

# Self-Government Basics and Voting Information

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VOTE

*Déliñé Self-Government*

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## ***Pronunciation guide***

Got'ine [Go-t'ee-(click sound)-nay]

ʔekw'ahtidé [E-kw'ah-ti-day]

K'owədo Kə [C'ow-way-doe Kay]

ʔqhda K'áowə Kə [Own(h)-da C'ow-way Kay]

K'ə Dats'eredi Kə [Kay Da-ts-ay-ray-dee Kay]

łénats'ehdó Dzené [(Sɪ-eh)-na-ts'a-day Dzeh-neh]

ʔeɔadó [Ay-ah-doe]

*\* Pronunciations are taken from the Déline Final Self-Government Agreement*

## Self-government basics

The DéjĪŅé Self-Government Agreement has been finalized. The Self-Government Team has worked to achieve this agreement since 1995, under the guidance of DéjĪŅé Elders and the leaders of the First Nation and Land Corporation.

### ***Negotiation history***

In the 1970s the Dene Nation worked on negotiating a land claim for all Dene regions. At that time, Canada did not recognize that Dene had a right to govern themselves. The Dene Nation disagreed, and insisted that their right to self-government existed. By 1990, Canada agreed to include a chapter in the land claim promising to negotiate self-government after the land claim was signed. The Sahtu then signed its land claim in 1993.

When the community of DéjĪŅé decided to negotiate a self-government agreement, the DéjĪŅé 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 Ehtseo Ayah. The Elders 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 believed that the community could be governed better, that people would work together better and if there was one organization. They also wanted to make sure that the one government would have more control over decision making in the community. This vision was supported by the community.

The community knew that to have one government, they would have to negotiate with Canada and the GNWT to set that up.

In 1995, the community started talks with Canada and the GNWT about self-government to work out the details of what they would negotiate. In 1996, they made an agreement about what they would negotiate and how they would do this, so that the three parties understood what they had to do and what they wanted to achieve. That agreement was called a Process and Schedule Agreement.

Then, between 1996 and 2003, DéjĪŅé, Canada and the GNWT negotiated the Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle. The Agreement-in-Principle, signed in DéjĪŅé August 23, 2003,

described the major parts of the self-government agreement: the new government model, its main responsibilities, and how its authorities would work with the authorities of GNWT and Canada, but did not include all the details.

The Agreement-in-Principle was signed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs of the GNWT, the Chief of the DéjŊé Dene Band and the President of the DéjŊé Land Corporation. This agreement, in effect, represents an important community approval of the Aboriginal public government model.

After the Agreement-in-Principle was signed, DéjŊé, Canada and the GNWT began to negotiate the Final Self-Government Agreement (FSGA). This included discussions about how self-government would be financed, what the parties must do to make sure the agreement will work the way it is supposed to, and how the self-government agreement and the land claim will work together. At that time the DéjŊé Self-Government Team held a series of workshops where community members developed a community constitution.

The negotiators always kept in mind that almost half of DéjŊé's First Nation members and land claim beneficiaries live outside of DéjŊé and most of them live in Yellowknife. In 2010, a Yellowknife office was established, which is responsible for making sure that DéjŊé members and beneficiaries living outside of Yellowknife were aware of the agreement and could ask questions and get answers and information.

## ***Agreement overview***

The DéjŊé Final Self Government Agreement – called FSGA for short – is an agreement between the DéjŊé First Nation Band, the DéjŊé Land Corporation, the GNWT and the Government of Canada.

The self-government agreement is the way the self-government rights of all DéjŊé beneficiaries will be put in place and respected by other governments.

The FSGA does not change the rights and benefits 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.

Before self-government can be put in place the Self-Government Agreement must first be voted on by DéjŊé First Nation members and DéjŊé Land Corporation beneficiaries. This is called ratification and it requires that more than half of all eligible voters vote yes for the agreement.

If the vote is successful, then the agreement will need to be approved by the GNWT and Canada. These governments will pass legislation to put the agreement into effect.

There are a few important things the Self-Government Agreement will do for DéjŊé.

- It will create a new single government called the DéjŊé Got'Ŋé Government (DGG) that will take the place of the First Nation, the Land Corporation and the Charter Community
- DéjŊé Got'Ŋé will have more control over the decisions that affect their daily lives, including how programs and services are delivered in the DéjŊé 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 DéjŊé culture, language and economy

There are some other important agreements and plans that have been negotiated that will make sure everyone understands and agrees on:

- how self-government will be put into action (Implementation Plan)
- how the DGG will be funded (Financing Agreement)
- the tax rules that will apply to the DGG and its institutions (Tax Treatment Agreement)

Self-government and the creation of the DGG will not only benefit people who live in DéjŊé. These changes will provide the DGG with important tools to support and serve all DéjŊé First Nation members and land claim beneficiaries, particularly in preserving their culture, language, spiritual practices, customs and traditions.

Self-government will be the start of a new and more equal relationship for DéjŊé with the territorial and federal governments. They will work together as governments and DéjŊé will have more power to make decisions for the community and more ability to influence decisions made by other governments.

