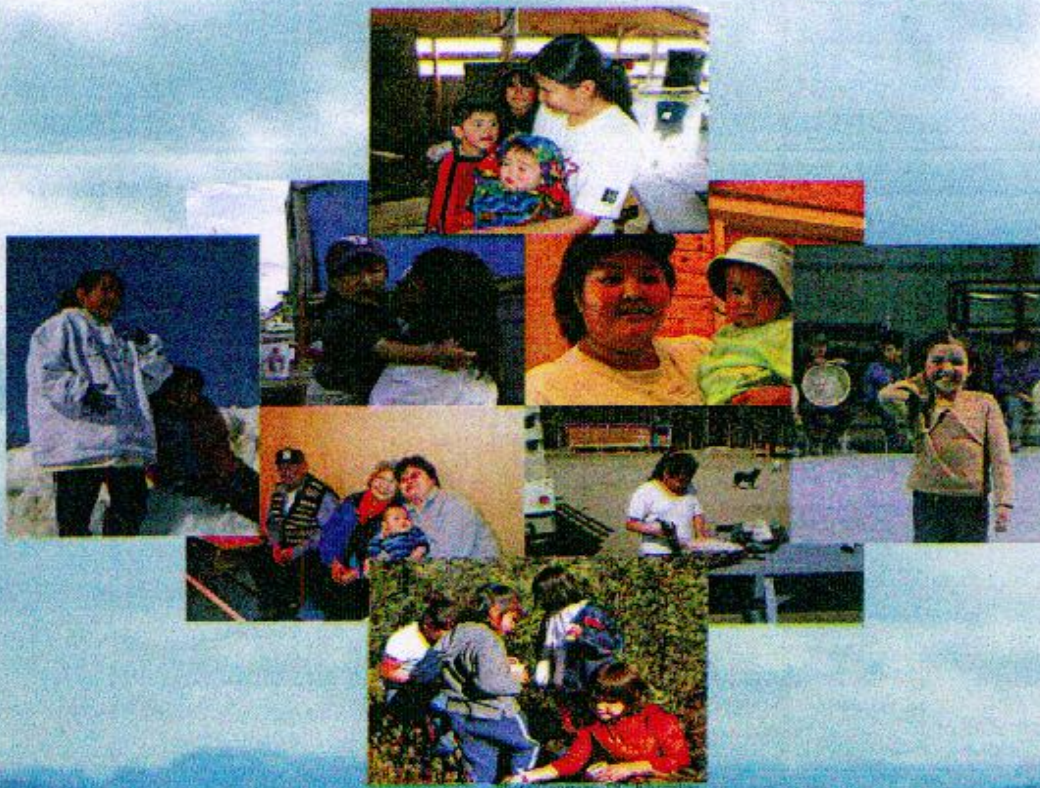


DEH CHO FIRST NATIONS

*“Connecting Our Youth
With the Land”*

2003-2004
Annual Report



*April 1, 2003
to
March 31, 2004*

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Grand Chief's Annual Report Herb Norwegian

On behalf of Deh Cho First Nations, I would like to thank people for being part of the important decisions that take place in the Deh Cho Process.

This Annual Report will give you a chance to look at some of the major issues that the Deh Cho First Nations have been dealing with over the last few months. We have been embroiled in some tough issues and the whole question of negotiating our rights with Canada has been our primary focus during the past year. The main issue at this point is the whole question of the recognition of our rights and recognition of the Deh Cho First Nations as being landlords in our own territory. This has created a problem for people and industry wanting to do business in our homeland.

The Mackenzie Gas Project has been aggressively pushing their agenda to build a pipeline. Roughly forty percent of the pipeline construction will cross through and impact the Deh Cho territory. We have been quite diligent in trying to get some movement on all aspects of the Mackenzie Gas Project. We have taken a progressive approach in trying to achieve positive results on the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Gas Project.

A Special Assembly gathered in Wrigley in the fall of 2001 to deal with the Mackenzie Gas project and passed the Wrigley Resolution, which clearly explains our position. Communities were very clear that before the Deh Cho endorses such a project, we must have concessions on all mega projects, one of them being the environmental assessment. We have actively lobbied the Federal Government and their respective Environmental Agencies.

The Joint Review Panel is the group who are going to actually over-see the environmental impact review of the pipeline. The Deh Cho position is that if the Joint Review Panel is going to include the Deh Cho in the agreement we need to be signatories to the agreement. Due to the reality that a large portion of this pipeline will remain in Deh Cho Territory, we are insisting on two representative seats out of the seven sitting on this panel.

Recently, in early June, we met in Yellowknife with the Northern Regional groups, including the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, the Canadian Environmental Assessment agency, & the National Energy Board. During this meeting, we had achieved a gentleman's agreement in finalizing the Joint Review Panel Agreement (JRPA). We had presented our position & had an Agreement in Principle. However, this group is now saying that there was no agreement & we are back to square one concerning the JRPA. It is quite disheartening but at the same time, we are still very adamant that our position has not changed. This pipeline should not span across the Deh Cho without adequate involvement from the Deh Cho. As a nation, what we need to be doing is having meaningful discussions amongst our people during our Annual Assembly. People need to debate how far we are prepared to go to reach an agreement on this pipeline.

We have been very aggressive in meeting with Imperial Oil & trying to get them to recognize publicly that the Deh Cho are the landlords. We met in Calgary with K.C. Williams, president of Imperial Oil. We had put the position to him that if we are to be progressive on this pipeline that we must have a public statement made by Imperial Oil stating that the Deh Cho is indeed the landlord & will be treated as such.

This recognition by Imperial Oil & associates is necessary because Canada & the Deh Cho are at the main table negotiating the very question of land rights & certainty, and Imperial Oil should accept and recognize this very important reality. We were very close to having an agreement on this land issue with Industry, however the



Grand Chief's Annual Report

Herb Norwegian

proposed statement read "the Deh Cho have an interest and have a claim to the land". The Deh Cho First Nations are not claiming any land: This is our land. This land has been passed on to us by our ancestors. Treaties 8 and 11 were agreements between two sovereign nations. We stand by this and should not take a lesser position.

Other issues that we have had to take a hard-line on is the Big Game Outfitters operating in Deh Cho Territory. The Commissioner Stuart Hodgson implemented the outfitters licenses in the Northwest Territories to promote tourism in the North. There were no consultations with affected First Nations on the introduction of these licenses to our traditional harvesting areas. Under current legislation, Federal and Territorial authorities have jurisdiction over the areas of land leases, regulations and enforcement. There is no input from First Nations. We have since concluded that there is no control and enforcement over these activities. This was evident in the illegal construction of an airstrip, and the lack of enforcement and communications with affected communities.

We believe the big game animals should naturally thrive in their environments, which will sustain the big game population for our people to hunt for sustenance as we have done since time immemorial. Trophy hunting goes against the grain of what we believe. Our Elders can confirm this. Deh Cho First Nations Leadership has provided direction on this issue through resolutions and we have had to take a hard line on this. It may have upset some people about the way that we have chosen to deal with the issue. We need to be firm on these issues, because if we are not firm then abuses of the existing system will continue.

Last summer, direction from the Assembly was to start working on a Deh Cho Constitution. The development of a Deh Cho Constitution is an exciting process, which enables the Communities to own this government. Since establishment of the Deh Cho Tribal Council (1990), direction has been provided on how we relate to one another, how lands are controlled, and how programs are delivered. There is a compilation of relevant directions provided through resolutions, which will contribute to the Deh Cho Constitution.

A series of constitutional workshops has been initiated and we were able to look at some key areas that need further direction. We have traveled through the Deh Cho Communities to get feedback on a draft Constitution. Elements of the Constitution such as what a public government is going to look like, the eligibility and citizenship of people in the new Deh Cho Government, and the residency requirements have been a big items for people. People wanted to know how long you need to live in the Deh Cho Territory before you become a citizen. Twenty years was suggested and over the last little while, five years has become a popular number. The rationale for this residency requirement is that we want to maintain control and eliminate the impact of a transient population.

The composition of a Deh Cho Government allows for Elders involvement, as directed by DCFN resolutions. The question of land title and ownership has been the biggest issue. We looked at the idea of joint stewardship, which means that Canada and the Deh Cho would jointly manage the land. We are seeking further community feedback on this issue.

At some point, we must have a discussion with the Villages, Hamlets and the non-Dene authorities throughout the Deh Cho territory to seek input on the elements of a Deh Cho Constitution. We are trying to give this a positive spin by getting people to comment on this important piece of work, and we look forward to this consultation process.





Deh Cho Process Report

Summary

Over the past year, the Deh Cho Process negotiations have focussed on the lands and resources components of an Agreement-in-Principle (AiP), terms and conditions for new oil and gas exploration, and options for including the DCFN in the environmental assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline. The negotiating team is also working with the Constitutional Working Group to develop a General Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) and a draft Deh Cho Constitution.

Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) Negotiations

Together with the Constitutional Working Group, the negotiating team is drafting a DCFN Constitution and AiP proposal while conducting consultations in all DCFN communities. We have drafted a paper titled "Towards a Deh Cho Government" which outlines the possible structure and powers of a Deh Cho government.

Land Title / Certainty

Under the Framework Agreement signed in May, 2001, the Deh Cho First Nations, the Government of Canada and the GNWT have agreed to work toward an Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) in five years. The parties have agreed to work towards a General Agreement-in-Principle (GAIP) as a step towards an AiP. Unlike an AiP, which is very detailed, a GAIP would be designed to address, in broad terms, the major elements of a final agreement. It is hoped that a General AiP will be developed by the end of 2004.

The 2003 Assembly in Kakisa approved two papers presented by the negotiating team to guide negotiations on a General AiP. The papers outline governance models for a public government based on Dene laws and customs. The Discussion Papers are based on past Assembly and Leadership resolutions, the Deh Cho Declaration, and the Deh Cho Proposal. These papers were discussed at the Trout Lake session in August and the Ft. Simpson session in September, 2003.

We continue to stress that the DCFN Leadership and Assemblies have consistently rejected the comprehensive claims model of "land selection" to resolve the issue of title to land. We told the federal negotiators that the Deh Cho First Nations are not prepared to discuss "land selection". Therefore, we must find other options for providing the "certainty" which we all want. So far, we have presented two options: Canada must either agree to recognize full Deh Cho ownership of all lands and resources in the Deh Cho territory through a "Crown in Right of the Deh Cho"

(as set out in the Deh Cho Proposal), or they must agree to recognize "co-ownership" or "co-stewardship" of the whole territory.

Since the federal negotiators have indicated that recognition of full Deh Cho ownership of all lands and resources is a "non-starter" for Canada, and since land selection and extinguishment are non-starters for the Deh Cho, we have pushed the federal negotiators to respond positively to the option of "shared ownership" or "shared stewardship" of the lands and resources of the Deh Cho which was adopted by the 2003 Assembly. Federal negotiators have informed us that they are seriously considering this option, but that they expect strong resistance from some sections of the federal bureaucracy, partly because they do not understand it.

Jurisdiction / Decision-Making

The 2003 Assembly adopted a paper titled "Draft - Deh Cho First Nations Agreement-in-Principle", which outlined some of the lands and resources components of a General AiP. It outlines how a Deh Cho Resource Management Authority would function to govern and manage lands and resources throughout the Deh Cho under a Deh Cho final agreement. The DCFN negotiating team tabled this paper at the August and September, 2003 sessions and explained it to the federal and GNWT negotiators.



Deh Cho Process Report

The proposed Deh Cho Resource Management Authority would be community based and have authority throughout the Deh Cho territory, not just on "selected" lands. It is based on holistic integration of all the components of lands and resources management, including land use permits, renewable and non-renewable resources, land use planning, environmental assessments, and sales and leases of land. The 10 communities which comprise the Deh Cho would be strongly involved in decision-making and in implementation and enforcement.

Canada's response to the DCFN's proposed Deh Cho Resource Management Authority has so far not been positive, but they also have not rejected our position outright. Although they continue to propose full integration of the Deh Cho under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), they have been told repeatedly that this is not an option for the Deh Cho.

It will be necessary to further develop the draft Constitution and AiP based on consultations with both DCFN communities and non-DCFN communities within the Deh Cho over the coming months.

Interim Resource Development Agreement (IRDA)

Terms and Conditions for New Oil and Gas Exploration

On April 17, 2003 the DCFN and Canada signed the Interim Resource Development Agreement (IRDA). The purpose of the IRDA is to ensure that the Deh Cho benefits from resource development in the Deh Cho territory and participate in economic development opportunities while a final agreement is being negotiated.

The IRDA does not require the Deh Cho to open any new lands for exploration. It says that the DCFN and Canada "share the objective" that new exploration will happen, but the IRDA also says we need to negotiate the terms and conditions for any new exploration before any new exploration happens. The target date for agreement on terms and conditions for new exploration was April 17, 2004 - 12 months after the signing of the IRDA. This has now been extended so that negotiations can continue.

