All along I thought that Dene people in Liidlii Kue and Métis people there, I speak only as a Chief now but I thought that we create some sort of a system where we will continued to be Dene in Liidlii Kue or and continue to do the things we are going under our own arrangement. If we are going to combine it into a public government system in a big community it will be difficult to do a lot of things. The only way it will work is we continue to be Liidlii Kue entity or band, but at the same time political work with the Village. I don't think we could become something else then we are, it is difficult to wrap my head around it. So that's what I am struggling with this whole concept of Community Government.

It's a good idea and how you put it into work I guess it's my concern on that. Community Lands as well and land is the big issue we have different family groups that are pretty strong in their own traditional territory in Liidlii and they are still looking at this whole concept of having a big Dehcho First Nation political organization kind of running, being in charge of their own traditional lands. Like you say Indian Act, the Treaty we never really implemented the Treaty 11 in the Liidlii Kue territory. The Indian Act we don't hardly use it, we are more less use things in a custom way for our territory so it's not a big deal for us. We look at the Indian Act and not too many people read the Act because it's not applicable to us here. Not as much as it is in the southern part of this country. For lands how is that going to really work and once you start talking about land, what land are you talking about.

We know that this whole comprehensive claim is based under land selection. A certain amount I don't know exactly how much it is, I think 39,000 or so is offer to us. Split between all the communities how we are going to do it, were asking for more 60,000 more square kilometre how are we going to do it. All those kind of concerns come out in this whole debate here. I guess my general question is, I don't want to take too much time but, after your big long presentation, what is that you would recommend, you are working for us you so you only could recommend to us, you can't tell us what to do but you could just say the best case scenario if this is the direction you want to continue then this is what needs to be consider for a decision or something like that. That's what I'm asking and maybe in the future we could find a way to do it quicker so it don't take too much of our valuable time cause we meet only once a year for three days. Anyways one the Elders here, Rita will just tagged along with my presentation and she could raise some issues.

Elder Rita Cli, I want to speak in my language but I want this in English so that our future generation can understand what I have to say because after myself and Elders sitting here are long gone these are the things they have to live with. I want my people of Dehcho to remember that Treaties are agreements forever. Majority of the Treaty that covers Dehcho is Treaty 11 and Treaty 8 only covers the reserve. I have said it in the past and I will say it again, Treaty 11 runs from the boarder of Alberta to the

Beaufort Sea. The portion that Sahtu and Gwich'in gave up in Treaty 11 that's crown land we are still entitled to that.

I want people to remember that this is a fight for our future generation because after we are long gone they have to live with what trail we put for them. We are craving that trail out and one thing I want my people to remember is that communication is the most important part of Dehcho Process we said in the past and we will keep on saying it. You have to remember communication share our elders have said it in the past you share. I have a documentation from our assembly last year on the Hay River reserve and this was information given to Tim Christen the former Federal Negotiator. That information was given to him but I have got a piece of paper in my writing I told him that Dehcho Process is Land Management not land sale. Every meeting I've been to with the leadership I have always that. I said the Land Use Plan is the tool for Dehcho to protect our land and resources. Because we never want to see what has happen in New Mexico at the time with the oil spill. Then what happens now is this oil spill happen on Dehcho land in Pehdzeh traditional land. With this Land Use Plan we can prevent disastrous from happening. That's what we need to focus on and this Land Use Plan is the best tool we have that is driven by Dehcho people.

I was up at the Horn Plateau with the Elders, most of the Elders that were there with me are gone now. They were the ones that were there and Peter Cizek was there with us, thank you Peter. We told him because some of our people are illiterate can read or write we wanted him to come up with some stick diagrams and pictures like that and we did. When we made that presentation our people were really happy to see that, even if they can't read they can visualize the pictures that were on the wall. That again was driven by Dehcho people. We are not wrong we are doing the right thing but we have to work together. We cannot work against each other you can't slam doors on each other face you have to work together.

This is the highest power sitting to give direction to whatever we want to happen in Dehcho. The negotiating team can never do anything without that resolution from this floor. They cannot do anything without that assembly resolution. They can never do anything without them consulting with the leadership and that is why I have said in the past you as leaders have to do your homework, you're your documents and read your e-mails. There is mail coming and going and that's how fast technology is working and the people are of Dehcho if you are listening to me go on the web site because I have said in the past to Dehcho to put information that has happen, news release anything put on the web site to see how hits you get. I said that to the former Grand Chief who is Mike Nadli and he has our Land Use Plan team. He did get lots of feedback not only from Dehcho people but people that were saying that's the best tool that Dehcho was looking after your lands and resources was through your Land Use Plan.

Now we have a guest from another First Nation in Canada that is going to be making a presentation as to how they done it and it took them ten years to work on it. When we started Dehcho Process our Elders that sat with had said you put the Land Use Plan

first don't make it come last. This way you are protecting your land and resources so that's why our Land Use Plan is now in place. But of the government of today, the Federal and GNWT (tape ends...missing part of last words) and when I sat with my elders that time they said when we put that LUP it was to stay intact, it was not to be water down that is to protect land and resources. We will control development with that, that's why that LUP was in place and it's driven by Dehcho people. That's the most powerful tool we have.

The other thing that the elders had said when you are talking Treaty always go on record saying as long as the river flows, the grass grow and the sun shine make reference to that to remind people that the minute you say that it's our Treaty. When you talk about Treaty it automatically means land and resources. Why we have Treaty 11 in place because of the oil that was found in Norman Wells and they want us to come onto our land. The only the way they can have access to it was through our Treaty that's why our Treaty is in place.

And going back to our Think Tank in Trout Lake the bottom line of everything we've done is to control whatever happens on Dehcho land. Going back to what's happening in Jean Marie and I wasn't there when a direction was given for the negotiation team to explore or do something that resolution you have to review it. And see where is at today and you have to re-enforce it or do something to that resolution. The cut off time for resolution committee today is four o'clock so you need to revisit that. I just want people to be aware that nothing gets done without resolution that's the tool that makes progress and Dehcho Process is land management not land sale.

I want people to remember that you are in control and you give the direction. What I tell you is from my heart and I also said that at the negotiation session in Yellowknife with both Federal and GNWT team that we want to be in control of development. We are not against development we just want to control it because we want to share with the rest of Canada who are Canadians, we are Canadians too but we are Dehcho Dene first. Mahsi.

Chair thank you Elder Rita Cli. I am getting signal to take a break, do you want to response Georges or...just a short response then we will take a break, after the break we have a couple of people that want to speak.

Georges, really quick you are bringing up quite a few points one of them in relation to the community government position and you are saying you are having some difficult with that part. It doesn't start in that document it is actually in the Dehcho position from 1994. We were wondering we shouldn't be thinking about maybe some meetings in Fort Simpson to take a look at this because we should take a hard look at it means if you should move away from that.

It would mean that Dehcho Government would have jurisdiction over education and you could come up with your own education law. If you don't have a public government

community wise not sure what it does there? The merging of the government allows you to have all the land under one reign locally and if you don't do that presumably you would have to have separate pieces of land that something the hamlet would run under the GNWT and then something that the Dehcho Government would. It gets far more complicated and would kind of have to dismantle some of the ideas that are in place now.

I am wondering if we shouldn't take another look at that with you before we go too much further on that. You had some questions about our strategic meeting and the follow up before we go to Ottawa, it's true my thinking on it that the leaders should play a primary role in looking at what the bottom line is and it should be done behind closed doors. It should be strategic even if this kind of conversation with media in the room and government in the room doesn't make a lot of sense.

And then the meeting in Ottawa I would think you probably want to do that early in September. We don't do it face to face we would do it on the phone with the leaders. That would be my recommendation and if we get what we want in Ottawa then we come back to the assembly and say here is what is possible, you can either recommend it or it is up to you to decide and then we can go from there. Thank you for your advice there Rita, I can't disagree with anything you said. Okay.

Chair, okay thanks Georges I believe it's about 3:30, we said 4:00 PM for deadline on resolutions so if you have resolutions ready to go could you get it to the committee. We will break for ten minutes.

### **Break:**

Chair, Elder Ted Landry, Margaret Ireland, Tim Lennie and Sam Gargan those will be the speakers again for tomorrow mornings line up. So this afternoon I like to turn it over to the Land Use Planning people. To Peter Cizek who you all know, he sits on the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee along with Chief Tim Lennie. I would like to turn this portion over to the two members so they can give us a presentation.

### **Land Use Plan**

#### **Power Point Presentation by Petr Cizek and Tim Lennie.**

Tim Lennie

I've been involved with LUP committee since 2001. I've been appointed by the leadership and Elders of the day. To this day I have continued to serve as a representative of the Dehcho First Nation on the LUP. The Elders and the leadership also appointed Peter Cizek who is more of a technical person that takes care of lot of the wording and looking at different agreement and making sure it goes through with the negotiation etc.

At times we have some discussions back and forth with the negotiation. To this day as a Chief being on this committee has been a real experience for me learning and a lot of times questioning the actions that are being taken.

One of these things that I want us to understand like any agreement we have with Canada even today even through our negotiations. You only negotiate these agreements under current legislation, policy and constitutional issues. This is how these agreements have been develop. So when you come to an issue in regards to doing something for the Dene alone they call it discrimination. The way we think today, we live like Dene, speak Dene, they did not want any part of that in there and don't feel good about it. Canada still has some things to sort out.

The working group that we developed they do a lot of corrections, back and forth and we had very little planning committee meeting. So most of the work done for the past couple years had been more technical changes with Government of Canada through our negotiations on some specific issues. In regards to Agreement itself it is incomplete and one of the other issues I also have even as a Chief, not talking as a Chief, even as a Chief I have questions. I sit on the LUP committee but I still have questions because even at a community level we have an internal LUP to be done.

This is looking at it more of a regional perspective, so really specific issues right now we have protecting lands under Protected Area Strategy and some of the policies that Government have. As communities we are working with some of these Government Institutions to develop protected area. Mind you it is their legislation, their policies, their rules. How we make that partnership between ourselves and the Government is something to be really look at and further discuss. With this I don't want to take up too much time it's just an actual update so it just going to run through. This has been done with the leadership numerous of times and I know we have some specific questions to Peter and myself, but I'll just let Peter make the presentation and there may be some changes in this one here. We have a new member to the board that's from the GNWT, Shannon Cummings.

Shannon Cummings Thank you Chief Lennie and thank you Peter. I was just appointed by GNWT a couple of months ago to work on the LUP for the Dehcho. First of all I would like to thank the Elders and the membership present for inviting me to the assembly. It is always a pleasure to be in Dehcho Territory and the work that we do with the Land Use Plan is going to keep this area beautiful for generation to come. I've work for the last few months with Peter as he will tell you in his report there is still some work to do. But we had a committee meeting earlier this month and we were able to get a lot of stuff done.

For those of you who don't know me I am originally from Fort Smith, I grew up in Yellowknife I am a lawyer by training. I have been a chief negotiator as well for the Métis in the south slave so I am pretty familiar with a lot of issues that you are discussing today. I am very familiar with land and resource issues as well and I hope



that working with the committee that we can bring a lot of the work that needs to be done with the LUP bring it forward and then leave it in the hands of your capable negotiations team. Because the committee can do a lot of work at a technical level and then those big outstanding issues we can take them as far as we can at the technical level but it's ultimately up to the people at the main table and leadership to resolve some of those big issues. So in the short time we've been together doing some of this work we have been able to make some progress. I like to just thank the folks for inviting me here and I look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you.

Peter Cizek, thank you Shannon. I have never met Shannon personally before but I did see him in his previous life as a drummer but not that the kind of Dene drummer you are thinking but I think he use to drum for two kinds of music that was Country and Western. Thank you very much for having me here and very nice to be in Chief Tim Lennie's community. I had the pleasure of working with Tim on the LUP since the 2002 and also it's a pleasure to be here next to my buddy Herb who is on the LUP at the beginning as chair and who I had the great pleasure of doing mapping in most of your communities and Herb and I have been on many wonderful fishing, hunting and trapping expedition. What I am going to talk about is six things and this presentation is quite similar to the ones you seen last year and basically because there hasn't been a lot of progress in the past year and I will explain why.

Number one, I am going to try to explain why there has been limited progress in negotiating revision for the plan during the past year. To explain why 2006 final draft Dehcho Land Use Plan has been revised through negotiations with Canada and GNWT. Number three, I am going to provide a summary of some of the highlights of the revised draft Interim Land Use Plan. Number four I am going to review how direction from the DFN leadership membership and the negotiating has been achieved so far. Number five I am going to review outstanding items on unresolved issues that will likely be forwarded to the main table. Number six I am going to discuss the next step require for detail consultation and review.

Number One:

Why has there been limited progress on the interim plan during the past year? Some of it this was likely explained to you earlier today by Georges and Chris. Basically we haven't much progress except for the meeting that Shannon mentioned earlier this month. For the following reason, first of all after last year's assembly the Dehcho Negotiation team under took a detail review in July and September 2010 to give direction to Chief Lennie and myself on the plan. We were about to re-engage the whole Ehdezhie court issue took place because the sub-surface protection for Ehdezhie was removed and Canada suspended negotiations. In January 2011 I again met with you and some of this will be very familiar to you because we went through about 90 slides over a three day period in Fort Providence. So much of this will be just refresher for your memory. Canada shortly after that in February indicated that they were ready to re-engage in negotiations even though the court cases were going on but a Federal Election was suddenly called in March 2011.



Finally we were ready to get going right after that but it took some time for Canada to bring on some staff to work with them. So we finally had a working group meeting that Shannon refers to in June 2011. These issues have flowed down but on the other hand they've enable time for more detail and thoughtful review for example some work I did in December I completely forgotten about GNWT and Canada had review very thoroughly by June so there are some advantages. But to step a little bit further back we often get ask the simple question why is it the 2006 final draft Dehcho Land Use Plan now being revised through negotiations with Canada and GNWT because people say well we had a land use plan in 2006?

The simple issue is that even though the committee was establish way back in 2002 and the Dehcho approved a land use plan and this was later rejected by Canada and GNWT. Canada went so far in the fall of 2006 that they want to shut down the Land Use Planning Committee. Maybe they thought that Canada had made a mistake trying to develop a Land Use Plan before a final agreement had been reached. Also I think that the representatives that were on the committee from Canada and GNWT simply had never been given clear instruction by Canada and GNWT. The Dehcho said no way are you shutting down this down we are going to find a solution to this problem and it took us over half a year to bring Canada and GNWT back to the table on the LUP and re-negotiated a new terms of reference and work plans in April 27, 2007 which guided the revision since then.

Also Canada and GNWT replace their representative on the committee with very senior people, Bob Overvold from Canada who is the former Regional Director General and Mark Warren who is the assistant Deputy Minister now. They gave them very clear direction and mandate. In 2011 Shannon Cummings replaced Mark Warren for the GNWT. DFN kept their original representatives, Tim Lennie and myself partly to maintain continuity and that we had the background and experience.

However it was agreed that Herb would step down because he also was Grand Chief at the time even though he had been neutral in his role as chair. It was preferred that in the revisions and the negotiations that there would be somebody totally outside the Dehcho and Mike Nadli because Chair and CEO at the time. This was the committee from 2007 to 2011 and since Shannon hasn't attended a full meeting of the committee with everyone present we will have to quickly replace this picture with him present. The other question is why did Canada and GNWT rejected the final draft LUP. It was their view that prohibited Oil & Gas and Mining 60 to 70% of the Dehcho Territory. That was quite an increase from interim land withdrawals which prohibited Oil & Gas and Mining about 50% of the Dehcho Territory.

Canada and GNWT thought that many of the rules the conformity requirement actions and recommendations conflicted with Government Laws and Policies. Even though when we drafted the original plan we tried to make it consistence with government laws and policies and Canada and GNWT had a different opinion. Finally Canada and

GNWT thought there were too many rules that the plan needed to be simplified. That the 2006 plan had 25 conformity requirements, 17 actions, 34 recommendations and the number of those had been reduced quite a bit.

Still we hope maintaining the essences of the plan. This is what the zoning under the LUP looks like in 2006 and it appears that lot of these green areas are still in the LUP. The big addition from this was that this LUP would of prohibited mining and most of this areas and a number of these areas around Wrigley would of prohibited Oil & Gas and Mining. So that's been the major change and most of the green areas are almost exactly same as they were back in 2006.

What has been the committee's approach to making the revisions in the LUP? A number of people had mentioned this concept in regards to the main table negotiations, but any negotiation requires some sort of a compromise. In this case what we are trying to achieve in this revision is some kind of a balance between the three parties, Canada, GNWT and Dehcho First Nation. And to try to find that's spot in the middle of this triangle that everybody can live with. The 2006 plan may have been much more of Dehcho plan and then when we started making the revision people started saying "whoa wait a minute" that's no longer Dehcho plan that's the Government plan. I beg to differ. I think we are finding some spot more in the middle.

The other point I don't if you read the report from Georges and Chris, they mention that revision to the plan have resulted in a very different LUP then 2006. Yes and no, I mean any negotiations result in something different just like one could say that Dehcho Comprehensive Claim is very different then the Dehcho proposal from 1993. That is part of negotiations is that things through compromise, through finding solution change now, as also Chief Antoine pointed it out very clearly.

Ultimately it comes down to whether or not you can live with the outcome. Is the outcome an improvement over where you are now, that's the simple criterion that people have use to evaluate a negotiate solution. Is it better than what you have now, is it the most you can hope to achieve given all those circumstances. I hope that the information I provide you indicate that it is better, but it is ultimately for you to decide that's only the judgement that can be by political representative. We are just the technicians who are doing our best to find the best possible solution.

The other aspect about the plan now that it is very clearly called an interim LUP. So why is it any interim plan, it is to be put in place prior to Dehcho Agreement. Unlike other land claims that Elder Rita mentioned where they have done LUP after the land claim agreement. The Dehcho wanted to do it before so that the land is protected before you selecting land so that the land is protected before resource development takes place. Before you develop these economic development organization that want to make money maybe you should decide what you should protect first. It is very unusual to have a LUP before the final agreement. But the down side of this is because your new self agreement is not in place yet, the interim must follow Canada and GNWT laws

because the Dehcho Government hasn't been formally created for Canada and GNWT to formally recognize your laws. The Dehcho laws can only be put in place once you achieve your agreement; I am not saying that your laws don't exist.

I am simply saying that Canada and GNWT won't recognize your laws until you have your final agreement and that's the purpose of the agreement is to get Canada and GNWT to recognize your laws. Then the plan can be modified to incorporate your new law making power and then it becomes not an interim plan but a full plan. This is obviously as you can see it's been a full agenda for the committee and again it's in creditable how time flies as Georges Erasmus said.

It's almost ten years since I started the LUP and it's been almost 20 years since I came to the Dehcho. I never thought I'd almost be an elder trying to do a LUP, but these things take a long time. We don't want them to take a long time, I think we need to push them through put lots of political pressure to bear on getting them through. That's why your man Dennis is in Ottawa to advocate on these things on your behalf. But the Gwich'in plan took 20 years and we have the person from Popular First Nation apparently for one community it took them ten years so imagine what's going on with twelve communities here.

Since 2007 we had all these meetings and updates to leadership and annual assemblies. We had three regional forums exclusively devoted to the LUP where we sat together for two or three days and went through it from line to line. There has been a lot of consultation and as you can see at the bottom the community consultation has already started where people had made specific request for Michael to come in and provide them with updates and more are coming through. Lots of meetings and lots of consultation at many different levels as going on and much more community base consultation will still take place. I am not going to try and summarize the entire plan for you at this meeting I've done so already several times and I think most of you were there.

### Number Three

I am going to try and give you the highlights of it. Basically the plan would prohibit Mining, Oil & Gas about 47 % of the Dehcho Territory if you include the expanded Nahanni National Park Reserve. Assuming that you are successful in putting the protection for Ehdezhie back into place which maybe going on if the rumours are true. If you take out Nahanni technically Nahanni is not part of the LUP because it has its own management plan then it's about the plan which prohibited Mining, Oil & Gas about 40% of the plan area. The LUP support all the community base Canada protected area proposal of which there are six, which includes Pehdzeh Ki Denendeh, Ehdezhie, Jean Marie five lakes, Samba' K'e Deh, Kakisa area and Buffalo Lake and Trails.

The LUP restricts the Mackenzie Gas project within the corridor negotiated in 2003 interim withdrawals that cross the protected area proposals. We will talk some more about the pipeline corridor and it creates a bunch of new rules about how the land is to

be taken care of and those rules include 11 conformity requirements is something you must do. Six actions are things that Government and Dehcho First Nations are committing to do in the future and twenty-five recommendations those are suggestion. Those news rules for the land are primarily for areas where development maybe permitted assuming that all of the other regulatory requirements are met. Basically the plan has about 70 pages of legal and technical language and it took me about 90 slides when we met last time to summarize that for you in plain language.

This is the zoning map which in your binder in a larger format so that it is easier to read. We are still doing some more work on this and we have identified a few issues that still need to be resolved. As you can see the map is quite similar to 2006 in terms of the green areas. We continue to have Nahanni National Park was successfully expanded to 90 % of the water shed. The areas that were excluded up here by the Flat River Prairie Creek this area the maps and anti-climb for above the Kotanelle River for Oil & Gas and upstream from Nahanni Butte. Ehdezhie was showing the recommended final boundary so that's purposely smaller. These areas are actually somewhat bigger a study area for Trout Lake and Kakisa, Pehdzeh Ki Denendeh protected is exactly the same.

The only slight modification to the green areas are here where this areas kind of cross right over Deep Bay for now it follows the shore line one or two kilometres away from the shore so it will includes all the little islands. This area here the poplar river at one point was extended way out here it now includes the mouth of the poplar river. The big change between 2006 and now is that where they were so called special management zone that prohibited mining in this area and prohibited Mining, Oil & Gas in that area now at the request of Canada and GNWT permit both Mining, Oil & Gas but only under special conditions. Now they are called special development zones where in the plan all of the sensitive features that we know in those areas mainly related to habitat for wildlife but also cultural features are listed.

For example we know that this area down here is extremely important for woodland caribou, we know that up here there is important nesting sites and Grizzly bears. So there is a big table listing those areas. The purple areas are the remaining special management areas which prohibit Oil & Gas or Mining. Allowing for logging to take place and one exception is this area here south of the highway call Jean Marie south where Jean Marie has specifically wants to just prohibited mining but allow oil and gas because there is some potential there.

There is still a few minor modifications that are being discussed engaging the effective communities specifically and those are when first of all when Ehdezhie finally boundary recommendation was made inadvertently the mouth of the Rabbit Skin River was excluded because the previous boundary went right up to the right bank of the river at the mouth. Also the mouth of Willow Lake River was mistakenly excluded. There needs to be some small adjustment there to account for those extremely important cultural sites where there are cabins etc.

The other issue we identify is when the Nahanni National Park Reserve boundary was made this area upstream from (something) zone which would prohibit both Oil & Gas and Mining but which allow for logging. This is a pretty large area so some trade off needs to be made. The people of Nahanni Butte have said that this area here could be change from purple to white, the purple to special development zone.

We've also identify when we incorporated these new protected area strategic boundaries we notice that in Trout Lake's donut hole there the line of the protected area proposal the dark green doesn't quite line up with the light green conservation zone. I've just recently asked Chief Dolphus to review that with his community to determine whether they want this area left open for natural gas development whether that was just a mapping mistake. So there is a few minor adjustments to be made but Canada and GNWT I think in principle can live with this zoning.

Again the zoning provides a quite a bit of protection and in fact according to some calculation show a slight increase over what you had before. This is how it breaks down in terms of percentages and numbers these are the zones that prohibit Mining, Oil and Gas. You have the Ehdezhie National Wildlife area which about 8%, there is still some debates whether or it does indeed prohibit Mining, Oil & Gas that's what the litigation is about. Hopefully it will be resolved positively. You have your candidate protected area zone those are the six areas I mention they are about 17%. You have the conservation zone which are the light green areas you can think of those of the corridors that are drying up all of those candidate protected area zone dark green those are the core areas.