## ***Déljné Constitution***

In addition to the rules set out in the Final Self-Government Agreement (FSGA), the Déljné Got'jné Government (DGG) will have its own Constitution. The Constitution describes principles that the Déljné Got'jné Government.

To take effect, the Constitution must be approved by the members of the Déljné First Nation Band and the Déljné Land Corporation. It does not need to be approved by Canada or the GNWT. The Constitution describes:

- Principles of government
- Déljné Got'jné laws
- The structure of the DGG
- Who is a Citizen
- Official languages
- The accountability of the DGG
- How the Constitution and FSGA can be amended.

Here are some highlights of the current Draft Constitution.

### **Preamble of the Constitution**

The beginning of the Constitution describes principles that guide the rest of the document.

- We are the Sahtuto'ine, the descendants of Eht'se Aya.
- We honour Great Bear Lake.
- We live in harmony with the lands, waters and animals.
- We respect the wisdom of the Prophet, our ancestors and our elders.
- We respect our traditional knowledge.
- We respect our language.
- We have negotiated to establish a unified government at the community level.

### **Principles of government**

Déljné will be governed as one people by the Déljné Got'jné Government.



The Government will:

- Respect the Sahtu Land Claim Agreement.
- Observe openness and transparency.
- Respect our traditions and culture.
- Collaborate with other Aboriginal people, our neighbours, non-Aboriginal residents and other governments.

As a government, the DGG must:

- Act with respect, fairness and without discrimination,
- Consult with all Déljné citizens on important decisions,
- Encourage free expression and participation of all Déljné citizens,
- Act to protect lands, waters and resources and all living things.

## Déljné Got'jné laws

The FSGA describes powers and responsibilities of the DGG. The FSGA will be protected as a Treaty and will give the DGG the authority to pass certain laws. All DGG laws must fit with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The DGG laws must follow the FSGA.

## The structure of the Déljné Got'jné Government

The Déljné Got'jné Government will include:

- The ʔekw'ahtjé (Chief)
- The Déljné K'əowədo Kə (Council)
- Déljné ʔohda K'áowə Kə (Elders Council)
- Déljné K'ə Dats'eredi Kə (Justice Council)
- Beneficiaries Board (Land Claim Board)
- Déljné Łénats'ehdá Dzené (Community Gathering)

### **ʔekw'ahtjé (Chief)**

The ʔekw'ahtjé will serve a 4-year term and will be chosen by Déljné First Nation Citizens. The ʔekw'ahtjé must be a Déljné First Nation Citizen and a resident of Déljné. There will also be a minimum age limit.

### ***Déline K'owadó Kə (Council)***

The K'owadó Kə will be made up of 8-12 members, who will each serve a 4-year term. It will be made up of the ʔekw'ahtǵdé, an Elders representative and members at large.

The K'owadó Kə runs the Government and passes laws.

### ***Déline ʔqhda K'áowə Kə (Elders Council)***

The ʔqhda K'áowə Kə will be made up of all Déline Elders. It gives advice to Council and appoints a representative to Council.

### ***Déline K'ə Dats'eredi Kə (Justice Council)***

K'ə Dats'eredi Kə will be made up of 3-5 members, who each serve a 4-year term.

It will be an independent body that will handle dispute resolution, violations of DGG law and appeals from DGG decisions.

### ***Beneficiaries Board***

The Beneficiaries Board will be made up of 3-5 members, who each serve a 4-year term. It will be elected by resident and non-resident land claim beneficiaries.

The Beneficiaries Board manages land claim monies and lands, and gives direction to Council on land claim matters.

### ***Déline Łénats'ehdǵ Dzené (Community Gathering)***

The Łénats'ehdǵ Dzené will meet at least once a year. It will be made up of all Déline First Nation Citizens and all residents of the Déline District. It will receive reports from the DGG, including reports on land claim matters.

## Déjine First Nation Citizens

All members of the Déjine First Nation (DFN) Band and all members of the Déjine Land Corporation will be Déjine First Nation Citizens. A person who is a citizen under another self-government agreement is not eligible to be a DFN citizen.

### ***Duties of Citizens***

All DFN Citizens have a duty to:

- Work together, to seek consensus and harmony.
- Help each other and respect one another.
- Help the community.
- Respect our elders and leaders, and support the youth.
- Live in harmony and protect the land, the environment, the waters, the animals and plant life.

## Official languages

The official languages of the DGG will be North Slavey and English. All persons may communicate with the DGG in either language.

## Accountability

The DGG is accountable to Déjine First Nation Citizens and to residents of the Déjine District.

The DGG must give annual reports to the Déjine Łénats'ehdǎ Dzené (Community Gathering) about its work and the administration of the land claim.

## Amendments

### ***Amendment of Déjine Got'ine ƷeƷadó (Constitution)***

Any amendments to the Constitution will be done by secret ballot. For an amendment to pass, it must have the support of at least 60% of the people who vote, and at least 25% of Déjine First Nation Citizens have to vote.