In a letter given to former Minister Nault in August, 2003, the DCFN proposed the following terms and conditions for a new cycle of exploration:

Cash bonus bidding. We proposed that the next round of bidding for exploration licenses in the Deh Cho territory be based on the overriding royalty or "cash bonus" bid criterion, rather than a work commitment criterion. The successful bidder in any new cycle of bids for exploration licenses in the Deh Cho would be the company which offers to pay the highest cash bonus to the Minister, to be held in trust for the Deh Cho First Nations.

The cash bonus bidding system is based on free market principles and has been used successfully in Alberta for several years. It has the potential to generate new revenue which would benefit the people of the Deh Cho. The unusually high yield from wells drilled in the Liard region of the Deh Cho over the past few years, and the southern Deh Cho's close proximity to Alberta and B.C., indicate that the cash bonus bidding system is very well suited to the Deh Cho territory.

We indicated that the Deh Cho would be prepared to see a cash bonus bid criterion used on a pilot project basis for a new cycle of exploration, and that the Deh Cho is also prepared to discuss conditions which would link the payout of the cash bonus revenue collected by Canada on behalf of the Deh Cho to a Deh Cho final agreement, although we would prefer to have immediate access to any revenue resulting from cash bonus bids. In either case, it is DCFN's intention to use any funds generated from resource development in the territory to finance the delivery of programs and services for Deh Cho residents.



Deh Cho Process Report

Community Impact Benefit Agreements. We proposed that the highest bidder in any new cycle of exploration license bidding be required to negotiate impact benefit agreements with affected Deh Cho communities within 30 days (or 60 days) of being named the highest bidder. Impact benefit agreements would address environmental monitoring and mitigation, employment and contracting opportunities, social impacts, and compensation for impacts on traditional harvesters. If the company with the highest cash bonus bid is unable to reach an agreement with the affected communities within the specified time, the next highest bidder would be given the opportunity to negotiate impact benefit agreements. This process would continue until a company has concluded agreements with affected communities.

Parcel Selection. We advised Canada that the DCFN expects to be directly involved in selecting the parcels which will be opened for exploration under any new licenses issued in respect of Deh Cho lands. This is necessary in order to ensure that environmentally sensitive lands are protected (not all environmentally sensitive lands will be protected by interim land withdrawals) and to ensure that the Deh Cho's interest in having exploration and development occur at a gradual, sustainable pace are protected.

Progress in Negotiations on Oil/Gas – Canada's Response

At their meeting in August, 2003 Minister Nault advised Grand Chief Norwegian that Canada is prepared to consider any options which do not require immediate changes in legislation. The Minister and the Grand Chief agreed to appoint a Working Group to negotiate draft terms and conditions for new exploration licenses, with each side appointing members to the Working Group. The Working Group was mandated to negotiate as a side table of the Deh Cho Process, reporting to the main table, and to present draft proposals to the DCFN Leadership and Canada by April, 2004.

The Deh Cho members of the Working Group are: Chief Floyd Bertrand, Councillor Julian Landry and Sam Gargan. Petr Cizek is technical advisor to the Deh Cho members of the Group.

In January, 2004 the Deh Cho members of the Working Group tabled a more detailed position based on the 3 points outlined in the Grand Chief's August, 2003 letter to Minister Nault. The new DCFN position was based on 59 proposed terms and conditions. We have suggested that the 59 terms and conditions be imposed by the Minister as pre-conditions which companies would have to agree to meet before they would be eligible to bid for exploration licences. The 59 terms and conditions include requirements that any company receiving an exploration license must negotiate impact benefit agreements with affected communities, abide by air quality standards, and operate under a joint monitoring committee with First Nations' members.

Canada argues that it cannot require companies to negotiate IBA's as a pre-bid qualification because this would contradict federal legislation which requires that a single bid criterion be used to select companies for exploration licenses.

Canada has indicated that it is prepared to consider using cash bonus bidding for a future (2005) cycle of exploration licenses, but it will retain any revenue collected. We have informed Canada that this is unacceptable, the Deh Cho must receive a fair share of any revenue collected from Deh Cho oil and gas extraction.

Canada's negotiators have also rejected our proposal to have Deh Cho communities select exploration parcels on the grounds that it "cannot dictate to companies where to explore". Canada has, however, agreed that the DCFN will be involved in the selection of larger exploration "blocks" within which companies will choose parcels to bid on.



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The negotiations had reached an impasse by March.

Grand Chief Norwegian and Minister Andy Mitchell met in Yellowknife on March 18, 2004. At that meeting they agreed to continue negotiating past the April 17/04 anniversary date of the signing of the IRDA. The Grand Chief pressed the Minister to give his negotiators instructions to compromise and take a fresh look at whether their legislation allows for more flexibility. The Minister agreed.

We finally received Canada's response on May 19. Unfortunately, there is very little progress in the May 19 paper. Canada still rejects virtually every one of our proposed 59 terms and conditions.

KFN Working Group

The terms of reference for the KFN Working Group were approved by both Canada and the KFN in January, 2004. The KFN members of the Working Group are Chief Fabian and KFN Band Manager Brenda MacDonald. Assistant Negotiator Sam Gargan represents the DCFN on the Working Group.

The KFN Working Group has now held several meetings. Sam Gargan and Chief Fabian will provide the Assembly with reports on the progress of the Working Group.

Pipeline Environmental Assessment

The federal government and the Boards and agencies which will have a role in assessing and approving a pipeline negotiated a draft Joint Review Panel Agreement setting out a process for conducting the environmental assessment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline. Under the proposed Agreement, a 7 member Panel would be appointed to review the pipeline proposal: 4 members appointed by Canada (2 of the 4 would be nominated by the Inuvialuit) and 3 members would be appointed by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. The DCFN was not included in the negotiations or in the draft Agreement.

In December, 2003 the DCFN tabled our own draft Agreement for a joint panel environmental assessment of the proposed pipeline. Grand Chief Norwegian also sent the DCFN draft Joint Panel Agreement to the appropriate federal ministers and to the other agencies which would have to be parties to the Agreement. The DCFN draft Agreement would make the DCFN a full party to the Agreement, with the right to appoint 2 members of the 7 member Review Panel. The Deh Cho's proposed Agreement improves on the draft Joint Review Panel Agreement by including all affected regions in the review process, and also by bringing the National Energy Board into a unified process, and incorporating current best practises for environmental assessments.

When Minister Mitchell met with Grand Chief Norwegian in March, he agreed with our suggestion that a separate table should be established to allow the Deh Cho to negotiate inclusion of the DCFN in the Joint Review Panel Agreement. The Grand Chief, members of the PWG, and the negotiating team met with the Chairs of the Boards which negotiated the draft Agreement on May 28 in Yellowknife. The meeting resulted in an agreement-in-principle to amend the Joint Review Panel Agreement to make the DCFN a party to the Agreement with a role in appointing the members of the Panel. However, at a follow-up meeting held on June 11 in Yellowknife, the Boards reneged on the agreement-in-principle. No further meetings are scheduled at this time.



Elders Council Naxecho Report

Assistant Negotiator Sam Gargan currently facilitates the DCFN Naxecho Council. This fiscal year the Elders have secured a budget of \$75,000, as per a 2003 Assembly Resolution, with an additional \$13,376 dollars carried over from 2003-04. This budget has allowed the Elders to meet three times, however the Elders have decided to hold one Elder's Gathering per year with an optional second gathering if and when the Grand Chief or the Leadership requires an urgent decision. Furthermore a smaller working group of five Elders will meet on a seasonal basis.

The following summary highlights the main items of discussion.

Elders Participation

Elders have been active at Leadership and Assembly meetings with numerous motions and resolutions being passed with their participation. It has always been a struggle for the Elders to select a peer to attend various meetings, working groups or committees. For the time being, Elders directed the Grand Chief to select an Elder who will participate in meetings and on committees. For Elders Gatherings, the Leadership will select each attendee, and Elders will be selected in a host community where sessions or meetings will be held. First Nation Leadership is responsible for identifying community Elder's for the Naxecho Council.

Annual Assembly

Discussion's of relocating the Annual Assembly by the Leadership, the Elders and the community of Kakisa has been ongoing. The Elders have agreed by consensus to carry on the tradition of having the Annual Assembly at Kakisa. Their decision considered economics, lifestyle, access and security of the Assembly.

Elder's Roles & Responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities is a whole new field for DCFN Naxecho. The levels of comfort on how an Elder should conduct themselves is a concern and whether increasing demands on their expertise, experiences and knowledge will be a challenge. The Elders have agreed that a draft Elders Terms of Reference should be created.

The Deh Cho Constitution

The development of the Deh Cho Constitution will show how we will conduct ourselves as a nation with certain values and principles, and this process is of great interest to the Elders. This document of our land must reflect our collectiveness and our unique style of consensus.

Workshops with Naxecho have reviewed the Global perspective and the possibilities of what could be included in the Constitution. The Elders realize that the Constitution is for the future generations so it must reflect who we are, not what others feel we should be. It was agreed that every persons' participation in the creation of the Deh Cho Constitution is important, and as these discussions continue.

Grand Chief Selection/Election

Most jurisdictions have appointments or terms in office, and the Elders are recommending that we be consistent by changing our constitution to have the Grand Chief serve a four year term.





Deh Cho Communications Report

Communicating in the Deh Cho Process to Deh Cho Residents is an integral part of establishing a Government of the Deh Cho. Since 2001, the Deh Cho First Nations Information Team has been actively providing information to communities, it is imperative that people are informed and kept current on issues as they relate to the Deh Cho Process.

We have developed a communications plan, which has enhanced existing practices and communications methods. Community visits are now being scheduled on a quarterly basis to provide information and report on one leadership meeting and three negotiation sessions. The communication team has successfully completed the first quarter of this practice.

DCFN newsletters are created on a bimonthly basis and contains a message from the Grand Chief, Negotiations, program reports and other important information. We welcome any submissions and photos from member communities to be included in the bimonthly newsletters. We also continuously develop Informational advertisements are also placed in newspapers and we encourage people to seek additional information and provide input on any of the issues in the Deh Cho Process.

The Deh Cho Process website is www.dehchofirstnations.com The website is a great source of information and we are continuously updating and providing new information to the Webmaster. We are working towards an integrated and interactive website and researching into a regional radio station reporting on the Deh Cho Process. This radio station would broadcast political messages, current events, meetings, and cultural historical information.

Deh Cho First Nations Information Officers work closely with the Federal and Territorial communications team for the Deh Cho Process. An annual plan for this tripartite group has been created. One of the projects underway is the Deh Cho Process video, which is currently in productions. Many people were interviewed as part of the video and the video should be available in August 2004. The video will be available in Dene Zhatie languages and English.

With the tripartite communications group we are planning many communications initiatives, including yearly calendars with updates and highlights of the Deh Cho Process, post cards with contact information, and plain language information posters that include updates and upcoming events. This integrated information system will combine all the information regarding the Deh Cho Process, and other information on First Nations, history, music and other initiatives. Other communication initiatives include promotional items, membership cards, profiling of Deh Cho Leadership, feasts, drum dances, open houses and school presentations.

We welcome community suggestions on the Communications Team activities as we strive to improve and maximize communications involvement with Deh Cho residents and other associated regions.

Mahsi Cho

Ria Lercher



Communications Plan

Information Officers

Currently we have information officer Rosa Wright who will be making her rounds to communities and her travel schedule was as follows:

PKFN	May 11-14, 2004	Nahanni Butte	May 17-19, 2004
Trout Lake	May 19-21, 2004	Fort Simpson	May 21-30, 2004
JMR	May 31-June 01, 2004	Fort Liard	June 01-04, 2004
Katloodeeche	June 05-07, 2004	WPFN	June 08, 2004
Kakisa	June 09, 2004	Fort Providence	June 10-11, 2004

The communications team has continued and enhanced existing practices of community visits, community consultations, newsletters, information brochures, website maintenance, and newspaper & radio updates to ensure members are kept updated on the process of negotiations.

Community Visits

The DCFN Communications Teams determined communities will be visited quarterly after Leadership meetings. This would give the team one leadership meeting and three negotiations sessions to report to communities. This would better the existing information flow. The team agreed this would give them a great deal of information to prepare and deliver to Deh Cho Members.

It was recommended at one time during the year the whole negotiation team, Grand Chief included, would visit the communities' host a feast and dance. This is an excellent opportunity to deliver our message to a captive audience.

Newsletter

With the limited staff of two Information Officers, it made it difficult to produce a monthly newsletter. This also contributed an extra workload to the staff. So we agreed that Newsletters would be done a bi-monthly basis six issues per year. Information officers will alternate production of the newsletter. Until we can secure additional staff this will be the standard for newsletter developments.

Brochures

We have quarterly brochures produced by the information officers, which will summarize the main items of the DCFN negotiation sessions. The communication team would like to develop different levels of brochures and information. We will have the standard level of information or the youths and adults in the Deh Cho Region. The publication can be mailed to each and every mailbox in the Region, which is effective and inexpensive.

Website

Deh Cho First Nations feel that the website can be utilized more and some following are some additional features to be added:

Signed agreements available on line	Minutes available on line
Electronic - Newsletter	Guest book and comments section
Interactive on line chat rooms	Employment Opportunities
Publications	

Newspaper and Radio

Deh Cho First Nations will be submitting quarterly schedules and information bulletins in the paper. This gives communities advance notice and information on the Deh Cho Process. In addition to this we get coverage from the Grand Chief, Chief Negotiator and Legal Counsel.