Those are probably the jewels of the Dehcho then you have the light green areas conservation zone those are the arms and legs. Those are the pearls on the stings jointing up the jewels of the Dehcho. Think of the conservation zone as the pearl on a string. Then you have the special management zone those prohibit mining, oil & gas with the exception of Jean Marie south which allows oil & gas only. Those are the areas where you primarily are interested in logging base on the timber potential.

Over all you are getting about 40% areas in some form of conservation that prohibit mining, oil and gas and 47% if you include that extremely large area for Nahanni National Park Reserve. By the way I said they prohibit mining, oil and gas, under the revision there is also provision to allow pipeline, roads, power transmission lines and hydro electric project in those zones but only if they cannot be located elsewhere. So we have created some extra flexibility for that especially for the leaner project but also for hydro electric project because most of those green areas aren't areas with the major rivers.

When communities might be interested in some hydro electric development on a small scale, for example there's been some interest on behalf Jean Marie River to put something on the Trout River, something wouldn't have effect on the site but something



that would generate power so the flexibility have been put in through the revision. Here are the zones for mining and gas could be permitted but if all the rules are met in the plan and also subject to the existing regulatory system involving Land Use Permit, environmental assessment etc.

We have Jean Marie River south special management zone only Oil and Gas permitted, mining is prohibited very small less than 1%, special development zone 36%, and general use zone 24%. The total is about 60% allowing mining, oil and gas and 53% is the expanded Nahanni National Park Reserve is included. It's worthwhile comparing this to other approved LUP in Canada and the key point here is these are approved plan and they have gone through some level of negotiations and compromise between the parties. We are not talking pie in the sky green plan, once you get to the nitty gritty of the green and I think the Dehcho Plan compares very favourable with these plans.

You will hear later from Poplar River First Nation where they protected virtually all of their land base. But keep in mind that is one community that is basically designated protected area around them which is smaller than Nahanni National Park Reserve was back when it just cover the river corridor, I think less than 5,000 square kilometres. Back when LUP started in Northern Canada you have the Lancaster Sound Plan, the north Baffin which finally got approved after five years of work. In 1990 the guy behind that is the guy you may have met, his name is Arthur Bottillier and I was fortunate to drop in on his retirement party.

Arthur worked on that plan and it finally got approved in 1990 and it was the policy plan in Nunavut and it didn't establish any additional protection but it was ground breaking just to convenience the Federal Government to agree to the concept of the LUP and to set up these policies for development. Similarly there is a plan in the Keewatin in 1995 it didn't establish any new protected areas or conservation zones but again it push the concept of LUP and new policies, new rules.

Among the first plans in Northern Canada was the Pauska (sp) Porcupine in Saskatchewan in 1998 it started setting the bar a bit higher. Nine percent the Gwich'in plan was the first LUP approved in the Northwest Territories in 2003, they started talking about 50% of their land as protected area. They got 10% and that was after 20 years of work. You may have heard in 2006 there was a big deal with 25 First Nations in North Central BC of the great bear rain forest, there was a big campaign about these special spirit bears. You may have seen pictures of these beautiful white bears in the rain forest. That was that deal they got about 28% of the land protected from logging that was the main issue there. Also there is a community in Northern Ontario call the Penkagicum (tapes cuts out) protected and most recently the Northern Yukon plan was the first plan approved in the Yukon which is about 36% but 32% of their land base was already protected through the Vunted (sp) Gwich'in and the Costal National Park. There is two big National Parks there already so 32% of the land had already been protected and they added another 4%.



If you pull all the numbers together you can be getting as much as 47% of the Land Base protected in the Dehcho through a LUP. Assuming that you get Ehdezhie back and assuming that includes the Nahanni National Park. Also keeping in mind some of those protected areas will might be changed slightly reduce somewhat but all in all compare to elsewhere in Canada you'd be doing more than reasonable well. In fact compare to anywhere else in the world you would be doing extremely well because there is only a couple of places in the world whether they have anywhere near 50% of land protected, such as places like Bali and Costa Rica. What are these special rules that apply for places where development maybe allowed to take place?

As I mentioned, the big compromise for these special management zone which became special development zone is this one, applicant must identify all cultural and equal logical aspect as listed for special development zone and must protect them. If you may remember all of the work that we did mapping the habitat, mapping the traditional use, the cultural site, the traditional knowledge etc, etc all of that is stored in Providence. We've got it summarized in the table on the LUP; the developers at the very least must identify those features.

That doesn't prevent them from having to do their own research send out their own biologist to have people continue working with you. But it sets a base line, it sets the minimum of what they must do and that is those things that are listed they must demonstrate that they will be protected. Conformity requirement 11 says in general not just in the special development zone but for out the whole LUP applicant must identify all significant environmental and habitat features and must protect them. During critical life cycle periods sponging, nesting, calving etc significant habitat features must be avoided by at least 250 meters. That applies no matter what the zone so that a whole new rules that you will be establishing. People have said if we work on revising this LUP there is no Dene law in this plan. As far as I am concerned everything I've learned from the Dene, working with you guys for almost 20 years, if these aren't Dene laws I can't think of anything else that could be a Dene law.

The Government said you can't put your own laws in it because we don't recognize your laws. Well it depends how you phrase your laws and those are pretty strong Dene laws in my opinion. This is a very important one about key fact until now people haven't kept track of all the activities on the land. One of the big things we did through the LUP was to map all the cut lines using satellite imagery. The plan would require all new development to be map and kept in one mapping data base in Ft. Providence so that we know if there are too many cut lines. As we know if we put too much disturbance on the land it affects the health of the woodland caribou. That's another new kind of law that you are putting in the plan maybe that is something that is not really a Dene law because Dene didn't think about cut lines in traditional times but it's definitely something that has never been done before.

Another important way to think about the plan is how does it compare not only with what's out there elsewhere in Canada but how does it compare to what you have now?

If you exclude the Nahanni National Park Reserve expansion in the Ehdezhie study area which are separate processes that have already taken place and be resolved one way or another. If you just look at the areas in between, the interim land withdrawals protected 52,000 some odd square kilometres from Oil & Gas and Mining in 2003.

You remember Herb and I worked on negotiating some other temporary protection for the land where we protected about 50% of the land base. The LUP will actually increase the area protected slightly by about 10% to 58,362 square kilometres. The other problem with the land withdrawals and apparently you are getting a renewal now for three years. But each time those land withdrawals are set to expire the Government could make up its own mind about whether or not to renew them like or how long to renew them. So each time you have to lobby the Government about renewing those interim land withdrawals.

Once approved and implemented the plan could protect lands theatrically forever. It makes the Government make a commitment to those lands. It's not sudden stone it's not like a National Park but it's certainly stronger than the land withdrawals because the Government is basically signing off and saying we agree with you now that these lands are so important they should be protected. Changes can be made but you don't have to worry about renewing it every couple of years that's for at least five year period. The five years are design where all the three parties need to work together to determine what changes need to be made.

Here is a map kind of comparing the propose plan to the land withdrawal so as you can see these two areas are kind of been resolved. The Nahanni National Park Reserve was shrunk from what was in the 2006 plan before it was the entire water shed in the 2006 plan now it is 90%. Ehdezhie was shrunk quite a bit to about 60% to the final boundary recommendation but the LUP had nothing to do with that but on the other hand with some of the other adjustment the LUP is actually increase the amount of land protected by about 10%.

Number four

How has direction from the DFN Leadership, membership and the negotiating team being achieve in the negotiation so far.? As Georges and Chris mentioned to you earlier today. We don't make this stuff up, we take direction that is given to us and we try to do our best to implementing it and will come back to you and tell you what we have not been successful in doing. That's what I am about to do now, I am going to go through all of the specific direction that you have given us and tell you what we have achieve and what we have not achieve and what we are still trying to achieve.

Basically the Dehcho representative on the committee that's me and Tim have been given direction in variety of forums and again we now have three multi day sessions with you one in 2008 April later on in that same year most recently in January. We all sat together for two or three days at a time, some of you have listen to this presentation so often and at least you know it by heart.

Tim and I have ongoing meeting with the Dehcho Negotiating team and we are also making presentation at the annual assemblies. Michael is off making presentations at the Leadership meeting and the main table sessions. These are the specific directions that you have given us, you gave us a bunch of directions in spring of 2008 in Fort Providence. Every single one of those directions has been achieved. You wanted us to include pay the water ceremony in addition to pay the land to include the requirement for Dehcho guides and monitors. To change Slavey to Dene Zhatie I think, we given much stronger wording to the significant environmental features.

KFN specifically requested to add tourism to their Candidate protected area zone and a general recommendation incorporating climate change in all decisions. Later on you gave us much stronger direction in December at the Fort Providence meeting again GNWT has been digging in their heels saying that public roads will not be included in the conformity requirement about transportation corridors. You wanted to make sure that was included in addition to private roads. You have not yet achieved that, we achieved a strong wording for public waters supply and equated environment we have achieved a special conditions on a five year monitory and a new lodges for fishing leases.

I think we also achieved a five year monitory on new outfitters license and we have not yet achieved the requirements for at least two out of three parties, one is DFN be require to terminated the interim plan. We achieved ongoing directions from the DFN negotiating team which express concerns about possible industrial development and conservation zones. We created a new candidates protected area zone which includes surface withdrawals for at least temporarily prevent any roads, cider pipeline, transmission lines and hydro electric projects that might allow that kind of development until those boundaries are resolved.

We partially achieved the ability of the LUP to direct the location of the Mackenzie Gas project by limited it in the areas where it crosses the existing Candidate protected areas zones. We had not achieved this problem with an open ended definition of authorization. We are still working on that I think we are close to a solution and we've achieve the definition of reasonable efforts relating to community consultation and action. We didn't get any specific directions from the Leadership Forum in January but there was a resolution where Regional Forum recommended the plan to be forwarded as soon as we dealt with some of these minor outstanding items which we've have been working on for the plan to be recommended from the committee to the main table to deal with these few big tickets outstanding items that remain.

They are the ability of the plan to direct the National Energy Board about the location of the pipeline corridor. Which in a way is already partial resolve because the National Energy Board made its recommendation about the Mackenzie Gas Project and It follow the exact corridor that you had negotiated through the interim withdrawals. So that really only need to address cider pipeline or this arrowhead corridor. The ability of the plan to regulate the location of new public roads, termination clause, DFN wants to

allow two out of three parties to be able to terminate the plan only as long as one of the parties is DFN. Whereas GNWT and Canada are willing to consider that two out of three parties can terminate the plan but they don't want the requirement one of them to be DFN. GNWT is still concern that not enough open Crown Land will be available for devolution if DFN select all its lands outside conservation zones and protected areas. That's really a main table issue that GNWT is kind of adding onto the plan.

Since the beginning Tim and I have said that's very much the main table issue. And Canada and GNWT wants amendments to the interim measures agreement regarding DFN consent about coring prospecting permit and forest management. Those are the only, I question them further as asked by the negotiating team and those are the only three areas which they have identified. They have not identified any others but they want to revisit the interim measures agreement as part of plan approval. Those are the items that will need to be resolve by the main table.

Herb your sort of wondering about time I have about six more slides, you want to call a break. Keep going okay. There is a couple of slides at the end where I listed the pros and cons I'll just leave that with you but I am going to try and wrap it up about the next step. This is taken straight out of the new terms of reference for the plan that you had agree to sign or initial by Georges Erasmus, Tim Christen and Fred Pollard who is the GNWT guy at the time.

Basically we are developing a consensus around the prefer options. The next step is to recommend the revise Dehcho LUP for approval to the main table. We will do that when we have a meeting in July with the negotiating team. I am assuming that the negotiating team is satisfied with where things are and we can move forward on making that recommendation. Once the plan is passed on from the committee to the main table it's the job of the main table of the parties to the main table that's Canada, GNWT and DFN to consult on the committee recommendations. Those consultation are up to them, Canada and GNWT have their own stakeholders they wish to deal with they may include environmentalist, industry, surrounding First Nation whoever they wish. DFN they have their own constituents and it's up DFN to decide how to do its own internal consultation.

As I mentioned we had all of these presentation at the annual assemblies, we had three very long and detailed forums, it's up to you to decide again budget permitting etc. You want to go to each communities spend time with them and explaining the plan. Keeping in mind it is interim plan this is not like your final agreement, this is not something said in stone. So you have to remember to make your consultation appropriate to what this is. Once the parties have been consulted their constituents the parties will present the committee with their comments. The committee will provide final recommendations for approval to the main table. The Chief Negotiators would initial and recommend the interim plan for approval by the parties.

I have mentioned all of this which I just talked about so it's up to you to determine what forum your detail consultation will take place. I've listed in the handout some pros and cons I think I reference some of them already. I will leave that with you, but I will say this, the plan is now a heavily negotiated document which represents compromises from all sides. It is not a perfect document but you have three separate parties having to work together. Each of which has made some form of compromise and hopefully they have made the appropriate compromises so it's not like any single party comes out of this like some kind of a winner, but instead all three parties are now committed to working together instead of one gigantic winner. You instead would have three parties each of which would benefit from this because every single one of them commits itself to partnership.

So unlike the 2006 plan where the Dehcho is now successfully after many, many years got the GNWT and Canada to take this work very, very seriously. The plan now stands a real chance of being approved not just by DFN but by Canada and GNWT. Where the plan in my opinion has become within the Government system a fairly big ticket item, I think it's become a big of a success story to show that DFN is capable of making rational thoughtful decision. You will still have to decide whether pros out weight the cons does this plan help in the end, does it put you in a better position than you are now. Does it lay the foundation for even something better in the future. Thank you for your time and it always a great pleasure to see you all and renew all these great friendship I had here over many years. Mahsi Cho.

Chair, getting signal here to ask Sophia Rabliauskas from Popular River to make her presentation.

### **Sophia Rabliauskas – Popular River LUP Presentation**

Sophia, good afternoon I am very happy to be here it's an honour to come to this assembly to take part in what's happening here in the last two days. We have been through this type of meetings in our own community and there are important things to talk about. I come from Popular River First Nation which is 400 Km north of Winnipeg and the population is about 1500 and growing. I bring greetings from our community members, our Elders who are very much part of what we have been doing in last thousands of years is taking care of the land.

Whatever comes our way what obstacles come our way to take that away from us we fight for what we feel is rightful ours and we have done that. We have demonstrated that through standing up to the developers, standing up to the corporations who are trying to come into our traditional territory. I will begin a little history about how this all came about. In the mid 80's the logging industries was looking into developing our area. Hydro development was looking into coming into our area and this made us realize that we got to do something and the elders really stood up and said I think it's time that we need to do something to protect this area because we can only really do so much to stop them. Because it is our traditional territory was on crown land and we



know that the Government can come in and help these developers and corporations come in and take what was we felt was rightfully our people's land.

My passion comes from my experience in learning about the land, life from our Elders, from my own grandfather and father. They always worry about the well being of the children, the future of children. Not just their grandchildren, great-grandchildren but the next seven generations. So whatever decision they make today will affect many, many generations to come. We are taught through watching, listening observing the way people do things on the land. Like growing up listening to my grandfather those were the teaching that I learned.

So in 1985 the hydro development was making plans to develop our area and there was a meeting that took place and I saw our young people standing up and say "no" we cannot allow any development to come into our traditional territory. Because we have no right to do this when that land does not belong to us, that land belongs to the future children, our children that are not here yet. So we don't have the right to take that away from what they know and what they deserved. It was a wakeup call everything that was taught was through oral tradition, all this land use talk, how they use that land, how they survive from that land was through oral tradition and how we manage the land.

When we heard all of this we know we had to start documenting, compiling the data, collecting stories from the elders what this land meant to the people. What do they mean when they said that the land was alive, the trees, rivers, animals that live on land they are alive and they need as much right to be there and to live from the land as much as we did. We started collecting stories visiting elders and many of those elders are not with us today but they had started the process of documentation.

That documentation lead to the LUP that was being in the making for 10 years and that I guess the document in the beginning it wasn't like yeah were sitting down we were going to this. It took a lot of planning there was questions and debate among the elders when we started talking about outlining the boundary of our traditional territory. Because we don't understand the concept of ownership, like I said it wasn't ours it belongs to the future. It was to be shared among neighbouring communities, so when we started to talk about boundaries they said they were reluctant to do this because they know it was going to create an atomicity between the neighbouring communities.

The neighbouring communities had different plan then we did and they reminded us you need to respect the other First Nations around you whatever they want to do in their traditional territory. So we took this to recognize and respect their concerns about once we started doing boundaries and using the trap lines that these families have used for years. We went through occupational studies through archeology studies to reaffirm our existing in that area and there were evidence found that our people had been there six thousand years. These studies validate what our Elders had said. We had to come to an understanding when we were doing the documentation.



When I go to the communities the elders remind me when I start talking about documenting. Very gently they would say remember whatever you learn you carry with you share it, don't depend on writing things down. Because anything could be changed on paper but if you teach it, like I said we've learn through watching observing our elders and watching how they interact with their environment. How they do it through ceremony. Talk about it use stories of your people because it goes a long way and that's how we survive. When we go to other territory we bring the stories with us, so that I was gently reminded to use stories when we share what we have been through. All this happened, the LUP, because we had to do this because this is something that had to be done.

And some argue are we going to continue to give in to what they want us to do. But at times it was with resistance but everything they threw at us the obstacles oh you need to do this, you need to do that. We are not a rich community everything that's done every consultation you had with lawyers or consultant there is a lot of money that's been exchanged. We don't see that with our Elders they give freely that information that we need to help us get where we are today. Through our negotiation with the Government they were the driving force behind those negotiations reminding us where the strength comes from.

First and foremost always look upon the creator that gave us this land to live in to survive from then you negotiate. They remind us that whenever we come to negotiations we have two sets of values and beliefs system. Respect teach them, teach them what those values means to you, what your values then a time will come when things will start to change. Their attitude will start to change and I have seen that happen little by little. And it wasn't easy for us to get where we are today but those teaching that Elders kept reminding us about the things that we have been through. We have been through colonization, assimilation we see it every day of our lives. We are at break of losing our own language.

But what, I guess the question is before we started the LUP what was the most important thing and they told us it's the healing process that needs to happen with our people. So right from the beginning we had healing camps where we learn about the history of our community, our people and what they have been through. Why do we have problems in our community, its bringing the past and the future to the present? Where we came from where we are going and how are we going to do it.

Ten years we had these camps because our Elders told us if you want to heal the people take them back to the land. The land that is secretes to our people the land that is alive the land we gain wisdom we gain knowledge from the land and reconnect your children to the land. I have seen a lot of things happen when we take our children, our family on the land. We eat, pray and cry together there is a lot of pain in our people. I have seen it I've witness it, I have seen positive transformation. If we want to be successful we have to do this that component is often missing when we do things. We forget that people our people are suffering, that component needs to be included in everything we do. And that's what we have been doing I was part of that healing

camp. I've listen to the dreams and inspiration of our children but they would like to see, they need to be part of that process.

They were asked when these LUP was done. This land use plan was made possible for people who took part in this. We need to acknowledge those who are part of our community. A health community is build on taking pride in who you are that is what makes a health community and we need that health community in order for us to be successful. So that was the things we discuss right from the beginning and we had just completed our healing camp. We had our last healing camp last summer. Our vision is always to protect the land and that why we develop a land management plan and somebody said it was a tool. It's a tool that can be use in the schools.

We are hoping that it could be part of a curriculum. We need to keep taking those kids to the land because I believe there are the spirits of our people on the land. And that's the only way we are able to sustained our communities is acknowledging that and that's what I feel is my responsibility to my people and to the children. Like I say we were concern when there was threaten of large scale of logging, they were already approaching our traditional territory. We know this type of development devastates the community it threatens our way of live and when we starting saying "no", we did get a lot of criticism to this day. I would go and talk to places like this and people say you will never stop those developments, those developers those corporations they have all the power. They have the money and deep in my heart I knew but we couldn't sit back and watch this and knowing the devastation that is going to have on our people and community.

In 1999 we decided to apply for interim protection and we got it for five years while we work on our LUP. Next five years we were still weren't done and they extended for another five years. We wanted full protection because that's what the Elders wanted. We realize we don't live in a bubble we need economic development and we do have plans in doing that. We already started looking at eagle tourism we have gotten international recognition for doing this work. We have already gotten interest but we are taking it slow because want to make sure that it's done properly, how much tourism we going to allow.

To take an initiative like this it does get tiring especially if you don't have the finances and the manpower to do all this. We have to go outside to look for resources to have a document look at you need to pay for that. When we went into it we didn't understand a lot of things the terminology that was being use when documents were written up. When we were dealing with the Government they had all the resources there was in balance of power. We didn't have lawyers behind us whenever we came to the table they did. They always had their lawyers but we never agree we found our lawyer, who look at the document before we agree or sign anything. If there is something we did not understand we took it back and had it examine.

So I guess the thing I wanted to stress is persistence we would take our youth, women, we would march to the legislative. We would knock on their door this is our plan and

this is how we are going to manage our traditional territory. I lost count on how many trips we made. I remember a few years ago this one minister came to us and said you know the first two visits when you came with your document your LUP after your gone we were sitting around, we didn't know what to do with you. We didn't know how to begin to deal with this you were way ahead of us. But we kept going knocking on their door every time they had cabin shuffle we were there with our document reminding them that we were out there.

We brought them to our community, we brought them into our land and I reminded them at one point I said you know look around you look at these people. None of them are in a paid position to work on this maybe there was a couple but none of them were paid to do this work. The time and energy that was spend their knowledge and every person they brought was paid. And I said don't forget this is how important this document is don't take it back and put it away and forgotten. Because we are not going allow to be forgotten we will keep showing up, we will keep reminding you.

We took them out to our land we took them out of their comfort zone we introduce them to people. We took away the tables and share with them the way we conduct business. We did that a few times ask them about their families we go to know them and they got to know us. It takes time to do this it takes planning but I think sometimes they forget that there is people out there who are struggling every day. I feel that this is the story that needs to be heard from people who are trying to survive basically. And I have seen the resilient in our people working together and sometimes it does feel like it's not getting anywhere.

We've had those days we walk out of the meeting frustrated. I would be in tears because they didn't get what we were trying to say but I had tears when our LUP June 2<sup>nd</sup> when they said it went through cabinet. Was overwhelming support so I thought this is the kind of these stories that need to be heard positive things that happen and communities who are really trying to do something like this?

Our traditional territory is 900,000 thousand hectars. We said it was full protection the elders at this time didn't want anything done to destroy that land and I was again debated the young people and the elders. In the end it make sense because when we look around us and what's happening around the planet we didn't do this because we wanted to be difficult we didn't do this because we were hostile, we didn't do this because we want to get rich from of this land, the resources.

We did this because it is our rights to manage and control our traditional territory which our people have live for thousands of years. Who had this belief that it didn't belong to me but it belong to my children, my grandchildren and those that are coming so they can have a place. So when we said "no", no development it means that there be no logging, mining and no hydro development. They are still trying to push a transmission line through our traditional territory and we have put a stop to that. There is a debate going on the current Government supports the idea of putting it on the west side of the

province. So that again is becoming a political debate. So these are the things that we deal with when we make a decision.

But that's part of life I guess when you are born these are the things you are up against and we have to be prepared to deal with them. I was quite happy when our Land Management Plan which is called (can't make out word) management plan and we got equal say to what happens in our traditional territory. And it is not going to stop there we will continue to negotiate till we get full control. But this was just the beginning so anything that happens in our traditional territory we have to be consulted. That's the agreement the mutual land relationship agreement we have with the provincial government. And our agreement it said that we negotiate government to government, recognized as a nation.

The other that maybe I should talk a little bit about is also what happening is that we are working with other First Nation in Manitoba. There are five First Nations and two Provincial Government who are designating this area as a world heritage site. So our leadership in 2002 came together because I think they believe that in working together you can do what you want to do.

