



DEHCHO REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLAN UPDATE

What is the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan?

It is a strategy to manage the negative effects of the Mackenzie Gas (pipeline) Project (MGP). It recommends 11 different kinds of projects to help people most at risk of being negatively affected by the MGP.

The Dehcho Regional Investment Plan focuses on social, cultural, and economic conditions that will be made worse by the MGP. These conditions and the people most likely to be affected are shown in the table.

Social, Cultural, and Economic Conditions Likely to Get Worse	Dehcho People Most At Risk of Being Negatively Affected by the MGP
Lack of affordable/adequate housing High food costs Demand for health and social services High crime rates More accidents Risks to community safety Demand for policing services Alcohol and drug abuse and gambling Loss of Dene culture and language Lack of suitable infrastructure for programs	People who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • won't get jobs on the pipeline. • Are dependent on others to live. • are already at risk due to low education, dysfunctional lifestyles, poverty, or other socio-economic circumstances. These people are most likely children, elders, youth, and persons with disabilities.



View from Kakisa

How will the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan Work?

Dehcho communities could apply for funding to run projects that lessen the negative effects of the MGP on Dehcho people. Funding would be available through a regional organization set up to manage the Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Fund (MGPIF).

Eleven (11) different kinds of projects could be funded. The different types of projects are shown in the table.

Type of Project Eligible for Funding	Project Goals and Objectives
1. Youth	Engage youth in meaningful ways through funding youth workers, mentorships, coordination, and community/regional activities.
2. Day Care	Ensure safe, stimulating, and culturally relevant childcare in all communities through funding more spaces, training, and program innovations.
3. Food Sharing and Life Skills	Build on community strengths to provide nutritious food and life skills through core and project funding.
4. Wellness	Strengthen and expand wellness services through funding for networking, coordination, wellness workers, wellness activities, and community interagency support.
5. Shelter	Provide personal safety in all Dehcho communities for victims of family violence through funding for safe home, training, and services.
6. Policing	Strengthen public safety and personal security through funding for policing options, supplementary local policing, and training.
7. Social Development	Provide funding to sustain social and cultural programs through funding for unforeseen expenses and shortfalls.
8. Student Supports	Improve education and life successes through funding for career counselling, life skills, and post-secondary supports.
9. Language and Culture	Strengthen and support language use and cultural practices through funding to coordinators, regional and community activities, and resource centres/networks.
10. Social Infrastructure	Enhance physical infrastructure for social, cultural, and recreational programs through partnerships and funding.
11. Housing	Secure and maintain adequate, appropriate, and affordable shelter through funding for home ownership and repair programs.

Projects support equal access to services in all Dehcho communities and partnerships.

When Will the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan be implemented?

Funding for the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan will be available only if there is a commitment to go ahead with the Mackenzie Gas Project.

If the Mackenzie Gas Project does not go ahead, communities could use the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan to improve existing social, cultural, and economic conditions.



View from Fort Liard

How does the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan Work with Other Dehcho First Nations Processes?

The Dehcho Regional Investment Plan is part of all processes that are affected by the MGP. It is most closely linked to Access and Benefit Negotiations. Access and Benefit Negotiations are about allowing access to Dehcho lands in exchange for business and other economic benefits. The Dehcho Regional Investment Plan deals with social, cultural, and economic impacts from the MGP that are not included in Access and Benefit Negotiations.

Who Leads Dehcho Regional Investment Planning?

Dehcho First Nations and the Government of the NWT appointed a Steering Committee to lead the planning process. Members represent all Dehcho communities. Current members are:

Dehcho Regional Investment Plan Steering Committee Members	
Fred Norwegian, Chair	Ria Letcher, ex officio
Margaret Leishman	Dennis Deneron
Lawrence Nayally	Rita Cli
Joanne Deneron	Minnie Letcher
Dan O'Neill, GNWT	

Lois Little and Bob Stephen of Lutra Associates Ltd. in Yellowknife work for the Steering Committee.

How are People in the Dehcho Involved?

In the winter of 2008, 250 front-line workers, students, leaders, and others in the nine Dehcho communities put forward ideas to include in the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan. The Plan is based on these ideas and recent Dehcho community and regional plans.

The Dehcho Regional Investment Plan has been presented to the Dehcho leadership. Also, Steering Committee members and Lutra Associates continue to talk to regional residents and potential partners about the Plan.

What is Happening Now?

There are four stages to the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan process. Phases one and two are completed and phase three is beginning. Phase four should happen later in the year.

Dehcho Regional Investment Plan Process
Phase 1: Social, Cultural, and Economic Background
Phase 2: Regional Investment Goals, Objectives, and Priority Projects
Phase 3: Setting up the Regional Organization to Implement the Plan
Phase 4: Detailed Project Planning

Who Should I Contact for More Information?

If you have questions or comments, contact Ria Letcher at Dehcho First Nations or any members of the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan Steering Committee.

To see a copy of the work done on the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan to date, go to DFN's web site <http://www.dehchofirstnations.com/home.htm> and look for the MGPIF Steering Committee in the main menu.