Communications Plan

It is the Deh Cho First Nations incentive to create a radio station that would broadcast our political agenda as well as keeping the communities informed. This radio will also serve community members by broadcasting specific community information. Some additional information we would like to hear on the radio is:

Legends and history
Discussion panels
Slavey language programming

Proceedings of meetings
Debates on issues
Request show (the Deh Cho Show)

Deh Cho Process Video

This video is currently in production and many people have been interviewed. A two minute trailer video for the Kakisa Assembly will be available shortly and the actual video should be out by August 2004. With the tripartite communications group we are planning many communication initiatives they are:

- Yearly calendars, with updates of the Deh Cho Process highlighted
- Post cards, with contact information
- Posters, to inform of upcoming events and information
- Integrated information system combining and integrating all information relating to the Deh Cho Process, First Nations history, music and traditional knowledge
- Plain speak of the Deh Cho Process
- Promotional Items
- Membership Cards
- Profiling of Deh Cho Leadership
- Feast and Drum Dance
- Open House and school presentations
- Simplified power point presentations

This is the communications plan for this fiscal year. If communities have any suggestions for communications activities we would be glad to hear them.

Mahsi Cho,

Ria Letcher
Assistant Negotiator





Language Working Group Update

In January 2000, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, GNWT and the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Canada signed a five-year contribution agreement ending March 31, 2003 for the French and Aboriginal Languages in the NWT. The GNWT negotiated with Canada to renew the agreement, which was extended for another year and will end March 31, 2005. Within that fiscal year, negotiations with Canada are to take place to extend the agreement again.

Canada and GNWT both agreed that an evaluation was necessary as part of the agreement. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment, GNWT had developed an evaluation framework, which will be the sole responsibility of the GNWT to conduct. It was agreed that Rai Brown, Aboriginal Languages Coordinator of Culture, Heritage and Languages would travel to the seven regions to assist in developing an evaluation framework. The regions felt that they should be more involved in this process in order to empower the communities to develop their own terms of reference.

On June 4-5, 2003 Rai Brown, Aboriginal Languages Coordinator of Culture, Heritage and Languages, GNWT met with members of the Deh Cho to review and update their language development plan. The participants also discussed how the program worked and reporting procedures. The recommendations that came out of the meeting are as follows:

- There is a need to establish a working group for the languages in the Deh Cho.
- There are too many funding pots - need to find out how to access funding.
- The Deh Cho needs a Director of Education.
- We need to make changes in the program and establish Native Studies in the school.
- Need to gather stories from Elders.
- Language and culture should be part of the school curriculum.
- Schools need language specialists.
- Need funding to research Dene Kede Curriculum and train teachers how to use it.
- Should have community based consultations on Contribution Agreements before they are signed.
- Need funding to train more Interpreter/Translators.
- Need funding for legal and technical terminology workshops.
- Use Elders to bring language and culture into the school curriculum, especially K-3.
- Communities want to do their own evaluation.
- Need an increase in funding.
- Need community level coordinators in order to meet the outcomes of the program.
- Produce a video to create awareness.

The 2003-2008 Dene Language Development Plan was then presented at the 2003 Deh Cho Annual Assembly and Resolution #10 - Language Development Plan was passed. The direction from the Assembly was to establish a Language Working Group to address the following key elements:

- Strong legislation and policies that define and support language rights, particularly within government and the education system
- Sound management of language programming, including systems for ongoing planning and evaluation
- Adequate and diversified language funding
- The ongoing training, development, and/or proper use of local languages specialists, including elders, teachers, interpreter-translators, linguists, etc.
- Language research and development, including the production of materials in different dialects
- Unrestricted access to immersion language schooling for members of the local language community
- Promotion of the language, particularly among the youth and young parents
- Use of the language in all forms of media (print, radio, T.V., computer software, etc.)



Language Working Group Update

Notices went out to the Deh Cho communities for a representative to sit on the Language Working Group but there was no feedback. This was brought to the Leadership's attention at the Winter Leadership meeting in February 2004. There were concerns with regards to some changes in the administrative arrangements. The Leadership decided to take this back to the local council for further discussion. A Resolution was passed at the Spring Leadership at the Hay River Reserve on May 2004. The Leadership has identified the importance of Dene language and revitalization at the meeting. The creation of the Working Group has yet to be done.

Summary of Activities

Deh Cho First Nations holds the Contribution Agreement for Aboriginal Languages for the Deh Cho region. All funds have been downloaded to the ten communities, which is carved out by formula (population percentage) per community:

Acho Dene Koe	24,715.50	Deh Gah Got'ie Dene Council	40,206.25
Jean Marie River First Nation	9,224.75	Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation	7,112.38
Katlodeeche First Nation	23,307.25	Liidlii Kue First Nation	44,431.00
Nahanni Butte Band	9,224.75	Pehdzeh Ki First Nation	17,674.25
Sambaa K'e Dene Band	8,520.62	West Point First Nation	6,408.25

The program empowered by the communities and administered by DCFN. The reporting format has changed this past fiscal year due to accountability and evaluation requirements. The following is a summary of each community activities for the fiscal year:

Acho Dene Koe

In May 2003, ADK held a three-day Traditional Spring Camp with the cooperation from various community agencies and resource people. Approximately 70 youth, 8 adults/supervisors and 8 elders attended the three day camp. ADK's goal for this project was to help enable youth to learn how to live out on the land, learn their language and learn traditional and cultural beliefs. The elders that were present at the camp had done the teachings. This project was successful and increased the knowledge of the youth in South Slavey language, traditions and cultural ways of Dene life.

Acho Dene Koe also held two drum dances and BBQs for the community with 150-200 participants. These gatherings were able to bring the community together, encourage the South Slavey language, traditions, spirituality and family.

Deh Gah Got'ie Dene Council

Deh Gah Got'ie Dene Council has done numerous projects in conjunction with other project staff. They are putting together a calendar, which is still on-going. The goal of this project is to show that there are still traditional skills being practice and used by elders, youths and young parents.

Deh Gah Got'ie has created a Prayer Book, which has taken six months to publish in both the South Slavey and English languages. The elders played a major role in the completion of this project. The goal for this project was to help the youth get motivated and find a direction or path to follow and learn the traditional prayers to guide them throughout their lives.

They are publishing a dictionary, which began two years ago and has been on going. The goal of this project is to promote the traditional dialect of their community and the proper way of speaking the traditional language.

Another project that is on going is the Chief Radio, which is used to promote the language and encourage young people to listen and learn new words on a daily basis. Chief Radio provides programming in the local



Language Working Group Update

dialect and increases knowledge of the traditional dialect, proper pronunciations, respect for the language and culture and facilitates communication with elders and other community members.

Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation

In January 2004 to March 2004 KTFN began collecting stories and legends from the elders on tape cassettes. A local member has been visiting elders in the community to have oral stories and legends written both in the South Slavey and English languages, which will be put into a book for community members.

Katlodeeche First Nation

In conjunction with other programs such as Sunrise Adult Learning Centre, Chief Sunrise Education Centre, Recreation and Day Care many projects were completed. The Sunrise Adult Learning Centre is providing Slavey language instruction to the adult upgrading class, evening Slavey classes, developed Slavey language instructional materials, photographic collection of local flora and fauna with captions in South Slavey, historical photographs with South Slavey and English captions, short biographical sketches of village elders in South Slavey and English, develop basic South Slavey alphabet/picture book with key words in South Slavey and develop a collection of taped stories from reserve Elders. These are some of the many projects that KFN is doing.

Liidlil Kue First Nation

Liidlil Kue First Nation has supported the Slavey language activities within the 80 youth at the Bompas Elementary School to assist their Slavey Language program. Elders were utilized for this project to teach the South Slavey language, cultural values of respect, honour and experiential learning.

Through the Language funding and Literacy Strategy funding, Liidlil Kue First Nation's hired a translator to translate documents into the South Slavey language to enable members and elders to understand the contents. Translations on audiotapes are available for membership.

Two elders were hired to promote and assist with the South Slavey language implementation at the Kids Corner Day Care Centre. A Language Nest program was initiated this year at the Day Care.

Liidlil Kue First Nation has compiled Dene stories, legends and conversational South Slavey from local Elders for LKFN's resource library and for future projects.

Nahanni Butte Dene Band

Report was not received in time for publishing.

Pehdzeh Ki First Nation

Two Slavey Learning camps were held in the spring at Jones' Landing facility on the Mackenzie River. At both camps the participants learned new terms in the South Slavey language, hunting, trapping, skinning wild game, drum making and singing.

West Point First Nation

The language activity that WPFN had done was teaching the children their Slavey language, so the elders can speak to them and tell them stories from the past. This was to help increase the South Slavey language and knowledge in their homes.

Sambaa K'e Dene Band

Sambaa K'e Dene Band had taken the youth out on the land during the fall. The youth were taught traditional crafts, setting up and preparing camp, etc. All instructions were done in the Slavey language.



Literacy Strategy

Deh Cho First Nations received \$30,000 for the Literacy Strategy on behalf of the ten Deh Cho communities and all funds have been downloaded to the communities. Only three communities that had applied for the Literacy Strategy funding.

The purpose of this funding is to assist in promoting, enhancing, and revitalizing the South Slavey language in the Deh Cho region. The objectives are:

- To enable young parents to converse with their children in the South Slavey language and other community members
- To encourage non-speaking people without fluency in the South Slavey language to learn traditional approaches to the language by conversing, reading and writing the South Slavey language
- To promote language use through healing workshops

Katlodeeche First Nation Literacy Strategy

KFN promoted the family literacy using the Katlodeeche First Nation Radio, which went on throughout the year from Monday to Friday. The announcements were done in the South Slavey and English language. They also played music, drumming songs and fiddle tunes. KFN had elders tell Dene legends and stories.

Another project was the community library program and family literacy. KFN created ten Dene legend picture books, which are used in the school and community library. They held an event called Feed and Read where parents and community members volunteered their time to pair up with students for a reading program.

KFN also funded the Dene Ts'eh Ts'udaa K'ehondii Koe Day Care to initiate a Language Nest. These activities involved the South Slavey to be part of the Day Care. This has increased the awareness and knowledge of the South Slavey language, cultural and traditional activities among the children, families, and staff of the Day Care centre.

Liidlil Kue First Nation

The funds assisted LKFN to translate and to provide an audio version of the LKFN Election Code and the Traditional Knowledge policy into the South Slavey language. Local elders had participated and assist with the terminology of this project and resource people for the technical definitions. This will be available in a cassette format for members.

Pehdzeh Ki First Nation

In February 2004, PKFN held a Slavey Healing Workshop with Charlie Neyelle, conducted in both the South Slavey and English languages. The workshop was opened to the whole community and was well attended. The workshop dealt with various aspects of spiritual, physical illness and some routes to general wellness and healing. The workshop had also promoted greater usages of the South Slavey language among the participants who ranged in age from 40-70 years and 10-15 years.

For a more detailed report on the above Deh Cho communities' activities or if you would like more information on other language funding, you can please contact the Deh Cho First Nations office, Executive Secretary.



AHRDA Report

Introduction to AHRDA

The Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement (AHRDA) began as a five-year agreement between Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) in 1999. A Contribution Agreement was signed during the period of April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2004. This agreement has since been extended for one more year from April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005. It has been announced that a five-year agreement is due to be signed this fiscal year. The agreement is aimed at Labour Market Development programs such as post secondary education, training, wage subsidies, job creation partnerships, self-employment, and employment assistance services for aboriginal residents of each aboriginal region.

The AHRDA consists of five types of programs: Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF); Employment Insurance (EI); Small Urban Initiatives; Youth; Persons with Disability; and Childcare. The AHRDA is distributed based on a population ratio utilizing the First Nation and Metis Local membership numbers from the 1996 census. Payments to the 11 AHRDA holders are made on a quarterly basis. The quarterly cycle is: First Quarter- April 1st to June 30th, Second Quarter- July 1st to Sept 30th, Third Quarter- October 1st to December 31st, and Fourth Quarter- January 1st to March 31st. DCFN payments are triggered by the timely receipt of quarterly reports from the communities.

Reports are due 10 days after the end of each quarter. The Local First Nations and Metis Local or the designated AHRDA holder must submit reports containing the following funding information:

- Activity Report: Describing what projects were sponsored.
- Type of funding provided: Wage subsidies, post secondary school, training courses, & skill development
- Client Numbers: Total Number of CRF, EI, Disability, and Youth
- Financial Report: General Ledger (ACCPAC) or Project Detail Report (Simply Accounting)
- Contact IV: Provide client data information for input or a copy of the disk with Contact IV information for clients or submit all client applications to Deh Cho First Nations.

Failure to comply with the reporting requirements for quarterly reports results in withholding the next quarter funding for the region and is then brought to the attention of the Deh Cho First Nations Executive Committee. During 2003-04 funding was withheld once and this was largely due to the turnover of staff within an AHRDA office.

