

**DEH CHO FIRST NATIONS  
Spring Leadership Meeting  
Fort Liard, Denendeh — 97 MAY 26-30**

**DCFN LEADERSHIP RESOLUTION 97MAY29-#09**

**Re. Support for Relief for Deh Cho Aboriginal Community Governments  
from Taxation by NWT Municipalities**

**WHEREAS** the aboriginal peoples of the Deh Cho territory have occupied and used our lands since time immemorial in ways that ensure our lands are available to the generations yet to come,

**AND WHEREAS** the aboriginal peoples of the Deh Cho territory have respected use of our lands by newcomers and, at Treaty making, agreed to share our lands with the Crown,

**AND WHEREAS** aboriginal governments in the Deh Cho territory have been receiving bills from NWT ministries and municipalities for use of our own land and buildings, where it is far from certain that the NWT ministries and municipalities have the authority to levy rent or taxes against aboriginal governments for the use of our own lands and buildings,

**AND WHEREAS** the levying of such rent and tax bills against aboriginal governments by NWT ministries and municipalities for the use of our own lands is contrary to the First Peoples-Crown relationship and the spirit of Treaty making —

**THEREFORE, by our inherent right to govern ourselves,** the DCFN Leadership supports the granting of relief for all aboriginal governments in the Deh Cho that are receiving rent or tax bills from NWT ministries or municipalities for the use of our own lands;

**AND THEREFORE,** the DCFN Leadership directs the new DIAND Minister to inform the NWT Cabinet that it is not appropriate for NWT ministries and municipalities to levy rent or taxes against aboriginal governments of the Deh Cho for use of our own lands;

**AND THEREFORE,** in the event that this is not an acceptable arrangement, the DCFN will invoice the government of Canada for the use of Deh Cho lands for municipalities and other government-approved uses of Deh Cho lands.

**MOVED BY**  
**SECONDED BY**

Chief Herb Norwegian, Lı́dlił Kúé First Nation  
Chief Harry Deneron, Acho Dene Kóé

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

