

DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS
BOX 89, FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T. X0E 0N0
TEL: (867) 695-2355/2610 FAX: (867) 695-2038
e-mail: communications@dehchofirstnations.com

With the recent re-election of the Conservative minority Government, negotiations will commence once more now the delay from the Federal Election has passed. The initial meeting will be held in Ottawa on the date of November 17th to the 19th of 2008. Canada will finally provide its response to our negotiations mandate resolution passed at the Assembly in June.

Dehcho Negotiators; Georges Erasmus, Samuel Gargan, Jim Antoine, legal counsel; Chris Reid, Grand Chief Gerald Antoine, Executive Director; Ria Letcher, Negotiations Coordinator; Patrick Scott, Chief Fred Tesou of the Nahanni Butte Dene Band and Chief Berna Landry of Deh Gah Gotie Dene Band will be attending the November Session.

The first day will be allocated for an internal session to strategize the plan of how the Ottawa negotiation session will proceed. The secondary objective will be to lobby the newly elected Members of Parliament towards supporting the Dehcho.

Chief Berna Landry of the Deh Gah Gotie community hosted the 2008 Fall Leadership. There were two main components, the update to the Dehcho Interim Land Use Plan and Acho Dene Koe's Framework Agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories and Federal Government of Canada.

Heidi Weibe and Petr Cizek provided separate presentations on the Land Use Plan. Ms. Weibe's presentation had focused from an outside presence, as she had not been a part of the recent changes to the Land Use Plan since the 2006 Final Draft. Her outlook mainly viewed the changes that had diminished the strength of language. One example is the CR's (Conformity Requirements)
Definition of CR from the 2006 Final Draft Land Use Plan;
"Conformity Requirements" means the requirements that, upon implementation of this Plan, a) a land use must meet in order to receive authorization, or b) that must be included and/or complied with under an authorization

Language of CRs changed from restrictive to permissive*
Previously: "Regulatory authorities will not allow -x- unless..."
Now: "-X- allowed everywhere, providing..."
Not as clear or strong, leads to inconsistencies

Chief Alec Sunrise of Katlodeeche (Hay River Reserve) hosted the three-day Naxehcho (Elders) and Harvester's meeting during the week of October 21-23rd 2008, to discuss the

changes to the Land Use Plan.

Below are a few highlights that emerged from the Elders;

The leadership has not rejected the 2006 resolution on the land use plan therefore the original land is the one we the Elders acknowledge. On the basis that the current Land Use Plan is an Interim document, it is critical that the Both GNWT and the Federal Government;

Honor the Interim Measures Agreement signed 2003 and the revised Term of Reference and Work Plan initialed in April 27, 2007

Since the current Interim Land Use Plan is not balanced concerning the needs of all parties, as it is now with the current draft, the balance is directed in favour of the GNWT and Federal Government. If the Elders are to endorse such a revision to the original LUP, work needs to be focused in harmonizing the Special Management and Special Development Zones towards balancing the interests of all parties.

The Naxehcho (Elders) cannot separate from the land. The language and culture is derived from the land, the Dene Language and Culture are deeply rooted in a healthy relationship with the land. They are an integral component of a whole.

The language in the current Interim Land Use Plan has changed significantly from restrictive to permissive. There needs to be a balance of all interests. Further work needs to be done in finding a balance that accurately represents the positions of all parties.

*Provided from Ms. Weibe's presentation Oct. 8th 2008.