On an annual basis AHRDA administrators must provide audited financial statements to DCFN as the AHRDA agreement holder; an annual activity report; and a copy of the General Ledger or project detail for the fiscal year. Disability, Childcare and Urban Initiatives funding have been regionalized since October 1999, where each First Nations and Metis Local must submit a proposal to access the funding. EI, CRF and Youth are the only two funding sources disbursed without a funding proposal.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Persons with Disabilities

The purpose of the funding is for people who are not able to work, or are prevented from working and self-identify as disabled. The requirement to run the program effectively for persons with disabilities is not adequate with the level of funding provided. With such a shortage, there were instances where First Nations or Metis Local utilized other funding pots such as EI or CRF.

At the regional meeting there was general consensus that the disability funding provided to the region was insufficient and other funding sources need to be accessed. There are two other funding sources for the disabled with the NWT Disabled Association and Consulting & Vocational Rehabilitation Services, both located in Yellowknife. Information requests have been sent to access program information for the regional communities and the DCFN is hoping this will relieve some of the shortage in the region.

AHRDA Report

Wage Subsidy & Residency Solutions

The AHRDA Administrators have decided on a standard wage subsidy range, which is to be implemented with a range of \$5.00 to \$10.00 an hour. The standard wage subsidy was implemented as the communities were utilizing different scales and there were large discrepancies in distribution. A consistent scale needed to be implemented to be fair to all Deh Cho membership and organizations. The standard wage subsidy has since been deemed to be at each First Nations or Metis Local's discretion to provide the amount they feel is adequate for each wage subsidiary program they fund.

There have been circumstances where clients have applied for funding who reside outside the Deh Cho Region. Instances like living in another province and commuting to and from their home for seasonal work or living in the NWT and not residing in the Deh Cho Region. The Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement clearly states applicants must be *"residing in the Deh Cho Region"* and many people have challenged the residential clause set in the agreement. At the regional meeting the residential issues were brought forth and there was general consensus is *"All aboriginals residing in the Deh Cho Region must be living in the region for six consecutive months to access AHRDA funds."*

Applicants who are non-residents have been referred to their respective local AHRDA holders to access program funds.

Urban Initiatives (CRF & EI)

Urban initiatives are targeted to three communities; Hay River, Fort Simpson, and Fort Liard. Each First Nation and Metis Local who qualifies for the urban funding follows the same AHRDA requirements for CRF and EI. At the AHRDA regional meeting, HRDC explained that the Urban Initiatives funding is meant for students who fall between the cracks. Deh Cho First Nations will now utilize the funding for those clients who are referred to the DCFN Aboriginal Training Office by member First Nations.

Childcare Program

DCFN has regionalized the childcare funding to meet specific need of the communities within the region who have the population to support a day care facility. These communities which have licensed day care facilities receive ongoing support for childcare seats and specific training needs.

There are three existing licensed daycares in the Deh Cho region which access the Childcare Program. These are located in the Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Karlodeeche First Nation and Liidlii Kue First Nation. It is expected in 2004-05 the West Point First Nation and Deh Gah Gotie First Nation will open licensed daycare facilities as they have both purchased buildings. Deh Gah Gotie First Nation anticipates their daycare to be operating in time for the beginning of the school year in September 2004.

Childcare Regional Training (Early Childhood Education)

Deh Cho First Nations has sponsored 11 students to attend the following ECE Courses. October 15-18, Understanding Self-Esteem in Fort Simpson, November 3-8, Health & Safety Nutrition in Fort Providence, January 19-24, Intro to Early Childhood in Fort Simpson, and February 23-28, Intro to Child Development in Fort Providence.

Deh Cho First Nations has suggested a regional cost sharing initiative with Aurora College, AHRDA administrators and Deh Cho First Nations to better suit our regions needs to qualify individuals to work at childcare centers and run successful day homes. Deh Cho First Nations would request to cost share the Course Expenses with Aurora College and the First Nations or Metis Locals to cover the student expenses.



AHRDA Report

During the year a Regional program was sponsored to further the daycare staff career development in the Early Childhood Education program. The program was being offered in four modules from October to February 2004. Difficulties with program delivery were encountered in that the final module was delivered via conference calls and students did not feel comfortable with the process. One group also did not receive their textbooks in time for the start of the course and felt they had fallen too far behind to continue with the program. The possibility of re-delivering the module will be examined in order for employees to receive certification.

Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Plan is the process of identifying labour market issues, setting objectives and priorities for results-orientated labour market, solving problems and achieving objectives, understanding and dealing with labour market needs in a broad context and in a sustainable manner.

The following priorities have been established for the expenditure of Capacity Building Funds.

1. Certification in Aboriginal Employment Development (CAED)
2. Other accredited courses offered by post-secondary institutions which will enhance the delivery of the labour market programs.

Other capacity enhancement activities agreed to by the Organization and HRDC to enable the employees of the organization that work with the AHRDA programs to provide Capacity Building initiatives. (i.e. workshops, meeting, etc)

The Capacity Building funds are regionalized. For communities to access the capacity building funds, it must be prearranged with Deh Cho First Nations for approval.

Deh Cho First Nations used a portion of the Capacity Building money to send the AHRDA Clerk to the Disability Conference held in Calgary Alberta on March 16-18, 2004.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

AHRDA Renewal

The AHRDA Agreement has been extended for one more year to March 31, 2005. Full renewal of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy will be guided by the 2004 Speech from the Throne commitments and the new Cabinet Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, which is expected to undertake a review of Aboriginal policy and programming. It is anticipated a new five-year Agreement will be proposed.

AHRDA Regional Meetings

An AHRDA Regional Meeting was conducted on May 27, 2003 on the Hay River Reserve. The meeting was very informative and the representatives had the opportunity to speak with Auke Praamsma with HRDC in Yellowknife. Issues covered were Persons with Disability, Wage Subsidy, Residency Solutions, Childcare regional training (early childhood education) Regional Appeals Committee, Capacity building, Advisory Services, Urban EI/CRF students who fall between the cracks, New position at the Aboriginal Training Office, AHRDA Renewal, Budgets, AHRDA Draft Policy and Procedures, Review of Leadership Resolutions, and the NWT AHRDA Holders Meeting.

DCFN Administration Budget

The AHRDA funding is allocated from Statistic Canada's 1996 Census, which includes all Aboriginals residing in the Deh Cho Region, and the AHRDA funding released to the communities are based upon band membership listing. As the program proceeds during the year, funds are disbursed and little remains for the third and fourth quarter requests. During the year many of these applications were forwarded to the DCFN and some were funded by a portion of the Administration budget.



AHRDA Report

As an example, a student requested assistance to continue with the second year of a two-year Nursing Program and had to be denied, as there were insufficient funds at the local level when the application was reviewed. DCFN funded the request out of Administration as it was deemed to be a priority and essential for program completion. A decision should be made as to how these requests will be handled in the new year.

NWT AHRDA Holders Meeting

The NWT AHRDA Holders Meeting was scheduled for June 9-13, 2003 and was postponed until a further date. Of the eight AHRDA holders in the NWT, only three had confirmed attendance and a decision was made to postpone the meeting as it would not be representative. The National Aboriginal Resource Allocation Model (NARAM) meeting in Yellowknife on June 14, 2003 also caused some difficulties with the travel and scheduling for some of the NWT AHRDA holders and they were unable to attend.

When the next NWT AHRDA Holders Meeting occurs, the outcome and benefits of the meeting will be reported on to all the First Nations and Metis Locals in the Deh Cho. It is suggested the next meeting be scheduled for mid-August or September 2004.

New Position- AHRDA Community Finance Liaison

A recommendation was made from the Executive Director at the AHRDA Regional meeting in March 2003. The recommendation suggested that small communities have their AHRDA funding regionalized and hire a third position to administer the program dollars at the regional level. The administrative aspect would still be conducted through the communities and Deh Cho First Nations would take care of the financial aspect of the programming. This would relieve the workload for smaller bands that are buried with work. The member organizations affected are Nahanni Butte, Sambaa K'e Dene Band, Jean Marie River First Nation and West Point First Nation. The First Nations were requested to take the information back to their Chief and Council for review and approval.

The draft plan for the new position was presented to the Executive Committee Meeting on May 6, 2003 and the Executive Committee supported the third Position. The decision was left to the community level. Auke Praamsma from HRDC in Yellowknife strongly recommended the communities take advantage of the third position as he stressed the importance of accountability in the program.

Circumstances have changed since the decision in Spring 2003. A new AHRDA Coordinator was hired mid-June 2004 who has training in Accounting/Finance, and is prepared to accept this responsibility. Program dollars may be better spent in other areas.

Regional Appeals Committee

In the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement it stipulates in Appendix F, section 10.0:

Appeal Mechanism : As a means of ensuring a fair and equitable access to assistance under the programs by individuals and organization whose applications for assistance are refused by the organization or by a delivery agent, the Organization shall implement an appeals system whereby individuals or organizations not satisfied with the decision to refuse may appeal the decision, and have it reviewed by an impartial and objective party to determine whether the refusal was justified.

Deh Cho First Nations has been looking into establishing a regional appeals committee. The idea has been brought forward at the regional meetings and Deh Cho First Nations requested each First Nation and Metis Local to bring the idea to their Chief and Council or President and Board Members. The Information request was to take direction from the First Nations or Metis Local, on ideas or suggestions on the committee structure. To date there was one response from the region. The regional appeals committee is to ensure participants have an unbiased hearing from members of the Deh Cho.



AHRDA Report

There are difficulties in determining an appeals process. If requests are denied at the local level by AHRDA holders, who should be reviewing the decision and on what basis? Criteria to warrant a legitimate appeal must be developed and an unbiased team to review the decisions must be determined.

Suggestions on how the regional appeals committee could meet were every three months and communicate with teleconferences when necessary. Deh Cho First Nations explained how the Executive Committee does not meet enough to compensate for the demand of funding proposals and clients referred to Deh Cho First Nations. An appeals board would assist Deh Cho First Nations Aboriginal Training Office in running more efficiently and effectively and also provide greater program accountability. It is suggested that during the next Regional AHRDA meeting the development of a regional appeals committee be a discussion item.

AHRDA Policy & Procedures

In the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement it stipulates in Appendix F, section 9.0:

"Conflict of Interest

The organization (Deh Cho First Nations) shall develop and implement a policy to prevent conflicts of interest on the part of members of the board of directors and employees of the organization in the operation of programs. The organization shall also ensure that every delivery agent of the Organization has a policy to prevent conflicts of interest and has procedures in place for monitoring and ensuring compliance with their policies".

In respect to the AHRDA, Conflict of Interest, Deh Cho First Nations has drafted an AHRDA policy and procedure that was created last fiscal year through contract. The policy and procedures were first observed at the AHRDA Regional Meeting in February 2003 and communities were asked to review and make changes.

In March 2003 at the AHRDA Regional Meeting the policy was reviewed and it was found there were omissions not included in the draft. Amendments were requested. The contracted business T.E.L Publishing was to review the policies and procedures to make the amendments.

In May 2003, at the AHRDA Regional Meeting on the Hay River Reserve, the communities reviewed the updated policy and procedures and made relevant changes. Auke Praamsma of HRDC attended the meeting and offered his expertise in the areas that needed clarification. The changes have been completed and are currently waiting approval from the next Executive Committee. These policies and procedures are directly applicable to the AHRDA Agreement.

Deh Cho First Nations Aboriginal Training Clerk

The Deh Cho First Nations Training Office has been busy corresponding with the 11 First Nations in regards to referred clients. Most of the funding went to students for living allowance, tuition and books. I would like to state that when the A/AHRDA Coordinator left Deh Cho First Nations it was a very interesting first month without having someone in the office, at first I did have problems with running the program but once I got into the work it was not that hard at all.

Recommendations

There is one recommendation, which the Aboriginal Training office would like to pose to the Deh Cho Assembly: "Direction is required on the regional appeals committee. It is suggested that the next meeting of all AHRDA Holders be scheduled for mid August or September, 2004 and a discussion item be the determination of an appeals criteria and process."



Pipeline Working Group

Introduction

The Deh Cho First Nations Pipeline Working Group (the PWG) is a regional authority mandated to respond to pipeline matters in the Deh Cho Territory. The PWG mandate was formed according to the Wrigley Resolution (Resolution #1, Deh Cho Special Assembly, Pehdzeh Ki, August 27-30, 2001). The resolution defined the PWG role as a negotiating authority with terms and conditions in the following areas:

Regulatory
Environmental Assessment
Resource Revenue Sharing

Access and Benefits
Harvester Input & Compensation

The Deh Cho First Nations Pipeline Working Group began operations in September 2003 with the hiring of a Coordinator/Communications employee.

Leadership

The membership of the PWG includes Chair Keyna Norwegian, Liidlii Kue First Nations Chief; LKFN Councilor Dennis Nelner; Fred Norwegian, Jean Marie River First Nations Chief; President Marie Lafferty, Métis Nation Local 52; Dennis Deneron, Sambaa K'e Dene Band Chief; Tim Lennie, Pehdzeh Ki First Nations Chief, and; Lloyd Chicot, Ka'agee Tu First Nations Chief. Grand Chief Herb Norwegian and the Executive provide direction and monitoring.

