



The Government of the Northwest Territories' Statement on Tłı̨chǫ Involvement in Devolution

July 6, 2012

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) values its good working relationship with the Tłı̨chǫ Government and remains committed to working together in partnership with them in the interests of all the people of the Northwest Territories. The Premier and Cabinet have had several meetings with the Tłı̨chǫ leadership, including a meeting with the Tłı̨chǫ Executive Council on June 29, 2012, where the two governments signed an intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding committing themselves to work together on a number of issues and to hold regular meetings of elected leaders.

The GNWT agrees that the participation of the Tłı̨chǫ Government in devolution negotiations is the preferred way to ensure that the interests of their citizens and all NWT residents are addressed. We would welcome them, or any remaining regional Aboriginal government, to join us at the table once they have signed the Agreement-in-Principle (AiP).

Signing an AiP is a routine step in a typical negotiations process and all the parties at the table, including the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Northwest Territories Métis Nation and Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, as well as the Government of Canada and GNWT, have signed the AiP. Signing the AiP indicates an agreement with the basic premise of negotiations – that administrative control over public lands, resources and rights in respect of water in the Northwest Territories should be transferred from Canada to the GNWT. It also means that parties agree to work towards a final agreement on matters identified in the AiP.

The GNWT remains committed to continuing to meet with the Tłı̨chǫ Government to discuss devolution. In March 2012 the two governments agreed to have officials meet to discuss devolution and the offer of more meetings remains open. The Premier continues to be available to meet with Tłı̨chǫ leadership to seek common ground on devolution and recently attended the Tłı̨chǫ Assembly in Wekweètì.