



Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee

PRESS RELEASE

June 13th, 2006

The Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee is pleased to announce the release of the Final Draft of “Respect for the Land: The Dehcho Land Use Plan” (Ndéh Ts’edjǰchá: Dehcho Ndéh T’áh Ats’et’j K’eh Eghálats’ęnda) and associated Background Report.

This, the fourth and final Draft of the Dehcho Land Use Plan is the result of four years of intensive work with communities, governments and other planning partners. Its purpose is to promote the social, cultural and economic well being of residents and communities in the Dehcho territory, having regard to the interests of all Canadians.

Initial Plan development and subsequent revisions were guided by the most comprehensive consultation efforts on a northern land use plan to date, involving over 140 meetings across the Dehcho territory, Yellowknife, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver. Since 2003, over 1200 comments have been carefully documented and considered in Plan revisions, improving the scope, clarity and content of the Plan.

The Plan outlines what types of activities should occur, where they should take place, and the terms and conditions necessary to guide land use decisions over time. The Plan will enhance and add value to the way the land and resources are currently managed by integrating community values and priorities into the decision-making process. The Committee’s Chair, Herb Norwegian describes the Plan as “an exciting opportunity for all three Parties to find a balanced approach to resource development and conservation in the Dehcho territory that will move the region towards a new era of clarity and certainty.”

At the Dehcho First Nations Spring Leadership Meeting on May 31st in Fort Liard, DFN gave “approval-in-principle” to the Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan, subject to final changes requested by Pehdzeh Ki First Nation and ratification at the Dehcho First Nations Annual Assembly in Kakisa. The requested changes have been made and the Plan has been forwarded to the GNWT and Canada for their approval and consideration.

The Committee would like to thank the Dehcho First Nations, GNWT, Canada and our other planning partners for their tremendous efforts. Timely approval and implementation of this Plan will contribute to the well being of current and future generations. It is something we can all be proud of.

The Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan and related materials are available for download at www.dehcholands.org. Please contact the Committee for more information.
