



## AN INVESTMENT IN DEHCHO PEOPLE

### DEHCHO REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLAN UPDATE

#### *What is the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan?*

It is a strategy to manage the social, cultural, and economic effects of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP). The Dehcho Regional Investment Plan provides funding to ensure the health, well-being, and safety of Dehcho people most at risk of negative effects from the MGP.

The Plan has four priorities and recommends funding 11 different kinds of projects to address these priorities:

1. **Employment and Population:** youth mentorships, student supports, childcare, food sharing and life skills projects.
2. **Community Wellness:** wellness, shelter from family violence, community policing, social development.
3. **Traditional Culture:** language and cultural development.
4. **Housing and Community Infrastructure:** housing and social infrastructure.



*Trout Lake Medical Clinic*

#### *When Will the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan be Implemented?*

Funding for the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan will come from the federal government's Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Fund (MGPIF). Funding will be available only if there is a commitment to go ahead with the MGP. The earliest date that funding could be available is November 2010.

If the MGP does not go ahead, communities can use the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan to lobby other funding sources to improve existing social, cultural, and economic conditions. In fact, at a recent workshop in Fort Simpson potential government and non-government project partners agreed to find ways to implement the Plan regardless of a decision about the MGP.

*Who Would be Eligible for Project Funding?*

Dehcho community and regional government and non-profit organizations would be eligible for project funding. Project applicants would need to:

1. submit an application that gives information on the proposed project. The Dehcho Regional Investment Plan will be a main reference for the applications.
2. identify partners and how they will contribute to the project.
3. describe how projects will mitigate or manage negative social, cultural, and /or economic impacts of the MGP.



*Summer in Kakisa*

### Which Organization will Approve Projects?

The federal government passed a law called the *Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Fund Act*. The Act requires that:

1. a territorial corporation be established to manage and account for the MGPIF.
2. a regional organization be set up in the Dehcho to receive money from the territorial corporation.

The Dehcho regional organization will implement the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan by:

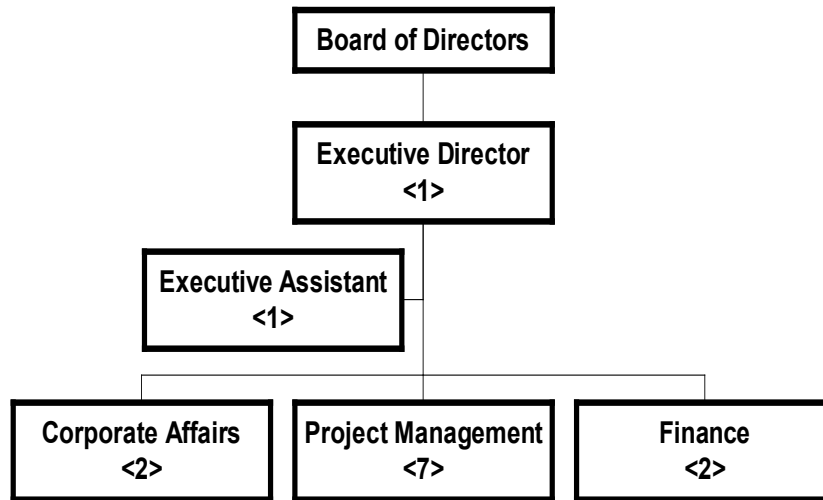
- setting priorities,
- approving projects,
- monitoring and evaluating projects, and
- accounting to the territorial corporation.

### What Will the Dehcho Regional Organization Look Like?

The federal government requires that the Dehcho regional organization:

- be a new not-for-profit registered with the *NWT Societies Act*.
- have an independent decision-making board made up of Dehcho First Nation members and at least one GNWT member.
- appoint board directors who have experience in financial administration and knowledge about community-level socio-economic issues.

Following the direction of the federal government, the diagram below could be the way that the Dehcho regional organization would look. As shown in brackets, the organization could create 13 new jobs.



No decision has been made about the Dehcho regional organization but,

- in 2005, a leadership resolution said that DFN should be the regional organization.
- the Dehcho Investment Management Board (Master Trust) is making plans to invest the MGPIF. To help determine if this is a good idea, the Steering Committee will likely ask the Dehcho Investment Management Board to put

forward a proposal showing how they will follow the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan and support the 11 recommended projects.

It is possible to separate the decision making and administrative functions of the Dehcho regional organization. For example, an independent, non-profit organization could be set up to make decisions but it could contract project administration to another group. For example, the Master Trust could be contracted to administer the social development and social infrastructure funds.

### *How Much Money will be Spent on Projects Every Year?*

The Dehcho Regional Investment Plan expects that the regional organization will spend \$14.6 million annually. Money will be spent on:

- 11 different kinds of projects (\$13.3 m).
- the regional organization and project administration ( \$1.3 m).
- 54 jobs – 13 with the regional organization and 41 in Dehcho communities – and lots of community-based contract opportunities.

It is expected that each year \$12.8 m will come from the territorial corporation and \$1.8 m will be earned through the social development and social infrastructure investment funds.

Even though the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan identifies annual expenditures and revenues, the territorial corporation may establish different budgets.

### *Who Should I Contact for More Information?*

The process to implement the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan is complicated. To find out more, contact any member of the Dehcho Regional Investment Plan Steering Committee. They are: Rita Cli, Chair, Ria Letcher, ex officio, Fred Norwegian, Margaret Leishman, Dennis Deneron, Lawrence Nayally, Joanne Deneron, Minnie Letcher, and Dan O’Neill, GNWT.

Also, go to DFN’s website <http://www.dehchofirstnations.com/home.htm> and look for the MGPIF Steering Committee in the main menu.