Personnel

Resource personnel are Joe Acorn, Regulatory Lead Specialist; Nola Benwell, Manager Fort Simpson Métis Local 52; Petr Cizek, Environmental Lead Specialist; Wilson Dimsdale, SAO PKFN; Alison de Pelham, DCFN Executive Director; John Holman, DCFN PWG Coordinator/Communications; Kelly Pennycook, DCFN Resource Coordinator; Laura Pitkanen, Consultant; and Chris Reid, Legal Counsel. Gerry Kerr, Principal of Chignecto Consulting, Associate Lori Ann Roness, and Jonas Antoine have been contracted for the territorial training initiative called ASEP (Aboriginal Skills and Employment Program), under the auspices of the federal department of Human Resources and Skills Development.

The Executive manages PWG budgets, contribution agreements, and other financial reporting. Chief Negotiator Georges Erasmus has led negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding with Esso (Imperial Oil Resources Ltd.), and Chairs of the Regulatory Agencies that signed the Joint Review Panel Agreement, the environmental impact review process created according to the Co-operation Plan.

The PWG participated in a number of initiatives in its first six months of operations, such as access and benefits negotiations, strategic planning, observing environmental scoping sessions of the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP), regulatory review of Project Permit Applications (PPAs), as well as being given the responsibility of a related initiative - the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Program (ASEP) territorial application.

Within the past year, a number of different resolutions require reporting:

"Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group" - Resolution #12, Deh Cho First Nations Leadership Meeting, February 17-21, 2003

"Pipeline Co-operation Plan" - Resolution #2, Deh Cho First Nations Leadership Meeting, October 15-17, 2003

"Pipeline Working Group" - Resolution #6, Deh Cho First Nations Fall Leadership Meeting, October 15-17, 2003



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"Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership" - Resolution #1, Deh Cho First Nations Winter Leadership Meeting, Fort Simpson, NT, November 19-21, 2003

Regulatory

The "Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group" - Resolution #12, DCFN Leadership Meeting, February 17-21, 2003, gave direction to the PWG to address project permit applications.

The PWG made 16 interventions with a number of agencies, including the:

- Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
- Joint Review Panel regulatory authorities
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- National Energy Board, Natural Resources Canada
- Aurora Research Institute
- Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

Subject areas covered in the period from September 2003 to March 31st 2004 consisted of authorizations or communications on licenses for:

- land use
- water use
- environmental impact assessment
- research
- wildlife research permits

Capacity

The lack of funding for community and regional capacity hindered the production of accurate information in virtually all Project Permit Applications. This was because the consultation period for MGP permit applications prevented comprehensive community input. PWG specialists were not always available, and a number of MGP specialists were responsible for different regulatory areas, such as winter geo-technical, scoping sessions, information sharing, and other initiatives. This was further compounded by the fact that the MGP did not share PPA information in a timely manner, hampering our ability for proper review and analyses with community representatives.

In combination with a lack of community funding and capacity, a huge communication barrier developed as MGP sought to conduct a number of geo-technical research projects in the Deh Cho Territory, commonly known as Winter Work. The result was that the Winter Work was delayed, and since the fiscal year-end, has been referred to an environmental assessment. The PWG can expect the number of Project Permit Applications for 2004-2005 Winter Work to increase dramatically.

The DCFN PWG offered to jointly develop a consultation function on PPAs with the MGP, integrating community input and working directly with MGP specialists. The objective was to get accurate, timely project information to the communities in order to conduct comprehensive and efficient consultation. Though discussed numerous times with the MGP and their contractors, the function was not implemented.

In addition, a joint statement was issued between the PWG and the K'asho Got'ine Pipeline Working Group on October 7th 2003. The statement was tabled that evening at a negotiations workshop in Fort Simpson, and committed each organization to not meet with industry proponents or government until sufficient funding had been provided.



Pipeline Working Group

The PWG spent \$335,003.43 on regulatory review, industry negotiations, ASEP training plan, operations, and the Strategy Process, under funding provided by the Pipeline Readiness Office (DIAND). The finances were sporadic, with funding sometimes months late. At one point, the Executive froze the DCFN PWG account because of a critical debt load in January 2004 due to no funding.

The funding includes contributions from Education, Culture and Employment for \$10K to support the ASEP training plan, and; \$38K for negotiations from Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Co-operation Plan (Joint Review Panel Agreement, JRPA)

The Co-operation Plan, which is the framework that set up the Joint Review Panel Agreement, managing the environmental impact review of the MGP, excluded the Deh Cho First Nations. This resulted in the "Pipeline Co-operation Plan" - Resolution #2, Deh Cho First Nations Leadership Meeting, October 15-17, 2003. The DCFN leadership directed the Grand Chief and Chief Negotiator to implement a strategy to participate in the environmental impact review of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

There are two issues:

- Obtaining full participation in the Joint Review Panel Agreement, in order to review the impacts on traditional Deh Cho Territory, and;
- Challenging the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, in order for Deh Cho First Nations communities to acquire "government" status, and therefore have the power to refer project permit applications to environmental assessment.

Land Access

The "Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group" - Resolution #12, DCFN Leadership Meeting, February 17-21, 2003, had a second directive, which was to focus on negotiating tentative land access fees with all companies before addressing the terms and conditions of the Wrigley Resolution.

The PWG held a number of meetings and negotiations with Esso seeking two agreements on Winter Work and the main project.

The negotiations discussed benefits and contracting in the Winter Work, but Esso met none of the terms and conditions set by the PWG. Therefore, suspending the contracting process for winter work to allow negotiations to proceed in a fair and equitable manner, as well as suspending the related PPA process in order to develop a full and comprehensive community-based consultation process. DCFN sought the right of first refusal on all pipeline contracts in Deh Cho Territory, payment of land access fees, creating a joint training office, developing a human resource and a regional business inventory, as well as contributing to community capacity. Esso had not responded to a DCFN letter of February 24th 2004 inviting them to resume negotiations under DCFN terms and conditions.

A secondary item of land access negotiation was a MOU on the main project, known as "Benefits and Access Negotiation Agreement". Negotiations have not yet begun.

Strategy Process

The "Pipeline Working Group" - Resolution #6, Fall Leadership Meeting, Fort Liard NT, October 15-17, 2003, affirmed the Wrigley Resolution, affirmed capacity requirements with the Sahtu, emphasized the One House concept, and identified the Strategy Process. The Deh Cho First Nations Strategy Process was the initial project to organize the PWG, funded by the Pipeline Readiness Office. The first directive of the resolution



Pipeline Working Group

affirmed leadership support for the PWG to support the October 7th statement of not meeting with proponents until capacity funding was received.

The second directive urged the DCFN PWG to host a regional workshop to review outcomes of the Strategy Process to scope out issues in environment, tradition, social, economy, youth and community areas. This will be conducted in the 2004-2005 fiscal year, and is one of five projects for which DCFN will seek funding.

Aboriginal Skills & Employment Program

The Deh Cho First Nations was invited to participate in a territorial submission to the federal department of Human Resources Skills Development for training, education and apprenticeships related to the MGP. The Aboriginal Skills and Employment Program (ASEP) is a national aboriginal training fund of \$85 million, with application criteria consisting of partnership, a mega-project, and aboriginal training. The initiative was assigned to the DCFN Pipeline Working Group because the in-house Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement unit was not staffed. As a result, a leadership resolution was passed to provide direction:

"Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership" - Resolution #1, Deh Cho First Nations Winter Leadership Meeting, Fort Simpson, NT, November 19-21, 2003

This resolution emphasized that DCFN does not support the MGP, is not a member of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group, nor is a member of the Aboriginal Summit. This was partially because the ASEP application had been developed over a two-year period by the Aboriginal Summit. The resolution was attached to a cover letter submitted November 21st 2003 to Human Resources and Skills Development, acknowledging Deh Cho First Nations participation in the ASEP proposal.

The Deh Cho First Nations conditions included the provision of sufficient funding for developing a "Deh Cho Oil and Gas Training Strategy" including the need for funding, information, consultation, training and negotiations. The Deh Cho First Nations also sought to obtain most of the ASEP funding due to the fact that 60 per cent of the impacted communities along the proposed pipeline corridor are in the Deh Cho Territory. The Deh Cho First Nations also sought to have 40 per cent of the ASEP funding be provided directly to DCFN.

All terms and conditions were not met for a number of reasons. The first reason was that the distribution of the oil and gas training funds were divided according to the existing AHRDA formula, in which the Deh Cho Territory receives 26.1 per cent of the funding, or \$3,062,000. The second reason was that DCFN was unable to acquire full funding for the development of the Deh Cho Regional Training Plan - ASEP due to the time constraints and the fact that the development of the Deh Cho Regional Training Plan - ASEP would straddle the 2003-2004 fiscal year into the 2004-2005 fiscal year. As in all pipeline related matters, the DCFN was called upon to spend its own funding, conduct the research, analyses, and proposal development in an extremely short time period.

A joint proposal for the work and funding was developed with Chignecto Consulting, under guidance from the PWG and Executive.

By the end of the fiscal year, Phase 1 of the work was complete, consisting of meeting local First Nations, education and training representatives, industry proponents, and a review of demographic/statistical information, overview of training costs, training programs, and other areas.



Pipeline Working Group

Conclusion

Canada and industry can improve their treatment of the Deh Cho First Nations, which has been poorly resourced and compelled to respond to a number of serious proposals from industry, regulatory agencies, and other First Nation governments.

Specifically, funding constraints have severely hampered the DCFN in responding to the requirements for information, consultation, negotiation and mitigation. This approach is required in the Strategy Process to protect Deh Cho First Nations Constitutional interests because the Canadian regulatory legislation fails in that regard.

In spite of the challenges facing the PWG, hostile regulatory agencies, and high information and liaison demands from industry, and other First Nation governments, the PWG was able to build relationships. The first was with the Sahtu region's K'asho Gor'ine Pipeline Working Group in Fort Good Hope to discuss capacity issues. Esso was engaged in negotiations. We have also engaged the 11 Regulatory Agencies such as the Mackenzie Valley Land, Water Board and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the National Energy Board, for example.

However, much work remains to obtain efficient community and regional capacity in order for the One House concept to work effectively, and therefore present a united front to Canada, industry, and other First Nation governments.





Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee Report

Despite the never-ending challenges in filling our final staff position, the Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee has made good progress on a number of fronts this year. We made communication a key focus for the first half of the year to raise awareness about our activities. Our other key focus was to complete data analysis and land use options.

Communications and Consultations We kicked off our communication strategy with the launch of our website on April 22, 2003 (Earth Day) and the development of a basic pamphlet describing the Committee and our mandate. This was later followed by our first Annual Report and a Promotional Poster. Footage was also shot at the 2003 Kakisa Assembly for an introductory video to explain land use planning.

The Committee launched their Information Meetings at the 2003 Kakisa Assembly where we made our first presentation to community leaders and distributed some background information. Starting in mid-August, the Committee held 24 Information Sessions with communities and planning partners plus made presentations at 4 additional conferences/gatherings. The Information Sessions consisted of a presentation introducing the Committee members, our activities to date, the next steps, how to participate in the planning process, and a brief review of the research completed to date. We will be compiling the relevant comments and questions, along with our responses into a report and this will be discussed during our next round of consultations.

At the end of March, 2004 we held a regional workshop on Dene Nahodlie (roughly translated as "being Dene" or Dene culture) with Deh Cho youth and elders to identify ways to integrate a cultural and spiritual component into land use planning.

Data Gathering, Analysis and Land Use Options The first quarter of this year was spent reviewing and assessing the research completed at the end of the 2002-03 year. This review prompted some revisions and identified some remaining data gaps, the most significant of which was in wildlife information. We held a regional wildlife workshop in November, 2003 with harvesters and biologists to review the existing wildlife information and fill in the gaps with a combination of traditional and western scientific knowledge.

Other major research projects for the included:

- Additional research on the mineral potential research to identify priority areas for development;
- The acquisition of 5m resolution IRS satellite imagery and digitized feature interpretation of human disturbances for the remaining area (most data was purchased last year). This is a critical component of baseline inventories in doing any kind of landscape assessment;
- Research on cumulative effects indicators, thresholds and initial assessments of the current level of human disturbance in the Deh Cho;
- Developed the Economic Development Assessment (EDA) model as required under our terms of reference. This model allows us to determine the costs and benefits of implementing different land use decisions.

As these research projects were completed, the information was added to the land use option model. At the end of March, the first cut of land use options were completed for internal review. Once any required changes are complete, we will run the options through the EDA Model for comparison of the costs and benefits of different levels of development. We will then begin consultations on land use options early in the 2004-05 fiscal year.

Conclusion It has been an exciting and fast-paced year for us. The development of land use options marks a critical juncture in our process. We are now winding down the research and data-driven aspects of planning and are moving into the realm of values and priorities. We have brought together the necessary information to make informed decisions. Now, we need to make those decisions. We will be spending a lot more time meeting with residents and planning partners to capture those views. We need to understand peoples' values and priorities and apply them to the information at hand. Together, we can develop a land use plan that promotes the social, cultural and economic well being of the Deh Cho territory



Resource Management Report (IMA)

The Resource Management budget of the IMA supports a full time Resource Management Coordinator and provides DCFN with the capacity and budget to handle the IMA support needs for the Deh Cho communities. The range of activities related to the IMA is extensive and encompasses lands and resources in the Deh Cho territory. The previous full time resource management coordinator for the DCFN was Laura Pitkanen, followed by Kelly Pennycook. Stephanie Sibbeston was also hired on a casual, temporary basis to write funding proposals for IMA support issues.