Our leadership decided that this is what they wanted to do is this world heritage site. And that's been going on for awhile and we are nearing the end of submitting a draft nomination package to Nestcho and that will be submitted in September of this year. The final document will be submitted in December so after that whether it's going to be designated as a world heritage site will be up to them to decide. But this is what the communities wanted to do and when we first started none of us, I heard of world heritage site but what it took to get there to achieve that was a big task in itself. Understanding again the terminology of the work that needs to be done, the study that needs to be done has taken a long time.

So these communities have work hard to try and get this designation. This is the First Nation's initiative. It's another initiative that these First Nation decided to do and this is their way of bringing economic development into their territories. They are in the process of doing their LUP and most of them are almost completing them. Using our LUP as a template we share what we have and what we've done with them. Temagami, Ontario is also part of that working group. So it's been a really exciting for us it has been very tedious at times to try and gather all this information but it's almost completed.

I am very fortunate to be part of this because my job as a community co-ordinator for this world heritage site project is to visit those First Nations communities and talk about some of the things that are needed for the documentation. Again in the beginning it was going into the communities because the leadership decided to do this. My job was to go in and talk about this world heritage site and what the communities need to prepare to do. I was asked one of the things that they needed was this outstanding universal value statement. I knew going into the communities was asking them these questions in our

language, I'm Objibway and I asked them in my own language what you do think is valuable what do you see is valuable here and they would sit and listen. They said you know we believe everything is valuable. Just go back and tell them everything is valuable nothing is valuable more or less. So those were things that we had to work on.

Some of those Languages when you make a translation to another language is very hard. There is some language break down that happens and it takes longer to discuss then. I don't want to take too much of your time, I know it's late in the day and I'm starting to run out of energy here. I just wanted to share what we have been through and I think you have to be persistence. I am sorry to hear that this LUP has not been approved, but I talk about determination and persistence in doing something. We are still here they have been trying to get rid of us for so long. I think the more First Nations work on these projects and really get this is what we would like to see we want to manage our own resources. We want to manage our own land, we want to manage our own life is the message that we need to keep telling them. I think we were lucky but I know the prayers our beliefs in how we held our elders. I think if we didn't have our elders I don't know if we have gotten this far because they were the stories, the teaching that they left us were the guiding principles that we use in developing this LUP.

This is a living document because their teaching, wisdom and knowledge is part of this Land Management Plan. They were the ones that use the land for thousands of years and if you would like to see a copy of our LUP I could leave you my business card and that we would connect you to the document. If you want questions or curious about things just let us know and we will try to help. I believe in helping and supporting one another to get where we want to be and again I want to thank you and I feel honour to be ask. I hope that the story that I carry helps you and inspire you because I love my land so much that I would do anything to help protect it. It's not just my land I am talking about we see this planet as Mother Earth and it needs healing because it's really suffering and we are doing our part in protecting that because whatever we do in protecting those trees that we need to survive that's what needs to be done. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Sophia you could remain here, we like the Grand Chief here to make a small presentation.

Grand Chief Gargan. mahsi, we welcome Sophia who came along way from Popular River to do this presentation to the assembly. We too have been talking about this land and protecting it is what we want. In 2001 we started our LUP and in 2006 we made a document and gave it to the Canada. In fighting for Dehcho land we made DVD and Ethel Lamothe brought out a really good definition of a LUP. We have a story and we all get a little of ourselves to the story. The result was the LUP that we develop on it and in 2002 when we past it the Federal Government and GNWT felt that they weren't part of that plan. So we start working on it again and the end result is that we almost have it completed and it's a plan that involves all the governments as well as the First



Nations. And the plan also puts in place that we are one with the land nobody else is outside of that.

So that's the intent of it and finally like once it's done then we take care of it together. It's no longer the GNWT, Federal Government and we are over here, but were all part of it. We gave our message to the document and that's what will come out in the end. The same spirit and intent is also done by your Popular River First Nation. Thank you very much for coming very far to give us your wisdom, your talk and on behalf of all the members gather here the leaders, community members of Dehcho, Elders, Chiefs and I want to present you with a gift before you leave.

Sophia thank you I felt a bit rush but I have some information maybe I can just, you can just pass it around and take a look at our LUP. We are not done yet, we now have to work at implementing our LUP so we do have a web site that you can see what's going on. Thank you again for those kind words.

Chair, okay thanks Sophia good presentation. I like to recognize a guest that has come to our meeting, Billy Erasmus President for Dene Nation. I understand we are running a little bit late for supper. The next item on the agenda is Devolution do we have people here to make the presentation on it. We will ask the Grand Chief Sam Gargan to give a brief presentation on Devolution.

### **Grand Chief Sam Gargan makes presentation on Devolution.**

On tap 9 you will see the Akaitcho Treaty 8 did a letter on Devolution to the Minister Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and Premier Floyd Roland on their position on Devolution. There is also other activities that are going on in other regions regarding Devolution discussion. Things that are happening that I don't wish to say in public but I thought it would be important that you have the Akaitcho Treaty 8 position. We haven't established a position but we still need to get some direction on what the leaders feels is important on Devolution that we should discussion. There isn't any then we wait to see what the reaction is in regards to what other regions are doing. This is whether or not this wards an attention during the fall elections of MLA's.

Chair, okay that's the presentation is there any questions, the floor is open. Okay Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge.

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, thank you Grand Chief, is it possible to have a quick caucus meeting of leaders on this tonight? I don't know how many Chiefs, Leaders your going be singing tonight show but I am prepare to have a quick caucus meeting if it's possible. Mahsi.

Grand Chief Gargan, just to inform the leadership that there hasn't been no new development since the Devolution Agreement was signed. There is not going to be any signing ceremony till after the election. There are activities that are happening in other



region that I do not wish to say public because it's their action plan on Devolution and that's all I can say. If we did go in camera I can probably share what was said but there is no new development. There isn't any really need to caucus unless you wish to find out what other regions are doing.

Chair, thanks there Grand Chief. Suggestion is that the leaders will have a caucus tonight is that what you are suggesting Chief if there's leaders here tonight? You don't know, okay we will leave it at that.

Grand Chief Sam Gargan it's really up to the leaders if they want to have one then...

Chair, organize one then you guys can have a caucus okay, let's do it that way then. Yes they will organize a caucus meeting tonight for the leaders. I like to move on we have one quick final item that we have here is the Master Trust, we have our people here who are ready to do, we have been told that they are going to keep it down to 15 minutes. Okay let's go Rick.

Grand Chief Sam Gargan just to remind the leaders that you did agree to amend your agenda so that we dealt with the Mackenzie Gas, Wildlife, AAROM and then DFN Master Trust. If want to move the Master Trust forward ahead of the other items that you agree on then we should have consensus to do that.

Chair okay can we go onto the Master Trust we are wasting time.

### **Master Trust Presentation**

Richard Lafferty, Okay, who we have with us here is of course, Darlene, your chair, so I will just turn it over to her and she can introduce the Trustees, mahsi.

Darlene Sibbeston, Thank you Richard, I have Julie LeBlanc and she is in our Calgary office, she is a Trust Officer. And I have with us Jean Sikkimen, who is out of the Winnipeg office and myself, as Chair.

We know you guys are hungry so we won't take up too much time. However, we would really like to stress the importance of the information that we are going to present to you. Jean has her presentation and I have my own presentation as Chair of the Board and we would like to stress that if you have any concerns, please bring them forward. All this information is critical so I will let Jean go on with her presentation and I will get mine set up as she is going along with hers. Thanks.

Jean, Thank You Darlene. I would like to thank the leadership and the elders and the delegates and the community members to allow CIBC Trust the honor to look after your Trust Funds which represent your land. It is a privilege and an honor for us to be here today to report to you on your Trust.

This is a diagram of how your Trust looks and it is really quite complicated. I am not going to go into it too much but basically the way it is structured is that, forty percent of the 15 million dollar settlement that you received went into the Immediate Opportunities portion of the Trust. There is some 25% that went into the Future Generations Trust and thirty five percent was for the Mid Term Trust.

I guess there are several people that are actually involved from the Trust Company so I am the Regional Trust Manager, Julie is our Trust Officer and there are actually six other people behind the scenes working with me that administer the Trust.

The role of the Trustee is to act as the gatekeeper to preserve and protect the assets of the Trust, no member of the community or no member of the Investment Management Board can touch the Trust Fund. They are protected by the Trustee in a separate Trust Account and they are invested.

We work with the Investment Management Board consisting of Mavis Cli-Michaud, Darlene Sibbeston and Richard Lafferty and also work with an Investment Advisor who does the actually investing of your Trust Funds. Working with the Investment Advisor, underneath him, are twelve other Investment Managers and the Investment Management Board works with the Investment Advisor to come up with an Investment Policy Statement showing how your Trust Funds are to be invested. The Trustee supervises the Investment Manager to ensure that it is within the parameters of the Investment Policy Statement.

So your Trust was set up with a goal of preserving the capital for the future generations, providing for the future. So we record all the transactions, we do an annual report, we work with the Investment Advisor, the Investment Management Board and we make sure that all the expenditures from the Trust are compliant with the Trust Agreement. So no expenditures can be made that are not allowed for in the Trust Agreement and the Trust Agreement is the law of your Trust.

This is an update of your Trust Fund as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. So the total value of the Trust is over sixteen and a half million dollars and this is a diagram of how it is invested. It is invested in safe, secure investments that are intended to grow over time. Some of the investments are bonds which are safe and secure and pay interest. But the other parts of your Trust are ownership in companies and you will see that some of the companies that your Trust owns are companies that all of you would use every day; Tim Horton's, Coca Cola, Johnson and Johnson, Shoppers Drug Mart, West Jet, Wal-Mart even.

So those are all companies that are very well managed and you actually own portions of all of those companies. So being an owner in those companies, it gives you the right to go to the annual meeting of shareholders and put your vote forward as to what you think that you as a shareholder would like to say. So you can see that all of these companies are all stable companies and you hear about the stock market going up and the stock

market going down and your investments going down. Well if you are invested in all of these companies, over time, the market is going to come back and your investments will, eventually over time, grow. And that is the purpose of the Trust Fund.

We also have on top of the sixteen and a half million, there are some accounts for the Investment Management Board, so when you add this to the sixteen million, your Trust Funds are actually over seventeen million dollars right now.

The investments in the Trust Account have earned eight point one five percent this year. If you were to take your funds and to invest them in Scotia Bank or in CIBC, you would have earned approximately one and a half to two percent. So the way that your funds are invested right now is to produce income that can be put back into your Trust and grow them but also, growth so that the investments keep up with inflation. So you paid twenty five cents for a loaf of bread fifty years ago but how much does that loaf of bread cost now. By having stocks and companies like the ones that I showed you, it allows the Trust Funds to grow.

This is a summary of the funds that came into the Trust for 2010; so we had interests and dividends from the investments and something we call secondary income, which is interest that is earned on the interest and dividends. It is very complicated; I am not going to go into a long discussion on that but it is an important factor in your Trust. These are the funds that were disbursed from the Trust; so the fees for the Portfolio Manager, CIBC Trust Fees, the accountant, the expenses of the Investment Management Board and there was actually an income distribution of two hundred forty four thousand that came from the Master Trust and was disbursed to the other trusts. These are your values as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and we are required under the terms of the Trust Agreement to report those figures as of December 31<sup>st</sup> every year. But we do provide ongoing updates to the Investment Management Board who then forward those onto leadership. So this is a snap shot at what your account was valued at on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. So you can since then it has grown significantly. Do you have any questions regarding the Trust Fund or investments of the Trust Fund at this point?

Chief Lennie, Just looking on your third graph in regards to having a tax decision. Yes, Advanced Tax Ruling, so I've got a question, one of our Board members, Mr. Lafferty, I think, in his last report, last year, there was an excess of over three hundred thousand dollars. Is that the same seven hundred so odd dollars?

Jean, Yes

Chief Lennie. Because my question is that over the year I have been trying to acquire some of this revenue but the Board member was telling us that we can acquire. I didn't know there was a Tax Ruling that had to be done, so that is something kind of new. So when is the Tax Ruling going to be worked on and once it is, whether it is resolved when would we be able to get access in regards? There is another one in there in regards to Immediate Opportunities Fund and as a Chief, trying to explain.

Jean, that is accessible now?

Chief Lennie, Holy, you guys heard that, that is recorded, you can get that now. So definitely I have some staff with their ears open so there will be some immediate requirements of that funding for sure. But I guess, those, the Tax Ruling I'm not too understanding on that and when would that be done and how immediate can that be released?

Jean, Okay, I believe the Investment Management Board is looking after gathering information from all of the First Nation that form the Dehcho and that is what is holding up the Tax Ruling and there is a lot of information that is required. And perhaps, Darlene or Richard could speak to what that information is.

Darlene Sibbeston, Thank you. It is true that when you guys signed the Master Trust there was a provision in there that indicated that the Master Trust only has one schedule which is the Immediate Opportunities Fund pending the approval of an Advanced Tax Ruling.

So the Advance Tax Ruling provides that the replacement trust will be signed and approved, Schedule 2 to 6 are in the Replacement Trust, which is the economic development trust, the community development, the land, the education and the elders. So right now, currently, the only monies that are available is under the Immediate Opportunities Fund and we did distribute monies out of that fund already and I do have a handbook and guidelines which was sent to all the communities in, around February. And we have two deadlines each year, March 31<sup>st</sup> and September 30th of each year, but you can apply to access this funding.

Chief Lennie, that's after the Tax Ruling right, in regards to the Immediate Opportunities Fund, so when somebody tells me that there is revenue there to be acquired for certain programs, now this is a year later, or six month later, where now I am saying I have to wait for a Tax Ruling and I've waited for a year for that Tax Ruling, pretty well. There was supposed to be some funds released. So what do you want me to do? To trust the Trust, so I can receive some of that Trust funds, so I can do some work in a trustworthy way, mahsi.

Jean, maybe Darlene can explain what is involved in gathering the information for getting that Advance Tax Ruling. What information that she needs from each individual community.

Darlene Sibbeston, The Advance Tax Ruling has been going on since the Master Trust was signed, which is in 2006. It is now 2011, information was sent from our lawyers to each First Nation and to Dehcho First Nations numerous times asking for specific information and each time that the information is coming from the tax lawyers, going to our lawyers, our lawyers coming to us, us going to DFN and going to you guys, context

gets missing. So what we've done in our last meeting, we've decided to go to the horse's mouth, what we are going to do, is set up a meeting between the tax lawyers, Dehcho First Nations and the Investment Management Board, to see what specific information they need to go to CCRA to get this Advance Tax Ruling and it is a lengthy process. I am not going to say it is going to take six months; it's going to a year and a half. It has already taken five years.

It is just a matter of you guys providing that information to the tax lawyer. It is critical that this information gets to the tax lawyer. I mean it has already been five years and we have paid legal fees since then. So I mean, as long as that information is forthcoming then this stuff can move forward and then you can actually apply to the Schedules 2 – 6. Because right now, the only money that is available is through the Immediate Opportunities Fund which is for business ventures. Does that answer your question?

Chief Lennie, I don't know about all this corporate stuff but you may need to repeat yourself in simple language but that is good enough for me, I trust you.

Darlene Sibbeston, Thank You. Absolutely, simpler language yes, we do have a budget that we have put forward and it does have provisions in there for community visits. We did send out, I did send an email to all the First Nations in January to ask when was a good time for the Investment Management Board to travel to your communities to explain the Trust to you guys. We got two responses back, so what we are going to again this year and go to all the communities and request when is a good time for us to travel to your community to explain the Trust Fund.

It's that simple and if we can get some feedback from all the First Nations that would awesome, because this Trust Fund is for everybody in the Dehcho region, it involves everybody, your great grandchildren, it is to grant into perpetuity, which is forever. I mean that is a long time, so if you have this money that is working for you, year after year after year, and you can get out to help develop your community and to help the people in your community, it is only good. Does anybody else have any other questions?

Chair, Thank you Darlene

Chief Lennie, It is just this booklet that you referred to, can I receive that because I haven't received an email in regards to inviting the Trust group into the community also. My email is [timlennie@hotmail.com](mailto:timlennie@hotmail.com) .

Darlene Sibbeston, Thank you, that is the emailed that I used.

Chief Lennie, Okay, do you have any of those little booklets, if you have those available can you pass that around now please?

Darlene Sibbeston, I do have them here with me, thank you very much.

Chair, I believe Margaret Ireland, and then Samuel Gargan and then we are going to be ready for supper, so go ahead Margaret.

Margaret Ireland, Okay, my question is,

Chair, Okay, Margaret, Roy, Jim and Sam and then we are going to break for supper.

Margaret Ireland, Okay, my question is what exactly is community development account and when would it become available? And if it becomes available what could it be used for? I am thinking that, I am thinking about housing which is a major problem in all the communities?

Darlene Sibbeston, Thank you. The Community Development Fund is pending the Advance Tax Ruling. So which is in the Replacement Trust, so I will just read a short; The Community Development Fund is to foster the development of economic capabilities for the Dehcho First Nations communities through community owned enterprises and ventures which will provide employment, training and business experience to members and develop permanent facilities for the benefits of the communities. Some of those examples could be homes for senior citizens, schools, DFN office buildings, women's shelters, hospitals, recreational facilities, health clinics and healing centers and day care facilities.

When it will be available, like I said, this is all pending the Advance Tax Ruling, so that the quicker we get this settled the quicker that the communities can apply to Schedules 2 to 6.

Chair, thank you Darlene, Chief Roy Fabian.

Chief Fabian, Mahsi, I guess in your hand out here, in this book that we got here, you have Dehcho First Nation Master Trust Statement of Trust Income for the year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>. So you have got all these Community Development, Economic Development fund, so money becomes available, it is under those programs that it becomes available.

Darlene Sibbeston, That is correct. If you look in that handbook and guidelines, the only money available is the Immediate Opportunities Funding. So we've developed this handbook and guidelines for us to move forward when we do have the Advance Tax Ruling and we can work under the Replacement Trust. So right now, we are only working under the Master Trust. So if you want to make plans for the future and know what your community needs, absolutely, you can look through that book and determine how you can access money under which funds. Does that answer your question?

Chief Fabian, Yes, and I think I will just read this thing.



Chair, thank you Chief Roy Fabian and Darlene, Chief Jim Antoine.

Chief Antoine, hello, good afternoon, the two ladies here, I came in late, I don't know who you are, I don't know who you work for?

Jean Simcomus, My name is Jean Simcomus and I am with CIBC Trust, so CIBC Trust is the Corporate Trustee of the Dehcho Trust Fund.

Julie, My name is Julie LeBonte, I also work for CIBC Trust, I am a Trust Officer actually dedicated to First Nations Trust Accounts.

Chief Antoine, so you are the one that actually have our money?

Jean, we are.

Chief Antoine, Have you seen it? We haven't seen it, we just hear about it and you want us to trust you.

Jean, we are protecting it.

Chief Antoine, Okay, protect it very well. I just wanted to say that you had a power point presentation, do we have a copy?

Jean, we can get you a copy.

Chief Antoine, because, you are flashing through some very important numbers and some of us know how to read.

Jean, it's actually in our annual report, all those numbers.

Chief Antoine, so it is hard to ask question when you just flash those numbers by very quickly, without having copies in front of us, so. It is very important, you know, it is fifteen million dollars set aside for future generations and we are very interested in it. I don't know anything about investments. I don't know anything about Trusts, just what I heard Richard talk; he talks the most about this, Darlene a little bit. So, we haven't really, it would be good to have. We should learn about it. You are talking your industry language at us and you should give us some stuff in layman terms and just kind of lay it out, so we can read it and say, oh that's how it works. That would lift my trust level a little bit higher.

We know it's there, we know somebody is handling it. They tell us they are doing this and they are doing that, so, those kind of information that would explain to me and my membership. At these meeting, as Chief and our delegates, we come here and we are expected to go home and explain it, so if we are explaining some stuff that we don't

understand it is difficult to explain it, oh, just people have got our money and they say it's okay. So we need more information. Thank you.

Jean, that is one thing that we do, is that we provide training to community members and leadership and we would be happy to attend at a leadership meeting and provide some training on your specific trust. On investments, and how you can obtain funds from your trust. The Investment Management Board actually will be coming out to the communities to do some of that training and education on your Trust.

Chair, thanks Jim,

Alison de Pelham, I am requesting clarification on the decision on which companies you are investing in. To me as a member of this region, it is pretty disturbing after the discussion of two days, seeing we own part of Imperial Oil, Encana, and other groups that we are at opposition with and negotiating with at this time. So how are these companies selected? And were there any guideline/principles in terms of the investment scenario?

Richard Lafferty, I would like to help answer, because it was before Darlene's time when the investments were actually made and actually the Trustees are new as well. What happened was we asked the leadership if there should be any parameters around what we invest in. And we gave the example, such as nuclear energy, or anything like that, and the answer was that there were no limits. We want to buy businesses that generate a profit, and these companies up there are some of the top profit earners in the world.

And we also didn't remain only in Canada; we are invested globally, in Asian markets, European markets, American markets.

So what we did do though is we put parameters around what you can buy in terms of the quality of the stock or the quality of the holdings that you are going to invest in. And I think it is B+ and higher. And so, only real solid investments, there are no such thing as junk bonds even considered in our investments, it's all B+ or higher. So A, AAA bonds and all that stuff and a lot of these companies, as well as I was explaining before, some of them have \$100 million dollar investment limit. And so, we only have fifteen million, so our investment manager pools our money with other people's money and we are able to buy in to some of these higher end companies.

Jean, Yeah, Just in addition to that in being a shareholder with these companies, what it does it gives you a right to go to the annual meetings and say we disagree with what you are doing, we disagree with you being in this area. We would like, to talk to the Board, it gives you chance to actually go to the annual meeting; speak with the board of directors of these companies. And for every share that you hold in these companies, that's equal to one vote. This has been an issue that has actually been broached before.

You are not the first one to ask this question, and we actually went back to the Investment Advisor Tom Wooding to ask him, why, why did you do this. Because you know it does look very contradictory when you first see it. And he said, in his eyes, this is a way to empower you but, one thing to say, if you disagree and if you don't think that this is something that you would like to move forward with, if you want us to remove you from these stocks. You just have to tell us. We need the Assembly to vote, we need your voices to come into this and we need a majority. But if you are absolutely not happy with this, you just need to tell us and we will tell the Investment Advisor that he has to invest things in somewhere else; that's not a problem.

Alison de Pelham: It's not a question of whether these are sound business investments, but I really would recommend as a member of this region that the leadership consider what they are doing and the contradiction that it does play out. We are talking about principle, in terms of land protection and the future for our children and my children. And whether we can go to a Board meeting with Imperial Oil and chat, well that's all fine and good, but it is an ultimate contradiction in what this region stood for. So I would suggest that this Dehcho leadership take apart what it is doing and look at it very carefully because in the end it is going to be thrown in your face, why are you objecting to the work that is being undertaken when you are owners of that company. And I ask this leadership to pay attention to what they are doing for my children's future, thank you.

Chair, Thank you Alison.

Chris Reid, Grand Chief and I just had a conversation and he asked me to add something to this issue. Just so everyone is clear, by owning shares you don't get to go to their Board meeting. Board meetings are where the real decisions are made; absolutely you do not get to go to those.

Jean, No, you go to the annual meeting.

Chris Reid, Annual meeting, where you have a few votes out of a million of votes and it only matters if you are going to the meeting to raise a stink. If you are not doing it, it is irrelevant or meaningless. There are ethical mutual funds where you can make money without ethical contradictions.

Chair, Ria, you want to add something to this?

Ria Letcher: My question was on the investments and thanks Chris for clarifying that, I understood every board meeting but annual meeting, whoa, we own part of Imperial Oil maybe this will give us some leverage. But anyway, my question is on the banking dates for the Immediate Opportunities Funding. I know you have a March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline which didn't have a lot of administration surrounding it. I knew you handed the Handbooks to our very busy leaders in probably the winter leadership meeting but you know they are quite busy themselves and I think there needs to be a little more process

there by way of notification of upcoming banking dates, get your proposals together, here's where you can submit them. Handbook and Guidelines can be found at this website or can be obtained from this address. That didn't happen in that last go round and that didn't help, the Fund not accessed as much as it could have been had that process been followed. So is there going to be more of a process for this September deadline?

