



OUR PEOPLE
OUR FUTURE
OUR DÉLINE

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vote

Déline Self-Government

Déline Final Self-Government Agreement Overview

The Déline Final Self-Government Agreement—called FSGA for short—is an agreement between the Déline First Nation Band, the Déline Land Corporation, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada. Simply put, the self-government agreement is the way the self-government rights of the Déline people will be put in place and respected by other governments.

One government for Déline

When the community of Déline decided to negotiate a self-government agreement, the Déline Elders had strong views that the community should have one government that brought everyone together. This was based in part on the teachings of Prophet Eht'se Ayah.

The Elders—who have been involved in the negotiations every step of the way—believed that too many organizations were responsible for governing the community: a First Nation created by Canada's *Indian Act*, the Land Corporation created under the Sahtu land claim, and a Charter Community created by the GNWT.

The Elders believe that the community can be governed better, and that people will work together better, if there is one government. They want to make sure that the Déline Got'ine Government (DGG) will have more control over decision-making in the community. This vision is supported by the community. It has been discussed at various councils, in community meetings and workshops over the years.

This new form of government will be much more effective and efficient because all of the different responsibilities, programs and services can be managed by one government. There will be one election and one council will make decisions.

With self-government, all funding will come in to one government and will be for five years. It will be stable. This will allow for planning over five-year periods, instead of year to year. It will mean staff can be offered permanent positions, instead of one year at a time. It also means that Délı̨ne First Nation members and land claim beneficiaries who leave the community to get an education will have good jobs to come back to.

Having one government will also make it easier to consult people, get their input and explain how decisions are made.

How the agreement is approved

The agreement was first approved by Délı̨ne First Nation members and Délı̨ne Land Corporation beneficiaries through a ratification vote held in March 2014. More than 75% of voters turned out and 85% of them voted “yes”.

Now it is up to the NWT Legislative Assembly and the Government of Canada to pass laws that will put the agreement into effect.

Accountability

The DGG is designed to ensure government is open and accountable.

- The DGG will answer to Délı̨nę First Nation Citizens and to all residents of the Délı̨nę District.
- The DGG must respect the Délı̨nę Constitution, as well as the laws and policies that are created by the government.
- There will be a ʔq̨hda K'áowə Kə (Elders' Council), a Dene K'a Dats'eredi Kə (Justice Council) and a Dene Gha Gok'ə rəhkw'ı (Beneficiaries Board) to provide advice and direction to the Délı̨nę K'áowədó Kə (Main Council).
- The DGG will report at an annual community gathering called the Délı̨nę Łénats'ehdé Dzené about its work and the administration of the land claim.

The Dene K'a Dats'eredi Kə (Justice Council) will act as an arm's length branch of the DGG that makes sure the DG government follows its own rules and respects the rights of all citizens. It will also have the power to hear appeals of DGG decisions.

Agreement highlights

The FSGA does not change the rights and benefits that band members and beneficiaries have under Treaty 11 or the land claim. It respects and builds on them by turning over more decision-making powers to the community as was agreed in the land claim.

There are a few important things the FSGA will do for Délı̨nę.

- It will create a new single government called the Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government (DGG) that will take the place of the First Nation, the Land Corporation and the Charter Community.
- As an Aboriginal public government, the DGG will serve all Délı̨nę First Nation Citizens (no matter where they live) and all residents of the Délı̨nę District.
- Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę will have more control over the decisions that affect their daily lives, including how programs and services are delivered in the Délı̨nę District.
 - It will bring decision-making closer to the community and ensure decision-makers are accountable to those who elect them.

- It will provide new powers and tools the DGG can use to strengthen Déłıne culture, language and economy.
- The DGG will be able to count on stable, predictable funding.
- Most federal taxes and GST paid by people in Déłıne will go to the DGG to run the government and provide programs and services.
- Decisions on land claim rights and assets will only be made by land claim beneficiaries.

Self-government will be the start of a new and more equal relationship for Déłıne with the territorial and federal governments. We want to work with the GNWT as a government to create a stronger future for all Déłıne First Nation Citizens and all residents of the Déłıne District.

Related agreements

The legislation enacted by the GNWT will also include specific details about the tax rules that will apply to the DGG and its institutions. These were negotiated in a separate Tax Treatment Agreement.

Some other important agreements and plans have been negotiated that do not need to be in the GNWT legislation.

- The Déłıne Self-Government **Financing Agreement** describes in detail how the DGG will be funded.
- Déłıne has developed and passed the **Déłıne Got'ıne ʔeʔadó** (Déłıne Constitution) which describes the principles that the Déłıne Got'ıne Government will have to follow.
- The Déłıne Self-Government **Implementation Plan** clarifies how self-government will be put into action and what everyone's roles and responsibilities are.
- The Déłıne Self-Government Team has also prepared a **Pre-Effective Date Plan** to make sure everything is ready for the first day of self-government.

Powers of the new government

The FSGA gives the DGG the ability to take on new powers in many areas, such as:

- community affairs and local services including the regulation of liquor,
- local land use planning,
- local municipal programs and services,
- Aboriginal matters including language and culture,
- provision of traditional health services,
- adoption,
- education, early childhood education and training,
- delivery of health care programs in the Déljñę District,
- social housing and income support, and
- tourism and economic development in the Déljñę District.

The DGG will take a gradual approach to self-government. At first, the DGG will only:

- take on programs and services the Déljñę First Nation, Déljñę Land Corporation and Charter Community deliver now, and
- take on a few additional powers it needs to be able to operate as a government additional powers (e.g. a *Financial Administration Act*).

As the DGG builds its capacity and its success over time, it will take on more powers and responsibilities (e.g. education, social programs). Until then, the DGG will work with the GNWT, who will continue to manage those programs and services.

When DGG decides to take on new powers, the governments will work together to make this happen and will determine what funding will be transferred.