In addition, several consultants and contractors were hired to work on IMA activities such as the Deh Cho Panel implementation, environmental assessments, public hearings, and land use permit and water license applications that involved the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB). Other applications pertained to the Aurora Research Institute, RWED wildlife, outfitters, tourism, and timber harvesting permits, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre archaeological permits, Municipal and Community Affairs land lease permits, and Indian and Northern Affairs prospecting permits and lease applications. A complete list of all applications received in 2003 can be obtained through the DCFN office.

In 2003, there were five environmental assessments, Public Hearings or appeals in the Deh Cho territory: Patterson Sawmill, Prairie Creek Mine, Paramount Resources, Western Geco, and Cantung mine. In the early 2004 fiscal year, there are already five environmental assessments pending or underway: Imperial Oil, Canadian Zinc Corporation (2), Deh Cho Bridge, and Jane Lind Mineral Exploration in the Horn River area. Another significant issue that involved DCFN fiscal and staffing resources was the Mackenzie Gas Project (pipeline). Prior to receiving any external funding for pipeline issues, DCFN allotted IMA funding for the working group, land use permit, water license, and related research applications. We also allocated considerable funds and staffing resources towards community consultations, as well as allocated funds to affected communities to deal with consultations on an individual basis.

Further information on several ongoing resource management files is provided below:

Canadian Zinc Corporation: Prairie Creek Mine

Following Leadership Resolutions to protect the Nahanni Watershed, the Deh Cho First Nations have been actively responding to all the land use permit and water license applications filed by the Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN) for the Prairie Creek Mine site. The Deh Cho First Nations, Nahanni Butte Dene Band, and Pehdzeh Ki First Nation filed for a Judicial Review of the MVLWB's decision to issue a water license to CZN that does not include the recommendations of the Review Board and the Minister from the MVEIRB. Recently, the Attorney General of Canada received Intervener status in the Judicial Review. The position of the Attorney General is in general support of the DCFN position. The Judicial Review will be heard in the BC Supreme Court in the near future.

CZN also submitted a land use permit application for a winter road to the Prairie Creek Mine site. As the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, Pehdzeh Ki First Nation, and Parks Canada submitted letters referring this application to environmental assessment following the completion of the Preliminary Screening, we expect the winter road application to go the MVEIRB in the near future. At the 2004 Spring Leadership meeting, the Nahanni Butte Dene Band tabled a Resolution of non-support for the CZN winter road, as a winter road to the Prairie Creek mine site would have significant environmental impacts in the Nahanni Watershed. The Resolution of non-support for the development of the Prairie Creek winter road was approved unanimously by the DCFN Leadership: Resolution #3, *Prairie Creek Road*, Spring Leadership, May 4-6, 2004, Hay River Reserve.



Resource Management Report (IMA)

In 2001, CZN received a land use permit to conduct a drilling program within 1000 meters of the mill facility at the Prairie Creek mine site. In April 2004, CZN applied for an amendment to conduct drilling anywhere within CZN's mineral leases and claims. On June 1, 2004, the MVLWB referred the amendment application to the MVEIRB for environmental assessment. The Review Board will be conducting an environmental assessment on this project under a new land use permit, file MV2004C0030.

Edehzhie: Candidate Protected Area

The candidate protected area of Edehzhie is currently under Interim Protection Status of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. Interim Protection Status prohibits the issuance of new surface and subsurface dispositions for a period of five years (surface leases, mineral claims, and oil and gas rights issuances). However, Jane Lind and Leni Keough have applied to the MVLWB for a land use permit to conduct four mineral exploration drill holes within previously granted mineral claims located within Edehzhie. Several Deh Cho communities have submitted strong letters of non-support for this drilling exploration program, as the DCFN's do not support any development at all within Edehzhie. On June 1, 2004, the MVLWB referred the application to the MVEIRB for environmental assessment. Due to the importance of Edehzhie as a protected area, the DCFN's are considering requesting that a Public Hearing be held as part of the environmental assessment process.

Paramount Resources Ltd. - Cameron Hills

In the spring 2003, Paramount applied to the MVLWB for authorizations to drill an additional 5 wells in the winter 03/04 but those applications were referred to environmental assessment. The five local Deh Cho communities (Ka'a'gee Tu, Deh Gah Got'ie, Fort Providence Metis, West Point and K'atlodeeche) were all active participants in the EA. The MVEIRB released their decision on June 2, 2004. The 5 wells were approved but with conditions, including the requirement for Paramount to negotiate a socio-economic agreement with the Deh Cho communities and the GNWT.

During the 03/04 winter season, Paramount drilled 5 new wells for which they already had approval and tied one more well into the existing oil and gas gathering system. There are now a total of 13 wells connected to the gathering system. Paramount's long-term plans include the drilling of up to 48 wells over the next 10 years. Paramount also acquired 250 km of 3D seismic. Paramount has approval for another 250 km of 3D seismic which might be acquired in the winter 04/05 depending upon the results of the winter 03/04 seismic.

Anadarko Canada Corporation

On Aug. 12, 2003, Anadarko was issued approvals by the MVLWB to conduct a geotechnical program to test subsurface soil conditions for a possible pipeline crossing near the Chevron Barge Landing. The authorizations are valid for 2 years.

On Dec. 18, 2003, Anadarko was granted approval to alter its winter road use to directly connect the Arrowhead and Netla areas. The change reduced the total amount of winter road length needed to allow access to both areas.

On Feb. 20, 2004, Anadarko applied for authorizations to undertake a soil sampling program in the Arrowhead and Netla areas to gather information on possible pipeline routes. Anadarko withdrew the applications in late March.

In the fall 2003 and spring 2004, Anadarko held consultation meetings to discuss its proposed gas gathering system to connect its Arrowhead and Netla wells to an existing pipeline system in Fort Liard. However, in



Resource Management Report (IMA)

early May, Anadarko announced that it was shelving these plans for one year. The primary reason cited by Anadarko is the lack of any new lands being opened up for exploration in the Fort Liard area.

Other programs that involved the DCFN Resource Management office included the First Nations Forestry Program, the Northern Contaminants Program, the Great Slave Lake Advisory Committee, the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program, and the Cumulative Effects Assessment Management Framework.

The **First Nations Forestry Program** consisted of the Deh Cho First Nations representative, Stanley Sanguetz, and alternate, Kelly Pennycook, attending and participating in FNEP working group meetings for guidance and development of five-year NWT management plans. The FNEP also offset costs for the Deh Cho representative and a Deh Cho Youth representative to attend the Indigenous Peoples Forum of the 12th World Forestry Congress in Quebec City. A copy of the Congress report can be obtained through the DCFN office. Additional information on the FNEP initiatives can be obtained through Kelly Pennycook at the DCFN office.

In addition to responding to lands and resource applications, DCFN also undertook three supplementary projects: the Youth Ecology Camp, a Contaminants Tour and Report, and a National Waters Research Institute training project:

The **Deh Cho Youth Ecology Camp** was held at the Trout Lake Fire Base in August 2003. Fourteen youth from the Deh Cho communities participated in this very successful camp, along with Samba K'e elders, community members, RWED and DCFN staff. The 2004 Deh Cho Youth Ecology Camp will be held this coming August in Trout Lake. A copy of the 2003 report can be obtained through the DCFN office.

Kelly Pennycook and Ria Letcher spearheaded a contaminants project, including the drafting of a report, *Contaminants in the Deh Cho II*. This report is an excellent summary of the last five years of contaminants research in the Deh Cho territory, as published in the *Canadian Arctic Contaminants Assessment Report II*, under the Northern Contaminants Program. Ria also conducted a community tour to discuss the report and contaminants issues with Deh Cho communities. A copy of the report can be obtained through the DCFN office.

In January 2004, the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP) awarded funding to DCFN and the **National Water Research Institute (NWRI)** to conduct a **capacity building project**. The project provided two Deh Cho community representatives, Wesley Hardisty and Clifford Vandell, the opportunity to visit the NWRI for approximately one month for hands-on training. The participants learned geographic information systems (GIS) programs, computer software, and took report preparation training based on raw data previously collected in the Deh Cho. This project was a success and DCFN hopes to continue this relationship with the NWRI in the future. A copy of the report can be obtained through the DCFN office.

Resolutions from 2003-2004 fiscal year that the Deh Cho First Nations Resource Management Office actioned.

Interim Resource Development Agreement, Resolution #5 (PKFN)

Oil and Gas Exploration, Resolution #10 (PKFN) - Deh Cho First Nations set up an oil & gas working group.



Resource Management Report (IMA)

Traditional Knowledge Access Request, Resolution #2 (DGGDB) - DCFN reviewed numerous traditional knowledge policies and compiled a Draft Traditional Knowledge protocol for Leadership review. The Draft has been submitted to Sam Gargan and the Elders for a review process.

Interim Land Withdrawals, Resolution #3 (PKFN) - DCFN has worked to ensure that all the Land Withdrawal areas are adhered to.

Appointment to Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact

Review Board, Resolution #9 (PKFN) - Eric Menicoche was appointed to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and Percy Hardisty was appointed to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in the past year. DCFN also held discussions with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board regarding the provision in the IMA for a Deh Cho Land and Water Panel.

Deh Cho First Nations Interests in British Columbia, Resolution #3 (DCA)

Deh Cho First Nations Interests in the Yukon, Resolution #2 (DCA) - Acho Dene Koe have discussed and identified trans-boundary issues with British Columbia and Yukon. The Deh Cho First Nations have offered assistance, and will also look into funding for the mapping. The Deh Cho First Nations have contacted the Nahanni Butte Dene Band and Pelk'zeh Ki First Nation to set up a timeline for trans-boundary mapping in the area. DCFN will continue to be available to provide assistance and technical support for mapping, as requested by the communities.

Trout Lake Data Request, Resolution # 4 (DGGDB) - We have identified who gave all the traditional knowledge information and now we just have to separate the Trout Lake data from the rest of the Deh Cho data. As requested by the Sambaa K'e Dene Band, the data will then be released to the community by early this summer.

Nahanni National Park Reserve Interim Agreements, Resolution #4 (PKFN) - DCFN assisted the Naha Dehe Consensus Team with regulatory advice and consultations in order to help advance the Park expansion. Grand Chief Herb Norwegian met with Justin Trudeau to get his support for the Park expansion and to invite him to visit the Deh Cho.

Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group, Resolution 12 (PKFN) - DCFN hired a regulatory lead (Joe Acorn) and a communications lead (John Holman) for the pipeline project, as well as assisted with responses to permit applications. DCFN will continue to review, coordinate, and assist in all pipeline related issues and resources for the Deh Cho First Nations.

Nahanni Park Expansion



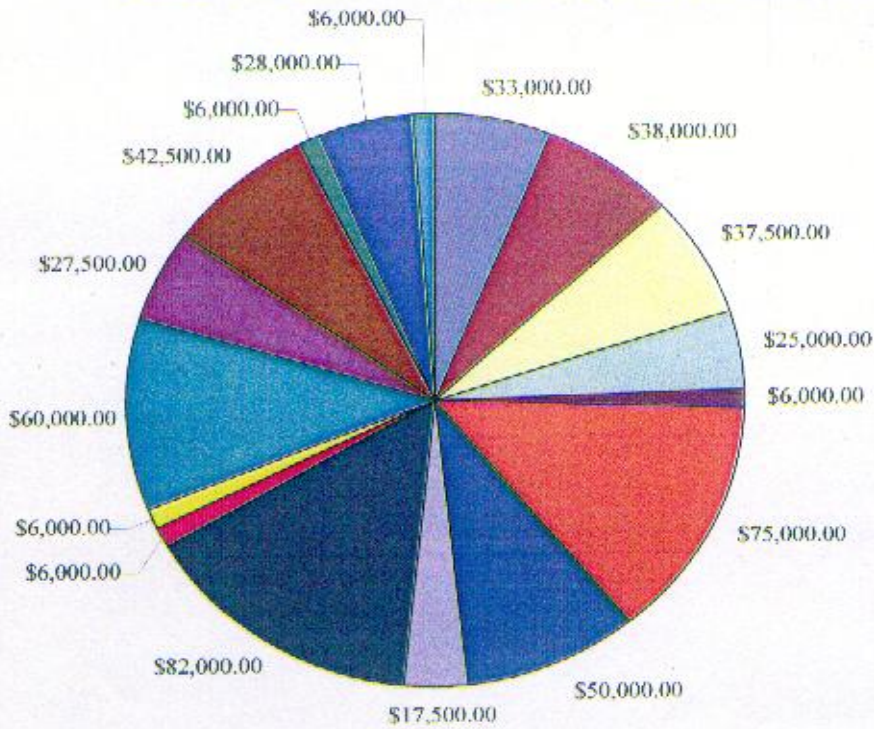
Grand Chief Herb Norwegian and Justin Trudeau