Chair, who would like to answer that, Darlene?

Darlene Sibbeston, I'll do that thank you. Absolutely Ria I agree with you. This was our first go around and I am not saying we are perfect. We did what we could with the resources that we had which are little, yes. The Board consists of three members and each one of us is busy, we realize that. I have done the best I could, so did the other Board members and absolutely, we have just handed out the Handbook and Guidelines and we are advising you now that the deadlines are September 30<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> each year. And yes, emails will go out.

I realize that the Chiefs and leaders are busy and if it takes a personal phone call to them, then that is what it is. I mean its one phone call out of my day to .... Of you leaders, absolutely.

Ria Letcher, There should be a letter, formal notification in the paper, in the Dehcho Drum and a little more process for this for our communities. We have various levels of communities, lots of capacity issues in our communities, so as much information as you can provide for that. And I have offered this over the years and I am offering again, Dehcho First Nation services in helping you administrate whatever is required in communicating and reaching out to communities; in your community visits and all of that stuff.

We are here as a resource to the communities and we support the communities in all aspects of their community governance. We are here to help make this work.

Darlene Sibbeston, Thanks. We realize this however, like I said earlier, the Advance Tax Ruling needs to be passed, it needs to be approved through CCRA in order for the communities to access Schedules 2 through 6. And right now, this September 30<sup>th</sup>, the only monies that can be accessed is the Immediate Opportunities Funding for business ventures. In the Future, yes, ads will go out in the paper, the Dehcho Drum, the News North, if we have to, absolutely. Post it on DFN website and official letters going to each member, sorry, each First Nations yes.

But like I said the Advance Tax Ruling needs to be approved by CCRA, we have to get the information to the CCRA from Dehcho First Nations and the First Nation.

Ria Letcher, On the Advance Tax Ruling, I understood in dealing with the Advance Tax Ruling, we submitted something to the IMB members on the Advance Tax Ruling and this has been an issue ongoing for some time, trying to get that paper done. And amongst yourselves, were you not able to, like Richard has a sense of leadership experience as well as negotiating experience, that could really have been a resource in

developing in this Advance Tax Ruling paper position or whatever you would call it. But we eventually submitted something and I wasn't aware that that had to come from the individual communities. I didn't see that. When was this letter sent from Duncan and Craig?

Darlene Sibbeston, Sorry, the Advance Tax Ruling, the information that you did give to us that was collected from you within the five months, that was perfect information however, it is not up to us, it is not up to the Tax Board, it's up to CCRA in what information they require. They want specific information from Dehcho First Nations, because now it's not each First Nation from, they want it from Dehcho First Nations. They want that information from Dehcho First Nations, and it is specific information.

At our last meeting, we had compromised, not compromised, sorry, we had agreed that the information from the Tax lawyers, going to Duncan and Craig, coming to us, going to you guys, going to all the First Nations, these emails are streaming this way, and we are getting this information to you. So in those emails some context is lost. I am trying to explain what they need to you, so the information is being lost.

So what we have agreed to do is set up a meeting between the Tax lawyers, the Investment Management Board and Dehcho First Nations in the near future. And you can look forward to some kind of email and letter from the Investment Management Board and the tax lawyers asking when is a good date for Dehcho First Nations, so all three of us can get together, so we can get it from the horses' mouth rather than getting it second hand information and that is what we have agreed to do.

Ria Letcher, So building upon the submission that we have given you,  
Darlene Sibbeston: CCRA is looking for specific information, they want to know, does DFN administer road maintenance, does Dehcho First Nations administer Health Services, it's those specific examples that they are looking for.

Ria Letcher: Well within, the collective communities, various communities do administer road maintenance; various communities do deliver health care. Because you know the diversities of our communities, and how some communities have responsibilities that other communities don't, so

Darlene Sibbeston: They want more specifics.

Ria Letcher: The letter that we got from Duncan and Craig was functions, demonstrating and putting on papers the functions of government; building roads and administering health care, people have been doing that for years. There are trails are all over the place and the mapping justifies that. You know, when it comes to the federal government, we are always at a loss, especially with CCRA.

If you have a dime, if there is a dime that we owe them, they will get that dime off of us, and no matter how we spring this. We wouldn't be here if we were not a government

collectively. The Government of Canada wouldn't be negotiating with us. What does it take for CCRA to understand that? Maybe they should come to one of these meetings.

Darlene Sibbeston: We have also instructed the tax lawyers to go to CCRA, get them talking, so they can come to the table with us, and Dehcho First Nations. I understand that, I totally get that CCRA; I deal with them personally, anyways. And every one of us does, and we know how frustrating it is, so instead of saying the last six years has gone by, we have got nothing. How I would like to look at it is moving forward.

Okay, we didn't get it done, I realize that, but from this day forward, this is what I am working towards to get this Advance Tax Ruling so we can get all these other schedules in working order so the communities can access these funds. That's my goal right now, we have accomplished other things, but my goal right now is to get this Advance Tax Ruling, work hard on it and get this information out there. Get the information to CCRA. I mean, what can we do, we can't say anything to CCRA that will allow them to push our file forward quicker, it's up to them. Besides picketing on their front lawn, that could be an option, a lot of First Nations have done that, absolutely.

Ria Letcher: In the Advance act, it has been six years now and we haven't got this Advance Tax Ruling, are we prepared to wait another six years for this work or what. Ria Letcher, and that is why, giving all of that money back into the Immediate Opportunities Fund, if we are not going to get an Advance Tax Ruling from CCRA, so that people could access the money that they need? That is something that needs to be considered. Do we leave that money locked up forever, pending a CCRA ruling and our people don't ever get to access that money, this generation of people?

The tax issues and the tax laws are such that you can't challenge them. You have the on reserve tax issues that our people have been battling. How long are we prepared to do this for? We have done it for six years, when do we say enough and consider an alternate course?

Chair: Thank you Ria. I believe supper is ready and we are going too actually. Ria, we are going to fast pace it. Can you please make it quick? Supper is ready and after Rita, Sam and that is it.

Rita Cli: You know supper is ready but this is very important. It is Dehcho's money. Leadership has to direct how this money is to be spent and to be used. It is our money; we tell them how we want it done. How it is to be administered. It's Dehcho's money. And that's something that I want the leadership be aware of. And we cannot deal with it in fifteen minutes and I want to see, as a previous leader and an elder, I want to see the paper trail, the whole paper trail that lead to where we are. How decisions were made? And if some of the investments have been questioned by some of our members, and one of our elders, had questioned a few things, the same questions that Alison said, he questioned it too.



So, we really need to revisit this whole file. So and also, I know that from reading documentation that there is, the people that we are dealing with CIBC their term comes out for renewal, come December 31<sup>st</sup> or something. So you be mindful of that, and I know one of the Board members, Richard had said, we had been to see Peace Hill, TD and everything but you need to get a core of people together, our people, not outsiders, Dehcho people that know figures and dollar values and do an appraisal. Did CIBC do us justice with this Trust fund? You need to do this kind of appraisal on them?

Chief Roy Fabian: He is the one that is supposed to do this kind of stuff, anyway, It's going to take time for us to learn, just like Rita is pointing out some things here, we need to better understand it, And like she said, this is our responsibility as Chiefs, so we've got to learn, we need to be educated, so if you have training programs, or you can put on training, we it is us that needs the training, the leadership, so that we understand what it is that we are dealing with here.

You I know I understand Trust a little bit, and things like that, but still, what are all the legal issues. Like this taxation issue, totally new one to me and I was asking what the heck is CCRA, you guys are talking about CCRA and I have no idea what the heck you guys are talking about and I still don't. But anyway, I would like to see us move forward with this thing. Better communication, so I think that is the key, better communication so my suggestion is you.

I notice what happens when Ria gets an email, she makes sure it goes to all the Chiefs. And I see other Chiefs, when they get an email; they send it to everybody else. So sometimes over sixty emails and I am getting repetitive emails. But I just want to recommend that, we are learning and it is going to take us a little while for us to get to that point where one day we can say, okay, so this is the way it's going to be. I can't do that today. I have no idea what this thing is about, but at the same time, I want to know and I want to learn. That is all I want to say. Mahsi.

Chair: Thank you Chief Fabian. I don't even know your name.

Julie: A very quick reply, my Dad was in the army, he taught me how to use my voice. Actually I think the points that were brought up recently are really good. This is your money. You hired us as your Trustees and what that means is that basically you put your trust in us to help you deal with the big things, but as it stands, this money is meant to fund and help your community , not just today but obviously for as many generations as possible.

We as Trustees are not going to be around forever, perhaps you will go to a different company, I hope not honestly, but that reality is there and you are right. You do need to know what you are looking. So if I could just propose now, and I will ask the Chiefs and the leadership to consider I know your fall leadership meeting is coming up and we would be more than willing to come and make some presentations to get you started. We can provide you with a few items that are probably your highest priority, you select

what you would like to learn and we would be more than happy to provide you with that information. And actually, a lot of the recommendations you have all been providing today, we have been writing down and they are excellent. So please don't ever hesitate to tell us what we need to be doing because we do work for you.

Chair: Okay, thank you.

Ria Letcher: Darlene, Richard you should know this, our meetings are never on schedule. We have them once a year and I try to build the agenda for these meeting to accommodate the fact that there is overflow into the next day but every year, we run into this. We have lengthy discussions, heartfelt discussions on all the issues and it is hard to shut it down, like we are trying to right now and that when you do come; that you should take the time. You have sixteen million dollars of our money; please do take a couple of days in the future. I understand you are a busy lady. But when you are holding that kind of Dehcho money, you should be giving us the time and consideration and really getting to know the communities and the concerns.

Right now you have had an hour and look at the concerns in the room, protocol is, if you are going to show a power point that it be circulated. Our people are very visual and tactile people, they like to see information in their hands so they can analyze the information and form their questions around that.

Chair: Our last comments, from our Grand Chief.

Grand Chief Gargan: I haven't got much more to add, except that we did pass a resolution yesterday to take a good look at everything before we go on. I want to thank the investment company. In six years they have made one million dollars of our fifteen million dollar pot. And perhaps maybe, in 2017, we will see another million added to that pot, to make it seventeen million. I don't know if that's exciting for you but I would say that's pretty depressing.

And the other issue is that we do have an issue with regards to the world economy, one of it is in Greece and the other is in the US. [The economy could collapse; we have a big risk here. Do we have all our baskets in one pot? Sixteen million dollars in that one point. So, again, I don't know how the leadership feel about it, again, setting parameters up.

If we set up parameters of let say, ten percent of our fifteen million, we would be up about eight million right now but that wasn't done. So we did put a lot of faith in our investment company , we have followed their advice and for that we are rewarded with one million dollars, perhaps another million will come, in six years from now. But I guess you want to ask, with regard to the trend, is that a good investment, did we get a return, and I think the resolution that was passed yesterday, does that Rita. So your instruction is in that resolution itself, so thank you very much. I think we have a lot to think about but also there is an offer here, by our investment company to visit

communities but before even entertain that thought we should follow up with that resolution first, to see exactly if we are on the right track and get an independent body to do that for us. Mahsi.

Chair: Thank you Grand Chief, we are going to be closing down the Assembly for the day.

**Closing Prayer done by Elder Rita Cli.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM**

**Dehcho First Nations  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly  
June 27-30, 2011  
Pehdzeh Ki First Nations**

**Day Three (Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>): 9:30 AM**

Opening Prayer Grand Chief Gargan

Chairperson, to the agenda we will continue to have our discussion on the Dehcho Process. There is a number of people in line to speak yesterday and we will continue to do that. We are asking Georges the Chief Negotiator and his team to come to the table. I have been told that some delegates want to leave by 4PM, 3 PM the earliest. A lot of them have come long distances and want to be home for their July 1<sup>st</sup> celebration. Chief Tim Lennie.

Chief Tim Lennie, I just wanted to say that everyone wants to leave today and we still have a lot to go through and I just wanted everyone to have a safe trip home. Today when we look around lot of our Elders are not among us anymore. I am almost an Elder now and our Elders have left a message for us to continue in their teaching. In speaking to the assembly about the oil spill at Willow Lake River and this message is from an Elder.

Enbridge had told us that only about 40 – 60 barrels was spill but to date there is a count of 150 barrels and there is still about 1500 more barrels to be picked up. At first there was some kind of a swamp smell and when checking the area there was big area of oil spill. This oil has contaminated the wildlife, fish and ducks that come into that area but they said this did not happen. Nobody is accommodating us and they want our land so that's why we are pushing for LUP. Because we are a small community we don't have the resource to do something about it. The route of the pipeline and it's not straight and therefore there is going to be a weak spot somewhere. I would like to leave this message with you so that's why we as a small community we don't have the resources to deal with this.

We are pressing Enbridge to do training with our people to comply with safety training on equipments. We want environmental monitor to be trained so that they will know what to do when this kind of situation happens again. I had always thought why, did this happen to us and if we play our cards right we are in a winning position today, but we need to stay united. We have proven just by our observation just by theory, just by common sense and see how big that oil spill was science has proven the Dene with their traditional knowledge have proven everything that they said to this day and this community has been right. We said there was more than 4 barrels, we said there was more than 90 barrels in there and I still say today and I've said it two weeks ago there's

more than 1500 barrel of oil that had leak. That's not even counting the contaminated water.

Two days ago my son-in-law checked the fish net I got some oily fish. We have asked from day one and we ask again please put some magnesium in place in regards to water monitoring, in regards to boom whatever it takes to indicate there is no oil in the river. Who controls who, Enbridge has a lot of authority. The government don't move an inch until that company tells them it's okay. Are they going to apologize, apology don't make no difference to me I heard enough right now. When I have these concerns and I sit with my family they see the concern on my face.

Some serious issue needs to be dealt with. The government hasn't yet come to see us neither did the MLA and they only contact us by telephone. What are they afraid of we did nothing. That's the question I have for the government. You want to build a relationship, if this is way the government is going to build a relationship with First Nation in the north. Why do you think we are in negotiations three parties. How are we going to take care of each other, why are we even working on this agreement here today on the Dehcho Process with the two Government if we are going to be treated like this. This is not a third world country. I realize people work for industries and they need money. Why at the risk of our people, they talk about consultation, consultation how about accommodation.

Nobody is accommodating what our wishes are what our aspiration are. They never ask us and what do they want, they want our land, that's why there is a push for LUP. Until we have a Dehcho resource management authority in place we should not release or surrender our land. That should be a priority or are we building this plan to give it to the government to govern it for us. So went we talk about this Mackenzie Gas project and development let's see what is happening right across here. Right across here mining has been happening for a number of years.

People think they can come to Pehdzeh Ki Denendeh when I am in leadership and do what they want well they have a whole different issue to deal with when they come and see me. The only way you want progress is to consult with the people and the elders and whatever they decide only then you can come and work on the land. There is no free entry around this country somebody has to pay. And it's very difficult as a small community because we don't have the resources. I can go on and on with my frustration but I don't want to take the whole morning so you know what we are working towards we are not finish yet.

It is going to take every bit of our energy as a community, as an organization to deal with these issues and we will do our very best with whatever little we have. Because government is not going to help us I know that for a fact. What happened at Willow River is a pinhole leak. One question I asked how much pressure and how long it would take through a pinhole leak to release 1700 barrels of oil? How long would it take to leak that much out? We should pass a resolution to get Enbridge to do a thorough

testing of that pipeline. We should have someone independent doing that. I am learning a little bit more on pipeline and there is a peg they call it and sometimes it gets stuck. How level is the pipeline to the ground and in some places is not straight as people think it is. Before the oil reaches Zama the peg gets stuck 5-10 times, so every time the peg gets stuck the pipeline is just like a balloon and shoots out oil. I don't know if we will ever know if there is any other leaks they said.

We will be meeting with Enbridge to reformations action plan to clean up. In communities where they have pipeline through their land we are pressuring Enbridge to train our people to learn how to monitor the pipeline. The only way you can work on this pipeline is you become compliant with their safety rules etc. As First Nation all we wanted was to have trained monitors. Mashie for listening to me and I know that we have lots to go through and I just wanted to let you know my frustration.

Chair, thank you Chief Lennie for the information. We would like to this AM just to continue with our agenda where we left off. We will continue with Dehcho Process follow by the Executive Report which will include the core budget approval. We would like the people to seriously consider the vacant positions on the Executive Committee we need one Chief and one member at large.

In the afternoon we would like to try some community concerns before we are done. We have some approvals of minutes that need to be done and then we have seven resolutions that are ready to go. We have our negotiators ready to go, Georges just a quickly summarize yesterday and our first speaker will be Ted Landry follow by Margaret Ireland, Tim Lennie, Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge and Grand Chief Sam Gargan.

Chief Negotiator, Georges Erasmus I think it is probably best if we just go into comments or questions by Elders and Leaders rather than summarizing. We got a very long day with all the items and we are trying to get out of here early. We will just go ahead into the comments or questions.

Chair okay thanks there Georges, we will ask Elder Ted Landry.

Elder Ted Landry, mahsi everybody I am thankful that I am able to speak to a lot of people. Hope the people from the News paper are here to record what I am going to be saying. This year 2011 and how did we get this far. Since 1935 no white people or Forestry or government were here. People live in the bush and we have a very good life. In 1921 they have treaty and I am getting flash back from 1935 and living in Ft Simpson and remember a doctor Dressel.

In those days not very much people visited the doctor and we use to have a good life. Never had to worry about money and the only money we get is from trapping. Work was done for steam boat cutting wood. Trapping and hunting was our way of life and never use to go into town, but nowadays everything is money, money. Since we have



started living in town and we are scare to return to our land. This day and age all we think about is money and it never use to be like that and this is what I am trying to tell you. If we have written this down and then we can follow what happen in the past. Nowadays all we do is having meetings and all the things written on the paper is only white man words. During the war the Americans started building the road and at that time I was in Residential School. They were bringing all kinds of equipment and this is when I first saw a vehicle. Everything started to change because they build the road for the white people and lots of Americans living among our people then. Roads were built from Peace River to Yukon and that's how it started because now the white people came. Alexander Mackenzie who discovered us but that's not true, this young Mola is the one who discovered this river and the beaver pelt that you can see on the mountain in Tulita. It was the young Mola is the one who build the path for our people. Stories told by Elders that this young Mola is the one that discover us.

Government only started in 1954 and they use to fly around in the plane and build three houses in Ft Providence. Living in the bush was good and we had everything. In 1964 that's when the government start building houses in Ft Providence. I was employed with the government, I was not taught but I did work for them. I live and work for the government in YK, but I still hunt in the winter. Now all the young people live in different place. What Georges said yesterday and he is telling you the truth about what he is saying.

Today we are losing our language and we should always remember to speak in our Dene language. I live in residential school for 4 years and learn French and English. My parents only learn straight French when they went to residential school. I was thinking about all those things that is why I wanted to tell you. It seem like Ottawa is bothering us for everything and what is going to happen in the future. We are talking about our youth and today most young people don't like to go into the bush. Lot of them work for stores and some live in the bush and are not taught bush life. This is what I wanted to share with you. Mahsi.

Chair, thank you Ted, Georges do you want to response to that or shall we just let the speakers go ahead. The next speaker is Margaret Ireland and if we can stay focus to top at hand. We will take a break for five minutes as we only have one interpreter and he is tire. After the break Margaret Ireland you have the floor.

### **Break – 11:00 AM**

Chair if we can keep our focus to the Dehcho Process. Margaret Ireland the floor is yours.

Margaret Ireland, there are some points that I wanted to say and put across. One of the things is back in Kakisa assembly, can't remember the year, but I was one of the two had move a resolution to move forward and to negotiate the comprehensive land claim. Even though I don't care very much for comprehensive claim but still that was the only

at the time was favourable. There was some options at the time that were available to us.

The first one was to negotiate land claims which could happen immediately and the other were to lobby Canada to change (something) traditional territory and inherited rights to govern and that would be a very slow process. The other one is to declare Dehcho Nation as a self governing territory with Canada and take action to remove GNWT governing authority which would be extremely high risk. So at that time I had felt and I think a lot of people had thought that the only favourable option that was available to us is to do a comprehensive claim.

At that time also the land withdrawal would be coming to an end in October and add then LKFN Chief had said that we were on the eleventh hour and we do had to make a decision to move forward. At this time today I am not too certain that a lot of our people know exactly what we are doing and where we are going. So that is a very big concern for me is that a lot of our people don't know where were heading, where to this end that we are working so as I have stated this is a very big concern.

When Roy spoke yesterday a lot of people said he was working towards TLE and so he really doesn't have to much to say regarding our comprehensive claim never the less some of the things he talked about is very true to a lot of our people. Some people I have talked to expressed their concern but they are afraid to say anything because they thought somebody in agreement with them. They are scared to express their thoughts as to where we are going as were going towards comprehensive claim.

I think a lot of work needs to be done at the community level and this kind of work that needs to be done requires money. I know with the Federal Government cutting back on practically everything it's very, very hard never the less we do need to have money to get our people on the same page as the negotiation team and that it is clear in their mind that is this where we are going.

I asked yesterday for the resolution that was made approximately in 2005 regarding Elders Council. Today, of the original Elders that sat on the Elders Council the only one I see today is Ted Landry. A lot of the original Elders Council have left us and some are too sick to travel. I think while talking to people a lot of them are saying that Dehcho seem to have lost its strength with all the Elders that have left and it is very important that we find, revisit and maybe re-establish the Elders Council. Because they are the ones that have been advising the Dehcho about where to move and stuff.

I have spoken to my Aunt Sarah and she said people were strong in the past, they had dreams and vision and worked according to that. Today a lot of the Elders had passed and things had weakened. It is time to start it up again, respect them and work with them, maybe this might pull us together again. My aunt had said that in the past people had work together to get things done. Since a while ago, Ted had said he had a dream, there are still people like this among us and it's time to utilize them. Our generations,

when we talk about things like this they will tell us what we are smoking, that's the way things are today.

Yesterday there was talk about going to Ottawa and perhaps ask for more money. I really wanted the communities to be considered. It is important to we have our people on the same page, this is very important. In the future if we decide that we are ready to do Comprehensive Claim, there would be a lot of confusion and many people will not be happy with what we are doing so it is very important to have the community on the same page. Mahsi.

Chair, thank you Margaret. Next speaker Chief Tim Lennie. Just a been reminded that there are delegates that wanted to leave early. We would like to keep all the delegates here if we can so I asked the leaders, Chief of your community to remind the delegates that they would actually need permission from your Chief to leave and if they are leaving they should have a proxy that they could give to people that are going to remain at this meeting.

Tim Lennie, talking about the land with Canada, for the last three years they've offered us two options. They talk about land claim. We as DFN had talked about this.

In the Dehcho Process, it had been going on for a number of years, when the Dehcho started it started as a group with a regional council working with the Territorial Government. Over the years as a First Nation we went against a lot of the regional council initiatives. The reason for that was the GNWT has been trying to take control of our community. When we work with the regional council they never dealt with our aboriginal treaty rights. One small first nation like ourselves disputed that even back in the day '86, '87, I never used to go to regional council meetings because they weren't taken the best interest of our people.

So we changed to taking care of our interest, aboriginal treaty rights etc. So we established the Dehcho First Nation to oversee our political agenda. I am not too sure but the negotiators can correct me we have been exploring for ten years what option is there for Dehcho.

In the exploratory discussions, with Peter Russell we did a Treaty review. He's taken our oral history, the written history of the treaty and it was brought to the United Nation. Because the governments were not fulfilling their obligations within those treaty. Another thing we work on is the ministerial envoy in regards to constitution. Back in the day we had our Elders council we even train a whole bunch of our people elders and leaders to become negotiators. We have done some exploratory discussion 2006 the government gave us their position in regards to settling with the Dehcho. They made an offer here 39 thousand square kilometres plus a hundred million dollars this is what we are offering the Dehcho to settle in Jean Marie. There is no way that would be acceptable. We went through this exploratory discussion and research with the Dehcho First Nation.

