

Délıne Edegha Government Ts'ııı | Délıne Self-Government



We voted for...

OUR PEOPLE
OUR FUTURE
OUR DELıNE

your
vote

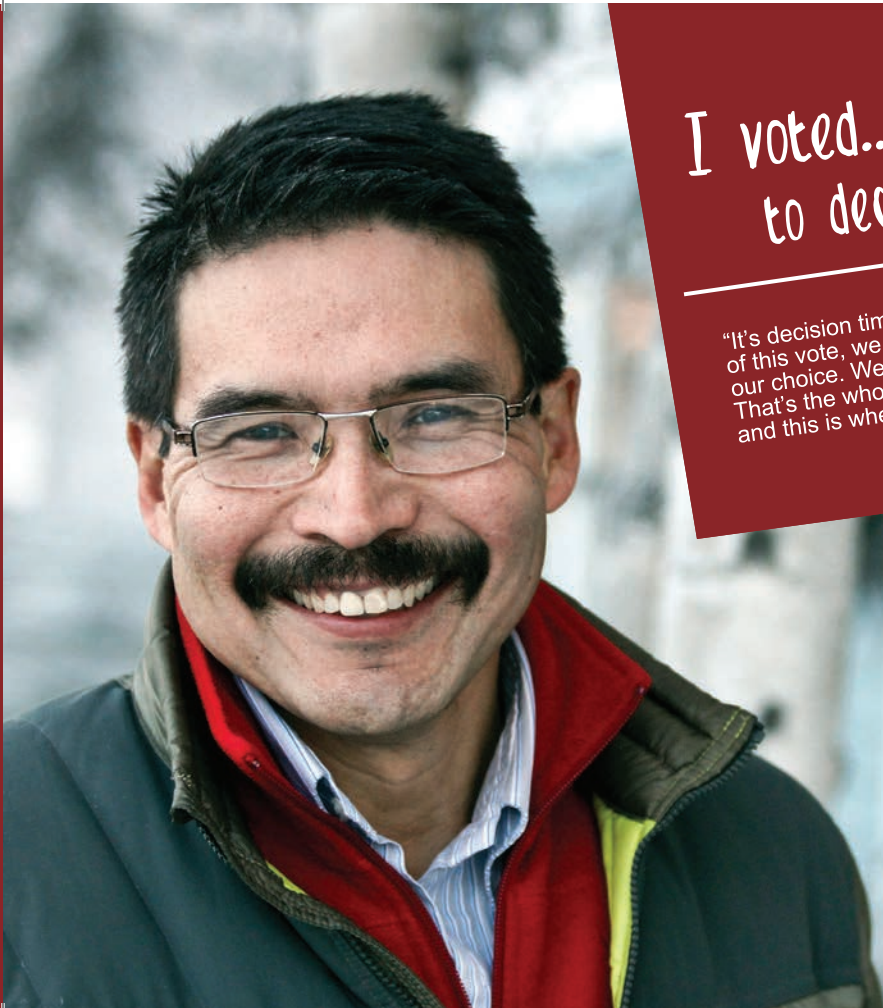
Délıne Self-Government

Accepting responsibility

There were hard choices that had to be made to reach this agreement. One of these choices was agreeing that the Déljñę First Nation will no longer exist and the new government will not be under the Indian Act. Instead of being accountable to Ottawa, we are now accountable to our own citizens and community. We have decided to combine our municipality, our First Nation, and our Land Corporation created in our land claim into a single Déljñę Got'jñę Government. This new government will take on the responsibilities of those previous organizations as well as new self-government powers that currently rest with the GNWT.

To take on its responsibilities, the Déljñę Got'jñę Government is made up of:

- Déljñę Got'jñę ʔeʔadó (Constitution)
- Déljñę K'áowədó Kə (Main Council) – elected representatives who pass laws
- ʔq̄hda K'áowə Kə (Elders Council) – advisors to the Main Council
- Dene Gha Gok'ə rəhkw'ı (Beneficiaries Board) – decision-making body elected by land claim beneficiaries that makes decisions about land claim matters
- K'a Dats'erediKə (Justice Council) – body appointed by the Main Council and has responsibilities related to administration of justice
- Łénots'ehdə Dzené (Community Assembly) – gathering each year to give direction to the government and receive reports



I voted...
to decide my own fate

"It's decision time for us. Whatever the outcome of this vote, we have to accept responsibility for our choice. We are determining our own fate. That's the whole idea behind self-government and this is where it starts."