Deh Cho First Nations Member Organization Funding Distributions

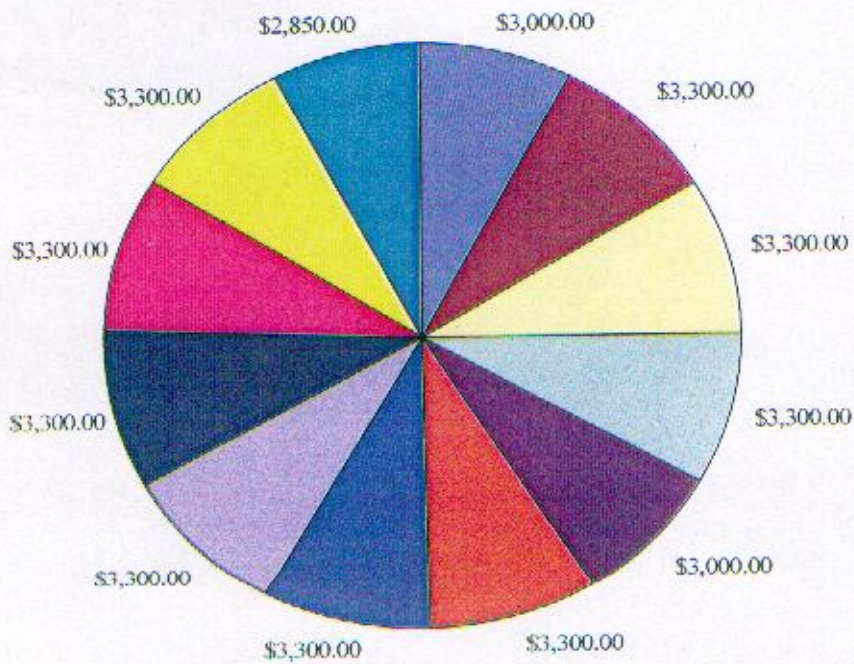
Member Organizations	Advisory	AHRDA Capacity	AHRDA Childcare	AHRDA CRF	AHRDA EI	AHRDA Gen Admin	AHRDA PWD	AHRDA Youth	DCP (IMA)	Gathering Strength	General Fund	IRDA Royalties
Acho Dene Koe	\$ 31,836	\$ 5,079	\$ 31,042	\$ 69,647	\$ 38,491			\$ 7,422	\$ 10,000			\$ 33,000
Lidli Koe First Nation	\$ 64,561	\$ 9,086	\$ 66,169	\$ 113,551	\$ 62,757	\$ 25,758		\$ 12,100	\$ 30,000			
Deh Gah Gohie Dene Council	\$ 57,077	\$ 10,378	\$ 81,178	\$ 106,972	\$ 59,121	\$ 17,505		\$ 11,399				
Katloeeche First Nation	\$ 30,017	\$ 4,641	\$ 70,903	\$ 41,664	\$ 22,926	\$ 12,435	\$ 510	\$ 4,440				\$ 82,000
Kaagee Tu First Nation	\$ 2,956	\$ 3,384		\$ 17,209	\$ 9,511			\$ 1,834				\$ 17,500
JM River First Nation	\$ 7,049	\$ 3,443		\$ 18,353	\$ 10,143			\$ 1,956				
Sambaa Ke First Nation	\$ 5,885	\$ 3,568		\$ 20,737	\$ 11,460			\$ 2,210				\$ 42,500
West Point First Nation	\$ 2,956	\$ 3,465	\$ 3,236	\$ 18,828	\$ 10,352	\$ 14,560		\$ 2,001				\$ 28,000
Ft Simpson Metis Local	\$ 1,050	\$ 3,002		\$ 9,772	\$ 5,401			\$ 1,041				\$ 25,000
Pehdzeh Ki First Nation	\$ 19,556	\$ 4,342	\$ 27,207	\$ 35,848	\$ 19,812	\$ 70,258	\$ 3,360	\$ 3,820	\$ 8,000	\$ 12,324	\$ 12,324	\$ 27,500
Nahanni Butte First Nation	\$ 5,895	\$ 3,742		\$ 24,169	\$ 13,358			\$ 2,575				\$ 50,000
Ft Providence Metis									\$ 2,982			\$ 37,500
Other Organizations												\$ 193,000
Individual(s)								\$ 250				
Totals(s)	\$ 228,449	\$ 55,130	\$ 299,734	\$ 476,750	\$ 263,372	\$ 70,258	\$ 3,870	\$ 50,798	\$ 48,250	\$ 2,862	\$ 12,324	\$ 546,000
Member Organizations												
Acho Dene Koe			\$ 12,358	\$ 5,000						\$ 11,150	\$ 256,025	10%
Lidli Koe First Nation			\$ 19,160	\$ 11,464	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,568	\$ 2,385	\$ 2,385	\$ 16,375	\$ 474,944	18%
Deh Gah Gohie Dene Council			\$ 40,206	\$ 9,900	\$ 7,200					\$ 17,250	\$ 418,186	16%
Katloeeche First Nation			\$ 23,307	\$ 5,000	\$ 15,000					\$ 16,375	\$ 329,218	12%
Kaagee Tu First Nation		\$ 23,914	\$ 7,112	\$ 5,000						\$ 15,350	\$ 103,771	4%
JM River First Nation	\$ 41,147	\$ 23,914	\$ 8,075	\$ 4,000						\$ 12,000	\$ 130,081	5%
Sambaa Ke First Nation		\$ 23,914	\$ 8,521	\$ 4,000	\$ 543	\$ 4,000				\$ 11,525	\$ 134,661	5%
West Point First Nation		\$ 23,914	\$ 6,408							\$ 9,500	\$ 123,261	5%
Ft Simpson Metis Local		\$ 23,914								\$ 12,525	\$ 81,706	3%
Pehdzeh Ki First Nation		\$ 23,914	\$ 7,733	\$ 12,850	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,000				\$ 7,850	\$ 225,617	8%
Nahanni Butte First Nation		\$ 23,914	\$ 9,225	\$ 4,000						\$ 9,200	\$ 155,368	6%
Ft Providence Metis										\$ 9,525	\$ 50,007	2%
Other Organizations											\$ 193,000	7%
Individual(s)											\$ 250	0%

Member Organizations Resource Royalties Distributions



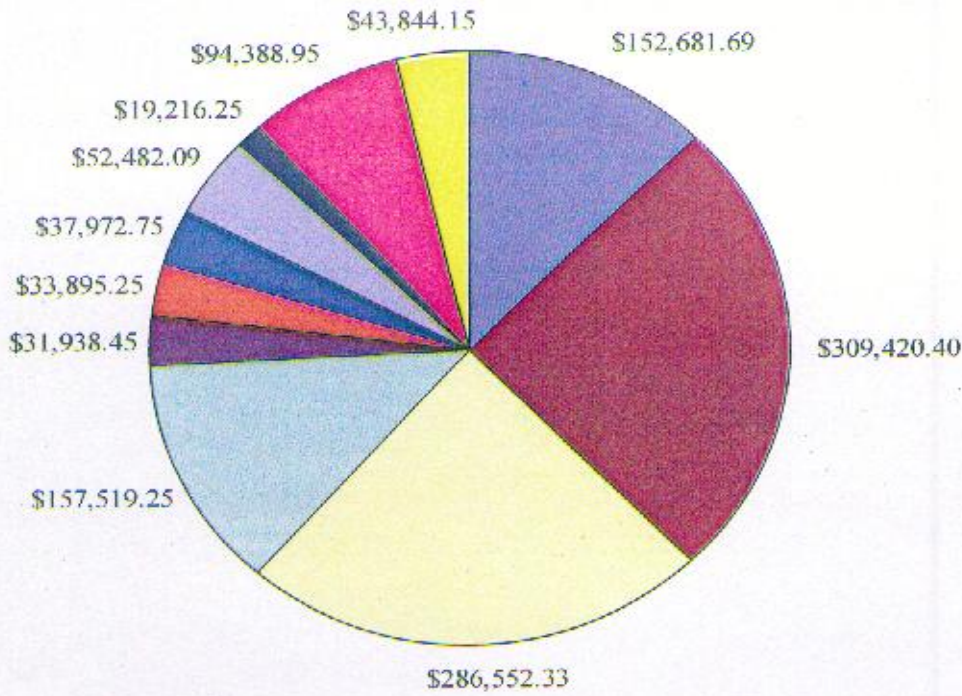
- Acho Dene Koe
- Digaa Enterprises (DGGDC)
- Ft Providence Metis
- Ft Simpson Metis Local
- Hardisty Petroleum
- JMR Log Homes Ltd
- Kaa Dule United (LKFN)
- Kaagee Tu First Nation
- Katlodeeche First Nation
- Mike & Charlotte Canadien
- N.C.S.Agency
- Nahanni Butte First Nation
- Pehdzeh Ki First Nation
- Sambaa Ke First Nation
- T.E.L.Publishing
- West Point First Nation
- Xah Ndah Resources Ltd.

Member Organization Cash Grant Distributions



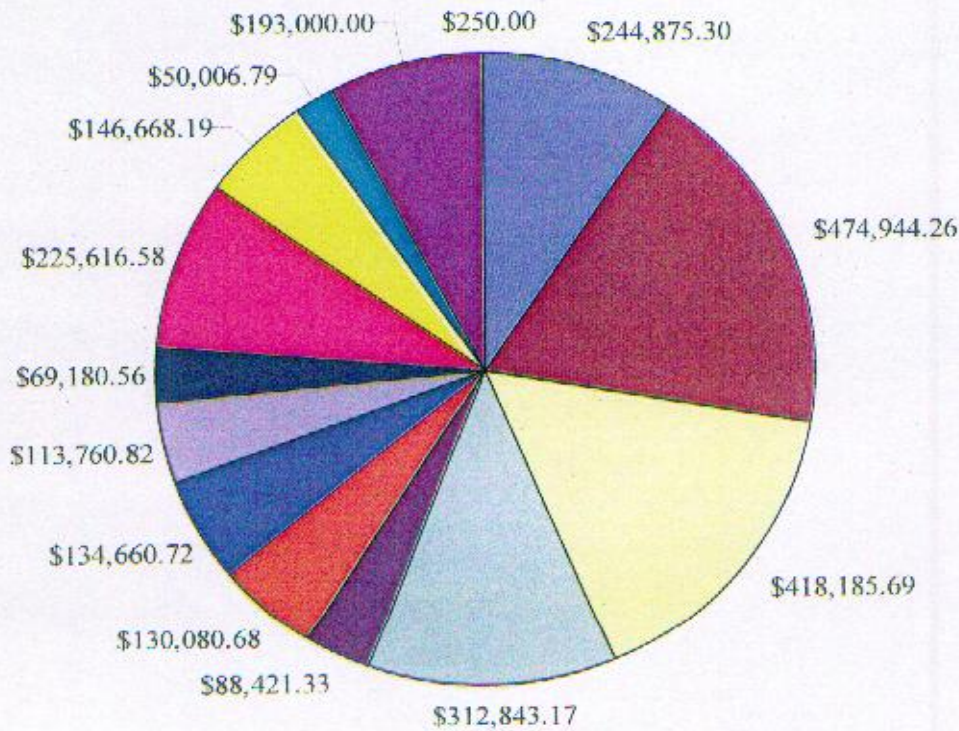
- Acho Dene Koe
- Lidli Koe First Nation
- Deh Gah Gotie Dene Council
- Katlodeeche First Nation
- Kaagee Tu First Nation
- Jean Marie River First Nation
- Sambaa Ke First Nation
- West Point First Nation
- Ft Simpson Metis Local
- Pehdzeh Ki First Nation
- Nahanni Butte First Nation
- Ft Providence Metis

AHRDA Distributions 2003-04



- Acho Dene Koe
- Liidli Koe First Nation
- Deh Gah Gotie Dene Council
- Katloodceche First Nation
- Kaagee Tu First Nation
- Jean Marie River First Nation
- Sambaa Ke First Nation
- West Point First Nation
- Ft Simpson Metis Local
- Pehdzeh Ki First Nation
- Nahanni Butte First Nation

Per Community Organization Total DCFN Funding Distributions



- Acho Dene Koe
- Liidli Koe First Nation
- Deh Gah Gotie Dene Council
- Katloodceche First Nation
- Kaagee Tu First Nation
- Jean Marie River First Nation
- Sambaa Ke First Nation
- West Point First Nation
- Ft Simpson Metis Local
- Pehdzeh Ki First Nation
- Nahanni Butte First Nation
- Ft Providence Metis
- Other Organizations
- Individual(s)