All of the sudden Canada came in and said this is an offer we are making this is a Comprehensive Claim you have two policies TLE and Comprehensive Claim that's it. But this year if you notice that was not the case. Now you got Community comprehensive claim to consider and some have consider on that offer.

You want to know why there is disruption in the region. Today I have relative in Fort Liard and they wanted to do their own claim, for that reason they are not here with us today. We have mountain people here with us too and KFN was looking at doing their own land claim. They have their reserve, and they are still looking at the options. They don't wanted to go with the Comprehensive claim they want to stay with reserve. They understand what is written there but I myself do not understand it well. I was not taught the English well and I was not a good person when I learned the English language. I went back and picked up on what my grandfather had said and I am here today.

I feel that no one is working with me. That's the way government is looking at us. There is disruption in the house and we all have to leave home, we have to come out with a message that we have to live with. What we are working on, the land claim, you have to help me. I've been working on the Canadian constitution for about 10 years now. Section 35, where it says you have the inherent right to self government. We have to ask the government questions about it and what is it for. We as Dene people have to take care of our self. The people that want to come to our community to work they come and see us. We are small community today but we stand on what our Elders had said. If some people want to live in the white man world and not stand on what our Elders have said then they don't have nothing to live on.

I want a motion established here today before we leave the resolution stop at 4 PM yesterday it may not be over yet. Resolution number whatever it is that we re-establish the Elders Council. We had Elders Council funding, Trust Fund. I am going to trust them to use that money to re-establish Elders Council. This tax ruling in regards to the funding that is available to our people to acquire. What is happening to the tax ruling get it fixed right away?

The future starts today for our youth and young parents. We don't start to fix the things and help our people today then the future is dead. The younger people are pitiful; they don't speak their language and there is a lot of alcohol. The only thing we intend to do is the residential syndrome is to put blame and point fingers, but not able to live up to our people and say you are doing okay. I have a lot of faith in the youth that they can change, give them a chance and opportunities. Why did we start all the training and employment with our community is it to uplift our people. But still we go down south and all over the place. I had made that mistake myself over the years.

All the different people non-native we brought into this community to do things for us we actually train them. Now they are all gone and working somewhere else and for other people and we trained them how to do business in the north and we can't even do that

for our own people. You know, who fixed up our organization and it is not the non-native. It's the staff that are here, I utilized their services, I didn't use them and they took us out of debt 1.3 million dollar out of debt today. I went into the co-management agreement and a lot of my people went against me. But we had to make sacrifice and to cut our salary if we had to. Cutting on your wages and council if you have too. Not having an Elders Council to advise you for what, the betterment of our community and youth. As long as I sit here, there is sacrifice that needs to be made. I see I sit amongst you for how many years and see a lot of success in the Dehcho.

We had direction from our Elders; you are in a comprehensive claim that's been confirmed today. I still have questions, my elders and members here a week ago and I told each and every one of you when it comes time to cut up the land, Chief Lennie cannot sit with you no more. Hopefully this year I will be able to do some in depth workshop with my youth and community. Because as members of PKFN you have to make a decision to move this forward and who move it forward for you is you need to support those leaders in your community. I wish you all the best, we need each other, it is hard as it is. We still have a lot to talk about and when money comes into the community people tend to go crazy about it.

I work for PKFN and speak for PKFN not for the whole region. If we don't have respect and listen to each other things will be tough. We still have a lot to talk about and want to end it quickly. It would not too good to rush so what do you think, it would be good to hear you all. We still have a lot of food, more dancing to do tonight and I know a lot of you want to return to your communities for your festivities and whatever you decide I am fine with it. Mahsi.

Chair, thank you Chief Tim Lennie. Our next speaker would be Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation and follow by that Grand Chief Sam Gargan. The ferry schedule the Ndulee ferry is opened at 9:00 AM and closed at 9:00 PM tonight. Fort Providence the ferry will be open till 1:00 AM. Fort Simpson Ferry is open until 11:45 PM.

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, I had initially spoke in Dene and some of the points I was trying to make and the negotiating team did not really response to some of them. I quickly wanted to share and in the end I really don't mind the government people and the news paper people being in this room. Around this table for me is Dehcho government and we are in session. All the big concerns will be aired and we will talk about all the things we are afraid of and some of the conditions that we work in to this day.

My promise to my community two years ago is that we will go as far as we can with the Dehcho Process. Very uncomfortable with land action and all the various bumps that we have to go through, but I did promise my membership that the day that is seems like Treaty 11 is going to move or there is going to be a major adjustment to Treaty 11. It will be my job to call it and let my membership know. That is why I said yesterday for

negotiations there is smaller money and budget is very small. What we will make and will kill the negotiation very soon is going to be Treaty like it did in 1990.

A lot of our people were divided and that is why I am saying we need to get some work done. They say under section 35 that Chief Lennie allotted to...they got Government of Canada still has a box that is Treaty and Aboriginal rights and title. To this day that box is still empty. If we sign, if by chance we have chance to sign the AIP next June sooner than later I like to know how much treaty rights are going to be left in tack. As a Chief, myself and some chiefs and the Grand Chief maybe we need to go to Indian Affairs or even to Steven Harper to find that out on your behalf as soon as possible.

Yesterday I also mentioned as Treaty 11 our treaty rights extend right to the Arctic Ocean. If the Dehcho Agreement is going to be made how much are we going to give up? Are we going to give up half of the Treaty 11 territory, so be it. I think we can live with that but let's put it on the table and take a look at it. Then I think the Government of Canada might take us more serious.

I for one as a leader and a Chief I am prepared to do that kind of work, the political work that needs to be done. So the negotiating team can do the bigger ticket items like land and treaty. I think us chiefs have to ask our community and our members and say I am going to spend some time on this. I think there is other chiefs that have tried their best like a treaty conference last summer, but I don't think everybody was buying into the work that needs to be done. That was one of my concerns and my suggestion to the assembly and I still regard when we sit around the table that we are a Dene Government and I believe in it. Mahsi Cho.

Chair, thank you Chief Bonnetrouge. Chief Georges Negotiator.

Georges Erasmus, I just wanted to say a few words something that Chief Tim Lennie has stated and to Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge. Chief Lennie had said are we still in an exploratory discussion, no we were in exploratory discussion for about a year and a half then as Margaret Ireland pointed out she was one of the movers in Kakisa in June 2008. We came up with a compromise resolution to move ahead with the negotiations to have the LUP as a priority and eventually to deal with governance and then land. The assembly in 2009 confirmed that and there were two resolutions one in 2008 and one in 2009.

It very clearly stated that the exploratory negotiations were over and that we are actually in negotiations on comprehensive claim. The points that Joachim made we dealt with in the workshop in Trout Lake as he said we don't have the minutes back and we hope to have before too long. Because not everyone was there so I want to summarize in relation to the Treaties how things were going at the table.

There are two versions of the treaty the Dene regardless of where we are in the North have the same version and that is the oral version that we did not surrender our land we



did not agree to take reserve in exchange for giving up our land. We did not surrender our right to govern ourselves or we never surrender any jurisdiction. We certainly didn't extinguish our aboriginal title. Because of that on land we have a complete different from the British crown the Canadian Government.

On their side of the table they say you extinguished your rights on our side we say "no" we never extinguished any title. There has to some kind of an agreement on the land so that everybody is certain of what the rights are. At the moment because we are at the table on land selection it means that there will be (tape ends...) our people continue to say and the elders have told Tim and everyone to try and protect all of the land. How are we trying to do that? We are trying to use a number of different strategies.

One of the first one that has been underway for ten years is the LUP. Another is the Dehcho Resource Management Authority the way in which Canada, GNWT and the Dehcho Government will together manage all of the Dehcho Territory in relation to new resource development whether it's oil and gas or mining. And obviously actual land selection itself is going to be important. The biggest disruption on aboriginal people's lives all around the world is new development whether it is Forestry, Mining, Oil & Gas that is what the most disruptive.

So if you are able to select the Land that is the most prize by mining companies, oil & gas companies you will be able to control when development goes ahead, how development goes ahead, what benefits the Dehcho people will have, how much you will share with the companies coming in and how much you are going to share with Canada. So our suggestion to you is when you are going to select the land be very strategic, be very careful in your selection. That is reason why the GNWT is very concerned.

You will remember later in the day yesterday when Peter Cizek was making his presentation there was six outstanding items for the main table. One of the ones at the bottom is the GNWT does not want you to do that they want you to pick conservation land. They want you to leave a lot of the prize economic development areas open so that companies can come in without your control. Our advice to you is to be very careful with that selection.

Getting back to the treaties one of the big issue is land. You want to control as much as possible we are trying to use a number of different strategies to do that. Another area in relation to the treaties that was dealt with and that is what jurisdiction remains with Dehcho and all the rest of the Dene involve with Treaty 8 or 11. Canada says nothing you have extinguished your sovereignty that's what your signature on there means. On our side of the table we say not on your life never our people never give up any. Why would after all of this time somebody comes through here in two days and we surrender all of our land and all of our jurisdiction, what for? No we are not going to do this and that is the reason why Canada is at the table with us.

As we described to you yesterday how much power will Canada and the GNWT have what jurisdiction will the Dehcho Government have and how much power will our community have, that is being negotiated. When the treaties happened the crown made all kind of promises so they can get our signature on there. They promised us housing and medical care all kinds of things. They promised us money for housing and economic development. In some of the treaties like Treaty 8 because it was from the prairies they were considering the First Nation people there be farmers, so there was farming implement etc like that were considered.

When we had this workshop at the Leader's Think Tank, we asked people to remember what the promises were and people came up with things like fishnets and shells etc. One of the things that we are hoping that we will be able to deal with at the table is and it is in the Dehcho position and it's been in there since the '90's that there will be block funding for housing, education for other kind of promises that were made at treaty time. That is not going to be easy to get and do not think that simply because we remember all of those things we brought to the Crowns attention and we just simply forgot.

Part of reason it is going to be difficult is because these treaties are not only with the Dene, the same kind of treaties that are all across the prairies and into northern Ontario. Everybody had been trying to get the Crown to agree on what the medicine chest means money for housing and education. When I was the National Chief back in late 80's early 90's for about two year period we were having demonstration on education rights our people thought they had. We had hunger strike we had demonstration all across the country until they increase the funding for post secondary education. We had students that were on hunger strike for over two months.

These fights to get Treaty rights recognize for housing, education, economic development the medicine chest and onwards have been going on for decades. They know that if they give it to any one group all the rest of our people are going to line up right behind and say look the Dene got it. And remember the other Dene up and down the valley that have already to an agreement do not have these clauses in. I am telling you we are trying to get it and it's not going to be easy as you said it's going to be your call. Continue on with Treaties everybody remembers that the Crown promised that the way of life of the Dene is not going to change, what do they mean? To be able to hunt, fish, trap and hunt together and travel on the land as we did in the past.

The corresponding thing that we are doing here is the harvesting rights that our people going to have beyond the selected land. On the retained land the people will select we are going to have control. The Dehcho Government is going to have control, you going to own the trees, plant and you're going to be able to have your say as to what you wish there. So obviously your rights are going to more than recognized there. The point I am making is obviously yes the treaties are the heart of what's going on.

When the time comes and when the AIP is completed all the Dehcho people are going to have to decide is that adequate? Chief Bonnetrouge asked something this morning

and I forgot to answer yesterday. He mentions that Treaty 11 when you look at the map goes all the way up to the Arctic Coast. And what that did is that most of us that are recognized under Treaty 11 it gives us hunting rights all the way to the coast. But remember different people used to live all along there at different time. In the same way in which in the Dehcho people had their hunting area and all the rest that same all along the valley.

If we were to go into the Sahtu area whether you had a piece of paper that was drawn up in Ottawa that said this is where Treaty 11 is you are still entering into the Gwich'in or Sahtu territory. The kind of normal protocol of what you do when you go into somebody else's territory is still be on the ground that will be the reality. What we now have I have already read to you in relation to the harvesting rights is that we will have a map that shows where the harvesting, hunting rights are going to be. But we are expecting that it will probably be mostly around the Dehcho Territory.

What Canada put into the other agreements with the Gwich'in, Tli Cho and Sahtu is that they can enter into agreement with other aboriginal people close by to have overlap agreement and that is what I mentioned yesterday. What I said was in case you want to go and hunt for barren land caribou you are going to let come among you to hunt moose and you can arrive with these kind of agreements. These agreements can be done in advance of the final agreement or it can be done later.

The Chief is absolutely right there will be some modification to that hunting rights but it still be basically the same its recognizing each others' hunting territory. If you want to make it a formal agreement then that is possible. That decision on the map is not yet been made. There will come a time when we will have to bring it to the leadership and to the assembly as what the map actually is. But you are right there Chief, I forgot to mention it. Thank you.

Chair, thank you Georges again we still have one speaker; I believe it was Elder Gabe Hardisty. Okay the floor is still open. Chief Stan Sanguetz and then Rita Cli.

Chief Stan Sanguetz, I know the land withdrawal was supposed to expire October Georges do we have and extension on our interim land withdrawal protection?

Georges Erasmus, the land withdrawals that were approved last fall was just for one year so there are going to expire late October. What Canada is looking for now is they are seeking three year extension.

Chief Stan Sanguetz is that in writing from them. Is that the new Harper Government after that?

Georges Erasmus, yes it is the Harper Government. In fact it was just last week we had a negotiation session and it was a main item on the table.

Chief Sanguetz, okay thanks. Just one more general comment to your presentation last couple days. We are kind of hard on each other as communities and as negotiators. It has always been like that even when my dad was still alive when he was a Chief. At least the Elders had more common sense to try to work with each other and not be hard on each other. But never-the-less they think that we are negotiating, sometimes it's confusing to me but it makes it more clear to me that we are in the right path. Because when I see Treaty 11 I don't know what that means to me but were negotiating something bigger than what we basically have.

You made it make clear to the assembly here that we did not seek surrender or extinguish our rights in the negotiations. We are negotiating something comprehensive bigger and better for the youth that are coming on. But I like to assure the assembly that sure at the opening comments from Pehdzeh Chief that we are hard against each other. But it is something that we are here to argue and to talk about and make this thing better.

The brown binder that you have given me that I need to work with my councillors on. There are some things that we may not agree but there are footnotes that I need to work with my council on and take it chapter by chapter. There again like Margaret said we do need help if there is a lobbying trip to Ottawa then we have to knock on doors to get some extra money. The only one question I want to raise with you is what is the purpose of Federal Government clawing back a million dollars on our negotiations? You know we get cut every year could you explain to me in simplest terms why they cut that. Is it because we have that 15 million we have kicking around? Could you ask that question in the house soon?

Georges Erasmus, I am really glad that you're going to look at the document Chapter by Chapter. Chris and I were looking at the document and there is a few that are not current ones. Some of the footnotes have been with. It's very good that you are going to do that and it would be useful if everyone try as much as they could to go through and if you have questions we would really like to hear them. It's the area we would work with you on if you have some issues.

In relation to money what we were told was that for the Dehcho we are the only group in Canada that has not gone into loan funding. I guess we have been funded for 10 years they told us. We have been receiving virtually 100% of what we are spending and other groups elsewhere basically from the start having to borrow money. The money is really tight in Ottawa they are actually going to be cutting back every department. I had a chance to meet with the Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs on some other issues for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. We ended up discussing things in general and he and the department are going to have to find big cuts and looks like it's going to be kind of yearly for a while.

The reality is what they are trying to do spread around the money that is not loan money among other groups. Basically they are telling us you have been at it for ten years and other people should have a chance to get some of this money too. What we told the

staff person was look that's fine but the reality is there is some substantial items that we have not been able to actually address at the table and it's not our fault, it's actually Canada's.

I was looking back at the first meeting that took place with the Minister of Indian Affairs, Strahl and McCrank. It's been amazing a long time how this has been going on. It started back when Herb Norwegian was Grand Chief he had the meeting with Strahl. It's ridiculous we have a year you know Gerry as Grand Chief, it's been two years since Sam Gargan has been the Grand Chief and all this time we have not be able to deal with the issue of land, what size it's going to be, how we are going to manage it.

We have not be able to seriously discuss the Dehcho Resource Management Authority and so we turn it around on her and said that is wonderful but don't tell us it's taking a long time you are the ones that are keeping the main items off the table. You know that land is essential to our people there is nothing more important than the land and we can't talk about it. That's the reason why we have a good chance of making an argument in Ottawa this fall. I want to caution about how big the team is going to be going there. It kind of defeats the purpose when you send twenty people to Ottawa and say we need money. If you look at all the people you going to send to Ottawa and how much it's going to cost and if you don't have any money what are you doing sending twenty people here.

We're going to have to be very strategic again about, you know I think you're going to need a couple of Chief, Grand Chief and I am probably going there for Foundation business so I can attend. You might want the Executive Director there but keep it to a small team. We are going to want clear instruction so one of the things we want to do is either have a face to face with the leadership or have extensive teleconference maybe one or two days were we get clear instructions as Chief Jim Antoine said yesterday.

Chief Sanguetz, thank you for that information. It's hard for some communities to swallow something that is hard swallow especially the comprehensive, but knowing and learning the curves and the in and out of the comprehensive claim. To me I think we are negotiating something that we never had to begin with but we build up on it. I am happy that we had that opportunity that the Federal Government did not want to talk to us about the land and resources but we turn around and talk about something else and we did that.

We are talking about the core issue about how our community government are going to be established and how the governing powers are going to be there. At least we are there still negotiating on the betterment for my community rather than wait for the Federal Government but we turn it back on them. But they think that...I don't know when the negotiation would take place on really actually talk about the land and resources. Because at the end we need to put the programs that we are negotiating now back into how the land and resources would govern and work how the funds are

being there to run those programs. It's something there that I still think we still need to work with.

But I want to make sure my community really understand what the issue are here at hand at this assembly is in that binder. It's so important for me to make sure that it's done. We need to do this at the community level to make sure that our people understand. I know there is an issue around Roy's concern but still we need to work together. I didn't really like the offer that Canada gave Hay River Reserve but what is to say that we could come up with something better for our community and even the reserve. I was hoping that Hay River Reserve would say "no" we give up our reserve come and join Dehcho First Nation that would be better and stronger it would of made it better for us. But this here is something you work on and you gave us information at previous meeting that we had Roy and I am appreciated that.

There is no more closed doors but this close door to negotiation but you key on the key issues that you are negotiating on the a reserve. Anything that we can help our community, I mean we have to help each other. My main message to the assembly here is that I am willing to work with the binders that we have today. Sometime I have to talk to my delegates that are with me and Margaret suggested that we go chapter to chapter. The footnote is something that you are still negotiating we can help you by saying okay this is the issue that we need.

But the residence clause I am still really concerned about like I told you any non-native person that live in my community I will make sure they only live there two years. They don't have a voting right within that two years because the way we are negotiating is anybody non-native or anybody that live in my community after two years they could vote, that's teachers, nurse, doctors whoever live in my community. We have to be careful on how you look at this residency clause and why you want to do it that way. It's something that I need to raise with my council and my community.

When we were in Kakisa all the Elders and youths were there and we talk about all the issue and particular things that you have in these chapters. The chapters are getting fill in as we speak but the footnote we have to be careful on that. Sometime I hate to think in here that down the road we still going to have a fight with the Federal Government regardless on different things. Till it comes to that day I still want work with what's happening here at the assembly here till the next assembly that's coming up. I mean we have to do our best at the community level to get something done between now and the next assembly. Help me you as community because I'm trying to negotiate something for the kids that are not even here yet.

But still there is some issues that I don't want to think about like Georges said there is bigger and harder things are coming down. It's a good thing I think that a group of leaders going to Ottawa and have a meeting to see if the things we need should go ahead. There are some things that may come to the fall leadership meeting on some of the issues that we talk about at this assembly. I am hoping that the assembly would



direct ourselves to....this fall leadership meeting is something that we discuss and if there is anything in between I prefer to have workshops, conferences etc before the assembly because you need to make recommendation to the fall leadership meeting. And between then it would be nice to have teleconference or workshop so that our fall leadership meeting does not get full again.

I missed out in Kakisa and the Trout Lake Think Tank but there is something that being said needs to be worked on. I believe that if we all work together we are striving for something that we don't know about but it's making it better for my community because it's something that we are negotiating for which we never had but we will have at the end of the day. The agreement in principle that we had talked about that we have in our binder and if we are going to come up with an AIP with the Federal Government, I would like to take a look the document before its being approved and given to the Government. I don't know how much time or dead line we have on that AIP that we need to look at. I think that the AIP suppose to have something in place for the final agreement we have with the Federal Government. That is why in general terms as to where the assembly should go. If everybody does the same thing then it would helpful for me that I have to do this between now and the next assembly.

Anyway that's my general comments to your process and the LUP, Peter is done and did his work now my understanding that anything that is left over on the LUP will be brought to the main table will for further discussion with the Federal Government. If it is so I think everything we wanted to make sure was protected is all in there, but there is still some areas that my community may question and I do have good councils who help me with these documents. The Elders in my community are so powerful because anything that is difficult for me I turn to them for advice. We are hard on each other but at the end of the day when I leave here I have something to work for in the next year. Just like my grandfather told me we are a hard working Dene people we never have holidays, our holidays are going fishing, hunting etc. We need to have time off and go fishing this we should do lots of.

You know Georges you just stay where you are because you are helping me, because without you we are lost and how do we deal with Federal and Territorial Government. But there is some issues that are bothering my community is what Territorial Government is really doing especially with Wildlife Act and talking to our communities without us completing the negotiation. Is something the negotiation team should tell GNWT you have to stop this. I recommend to the assembly to tell the GNWT if you have any issues the negotiation is still going on here. Mahsi.

Chair, thank you Chief Sanguetz. Someone check on lunch and see where we are at so we can take a break. Our next speaker is Elder Rita Cli, Gabe Hardisty and then Sharon Nahanni.

Rita Cli, I want to do this in English so that it is recorded properly. I sat here from day one and I would like to tell the people of Dehcho we have to be together. We have to

be together so that we are strong to be a force we can be reckoning with. We have let the Government work against us by, we have ten communities and now we have 9 because they went with ADK to break away from DFN. I don't want to see any other community of Dehcho breaking away. You need to be together our forefathers have taken Treaty 11, the minute you talk treaty it means land and resources. That is why they are talking to us and our people are the ones calling the shots.

Dehcho people are driving it we are taking the message of our Elders into the future. It's for the beautiful kids that are running around here in Dehcho we are craving this trail. And I'll keep saying it again and again until you understand. Dehcho Process means land management not land sale. And you have to be together and I know we disagree on certain items and we hurt each other but you still have to remember we love each other to be strong that was what our Elders had said to have a better future. Always look into the future and the other thing that I was told because I sit here now and speak to you as an Elder.

I am the next set of Elders that is going to be taken over from our older Elders I still utilize them as I them. Something that was very disturbing to some people was that our two chairs yesterday were very disrespectful to our guest who was a presentation on our LUP. They said in future our chairs are not to be disrespectful we should have call point of order right away and in the future if we are going to have chairs we have a say in who the chairs are going to be. I am bringing this to the table because I said it concern you enough I will read it into the record. When you are chair you have to control your meetings and you have to sit at the table.

The other thing that was observed is that our Grand Chief has to sit with us at the circle. He cannot roam around and I said that to Herb as a former Grand Chief and he listened to what I said. We weren't criticizing him we were just telling him please observe this is what people are saying. The minute there is a weak link in Dehcho Government and the public jumps on it and try to break us apart. That's not where we want to go we want to be a force to be reckoned with and the Chief Negotiator had told us that in the past.

He is working with us because he said Dehcho is a group of people that are really powerful and are standing on their treaty. That is the reason why he wants to work with us. I hate to see him leave because he's got 40 years of experience he knows which buttons to push and who to contact, that was what some of our Elders had said and one of them was the late Leo Norwegian. He said this young man has lot of information that we can use and we can proper documentation. I agree with him and the other thing for you to be reminded of is that we were in Kakisa when we were talking about constitution.

Leo was my Elder that time and he said our constitution is our Dehcho declaration that was drafted up by our people of Dehcho in 1993 in Kakisa. That's our constitution and if you read it I came here with last year's binder and right in front of it is that declaration.