Danny Bayha

Vice-president of the
Délı̄ne Land Corporation

Stable funding, stable government

For decades, the Délı̄ne First Nation has had to find ways to fund programs and services through a patchwork of annual funding from the federal government and project-specific proposals. These sources of funding are uncertain and always force Délı̄ne to fit its needs into someone else's funding priorities. Our First Nation never knows from year to year how much funding we will get, or what we will be allowed to do with the money. This makes it almost impossible to plan for the long term, hire permanent staff or focus on solving local challenges. Stable, predictable funding is crucial to creating a stable government.

The Délı̄ne Financing Agreement will provide the Délı̄ne Got'ı̄ne Government with:

- 5-year funding agreements that describe how much funding will be provided and when it will arrive,
- control over what the funding must be used for, and
- clear accountability and reporting requirements.

I voted... to control our programs and services

"I know things will work better with self-government. We want this new government so that we have the power to decide how we provide programs and services. We won't have to go begging for money all the time like we do now. We will have solid, long-term funding that we can plan on."

Paulina
(Tetso) Roche

Manager of the Délı̄nę First
Nation and a member of the
Self-Government Transition
Team



One government for Déljñę

As Déljñę Got'jñę, we are united in our vision and guided by our Elders. For us, self-government is about having one government to make decisions in our community. Too many separate organizations have tried to manage our affairs – the First Nation, the municipality and the Land Corporation – and it has not worked for our community.

The Final Self-Government Agreement recognizes the **Déljñę Got'jñę Government** as an Aboriginal public governance model, one that we designed. Our government will have a main council with representatives elected by all residents. Some council representatives will be elected only by Déljñę First Nation Citizens.

There will also be a **Dene Gha Gok'ę rǎhkwi (Beneficiaries Board)** that will look after the land claim rights and assets. The Board members will be elected by land claim beneficiaries only. When making decisions on land claim matters, the Déljñę K'ǎowedó Kę (Main Council) will have to follow the direction given by the Board.

I voted...
to be Dene again

“The Elders have been saying we should bring some of the Dene laws back, to unite who we are, to be who we are. Negotiating self-government was like putting our house back together, piece by piece, as Dene people. It would be nice to die peacefully without a worry for our kids because of what we made for them.”

Morris Neyelle

Sub-chief of the Délı̄nę First Nation
and involved in self-government
negotiations for many years



A step-by-step approach to new powers

The Final Self-Government Agreement will have a wide range of new authorities, however, we do not plan to take these all on right away. The Déljñę Got'jñę Government (DGG) will decide when and how to take on new powers based on its priorities and its growing capacity. On the first day it is operating, the DGG will do all of the things that the municipality, the First Nation and the Land Corporation do today. The Déljñę K'awedó Kə will start its work, building the organization and planning which self-government authorities it will take on and when.

To take on new authorities, we will work closely with the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada, particularly to make sure that we are delivering programs in ways that make sense with respect to health, education, local services, justice, and other areas. Core Principles and Objectives (CPOs) are territorial-wide standards that we will meet as part of our program delivery.

Chief Leonard Kenny

ʔekw'ahtydé of the Déljné First Nation



I voted...
for a brighter future

“The bottom line is that when you govern yourself you are making your own decisions for your own people. This new agreement would replace the Indian Act. It won't be governments in Ottawa or Yellowknife making decisions anymore, it will be our own leaders. We can decide what we need to do to help our people and our community.”

Creating certainty, embracing change

Our generation has negotiated this agreement. It is a tool that will allow us to work together and that we can use to deal with our challenges. When they are older, our kids will take this tool, use it, and make it their own. That is the point of self-government. If future generations find the tool is not working properly or that it could work better, they will be able to collaborate with our partners to make the changes that are needed. This agreement and the relationships it describes are based on our rights. We recognize that these may change over time and the agreement specifies how that can happen.

The Final Self-Government Agreement has provisions stating that:

- the rights and authorities of the Dólįnẹ Got'įnẹ are the ones contained in the agreement, and
- governments can discuss changing the agreement, but they must follow the process set out in the Review and Amendment chapter.

I voted...
for my kids

"This agreement is not for me and my generation. If it can help my kids work together with other children to share the benefits and responsibilities of governing ourselves, that's the most important thing for me. Then I wouldn't have to worry about my kids in the future."

... AND MÉTIS
OF DÉLNE

Danny Gaudet

Délne Chief Negotiator and has worked on getting self-government for Délne for 17 years



For more information

Please visit our website at www.ourdeline.ca

You can also contact:

Danny Gaudet

Déliné Chief Negotiator

Email: danny.gaudet@gmail.com

Cell: (780) 982-6342

Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox

Déliné Implementation Director

Email: fcl@northwestel.net

Cell: (867) 444-0030

www.ourdeline.ca

OUR PEOPLE
OUR FUTURE
OUR DÉLINÉ

your
vote

Déliné Self-Government