Deh Cho First Nations Cash Grant Distributions

Member Organizations	Annual Assembly	Core	Core Dene Nation	Deh Cho Process (IMA)	Elders Council	Executive Committee	Fall Leadership
Acho Dene Koe	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 37.50	\$ 75.00		\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Liidli Koe First Nation	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 112.50	\$ 75.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 2,100.00
Deh Gah Gotie Dene Council	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 225.00			\$ 1,050.00	\$ 2,775.00	\$ 2,100.00
Katlodeeche First Nation	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 187.50	\$ 150.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 2,100.00
Kaagee Tu First Nation	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 187.50			\$ 800.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,100.00
Jean Marie River First Nation	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 75.00		\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,950.00
Sambaa K'e First Nation	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 37.50			\$ 800.00	\$ 1,950.00	
West Point First Nation	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 150.00			\$ 800.00	\$ -	
Ft Simpson Metis Local	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00		\$ 600.00	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 2,100.00
Pehdzeh Ki First Nation	\$ 3,300.00		\$ 75.00		\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00
Nahanni Butte First Nation	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 112.50			\$ 800.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 2,100.00
Ft Providence Metis	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 37.50	\$ 75.00		\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 2,100.00
Norwegian Leo	\$ 825.00	\$ 75.00				\$ 750.00	
Individual(s)						\$ 1,275.00	
Totals:	\$ 39,375.00	\$ 1,462.50	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 10,300.00	\$ 14,325.00	\$ 21,460.00

Member Organizations	General Fund	IRDA Oil / Gas	Negotiations	Self Govt	Spring/Special Leadership	Winter Leadsheip	Grand Total
Acho Dene Koe			\$ 112.50	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 11,150.00
Liidli Koe First Nation			\$ 637.50	\$ 150.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 16,375.00
Deh Gah Gotie Dene Council			\$ 675.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 17,250.00
Katlodeeche First Nation		\$ 600.00	\$ 637.50	\$ 525.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 16,375.00
Kaagee Tu First Nation		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 262.50	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 15,350.00
Jean Marie River First Nation			\$ 375.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00
Sambaa Ke First Nation			\$ 37.50	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 11,525.00
West Point First Nation			\$ 150.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 9,500.00
Ft Simpson Metis Local			\$ 75.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 12,525.00
Pehdzeh Ki First Nation			\$ 375.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 7,850.00
Nahanni Butte First Nation			\$ 37.50	\$ 375.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ 9,200.00
Ft Providence Metis			\$ 112.50	\$ 150.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 9,525.00
Norwegian Leo				\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00		
Individual(s)		\$ 1,800.00	\$ 900.00				
Totals:	\$ -	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 4,387.50	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 28,300.00	\$ 148,625.00

**DEH CHO FIRST NATIONS
STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATION AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2004**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
REVENUE		
Government of Canada	\$ 5,196,331	\$ 4,165,853
Government of NWT	363,104	357,852
Other Revenue	278,508	119,497
Transfer from (to) deferred revenue	<u>21,837</u>	<u>(55,449)</u>
	<u>5,859,780</u>	<u>4,587,752</u>
 EXPENDITURES		
AHRDA Costs	1,513,978	1,453,583
Admin Fees	34,663	-
Staff Costs	815,839	789,154
Travel	716,271	660,102
Transfers to First Nations (Non AHRDA)	1,150,712	570,648
Professional fees & subcontractors	768,516	229,255
Chief negotiator's fees	182,751	228,280
Cash Grants	175,200	169,864
Office expense	176,393	151,059
Program Transfers	23,500	
Sound and translation	59,859	123,269
Office supplies	80,496	91,711
Equipment Purchases	71,498	60,936
Telephone	40,084	37,148
Repairs and maintenance	36,382	13,199
Deh Cho Economic Corporation	110,000	-
Capital Expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5,956,142</u>	<u>4,578,208</u>
 EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENDITURES)	 <u>(96,362)</u>	 <u>9,546</u>

**DEH CHO FIRST NATIONS
STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATION AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2004**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
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Cash Grants	175,200	169,864
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Sound and translation	59,859	123,269
Office supplies	80,496	91,711
Equipment Purchases	71,498	60,936
Telephone	40,084	37,148
Repairs and maintenance	36,382	13,199
Deh Cho Economic Corporation	110,000	-
Capital Expenditures	-	-
	<u>5,956,142</u>	<u>4,578,208</u>
 EXCESS REVENUE (EXPENDITURES)	 <u>(96,362)</u>	 <u>9,546</u>

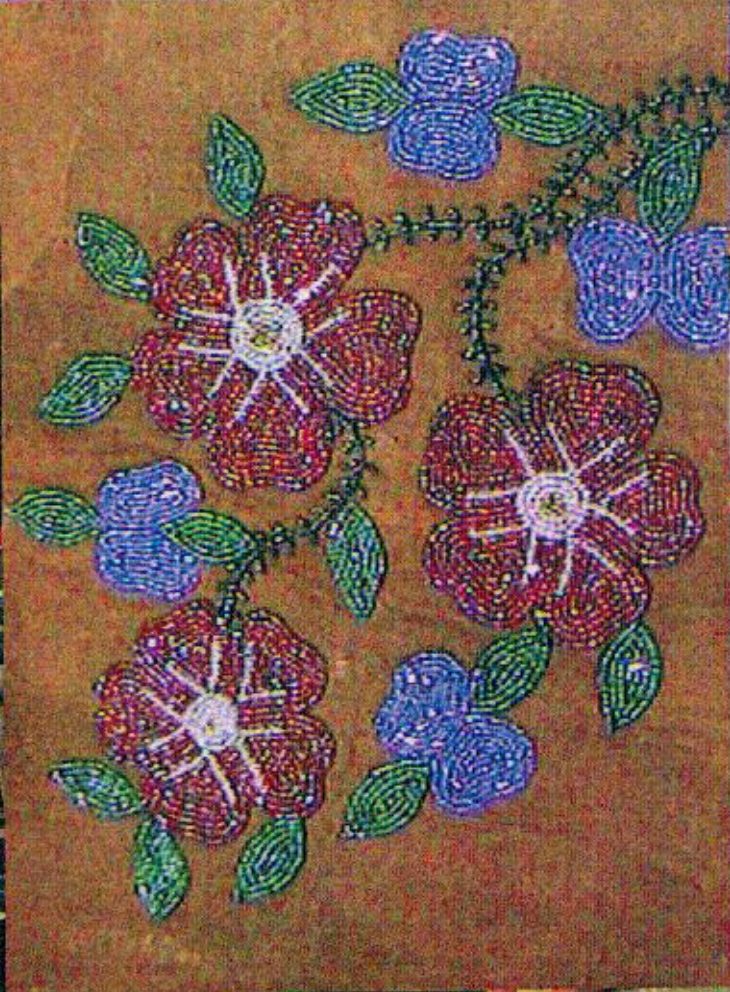
**DEH CHO FIRST NATIONS
BALANCE SHEET
March 31, 2004**

		ASSETS	
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
CURRENT			
Cash Accounts	\$	141,150	\$ 560,298
Accounts Receivable		792,322	399,060
Prepaid Expenses		<u>10,000</u>	<u>68,060</u>
		943,472	1,027,418
INVESTMENTS IN DEH CHO HOMES LTD.		1	1
CAPITAL ASSESTS		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
		943,474	1,027,418
LIABILITY			
CURRENT			
Accounts payable accrued liabilities	\$	260,870	\$ 226,945
Deferred Revenue		<u>192,595</u>	<u>214,102</u>
		<u>453,465</u>	<u>441,047</u>
MEMBERS' EQUITY			
SURPLUS		<u>490,009</u>	<u>586,371</u>
		<u>943,474</u>	<u>1,027,418</u>

APPROVED:

_____ Grand Chief
 _____ Executive Director

*Pending Approval by Deh Cho First Nations Assembly, June 28 to July 2, 2004.



First Nation Contact

Katl'Odeeché First Nation
PO Box 3060
Hay River, N.T.
X0E 1G4
Tel: (867) 874-6701
Fax: (867) 874-3229

Acho Dene Koe
General Delivery
Fort Liard, NT
X0G 0A0
Tel: (867) 770-4141
Fax: (867) 770-4144

JMR First Nation
General Delivery
Jean Marie River, N.T.
X0E 0N0
Tel: (867) 809-2000
Fax: (867) 809-2002

Nahanni Butte Dene Band
General Delivery
Nahanni Butte, N.T.
X0E 0N0
Tel: (867) 602-2900
Fax: (867) 602-2910

Sambaa K'e Dene Band
PO Box 10
Trout Lake, N.T.
X0E 1Z0
Tel: (867) 206-2800
Fax: (867) 206-2828

Deh Gah Gotie
General Delivery
Fort Providence, N.T.
X0E 0L0
Tel: (867) 699-7005
Fax: (867) 699-3210

Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation
c/o PO Box 4428
Hay River, NT
X0E 1G3
Tel: (867) 825-2000
Fax: (867) 825-2002

Pehdzeh Ki First Nation
General Delivery
Wrigley, N.T.
X0E 1E0
(867) 584-3321/3581
(867) 602-3229

Fort Simpson Metis Local 52
PO Box 408
Fort Simpson, N.T.
X0E 0N0
Tel: (867) 695-2431
Fax: (867) 695-2040



Liidlii Kue First Nation
PO Box 469
Fort Simpson, NT
X0E 0N0
Tel: (867) 695-3131
Fax: (867) 695-2665

West Point First Nation
1-47031 Mackenzie Hwy
Hay River, N.T.
X0E 0R9
Tel: (867) 874-6677
Fax: (867) 874-2486





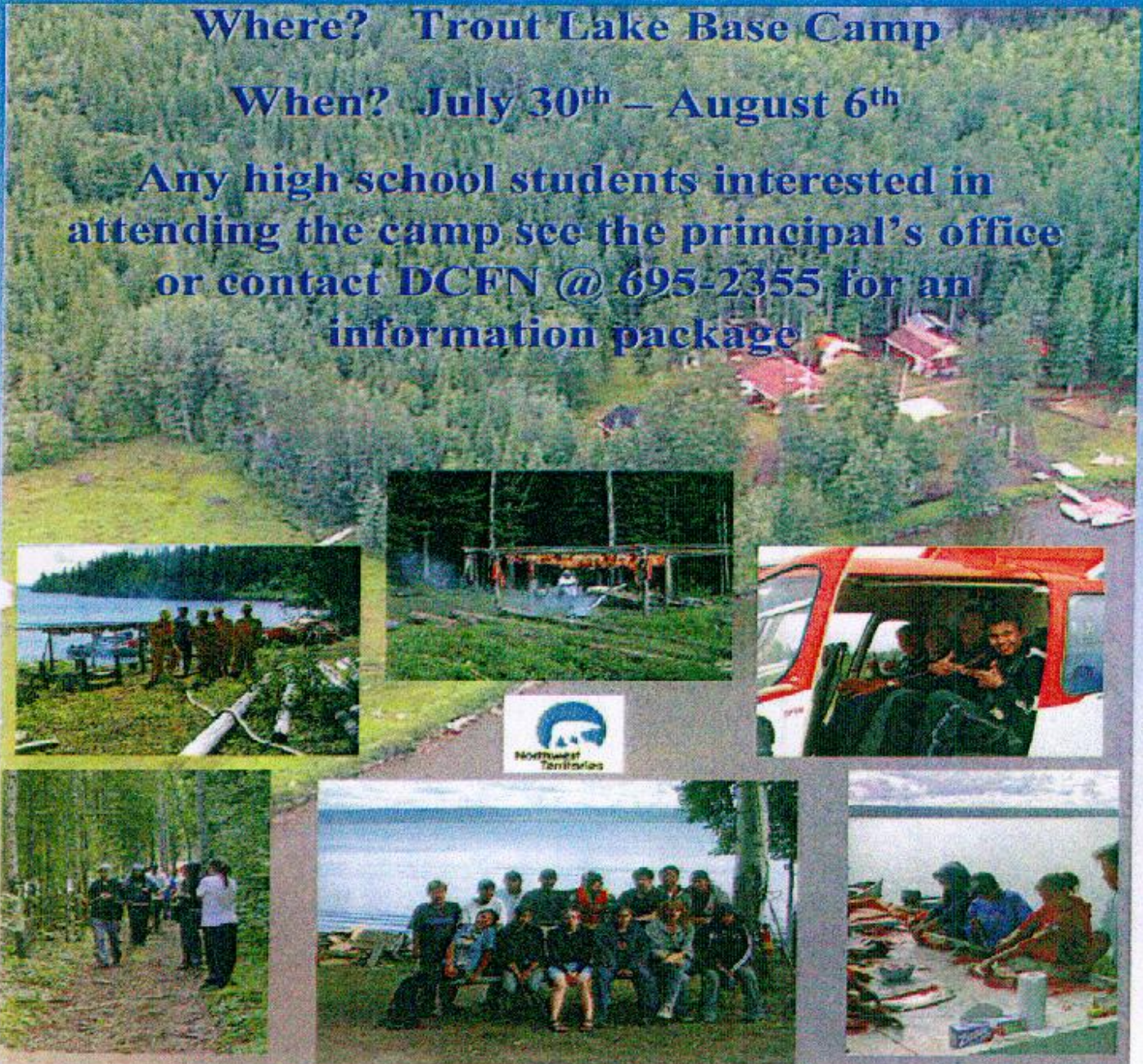
2004 DEH CHO FIRST
NATIONS
YOUTH ECOLOGY
CAMP



Where? Trout Lake Base Camp

When? July 30th – August 6th

Any high school students interested in attending the camp see the principal's office or contact DCFN @ 695-2355 for an information package



**This is a jointly Run Annual Project (DCFN and RWED)*