He said that is driven by Dehcho people so always carry it with you. The other thing he also told me is that you carry your Treaty 11, make sure all your leadership that goes to meetings carry that, that is a powerful document and that is a document forever. These are the information that he left with me because he said what you are doing is for the future but you have to be together, you cannot fight among each other. You might disagree but don't go to bed angry because tomorrow will be a better day if you work it out. I want that dream to continue forever into whatever future is there for us let do it that way.

This is the message that was given to me by Leo Norwegian, Mary Cazon and Leo Sassie all these people that are no longer with us. Their spirit is here when they did the opening prayer in Ft Providence they heard the distance drum from above. The Elders told me that the spirits are guiding you and follow that path as you are trying to protect the Dehcho Process. Sharon Pellissey's father came to me one time and told me that you have to make sure that proper documentation happens. He said his kids are following what he had taught them and that is for the future. I carry lot of information and I don't share it but it will come out when the time is right. These are information that I carry into the future for my generation that are coming behind us. You have to work together and I want you to remember being together is the most powerful tool. You have to communication with each other if you disagree, talk to each other and in the end we are going to be together and be happy.

You know what we are up against; the Conservative government is what we're against and this is what the youth from my community told me before I left. And they said too bad the Minister of DIAND didn't come to your meeting because if they did you would of see lots of youth here. They just finished making a presentation to the Premier's of some of the provinces and one of them is my grandson. He said we wanted to have our freedom as to what we wanted but things were censored We couldn't say what we wanted and one of the youth wanted to speak about the tar sand but we couldn't talk about it. Because that tar sand affects our water, animals and our trees and these are what youth were saying.

The youth are the ones going to be sitting where we are now and that's a concern they have. That is why you have to be together and you have to include the youth. They have lots of tools, they have the education, technology skills that we don't have. Use them, include them and when we come to meetings we should make a point of making sure one of the youth is with us. They have to be trained and that is something I want to carry into the future that they be lead with the right message and tools because they are the ones will be living with the document that we are working on. I just wanted to say this as it really hurts me and when I see people wanted to break away. The minute there is a feeling like that the government will start sinking money into that community. That is exactly what they did to Ft. Liard that's not where we want to go because if we are together we are a force to be reckoned with.

I know for a fact because when I went to industry and I asked them which region do you want in the NWT. It's Dehcho we want because Dehcho is so rich in everything and the only way we can control that is through our LUP. And that again is driven by Dehcho people. Always remember do your homework read your document if you don't know pick up the phone and call Georges or Chris you will get feedback. There is lots of resources out there I just want to say this because it hurts me to see if people are kind of "iffy" about things you have to be together. It's our land we are the Treaty holders and it's our resources and we will develop it the way we want through our access and benefits. Mahsi.

Co-chair, thank you Elder Rita Cli. Next speaker will be Gabe Hardisty.

Elder Gabe Hardisty, I know that there is a lot of things that we had talked about and we are still talking about it today. I really want this Elders Council to restart and we need that. We also need a youth council in each community. I want to ask Georges if and when we do have a youth council we want to have a youth to sit in on this negotiation to listen and you will be teaching him or her; the message that they will use in the future.

You talk about this money and new government it's very interesting because before Georges Boots passed away I visited him and he told that he was brought to Ottawa and he describe the building and it was exactly the way it was. We walked in the front door and these people on both sides of me telling me we want to show you something. We walked downstairs and into a big room first and it was full of money and he turned around and said this is what is going to happen when the government change. When I look back again into the room half of the room the money was gone and he said something is going to happen in the future.

But whatever happens here continue your work it will be tough for awhile just as we did in the pass. He said the weather gets so cold we have a hard time hunting and fishing but we survived and this is going to be the same. Continue your work and do your best for your people and this is his message to me. I have always wondered why he said this about the money now I know what he was talking about. This new government took place and a lot of money has been cut back. With this I would for you to find some money for the youth council and also for the Elders. Let's start to organize the youth and we have been here 40 years and we still haven't had our youth at the table yet we need to get this done.

There is still some here that know about our history we can give them this knowledge and history and if it's written they can read it. We need to get this Elders Council back and we haven't started the Youth Council yet and we need each community to start working on it. I would like for our next assembly to see the youth sitting at our table. They have a lot of good idea you won't believe what they have. When we move our community from old town our young people drop out of school and we started adult education. Our young people went to adult education and the teacher asked them to vision the next 100 years and draw a picture. They drew a city of this community and I

couldn't believe it and the youth do have a lot of good ideas and therefore we need to get the youth to sit at the table. We really like to thank you for getting this on the road. Mahsi.

Co-chair, thank you Elder Gabe Hardisty and our next speaker will be Sharon Allen. We will then break for lunch.

Sharon Allen, thank you. I want to tell you about the school and I want to say this in English. The key issue I want to talk about is how the Dene Zhatie Immersion program is not being offered at TSS for some years now. Also are we prepared to ensure that this happens in our community of LKFN and as a teacher during my practicum I heard the desire of our youth to want to learn their language. I didn't have much of an opportunity to be able to implement a Slavey language program because I had only two months to do my practicum. I am a recent graduate from Aurora College with my Bachelor of Education Degree. I am now currently a Developmental Studies instructor in Fort Smith.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to secure a position in the Dehcho which was my one and only desire when I first started this road in 2007. I had a strong desire to return to Liidlii Kue to become a teacher and to be able to implement the Dene Zhatie to the children in our community. I wasn't able to successfully achieve that goal and I was very disappointed. I will speak about that process quickly.

We have many non-aboriginal people in high position who are making decisions on our behalf. These people are chosen to sit...we also have a number of aboriginal people are sitting on the board who are not fully representing the desire of our Dene people to implement our Dene Zhatie in some of our schools. I know this for a fact because as practicing teacher in January and February of last year there was no Slavey being taught in TSS. I know for a fact that there is an immersion program in Bompas and for some years it has not been implemented into the high school. For me that's a serious concern because I hear so many people talk about preserving our language and yet it's not being forced or you're not going to them and saying you are the Dehcho Education Council or District Education Authority why aren't you implementing this into the high school. I mean as leaders we have that ability to be able to go up to them and say why is this not part of it. I would be willing to give up my job in Fort Smith and be able to come home to implement that for you. I have a strong desire to be in my community which is why I left four years ago to go to school and get my degree.

Also I like to raise another concern is that how the Dene kids are... the Dene Kede' today curriculum is being implemented in some cases is not being implemented. I have four years of practice in Fort Smith and they have a strong desire to help us in learning how to implement Dene Kede and we even had people come to the college to teach us how to put it together. How to put lesson plan together and how to put it across the curriculum, it could be taught in Math, Social, English, Language, Arts and Science. It can be implemented throughout the whole curriculum in the education system.



So my concern during my practicum I was able to borrow map from LKFN and borrow resources from DCFN and be able to teach the kids about the history of Fort Simpson and the Dehcho using the Social Studies curriculum. The kids were so interested in learning about our cultural and history and the one thing they really wanted to learn was our language. I felt terrible because I could only take one day out of my whole practicum just to be able to teach an hour of Slavey and we were having so much fun at first they were shy but in the end they really enjoyed learning our language and if you can make it fun for them and really get them to interact they really enjoy that.

Also I have another concern is the northern graduate program is it being adhere to. I am a northern graduate but I don't understand is okay we are northern graduate but are we getting those jobs I don't see that happening. Also the affirmative action is this being adhered to as well I like the negotiators to look into that and how do we monitor that our own people are being hired and there is a rumour that the Human Resource with the GNWT are looking across Canada for other aboriginal to work in our region. So our own people who are graduating from the NWT are not being considered first to me that is a serious concern especially if you want your graduates to come home and to be able to work in their own communities. To keep your own people in your own community you have educators and people who have gone to school for business administration you could be hiring your own people. You could be sending your own people to be Certified General Accountants and you could have all sorts of resource people.

You have an excellent team that work with DCFN that are all trained. You have people who have backgrounds with many, many skills. But you have access to also who people who we appoint to represent us on education board should they be qualified or have more training to make decisions for the future of our children. I don't feel that you have qualified people to sit on those boards and I feel that you need education background to be able to sit on the board of education. Because you need to know how curriculum work you also need to know how to implement curriculum, you need to know how to put lesson plan together year long plan. You need to be able to meet objective when you are teaching kids about the land. You need to be able to execute lesson plan and put things together in a way that kids can understand and be able to learn about their culture and who they are.

Also our youth are looking for answer to us and they are just as confused and lost as we are. I mean there is a lot of information that the negotiation has been working on and has been here for about three days. As educated as I am and knowing the language they are speaking about and it's a lot for everyday person to take because a lot of the language is being use is very complex. English is a very complex language and I can imagine our interpreter might be having quite a difficult time interpreting what people are saying when they use words like ratification and affirmative etc. That is the thing that Rita is talking about is to have consideration and thinking about other people when you



are trying to speak and try to speak clearly and well to get your point across. I also want to speak about how I feel about in taking four years of education.

We learn a lot about our treaties and about the history of First Nations people have overcome. We learn about the Indian Brotherhood etc. I've learn a great deal in teaching and what I learn about is about our First Nation people and history. About residential school and how it has impacted us. I like to say that I also spoke out in the TRC when it was held in Fort Smith and having come home and be able to talk to our people about my experience with residential school. My mother went and I didn't have great experience growing up with her because I felt like she didn't love me but at the same time I've come to terms with that because I know that it's not her it's the past. I will accept her for who she is but I am grateful that I have godparents Gabe and Bella Sanguetz who took me under their wings and who gave me language, culture and my identity for who I am today.

I also like to say that we have children who are living in oppression they are covert racism you can't see it but it is there and our children are experiencing it in the western schools. And they are looking at us for answers. There are no jobs or future prospect for them so a lot of our kids who do go off to university, college in other places, they want to come home and find jobs but there is nothing there for them. We need jobs and they need somewhere to come home too. We are lacking in housing, unemployment, education system and it's difficult. We have been talking about how difficult it is for us and a little money that gets thrown in every now and then to work with.

What Chief Lennie said is right in how little money the government sends to us to work with its peanut compare to the amount of money they must work with. I like to see our own people in the education system and we need to see our own history in our schools and our own people teaching us who we are and where we come from. Life hasn't always been really good for me I've experience many things and I know about the residential school experiences. I know about alcoholism and about overcoming obstacles in my life, I lost my daughter in 2008 and it's still very difficult and painful but you just can't give up.

I know that's what the leadership have been doing for the longest time is not giving up and I have faith in our leadership that we are not going to give up. That we are going to keep going and moving forward. I like to see our own Dehcho teachers, mangers, nurses and people that come back into our own community and be embrace with open arms. We are coming back to help our community. I would also like to address one of the things the chapter in the Dehcho Process is the curriculum. The curriculum can be developed by our own Dehcho teachers to develop for our future children.

We also have community resource people who hold the key of our past to share. We have Elders who have oral stories that they could share in our school system. We can always partner up with outside education institution like Aurora College has with the University of Saskatchewan to assist us in this endeavour. And support us in being

strong like two people because we are strong as we have our language and we do have education. There are other places like Demaria people who are able to achieve this goal and have their own schools. I like Roy's vision in seeing us have our own Dene school and I would be the first one to sign up to work in that school. I like to say thank you for listening.

Co-chair, thank you Sharon Allen and our next speaker will be Chief Dolphus Jumbo.

Chief Jumbo, I will speak in my language. What Gabe's saying is right and I want to support him. Elders and Youth Council is what we are trying to get this organization in place. I know this so I also want this for my community. The youth and elders should have a voice in Council and with that it will be strong. I know what the negotiators are say and that the land is very important to us and our Elders told us this in the past. Things change when you go outside.

If you talk about money you can't let that go you need balance and that is for the future so that our kids will live well. If you follow and use everything we have talk about it and work together it will fall in place. We all chose our own words and it will go ahead. We have to have respect for our land you will go forward in life. That's why we all have to work together to save this land. NWT and Federal Govt we all work together and then we will work everything out for the future. I am from Trout Lake and this is what we think about the land and not money. We have to have respect for the land. Mahsi.

Co-chair thank you Chief Jumbo and I believe we will have a lunch break now.

## **LUNCH (1:20 PM)**

2:21 PM meeting resumes.

Co-chair. the Executive Director's report the core budget approval. Ria Letcher you have the floor.

Ria Letcher, I just want to wait for the information to be circulated around the table. Usually annually I present operational plan but this year considering the cuts we are going to be experiencing and I just want to do things differently this year. It is pretty presumptuous of us administratively to put together an operational plan without adequate input from this table. We developed operational plans for the last number of years and present for approval here.

This year I'd like to do things a little differently factoring into account the financial status of the organization. This year we ran a deficit of \$200 thousand and odd dollar and that impact our operations hugely. So for this year I want to gather the feedback from here and assess the operational plan over the last couple of years and develop a strategic plan to be presented to the fall leadership meeting. Meanwhile we can still continue to operation under the operational plan which you approved last year. The operational

plan guides the administration of the organization with respect to advisory funding and support to communities by way of administration services that our organization provides. A lot of those services are financial assistant with the financial management of communities. Based on that I will be working over the summer with an individual in developing a strategic plan for the organization.

I am hoping that this strategic plan will have a focus of three years. So I'll be taking our operational plan, all the political directions, the wishes and desire of the region, of the leadership, the communities that we heard over the years. We will be going through the resolutions through the discussion and compiling all of that information into a strategic plan for your approval at the fall leadership meeting.

Meanwhile the first step in all of this is approving the core budget for the organization. As in last year I've given you two options to choose from. If you recall from last year we approve the core budget two hundred thousand dollars over budget and that was without knowing that midway through the year we were going to be entertaining litigation. So the core budget that we presented last year was just base on pure operations, but I stress that we always strive to achieve a balance budget. Had we not gone into litigation we would of met that objective. But the litigation put the operation and the cost over and put us into a deficit of two hundred thousand which the organization can afford giving it's accumulated surplus. But none-of-less it draws the deficit due down on your surplus so what I present here are two budgets the option one of the draft core budget which is operations as it is continuing to function as we have been and that's with all of our current staff just all of the associated expenses. I left the advisory funding as is that works for communities. Every communities has means over and above their core funding so the advisory funding that we receive ad provide to the communities really goes a long way in assisting with accounting, legal cost, organizational expenses.

Communities have a fair amount of discretion in how they expense this money. Various communities have submitted advisory work plans outlining how they intent to use their advisory dollars for this fiscal year. The advisory component of this core funding is roughly about \$240k. Our revenue this year our travel core funding is \$780 thousand and we've only listed the administrative revenue from Dehcho Process, self-government, gathering strength and negotiations preparedness initiative at \$100k in like of the recent reduction in negotiation related funding.

We have other revenues ARDHA resource royalties, ARDHA office rental, ACEP office rental, language wage recovery, DFN Master Trust revenue. These revenue listed here are the revenues from the Education fund which goes to subsidizes the scholarship funding. Other revenues sixteen thousand those revenues are obtained by services that DCFN provide on behalf of various levels of government in co-ordinating meetings on behalf of them. Co-ordinating travel and we usually invoice back with an administrative cost. That gives the organization a fair bit of revenue and it fluxgates but

we try to take an average of those anticipated revenues. Giving you one million ninety-two thousand two hundred and eighty-two anticipated revenues.

Then you have your expenses your employees, your wages that is all our core staff the finance manager, finance clerk, myself and so on. The casual wages twenty thousand just for during the assembly we do have requirements for casual opportunities during the year too when certain are out and we have to replace them. Like unexpected leave where no replacements are required we do bring in people from time to time. Bilingual allowance is a benefit to our employees each employees is given a hundred dollars per month for their language abilities. Employee benefits seventeen thousand, accounting legal at twenty-seven thousand five hundred these are base on actual audit cost. Advertising promotion, cash grant forty-nine thousand six hundred.

I have to stress now that we have a democratic dictatorship in that they are really going to hammer us on the cash grants. In our funding reports that we submitted they have already made note of it that they notice that there is Chiefs that are on regular salary are taking cash grant and we don't know what they intent to do with that fact. They may come back to us like they come back to us 3 years after and gone back 3 years in the books and said you have some surplus revenue here that had to be returned. So I think we had to return that 1k like 35,000 in revenues that we had turned over because they were unexpended funds from negotiations related funding that we downloaded to communities so that they could have a dedicated person in the office that is dedicated to Dehcho Process issues. But capacity being an issue it is in many small Dehcho communities there are often not able to recruit the said individual and that money gets unspent. Often times we realize the unspent funds at fiscal year end and in our flurry to expend it often times we are not able too. At that time it was a really exercise with communities and going over much like ARDHA or ACEP which is call now.

Whenever one community is over they check with all of the other communities to see who has unexpended funds and that funding gets redirected to this community. It's a huge administrative task and just moving money around the region and often it is not an easy thing to do. When you are not able to do it you end up paying the government back what is not unexpended so it is in our interest to expend everything that especially grant contribution funding. Because it is free money why would we returned it. The cash grant is something to be mindful of and consider maybe it is something that we need to put our heads together on down the line because it's increasingly becoming an issue. Since I've been the Executive Director we've talked about it that change came at the time when I started as Executive Director that they put that clause in the contribution agreement and it is something that is acceptable for the Elders and Harvesters. For people that are on salaries it's really something that they frown upon.

Down the line maybe it's something that we can put in our strategic plan to work with communities in providing our leadership with proper enumeration that eliminates cash grants that gives them a decent salary. So that we are not having to do these cash grants which actually puts us in default of our contribution agreement. This is one area

that I would really like to have your attention and consideration on and we will put the paperwork together perhaps at the fall leadership with your blessing we can have a further discussion on this. I would prefer that this discussion remain in camera. I will make a note and at any time you have questions please feel free to interrupt me and I'd be happy to answer your questions.

Contractors fifty-eight thousand eight hundred this is a combination of Frank Gu a new horizon. Frank Gu is our IT person he maintains all of our computers in the office, our server and insures that were running virus free that our speed and everything is okay and we are working with proper technology and that has been a great working relationship. Alison de Pelham former Executive Director continues to be a resource to the organization as well as to many of the Dehcho communities. She is a wealth of information and knowledge and her assistance goes a long way in moving this organization forward. Courier and postage these are pretty much fixed cost, Grand Chief travel \$25k that is just for the various the Grand Chief does like most upcoming he will be travelling to the various assemblies throughout the north. He'll be heading over to the Tli Cho assembly in Whati and things like that come out of his travel budget. Wherever possible we try to ensure that the Grand Chief way is paid or travel is being paid by organization that requests his attendance.

Insurance eighteen thousand another fixed costs. Licences, registration, membership twenty-five hundred that's our licences for all of our vehicles, our membership with AFOA, NWT Tourism Association and so on. The equipment user fees are base on actual and these are the user fees for our postage meters, Xerox machine each page cost money and that's the twenty-four thousand that you see so that's the user fees that we incurred. Janitorial supplies twenty-five hundred which is pretty modest considering the building and stuff. Property taxes forty-three hundred another fixed costs it remains the same. Repairs and Maintenance that was twenty-five thousand recently we had to repair the roof and we have also had to build a roof over the main door preventing ice from falling off the roof. Our scholarship annually we contribute seventy-two thousand, two scholarship throughout the Dehcho region and closes July 31, 2011. Telephone fifteen thousand and those are average cost base on historical information.

Last year you can recall the telephone expense was at thirty thousand we recently upgraded and install new telephone system in our office. Travel this is the travel for things such as this meetings some of the travel cost would come out of these. These are pretty scale down we pay sufficient travel cost in a year and we are really striving to reduce these cost and try to save us a few money. In a last we invested in a video conferencing unit at the Dehcho First Nation office, and one in the LUP office which is DFN equipment it's there for the Grand Chief and Métis. If you need it there is a fee required as there is long distance charge and it does cost money. It's a lot cheaper than moving people around and it is a really cost effective way in conducting some of our meetings. Travel, air, accommodations, mileage and per diems these are all travel cost associated with moving leadership around.



As you can see from the audit we are very prudent in how we manage DCFN finances. We manage the money on behalf of all the communities and we take that responsibility very seriously. We are task with the financial health and administration of the organization like I said my staff takes it very seriously. We pride ourselves in studies financial management and getting our audit approval and in on time. I am proud to say DCFN is the first region in the north to have submitted their audit.

Power fifteen thousand and these are base on actual cost and we should this number reduce in this coming year. Our power rates have reduced. Heating fuel is based on actual cost as well. Recently we have entered into a relationship with Arctic Energy Reliance. Dean Green is with AER he is base in Fort Simpson and working out DCFN office and he assess DCFN office and see how we can minimize our operating cost. We had only operated on one boiler last year and we purchase a new boiler and hopefully it will be more cost effective by way of the energy that it consume. Water & Sewer another figure base on actual. Relocation expense five thousand this is for when we recruit if we have a position for example a resource management co-ordinator had that come up and we get an applicant from Vancouver with a Masters in Environmental Science so a portion of this five thousand dollars we would subsidize their relocation expenses with receipts up to twenty-five hundred per hire.

The next figure that you will see sixty-four and etc right to the bottom of 80k, those are your advisory dollars that is funding provided to the communities to support their administrations assist with auditing, meetings, co-ordinate and organize their Elders to do strategic planning etc. Communities have a lot of flexibility in how they use that funding. We have our Executive Committee at twenty-five thousand we've reduce that by five thousand because of the video conferencing and this does save us a lot of money in travel, accommodations and are not having to move members and staff around. I like to see more communities take advantage of that and I'll be doing everything I can to see this goes through. Every community would have it but here in Pehdzeh Ki as they don't fibre optic here. My goal is to have a unit in every community and you can get smaller model with a screen not the big ones. And I am looking at creative ways to reduce all of those costs.

This budget as we've been operating for the last couple of years would put you at a deficit at the end of the year at two hundred seventy-six thousand one hundred and seventy-seven. As you recall last year you approved a deficit budget because we strive to keep these cost to a minimum. The only reason we ran a deficit this year is because we choose to go enter into litigations on two matters otherwise we would of balance our budget. We did really good and that a testament to the financial management of DCFN, nothing get expended without a revenue.

The surplus funding really helps carry the organization through the month because right now we just wrap up our audit and there is final reporting that needs to happen. Our funding flows into July and August and so those months in between we need to have that cash flow to carry us. Last year what happen was a touch and go because of all of



the commitment that we made at the assembly. We had a spring in the new fiscal year from April 1<sup>st</sup> we had a spring leadership meeting which is roughly around \$80,000, we had an annual assembly on the Hay River Reserve which is in assess of \$100k. And we had a Treaty conference which too is in assess of 100k by the end of the day we were less than \$100,000 dollars in the bank looking at heading into overdraft but we wrap up everything and got that funding flowing and our numbers went back up. That is why it's important not commit your surplus and it's there as your security. That security that you need in an event like this year you did litigation had you not have that surplus funding that money would of have to come from somewhere. We'd be effectively sitting in overdraft and owing that the money to the banks. But right now it's your money that is being invested and its gaining interest. You do need that money for the health of the organization. So that's option one of your core budget and it is in line with what was presented and approved last year.

Option two is very much a scale down version and you can see that the items that have been highlighted had been cut out of the budget. So casual wages had been cut out and looking for lower cost from our audit. Cash grant cut out completely, Grand Chief's travel we reduce that to ten thousand. Licences, registration and membership that has been reduce as well. Office supplies we've reduce that by 5k and the others some actual have remain the same. Telephones have all stayed the same. We've reduce the travel budget significantly in the option one we have travel at twenty-five thousand, here is at 8, 8, 2 and 4 so the travel has been reduce significantly in option two which would eliminate the amount of face to face meeting that we are able to afford. The numbers from actual have stayed the same, the relocation expense we have reduce that. Kept the advisory core funding the same and just with those potential cuts would put you at a deficit budget at \$73,777. 03.

So the next step now is for you to decide which option we are going with. We will build our operational and strategic plan base on your direction. Any questions? So like I have stated even though this number looks alarming \$276,000 we really strive to keep those cost to a minimum and had we not gone into litigation in the past year we would of achieve our objectives as I said. Because of the prudent practices of the organization, we try to be accommodating but yet mindful that is the bottom line. Yes Marie

Marie, (cannot hear what she said) but something about option #1.

Ria Letcher, yeah.

Co-chair, thank you Ria. Margaret Ireland.

Margaret Ireland, I just have a question regarding the list of all the communities and the amount of money that they are getting from DCFN. I just wanted to know just exactly what is it for and also why Acho Dene Kue is still on the list. Thank you.

Ria Letcher, okay so your question is Jean Marie River First Nations funding? \$7,049.00 that funding is the advisory dollar that is provided to the community and base on your membership and the formula that we use. The same formula we use to determine the delegates. We are still funded for ADK that money just sit on the books they haven't requested it.

They continue to fund us so we are not going to refuse it. It's still there we always account for it in case they ask for it and if they ask for it it's there. If not at the end of the year wherever we see over expenditures we will reallocate this money. But we still put on the books because we are still getting funded for their numbers. They are still listed as members under our bylaw in our organization. But that funding is use to assist with your audit cost, strategic planning and the community has a fair amount of digression in how they use the money. And the Communities had use it for strategic planning, use it to subsidize wages for finance and administrative staff.

Co-chair, thank you Ria any more questions or comments. Marie Lafferty and then Joachim.

Marie Lafferty, I was wanting to know if the scholarship come out from the regular core funding or are they from the Trust?

Ria Letcher, the scholarships are from the regular core funding initially they started out of the core funding and it's been subsidize by the revenues that the Trust has provided so it reduces the impact to your core funding. So based on the revenues of \$36,000 and the anticipated expenditures of \$72,000 were about \$40,000 of core funding goes to the scholarship. That figures changes annually that revenue is base on what the education fund has earned in a year.

Co-chair, thank you Ria. Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge.

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, is it conceivable that we could have leadership meeting by telephone?

Ria Letcher, absolutely.

Chief Bonnetrouge, the other is I would go with option two but the cash grant would be zero?

Ria Letcher, yes.

Chief Bonnetrouge, starting?

Ria Letcher, today there is no cash grants.

Chief Bonnetrouge, starting tomorrow?

Ria Letcher, I did make a point to the leadership that we are increasingly being scrutinized from INAC on the cash grant component of our funding. Because our funding agreements all state that cash grants are not payable to leaders that are currently receiving a salary for their position. And that cash grant are only payable to people like Elders who are not on a regular salary, harvesters and those that are not currently employed. And it amounts to double dipping and that is unacceptable by their standards. They put that clause in our contribution agreements so by continuing to provide cash grant we've been in default of our contribution agreements. They made note of it and they come back to us saying they see this but they haven't done anything it.

But now that we have a democratic dictatorship that may change so we are continuing to always be fearful that we may down the line maybe taken to task on this issue. Because over the years these numbers add up like when you look at our audit what these cash grant amounts to in a year quite a significant number. They will look at that number very closely we give them all of our detail financial statements. They ask for an incredible amount of accountability so they are able to analyze everything to see what is going where and what is cut to who and what amount. We are in contact with INAC continuously through reporting requirements and they scrutinize our financial statement. Even with that they have approved them but just be mindful that it could come back to us.

The surplus funding that we were given one of the INAC personnel said okay if you have surplus funding you can redirect that funding and use it as it was intended to be use in the next fiscal year. After the auditor general does her review of everything she notice that the surplus funding hasn't been return even though it was spend and that was that money we had to repay I think it was like \$35,000. I mention here that we have two options if you recall from last year's exercise that we did approve a deficit budget and not knowing that we were going into litigation we approved similar budget as option one. Had we not gone into litigation we would have achieved a balance budget or a small surplus.

Chief Bonnetrouge, I guess for the leadership we always try to supplement the wages for the Chiefs and President. I guess that argument is still good cause compare to other six hundred Chiefs in Canada the average salary of the Chief is I believe about \$90,000. But anyway we'll see how it goes I guess.

Ria Letcher, yeah so I also said that is one of the things that we can consider for the fall leadership meeting having a more....

Chief Bonnetrouge, I think it will just demonstrate that okay we will work harder but with less money. This is going to be very critical year and we probably have to receive a lot of grants and emergency money to get stuff done. Lot of proposal writing or whatever we need to do so I will agree to option two.

Ria Letcher, okay and the other thing that we have done because of we are chronically in financial constraint we are always trying to do great things with minimal dollars and look at the wonderful things that we can do with our minimal dollars. We are able to pull off very, very wonderful event like (unintelligible) so proud of this community for having hosted the annual assembly. That is all achieve on very limited budget and lots of work by people, fund raising aside of just depending on the organization. We aggressively look for funding from various level of Government, Industry, Canadian Zinc giving money, Enbridge has given resources. We are very aggressive in that sense how we are able to generate revenues.

But one of the things we did do over the past year was we purchase a big data base and it is call a Foundation Research and it is a web site that you pay a significant of money for. But you are suppose to see a return on that money just base on the foundations, you know the amount of funding that is available out there through foundation. There is a lot of funding available to First Nation for environment, land and resource matter. The environment is a huge issue globally and there are tons of foundations that I can see that are prepare to lend money to those causes. Everything that we do at this table in this form is all about our land and resources. Had we not had that we have no reason to get together.

The bottom line is about our land and resources getting the certainty that we need and that the government and industry need. If it wasn't for that there will be no need for organization like DCFN to champ that cost. My goal is to look for funds to help further this cause and to help fund this cause. Now we have so many things that we need to do and we can't do or don't do because of funding. I like to make it all happen for you between myself, my staff, our resource staff aggressively seek the funding that we require to do the job that we need to do. As I saying Joachim last year if you recall the approved budget that was in a deficit without knowing we were going into litigation and had we not gone into litigation we would have achieve a balance budget.

Deficit budgets have been approved plus we are seeking cost lowered in the negotiations related funding which also went to subsidize a lot of these cost. Now that ability to do that is not going to be there any longer through the cuts that we are experiencing. In this year's audit the cash grant paid two various meeting, leadership and negotiation with \$257,950 for nine communities and eleven organizations. So you can see why when you look at the bottom line why there is a concern because that is a significant chunk, but when you look at the revenues that is seven and a half million and we have paid only \$257,000 if that was a couple of million then we would be concern but that's still pretty good.

Co-chair, thank you are there any more questions? Margaret Ireland.

Margaret Ireland, we are just spending a bit of time here talking among ourselves to see which options to go for. We have a few questions and I guess the main the one would

be regarding the negotiation team. Are they including in the wages and travel, they got their own budget?

Ria Letcher, they are on a different budget they are under the negotiation, Dehcho Process, Self-Government, Gathering Strength and PI. So they got their own budget which we approve at the spring leadership meeting.

Margaret Ireland, okay.

Co-chair, thank you are there any more questions? Chief Stanley Sanguéz.

Chief Sanguéz, option two is good, to clarify the cash grants for Jean Marie I don't receive it, it goes back into our band. We are trying to cover up somewhere when the cash grant goes into our community and that's how we try to work with it that way. I know we had to do this when we had to do debt recovery in our community of \$480,000. We had to cut our staff in half and we had to lay off about seven people and I am happy we did. But we are not out of it yet not until the end of the year. We had to do the same thing here I think the leadership has to take the onus on itself because you are taking salary and all of sudden you're taking cash grants.

Sitting on as a Chief and not your sitting on Executive Committee and then your cutting another money there. So my council advises me not to take cash grant so a motion was pass that it doesn't come to me it goes to my band and I need to be clear on that. It's true Ria the cut back has to be done a lot on what we are doing with less money that we have and when I need to ask some questions on per diems there is a cut from 15 to 8 I think it was on the option two.

Ria Letcher, yeah it was cut from 15 to 4....

Chief Sanguéz well I don't know how you cut that back regarding using government rate or....

Ria Letcher, we use the Federal rate and these are just estimate were base on our knowledge of community travel or regional travel moving numbers around and so they are averages.

Chief Sanguéz, okay and the other one is the accommodation from twenty thousand to eight thousand. How do you do that everybody is going to share rooms or....

Ria Letcher, yeah everybody is going to be billeted out. Actually those cuts we are anticipating is this increase meetings via teleconference via video conferencing so that eliminates the need to move people around and to accommodate them. Because it's a hundred and fifty tap in Fort Simpson that's no small change per person. And that is why our staff over the years and I know people have gotten annoyed at this how we double people up and your having to stay with somebody.

Chief Sanguéz, the only thing that you can't touch is the advisory services that also comes to the community.

Ria Letcher, no if you look we didn't touch it.

Chief Sanguéz, the only question I have here is the scholarship. I haven't been to the last assembly. A few years ago it use to be capped the scholarship all of sudden with the two assembly that I know of how come it gone from \$72,000. I thought it was capped at ten or something.

Ria Letcher, there was an increase but you've also committed to multi-year funding in scholarships. So the twelve thousand dollars scholarship switch are the environmental, science scholarship which are paid out in \$4,000 dollars increment. So annually you commit to twelve thousand or that four thousand but on the next year on top of that four thousand you still have the second year which is another four thousand so there is an increment annually with these scholarships as you are given them out. So that's why that number is increased.

Chief Sanguéz, okay thanks.

Ria Letcher, so to accommodate to that multi-year commitment.

Co-chair, thank you. Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge.

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, just to the assembly we have I don't know how the agenda going so we have to cross three ferries so we figure we need to leave by 4 PM.

Ria Letcher, I have the ferry in Ft Providence extended one hour for you. Yeah. Okay so if you can choose between one of the two budgets and we can approve it.

Co-chair, Elder Rita Cli.

Elder Rita Cli, I just want to refresh the delegates here we had talked about this cash grant I think it was in Kakisa or in one of the assemblies. I remember speaking to it for the Elders and harvesters because we had said the Elders and Harvesters were the professors of our land they are the ones that put foot prints on our land therefore we wanted to accommodate them with some kind of tobacco money. Some Elders that spoke to me are not no longer with us but they wanted to make sure that we accommodate our harvesters and elders and I like that to be carry through.

I know when we get budget guideline like this from the government we spend it according to how our leadership see fit. I know that's where litigation came in but reviewing your draft budget I want to know what where that was absorb, I want to see



the breakdown of it. Where is on the...yeah the litigation. On the budget line where would it be?

Ria Letcher, I didn't put it on the budget line because it would just blow this budget out of the water. You would be looking under option one probably in excess of three hundred thousand dollars deficit. Probably looking more at four I know the Ehdezhie litigation it may process it may end but there is a hearing in the end of November so from here to then there is minimum expenses and those expenses would be eliminated and possible some of the money that we spend will be reimburse back to the community if the government reinstate these subsurface protection on the Ehdezhie.

The Grand Chief has had discussion to that effect with INAC people. So I am very hopeful for that but I didn't included it on the budget line in here because these are extraordinary expenses that we don't budget for. These are decision that you made that are outside of the budget so they come out of the surplus, so I didn't budget for it.

Rita Cli, okay thank you.

Ria Letcher, you can see it in the audit there is a legal and other professional fees.

Elder Rita Cli, as long as you can track it....

Ria Letcher, it's all tracked. We have in our financial management to set up a separate program for the litigations so that we are able to track them.

Elder Rita Cli, okay you know why because going back again to Dehcho Process we said it was an open process we want to make sure that our membership are aware of that there is no hidden agenda that is what I am making reference to.

Ria Letcher, okay.

Elder Rita Cli, and the other thing was I know ADK is...Margaret Ireland made reference to that is the \$31,000 and I know there is a letter on file from the previous Chief Frank Kotchea saying they didn't wanted to be affiliated with DFN. Therefore that was why I said at previous leadership meeting that any kind of information anything that had to do with ADK I wanted to see that letter and stuff attached to anything that relates to them. So our membership and leadership could see the documentation just so that there is a paper trail to follow. Because they didn't want to be part of us and stuff like that so that is something I really want the membership to be aware that we got documentation. The other thing is that our Chief and I talk and we would like to go with option #2 too. Mahsi.

Ria Letcher, the other thing the other point I forgot to make is that we approved budget for two years in a row that were over budget and it help you to substantiate the need for additional funding. Right now under option two we are accommodating the cuts were accommodating like cutting ourselves. When we have needs what they provided was

insufficient to do what we needed to do already. And they are cutting us further and so we are turning around and doing the cuts and going through the exercise ourselves. This option two of the budget says okay they are okay with the cuts they've work around them.

They are taking it, option one says "no" we are not taking it. We are not taking it, it substantiate the need for additional funding. When you go and say we have needs here over and above our core funding and our budget proves it. You have more of a case cause this is base on the operation like we always need additional revenue or resources in the communities to provide the communications that we need to do. To travel and talk with the people and so this option one does it.

And option two accommodates the cuts, but the method behind the madness of approving a deficit budget was always the substantiation of the fact that we are underfunded. This is what we need to thinking behind an increase budget versus a very tight scale back budget. And we always strive to be well within that. Our practice in the office being we don't touch our core funding unless we have too. We spend all of the program funding, everything that we can and everything is fully funded and everything is fully recoverable and then we spend.

Co-chair, okay thank you Ria, Elder Rita Cli and then Marie Lafferty.

Elder Rita Cli, its come to a time where when our Chiefs, the Grand Chief, the party that goes to Ottawa have to deal with this and take a really strong position. We are Treaty 11 and Treaty 8 holders it's our land and resources they want so we can use this as a tool to ask for more. And I think if we have been accountable and transparent I don't why they are calling the shots here we should be telling them. Mahsi.

Co-chair, thank you Elder Rita Cli, Marie Lafferty.

Marie Lafferty, going back to the Cash Grant I like to suggest that we cut in half if we vote on it now and leave it out it could stay that way. I think you might lose some people that won't want to come to the meetings to find out the money does help them out. Not to say that they are coming just for the money but you know it does help them when they get this money. Another thing is I know that INAC had wanted us to only get \$200 a day so even if you put at \$200 a day and then cut out some. Possibly find other funds to supplement some of the cash grant so that the Chiefs can still get some cash grant as well. Just a suggestion.

Ria Letcher, that's a very good suggestion.

Co-chair, Chief Stanley Sanguiez.

Chief Stan Sanguiez, I am just a bit concerned on option one. We are asking our people to come and visit our community on work that needs to be done. I just need an opinion

from Georges maybe because we are cutting a lot of the travel and everything. I still wanted to get that work done and get some help from the regional office to come and go over the chapters with our community. But we are cutting our travel in half and I am just a bit concern about that. We still need to be somehow flexible in moving things around that would accommodate the things we need. The more doors we knock in Ottawa might make a big change on that. But between then and now I want to see how we can be flexible if we are going to do that. Mahsi.

Co-chair, Margaret Ireland.

Margaret Ireland, we are concerned about options two which cuts down a lot on travel and accommodations etc. Since we've been asking that a lot of work needs to be done at a community level and sometimes throughout the year we probably want some of the DCFN staff to come to JMR and do some work with us. We thought perhaps we will be better off to take option one just as long its flexible enough to accommodate the community if they wanted help. Mahsi.

Ria Letcher, and it's a great substantiation of the need for funding because for a group of this size and over the geographic scope that the DCFN encompasses. You need money to move around we can't do absolutely everything over the telephone or through video conferencing. You need the flexibility to move and travel and do the work that needs to be done. We can't do it from sitting in our offices and it's a great substantiation of the need for additional funding.

Approving a budget like this substantiates a need for additional resources. Because look at what we run on an annual bases 7.5 million this is only a million dollar budget so we are able to save in a lot of other areas. And we approved deficit budgets for the last couple of years making that substantiation. We have done well and this year we are only in a deficit is because of the litigation that we needed to undertake to protect the land and resources of the DCFN and communities.

Co-chair, thank you Ria. Chief Jim Antoine.

Chief Jim Antoine, we are going to run out of time and going on and on here. We know we need money and Ria we have to trust her with the numbers because I don't how things really work internal there but we said number two but after that you said that it will be better if we go number one and we can argue to get more money. If that is the case we are okay with number one just to speed things along, so I move it.

Co-chair okay we got a mover, Chief Jim Antoine, second by Chief Tim Lennie.

**MOTION#05 ASSEM 30/06/11**

**The Assembly moved to approve the Core Budget Options #1**

**moved by Chief Jim Antoine**

**Seconded by Chief Tim Lennie**

**Passed**

Ria Letcher, if I could just ask for one more motion that if we could continue to operate under the current operational plan that was presented last summer till fall. At fall time I will have a strategic plan for your review.

**MOTION#06 ASSEM 30/06/11**

**The Assembly moved to approve the Operate under Current Operational Plan**

**Moved by Chief Roy Fabien**

**Seconded by Chief Jim Antoine**

**Passed**

Co-chair, we are going to have the National Chief Bill Erasmus made a brief statement to the assembly.

National Chief Bill Erasmus, thank you for the opportunity to say a few words. I really wasn't going to say anything but listening to what was said before the break. I think it is important to share some little bit information with you. First of all thank you I am very pleased to be here and Dehcho has been a very strong region over the years and they continue to have a strong position. I know in the end they will get what they want and as Rita Cli said if people stick together and follow the principle and the resolutions they passed.

What I wanted to say you need to be aware that there is a joint action plan before Canada. It was agreed to with the Assembly of First Nations and the Department of Indian Affairs. National Chief Shaun Atlego (sp) and Minister John Duncan and it's call a joint action plan. What it means is that Assembly of First Nations and Indian Affairs have agreed on four items that they are going to work together on. And these are priorities that have been put together over the last year or so. They include education, accountable, transparency, and capacity, good governance, economic development and this is the area I think you should be really concern about or interested in is negotiations and implementation.

Negotiations include treaties and comprehensive claims process. Within the comprehensive claims process they have agree that they will review the policy that guides the negotiations. The reason that's taking so long to negotiate is that the policy restricts you. The policy only allows you to do so much that is the problem and it hasn't been review since 1986 so it's really old and it doesn't work and it needs to reflect the realities. For example the United Nations declaration has been passed and Canada now endorses it. The Principles within the United Nations declarations should be on the table when you are looking at lands etc. So I wanted to say that this is also building on

the apology from Indian Residential School agreement that the Prime Minister made. To reconcile with First Nations and it is also build on the UN declaration as I mentioned.

But as Georges Erasmus said earlier it is very tough to get money because Canadian Government just passed its budget and within that budget it has agrees to get rid of their deficit over a number of years. And each year they have to find money somewhere and so they are cutting back everywhere. The argument we have to make is that if they have a joint action plan with us on these items then they should not be cutting back from First Nations. There is some areas they can't cut back because they are guarantee by Treaty, they are call Indian monies within Treasure Board. But there are other areas that they might try to cut back.

The person in charge of it is Tony Clement he is in cabinet and he use to be the Federal Health Minister and in other positions. He was also the Minister within the Ontario Government. He is the head of Treasury Board and his job is to do the cuts back within the Federal system. The Assembly of First Nations has been trying to get a meeting with him to get reassurance that funding will not be cut from our people. I think this is where you are talking about going to Ottawa and lobbying this is what you are going to begin to look at to see how you can influence that process.

Because you are directly involved in the negotiations and you have been there for a number of years, you have invested in it and Canada have invested in it and jointly you are trying to come with an agreement that would make you partners in the future. This has to be done together so those are the comments I wanted to make Mr. Chairman and thank you for the opportunity and I will be here for a little while yet and if people have questions I can address them and this will also be brought up at the Dene National Assembly in Ft. Providence in two weeks. Mahsi.

Chair, again I have been asking to go move along with our agenda we understand that there are delegates that are wanting to leave we could be losing our quorum. We also would like to finish off a couple of these items I've been asked to move quickly into the resolutions. Grand Chief, how do we feel about that can we move right into resolutions, yes there is a nod. Okay let's get into the resolutions here, we have a serious of resolutions ready to go. Any staff available please. The first one is Resolution #2 Dehcho Process.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution #2 – Dehcho Process**  
**Moved by Chief Lennie**  
**Seconded by Richard Hardisty**  
**Resolution passed.**

**Resolution #3 – KFN Reserve  
Moved by Marie Lafferty  
Seconded by Henry Hardisty  
Resolution passed.**

Chair, discussions, Chief Roy Fabien.

Chief Roy Fabien, I didn't want this motion read into the thing the way it's written and I asked that it be revised and I gave it in writing and they didn't revised it. But I didn't want the third whereas to be read into because that is not something we agree with, I don't agree with that portion. The second whereas; KFN has accepted the reserve to protect the land with the understanding that KFN participate in future land claims. So when we created the reserve the understanding was that we would continue to participate in the Dene/Métis land claims.

So when you take a look at the Dene/Métis land claim there is even a clause that specifically state that KFN can keep their reserve and also get settlement lands over and above. It was based on that when this whole discussion took several times at previous leadership meetings because there was questions about KFN being involve in the Dehcho Process. It was dealt with when they said that KFN can continue to be involved in Dehcho Process because of how it was first set up.

That is what I wanted to say but the other thing I wanted to add is that right now KFN is kind of in limbo state, our community we negotiated a community comprehensive claim framework agreement. Our community look at it and said "no" and so they gave them a BCR, they pass a BCR and gave it to Canada and told them number one we are going to let go the reserve, number two that we want to maintain our ownership through our traditional land the way the Dehcho Process was set up. Then number three that we want to control our own membership and we don't want Canada to decide who is Treaty and who is not Treaty. There was five points but Canada tells us that they were going to give us an answer sometimes next week. So I know there is concern that we are negotiating with Canada on our community comprehensive claim but right now we are not negotiated.

The other issue is that the biggest concerns the community has regarding letting go the reserve is the implication behind it and what they said is that if we're building on treaties why do we need to give up the reserve. When the reserve is the treaty rights now some people don't understand the reserve might be administered by the Indian Act but it is establish through treaty if you look at your Treaty 11 every community is entitle to a reserve. Maybe the people didn't agree to that but that's what is written into the treaty. Now the issue is raise that in this motion is they are trying to say that KFN is agreeing with Canada version of the treaty by taking the reserve. That is not true, if you take a look at the implication of what every Dehcho First Nation is doing is us taking education, health, housing for free etc. Those are based on treaty rights.



When you take your little treaty supplies every year that's base on treaty rights on a written version of the treaty rights. When you take your five dollars that is base on the written version of the treaty. The problem that I have is the way it is been interpreted what we're doing is that KFN took the treaty 8 and they believe that they did not extinguish the treaty or their land. The reason we fought against the 1990 Dene/Métis land claim was exactly that they wanted us to extinguish and we won't do that. We do not agree that we extinguish our land what our people have always said and I heard the Elders said the same thing in previous assembly is that when we share our land with Canada in return for allowing the crown subject to come into our land they exchange these treaty rights with us.

And so, in 1974 the Mackenzie Pipeline was going to go the town of Hay River needed some land where they can store all pipes. They took the reserve to protect themselves under Treaty 8. Now the reason we are questioning this whole process is that Canada had told us that they want the settlement base on the Tli Cho Land Claim and that is the way they have been negotiating with us. The Tli Cho land claims gets rid of the bands and we object to that. We want to become a non-antidote no matter how it is a train by the negotiators. The other really issue I got is we raised our concerns I just feel like we are in parliament. We are in the opposition somehow and they are on the other side being something else.

Every time we say something they can response to us and proved us wrong. Which is not the intent the Dehcho Elders talk to us about when they set up the Dehcho Process and the point is that we are not sure if we are going to go with the community comprehensive claim base on what the community said. I told the band council is that look if we are not going with the comprehensive claim let's stay at the table with the Dehcho I even got that agreement from my band members. I am trying to set it up so that it will be desirable for us to be at the table.

Previously this assembly agreed for us to be at the table even with our reserve. Because Canada took a position we are no longer at the table but we are not sure which way we are going to go. I am hearing that other First Nations are still weighting whether they are going to go with the comprehensive claim. I guarantee you that if you approved this motion saying that yes we are going to fight to keep your reserve I'm sure our people will look favourably at what's going on here. I am just making these comments to get support for this motion.

Chair, thank you Chief Fabien and again you made some suggestive changes to the motion I think you have it written done do you? Nobody has it and how do you want to deal with this. Do the mover and seconder agrees to the suggestive changes the Chief put to the floor? Yes there is a nod, Marie Lafferty has agreed, Henry Hardisty yes he agreed. We will make changes and put into it and we now call questions.

Chief Tim Lennie, if we want all day we can go all day. We sit here at assembly to make decisions on the best interest of our people. Once again we have not finished the

agenda we still have questions. I understand where things are going and I was really hoping and praying to the Creator that we leave here united. But how Government policy works and how their direction is, is interfering with this process. That is the only reason as a Chief I had to take back my jurisdiction this year. Let's get real and how are we going to go ahead. It's come to the point the point where our Elders gave us direction and now I am looking at this today I am actually lost for words.

I see this past year the Government is really putting the screws to us here and we are not picking up on it. There is a question why is ADK is still on the books. They have their own process and Hay River Reserve is the same thing. I can have my own process today and I have ask for PKFN process in regards to retain their aboriginal rights, their band and First Nations organization to this day and nobody has accommodated my wishes. They push us into a public government system today where is this First Nation going to be as a governing body.

I don't believe on a reserve that written reserve that document, what I understand is the oral history and if I ever recognized the treaties that the government has put in front of us I think our community would of been on the reserve today. Would of have that fence around them. One of the things is that when you are on a reserve I have seen a lot of suffering, maybe on TV etc. Lot of our people are fenced in no freedom, so where we are we going to go. I'm really unsure because maybe it's fear, uncertainty not having clear directions.

Joachim yesterday mentioned the special assembly and I think we really need to sit down and talk about this governance that Roy is talking about. When we get together at assembly we have presenters fine and dandy to hear what other people's aspirations and the work they've done research and helping us. Sharing information and we can go on for hours and we end up like this. The very hard core important issues we need to be dealt with is once again going to be deferred. I am never mind government having certainty I am very uncertain where we are going today. So when we are all together and this NEB, Enbridge issue and all how are we going to share and all these things we couldn't attack all this alone. But because of this instability of this organization, Chief Lennie has to take a position within his jurisdiction. I could of said it is that Dehcho position, I could of said that easily.

Today we should be working together and if I am alone I won't know and what we are doing is right. There is conflict right now between my membership, questions and we have overlapping issue and we are not willing to talk openly on that. I don't like this hiding things but I want to home and have a really good rest this weekend. Before this gets carry away I can defer this one here, I like to have a special assembly to deal with these specific whether we going to be with the Dehcho Process or are we going to go out the circle. We got to make a final decision and have new direction. Because the government, like I said put something in there for us to consider and it is this community comprehensive claim.

The community comprehensive claim probably be worst then what a regional comprehensive claim is. If anybody has calculated the subsurface land we are receiving today compare to the Dene Nation and you compare that to a treaty. One square mile for a family of five so there are a lot of unsettled questions and that within myself because I am a self-governing First Nation here. I do not believe in the government policy and legislation that we have no part in. We have always said it as First Nation. Indian Act it does not control us here and if you want to take the reserve then the Indian Act is the law. So you are dictated to how you run your reserve, land and how you take care of it. We went through this whole process probably from fifteen years looking at options and the only options we have today is TLE and comprehensive claim. So with this resolution I am not too certain on how this is going to go but this discussion can go on and on but I think that's all I have to say on that one. Personal I think we need to have a serious discussion on this in the near future. Mahsi.

Chair, thank you Chief Lennie. Georges Erasmus some clarification.

Georges Erasmus, I couldn't agree more with Tim, you need some more serious discussions before you. We really don't know what the consequent is I am going to ask Chris to make a few comments because he has his views. One point I wanted to make was we asked Canada before in relation to the land that they offer Dehcho what is was going to mean if Hay River Reserve was going to continue. If they went on their own in their community comprehensive claim and the result was the same. The land would be reduced by their numbers so apparently when Canada first offer us 39,000 square kilometres then they said we got a bit more and we said what is it.

Finally they showed it to us and the total was around just a little less than 46,000 square kilometres. Ft Liard decided they are going to go on their own, Canada made them an offer. Our amount comes back down to 39,000 square kilometres and when that happen we ask Canada what does that mean then if Hay River keeps its Reserve. Will the amount go down yes the amount will go down, therefore I just wanted you know that total land quantum keeps dropping every time a community does something like this. In the case of Hay River or anybody else if you want to go a reserve the total land quantum will drop by the number of people involved in that.

We are not sure what this means would mean in relation to the agreement if we had something like this. Presumably one of the reasons they are doing it because on the reserve you don't pay tax. Well for the rest of the process at the moment is one of the powers that Dehcho Government will have is to tax. To raised revenue so that you can have your own programs and so right now all the money can do is part of your people don't have to pay tax. Are you going to give them the same service as the rest of them?

Back in the days when the Dene/Métis were negotiating an agreement there was no self-government involved in it. It was just land that was all that's been discussed. It made it bit more sense, it was the whole valley so it was kind of part of the whole thing. Now we are down to just the region and we are also talking self-government it gets far

more complicated. What I would suggest is you postpone making a decision on this for the time being until we know the consequences. I would ask Chris to take a look at the pros and cons of what we think it might mean and we don't have to wait for a special assembly we could if that's what you want but at least wait until maybe wait until the leadership meeting in the fall. Take a look at this pros and cons of what this means because it's complicated and it could have some serious consequences. I am going to ask Chris for his view.

Chair, okay thanks Georges. Chris Reid.

Chris Reid, I agree with Georges that I would suggest that a resolution like this not be passed in haste, don't rush into something like because it does have some very serious consequences. Two of them come to mind that you need to be aware of I'm not suggesting that you shouldn't pass it. If you have to hear what I say you want to pass it you have every right to do that.

Two very serious issues comes to mind number one is that under Canada's current comprehensive claims policy keeping a reserve is not a achievable. You have to ask yourselves are you going to the wall on this. I am not suggesting for a second that you should accept Canada's comprehensive claim policy. As I said yesterday I don't think you should accept it. However you need to be realistic and realize that if you want to break out of part of the policy there is a lot of work to be done, there are hard negotiations concession may have to be made. It's not going to be a simple matter of pounding the table and say we want Hay River to keep their reserve.

I can tell you right now Canada's answer is going to be no. The answer might change to yes if you are prepare to conceit something very big in some other areas such as your land quantum or something else. Hay River has the option of keeping their reserve under Canada's other current land claim policy which they are pursuing that is Canada's specific claims policy. The specific claims policy is base on the English written version of the Treaty which includes reserves. When you settle a TLE and KFN is involved in the TLE process in parallel to this one. When you settle it you have to sign a release saying that your entitlement under the treaty is completely fulfilled there is nothing else, the reserve is it.

Under Canada's comprehensive claims policy you have land selection which I know you don't like we know that very well. But the amount of land that you get under land selection policy under comprehensive claim is far greater than the amount of land you get as reserve under these specific claims policy dramatically greater. So there are differences in the treatment of the land tax exempt status does not apply on selected lands under the comprehensive claims policy on the other hand you get a lot more land. There are other differences too.

The point is that this is not a simple matter there would be very significant consequences for the Dehcho Process. Before you pass something you have to ask

yourself are you prepared to go to the wall to fight for this. Are you prepare to do that if you're not then you have to ask yourself are we then going to back down in return for nothing later on. How does that look if we took a position and then we later throw it away and back down. So you yet decide to take this position and pass this resolution but you need to think through all the consequences and what are you prepare to do to fight for it. Are you prepared to fight for it or are you just going to pass the resolution and let it go when Canada says "no" which they will do? What are you prepared to do to get Canada to move to saying "yes"? What tactic and strategy are you prepare to use to fight for KFN to keep that Reserve? Given that they have an existing policy Canada is going to say you want a reserve fine have a reserve do it under the specific claims policy. Any one of your community want a reserve if you want.

Now the other concern that I have is the Dehcho had said forever as far as I know you do not accept the written form of the Treaty. For the past two years I have heard Chief Fabien points to the written form of the Treaty and say that's what the reserve is base on. Because there is no reserve in the Dene version of the Treaty we know that not in the oral version there is no written version of the Dene Treaty. When he says read the Treaty that can only mean one thing that mean the English written Treaty that's is the only written Treaty there is. That's the one that speak of reserve that's also the Treaty that says you siege, release, surrendered all the rest of your land.

So you have to ask yourself too if you pass this resolution are you endorsing the written form of the Treaty. And it could be seen as that we will be asked as negotiator what does this means now. Does the Dehcho now accept Canada's form of the Treaty the written form; otherwise what Treaty are you talking about when you say you want reserve under the Treaty? Because the Dene version of the Treaty doesn't include reserve I was told that from day one when I started working for Dehcho. We repeated that a thousand times at the negotiating table that the Dehcho don't want reserve because they want nothing to do with that written form of the treaty which is Canada's version which not accurate. It's completely different from the Dene version of the treaty again it's up to you if you want to take the position that your treaties include right to reserve that is entirely up to you.

We will follow your direction but we need to point out that there is serious consequences for that there will be questions about whether you now accept Canada's version of the treaty if you do that. There is no other version of the treaty that includes reserve. So our suggestion would be to give it some thought and be careful before you take a position on something like this. Thank you.

Chair, thank you the suggestion is to table the resolution. We have Joachim Bonnetrouge first and then Elder Rita Cli.

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, I understand now it's pretty serious and agree that we should table it because it is not going to go away and we want to stay. I just finished talking to Tim Chief of Pehdzeh Ki we need to stay together. We need to leave and we



have a lot of young people with us. I wanted to say that in two weeks time Deh Gah Got'ie are going to be hosting the Dene National Assembly a real special invitation to the Dehcho and I also want to say thank you to Pehdzeh Ki and the people. So we will see you in two weeks. Mahsi.

Chair, okay thank you Chief Bonnetrouge does that means your delegation is leaving now is that correct? Elder Rita Cli.

Elder Rita Cli, you know after listening to what our legal counsel is saying I would like to defer this to fall leadership because I know at one time this was a side table issue. I really think...I agree with what Chris is saying if we go ahead and pass this we are doing exactly what Government is saying reseeding and surrendering. That is not where we want to go because I know when we had the Think Tank in Trout Lake some of the leaders that were there said they want Hay River Reserve to be with us. We want to be united and I agree with Chief Lennie we need to be united to be a force to be reckon with. So I would say defer this to fall session and in the meantime work on it and get your people to really speak to this issue. Mahsi.

Chair, okay Rita thanks. Again the suggestion is to defer. We lost most of our delegates here so I am going to ask Sam and Roy to just briefly.

Grand Chief Gargan, the reserve is always has been part of Dehcho First Nation and I think Bill came up here and reported that the President of the Assembly of First Nations and the Harper Government are willing to maybe look at revising the comprehensive claim policy. So there is an avenue in which maybe there be a window of opportunity to raise our issue in regards to keeping all ten communities together. And make that point with them and perhaps maybe in their review they might be able to accommodate that.

Chair, thank you Grand Chief Gargan. Chief Roy Fabien just briefly.

Chief Roy Fabian, I just want to say that I have no problem tabling the issue but you guys have to listen to what the negotiators are indicating here. There is no negotiation I don't know if I've been heard here but there is no negotiation going on here. Canada is stipulating exactly what it wants and we just do what they wants us to do. What we're been told by our legal counsel is don't challenge Canada because of what's going to happen. As Dehcho First Nation we stood up against the Dene/Métis land claim and extinguishment clause because we believe we did not extinguish our land in the treaty. And to suggest just because we take a position to suggest that we are extinguishing. That is Canada's way of dealing with us. So you really need to think about what's been said to us here. The Government said....

in 1988 when I became Chief this kind of discussion took place and I remember Bill and I had a big argument over that. Because they said they can change the comprehensive policy I told them you guys are not going to do it. But we continue to negotiate till we negotiate ourselves into a corner and we have to take a stand. I am afraid that is what's



going on here. Whether we are at the table or not, whether KFN is at this Dehcho table or not you are going to face with the decision. Whether you want to give up just like Jim said what are you guys willing to live with. We will request that you guys table this motion. It's unfortunate that we didn't get to deal with some of other important issues like devolution etc. That devolution is based on the fact that Canada thinks you already extinguish your rights. The way that Canada is dealing with devolution is the GNWT you guys already extinguish that's what they think. That's why they are applying that policy and they that think that Dehcho will do what they want them to do. So I just wanted to say that much and I want the mover and seconder to remove this motion and we will talk about it another day.

Chair, thank you and Chief Jim Antoine.

Chief Jim Antoine, just some housekeeping is that the Chief that is going to be affected Roy Fabien from Hay River Reserve and he is okay with removing it okay. I think we are losing our quorum.

Chair, okay thank you Chief Antoine we are losing our quorum so we are trying to move on if I can. Again mover and seconder do you agree to tabling this motion. Yes, okay if that is okay can we move on with the remainder of the resolution.

**Resolution # 4 - Begaa Dene Shah Tuh Got'ie**  
**Moved by Dolphus Jumbo**  
**Seconded by Margaret Ireland**  
**Resolution passed**

Chair, Chief Tim Lennie

Chief Tim Lennie, in regards to the Sheh Tah Got'ie, David had to leave by boat and he wanted for me to speak to the motion that has been presented. We all know that Begaa Sheh Tah Gotie has been part of Dehcho First Nation since we started. There is also a conflict here in regards Begaa Dene Shah Tah Got'ie too in regards to Sahtu settling their land claims. What they want is to be recognize as a band. As you well know Canada has the same issue they want a settlement and there is some members that are not agreeable to these agreements so Begaa Sheh Tah Got'ie I am not too sure if they have recognition as a band and I guess one of the issue is that he is trying to acquire core funding to operate. But the issue in regards to the membership is still unclear because he is in the settlement territory.

I would also like to defer this one to the leadership meeting so we can get clarity. When Roy talked about the Governance part of it and that's what this is all about. How we are going to work together and if we are a band, the reserve how are we going to do it let's set the record straight. It's not to have anybody say you are not allow in Dehcho. I understand the policy but same with Begaa Sheh Tah Got'ie too they don't have any

money at times they are at the leadership meeting and sometimes they are not. They have been at this table year after year asking for that support. They think that we all support each other but actually putting that support into action is a whole different thing. When you support something put the resources to it that's what is all about. I guess Begaa Sheh Tah Got'ie are doing the same thing so all I am going to ask on their behalf is we table this next leadership meeting so we can clarify a lot of this membership.

Chair, thank you Chief Lennie. Mover and Secunder, Dolphus and Margaret yes. We will table the Begaa Sheh Tah Got'ie resolution.

Ria Letcher, we just lost our quorum. We counted there is about thirty-four people so if there is anymore even with the proxy. You can still have discussions and still agree by consensus. On the Begaa Shut Tah Got'ie issue there is a proposal going forward by Dene Nation to have them be recognized as a First Nation. We have committed to doing some work with them in having a look at the membership because over the years they started with a core group of people. Certain people have since signed on to the land claim agreement but in my last conversation with David that there is still a significant number of people and that even the children have to be counted. Because when they are looking at these numbers they are not considering the little children that are represented by these people and he says they are over two hundred strong. We are interested in looking at these numbers and I will be looking for funding to help them achieve that and as is Dene Nation.

Chair, thanks there Ria. I would like to... how do you suggest we deal with the motions because obviously we don't have a quorum. Chief Stan Sanguetz.

Chief Stan Sanguetz, thank you Mr. Chairman the concern to be on side with the host Chief here is some of the resolutions that I see here needs to be talk about brought and make recommendation at the Fall Leadership meeting. Because there are some implications on the resolution that I see and we need to discuss or set up a meeting in the next while to deal with those implications of the resolution so that we can make a clear decision at the fall leadership meeting. We already lost our quorum so this is the only way I could see us dealing with the rest of the resolutions. We have to make some time Grand Chief to deal with these resolution and have clear mind when we go to the fall leadership meeting because if we did that then we still have a lot of time to discuss those. Mahsi.

Chair, thank you Stan the suggestion is to table all the resolutions for the fall leadership meeting. Jim Antoine, Chief Liidlii Kue First Nation.

Chief Jim Antoine, I know we still have a lot to go through and quite a few people have left we don't enough time as the negotiator have taken a lot of time and what they talk to us about is what we already know. Leadership and Think Tank meetings they just repeat what has been said at those meetings. Negotiator's are not well prepare and they are boring the younger people, so I suggesting that we get the bigger and new

items that hasn't been discuss should be first on the agenda at our next meeting. The negotiator's read the whole book to us for three days and as leaders we heard it before therefore the next time they should present new stuff not the old ones.

I am just suggesting that the first day I attempted to try and get the big ticket items on the second day but it didn't happen. We had Land Claims for three days and we pass one motion telling the Government that they give more power to their negotiators. After three days that's the decision we made. The next time they have a session they should just say you know this is the stuff right here, this is the new stuff that we come out with and these are the decisions that we hope you make for these reasons. I think that's basically that kind of presentation that I like to see next go around.

For the LUP the same thing Peter Cizek was there and he went through right from history from day one. Some of us heard it lots of times all we need to know is where they are at and what the changes are and recommendations for us to make. So we could move on we got three days maybe we had five hours a day so we got about 15 quality hours for three days. If you waste 10 hrs on one item we squeeze in the important ones and we leave it behind. We need to do a number of things one recommendation is we need to have a training program for our chairs that's big bucks we pay them so much a day they earn it. But if we collect the people who could be chairs at these meeting even the younger people and if we all agree on a system where you say okay you could say what you want to say in two minutes.

I know some Chiefs who are passionate maybe even get offended but I think that to move things along, if we are going to be a government we need to put some rules down on how we run these things. Sam was the speaker of the Legislative Assembly and he just gave me two minutes to say what I want to say and if I go over he will give me a couple of minutes over that sort of a rule so that we can get things going. I would like to make a recommendation that the Executive Committee look at a training program and I talk to Bill Erasmus because he is always looking for chairman and some chairman is an art. It's a job and the chairman they work hard we have to give them credit. I am just making recommendation to how we function better and I am not here to offend anybody.

The one item on the motion on the Dehcho Access and Benefits Team I just wanted to basically say that there were two motions made at the leadership meeting to move this access and benefits to explain it to the communities. The second motion was kind of a political motion and it is causing some problems for us in negotiating with Imperial Oil. Looking at it and dealing with Shane Parris and Mel Benson our two consultants who are working on it. Imperial Oil is kind of moving away from us because of those motions as it is unclear it's not too clear as to how we are going to do it. I know the Grand Chief said we have three years but really we have to look at the consequences of not finishing it off versus leaving it. I would feel personally that if we don't change those two motions we may lose that agreement the way it is.

I know there is a concern from Trout Lake and so first of all I would like to see maybe a precedent of those two motions in the spring and replace it with another motion to basically cause right now there is no funds. In our budget Imperial Oil gave money to Dehcho First Nation for this committee to work like a hundred and fifty thousand or something in the budget. The funding is finish so we need more money to do this work so we are going to go after INAC and Oil to give us more money to do this ratification in the community. Personally I am chairing on behalf of other Chiefs that are affected and personally I am speaking as Chief of Liidlii Kue and I am chairing this committee is that I'm told that Imperial Oil is moving away from not funding anymore because of the motion.

I don't know what the consequences is going to be and I was hoping that we deal with it here but we ran out of time. I just wanted to express my concern about it and if communities like Trout Lake and other communities have concerns about the draft agreement I think the proper place to deal with it is with the Access and Benefits Team and they should provide us with that concerns and work together to deal with it. If you don't do that then it will go to somebody else to deal with it, but we are the team and I take this role seriously that we should deal with this. I just wanted to express my concerns about that specifically and if I don't have an options to say so I like to thank Chief Tim Lennie your council and community all your cooks and everybody for this great event and in closing I like to propose that we hold the next meeting in Fort Simpson. Mahsi.

Chair, thank you. We've been told maybe to table the remainder of the resolutions and in closing we will ask Grand Chief to deal with a quick closing statement and then have a closing prayer.

Grand Chief Gargan, thank you just a few comments in 2006 when Margaret Thom and them were chairing we lost a quorum but we went on a bases of consensus. So we said we will operate as a consensus government so we sort of went that way to get the rest of the resolutions dealt with. We have to also remember that if we become a government we keep saying that phrase we are a government so if we need to change the rules it only requires a numinous consent to agree that we change the rules so that we get those motions done. That is just an information for now Jim unless you want to keep that it's still your choice okay. I want to thank everybody the host community, everybody gather here today just reminder. I think words were said yesterday and feelings were hurt but I want to let you know that when I first met Georges in 1969 when we were competing lifting up horse wagon.

Then after that I work with Georges under Dene Nation from 1979 to 1983 and Georges has been the President of Dene Nation and Assembly of First Nations. He also travelled across the country to listen to every single aboriginal organization regarding their struggle and their desire for self determination. So as far as I am concern is he is a good person to have on your side working for you and representing your interest. He doesn't always catch everything but this is why we are here. We remind him that this is

what we said and we expect it to be that way. Once in a while we sort of have to pull the reign in and say wait a minute, but I just want to say on behalf of Georges that it's unfortunate he is not here but he has done good for us right now. The binders that you see there take it with you and read it.

Instead of going through every single line Georges can say well with this item this is a small change that we made over here. You can go through it pretty fast and you just need to build on what's here or delete what's here. You don't need to go line by line so that would be the way and I agreed with Jim that we need to get the people but also get the people that we need to teach them. So every community that we go to that have a slug of chairman that we can rely on. The other is the rules of conducting of business because sometimes we say the same thing over and over or speak to the item. Instead of going all over the place and there is an issue that we are dealing with speak to that issue we keep going all over the place. The annual assembly or leadership items we should also have time frame on them so we don't use too much of one and less of other and I think they are equally important.

Also with regards to your access I don't know if you want to ask the leadership here to direct you to go to the communities with this agreement and explain it to them but that is the other option too. So thank you everybody and we will be seeing each other again in Fort Providence two weeks from now. Ria mention something about me going to all the regional council assemblies but with the way things have been reduce I haven't had any plans on going. I wanted to say this, so the host community, cooks, security, people of Pehdzeh Ki, translator, the staff, you the leadership and the membership mahsi cho and have a save journey.

Chair, closing statement Chief Tim Lennie

Chief Tim Lennie, thank you and see you next year. Thank you all for being in our community for the last three days and we wanted everything to go well for you so we did our best to set things up. I like to say thank you to all the delegates, Elders, leadership and the staff of DFN for all the hard work you put in on behalf of your people at this assembly. Also like to thank Mr. Tambour who has gone down to Fort McPherson to console his wife and their loss. I hope my friend has made it down there safety. Mr. Victor Constant who has been doing the translation for the last two days and just took the job and he was part of the delegation so don't call him out. Give him a hand for just doing the translation for the last two days. We also have technical person Ron who does the setting up and so on. If you had enjoyed the food that was a certified cook that we have who we trained for the past number of years. I would like to thank Gaylene and her people for working so hard and co-ordinating all the events and when at this kind of event you put in 16, 18 hrs a day and there is no tiring in that little body of hers.

The staff are working for you on your behalf appreciate them because they do a lot of work and they have help me this year to stabilize my organization and to be able to be here today. I thank Ria, the Executive Director for assisting in this co-management

agreement we had this year. I thank Dora for all her financial expertise and little Pauline thank you for everything you all have done for us. I also appreciate our little drummers who have been practicing very hard for the last year to be able to drum for us and to Walter Landry and his drummers from Ft Providence who would come here year after year and bring that spirit to us through their drums. We come into a situation here where we run out of time and let's make a rule no more AGM when we have a long weekend. Let's move our whole agenda from three days to four days so we can finish the business at hand. Mahsi.

Chair, okay thank you Chief Lennie let's all rise and do our closing prayer. We ask Elder Gabe Hardisty from Pehdzeh Ki First Nation to do the closing prayer.

Closing Prayer by Elder Gabe Hardisty.

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:05 PM.**