### ***Amendment of FSGA***

Amendments to the Final Self-Government Agreement (FSGA) will be done by secret ballot. For an amendment to pass, it must have the support of at least 60% of the people who vote, and at least 25% of DélinĚ First Nation Citizens have to vote.

Minor amendments to the FSGA can be approved by DélinĚ K'asowádó Kə (Council) provided the amendment has been discussed with the DélinĚ Łénats'ehdá Dzené (Community Gathering).

### ***A gradual approach***

The FSGA includes many new powers for DélinĚ, such as:

- Community affairs and local services including the regulation of liquor and gaming
- Aboriginal matters including language and culture
- Education and early childhood education
- Adoption
- Health services
- Social housing and income support
- Tourism and economic development in the DélinĚ District
- Local land use planning

However, these will not all be taken on right away. The DélinĚ Got'InĚ Government will decide when and how it takes on new powers. For example education and health services will continue to be managed by the GNWT in the immediate future, while the DGG prepares to take on authorities in those areas.

When the FSGA becomes effective, the DGG will immediately take on programs and services that the First Nation, Land Corporation and Charter Community are already delivering today, as well as a few additional powers it needs to be able to operate as a government.

As the DélinĚ Got'InĚ Government builds its capacity and its success over time, it will take on more powers and responsibilities in areas such as education and social programs. Across the NWT and across Canada, this is how self-governments continually develop over time.

## ***One government for DéjŊé***

Since 1995, DéjŊé Elders have had a vision of one organization that has responsibility for governing the community, and that has the funding and powers to make decisions and deliver programs in a way that makes sense for DéjŊé. The self-government agreement makes this vision possible.

Right now, DéjŊé has three main governing organizations: the First Nation (or Band), the Land Corporation and the Charter Community.

Each of these organizations has its own mandate, and each is created by different laws. For example, the First Nation is created by the Indian Act. That Act is a federal law, which Canada can change when it wants. The First Nation looks after the political rights of Status Indians of its members, and delivers some programs and services. Canada decides how bands get funding, how much funding they get and what activities the funding can be used for. These decisions are made based on government policies, not on the First Nation's needs.

The Charter Community is created under GNWT laws. The GNWT can change its municipal laws when it wants. The GNWT decides on Charter community budgets according to its own rules. The Charter Community delivers local programs and services to everyone in the community like water and sewage. It also makes by-laws about how the community operates.

The DéjŊé Land Corporation is created through the land claim. It is responsible for the land claim rights and assets (lands, buildings, businesses) of beneficiaries.

As a result, DéjŊé has three different elected councils for three organizations which provide programs and services to almost the same group of people. In addition there are many other committee and organizations which also make decisions about programs and services in the community and each has their own plans and rules.

Having so many organizations and councils and committees can sometimes be confusing and does not make it easy for organizations to work together. Often the frustration is increased because the final decisions about some programs and services are made in Yellowknife or Ottawa.

A major benefit of self-government is that all of these different responsibilities, programs and services can be done by one organization, under one set of rules. There will be one election and one council to make decisions. They will stable funding for five-years at a time. This will allow for longer-term budgets, staffing and planning.

Having one government will also make it easier to consult people, get their input and explain how decisions are made. The new government will be set up to make sure it is open and accountable. There will be an Elders' Council, a Justice Council and a Beneficiaries Board. There will also be a yearly gathering where the DGG reports to and seeks direction from the community and beneficiaries.

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

## ***Getting ready for self-government***

There are two important parts to getting ready for self-government: the work the negotiation parties need to do to make the change to self-government, and the work the organizations in the community need to do to prepare to come together as one government and be ready to take on new powers.

Work has been going on in both areas for some time.

DéjŊé, the GNWT and the Government of Canada have negotiated an Implementation Plan that describes the steps required to put the Self-Government Agreement into action and what each party is responsible for doing. They have also set up an Implementation Committee that will continue to work together to make sure the change to self-government is happening properly and to deal with any issues that come up. Implementation is an ongoing and gradual process that requires a long-term plan and a partnership approach.

Meanwhile, the people in the land corporation, the band and the charter community are working together to plan and prepare for this change so that the transition is as smooth as possible and that there is no negative impact on employees of the three organizations.

DéjŃŃé has set up a Transition Team which includes Paulina Roche (Manager of the DéjŃŃé First Nation), Diane Andre (Senior Administrator of the DéjŃŃé Land Corporation), and Phebie Kenny (Housing Association Manager).

These senior managers are using their knowledge and experience to plan the transition to one government. The team is developing a Transition Plan that will be in place before Self-Government comes into effect. The plan will describe how the three organizations will become one and all the steps that will be need for this to go well.

## ***Common questions***

### **What is the DéjŃŃé Final Self-Government Agreement?**

The Sahtu Dene and Metis have a right to self-government that was included in their land claim agreement. The DéjŃŃé Final Self-Government Agreement is a way for the Aboriginal people of DéjŃŃé to put that right into action. It is an agreement between the DéjŃŃé First Nation Band, the DéjŃŃé Land Corporation, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. It will give the band members and beneficiaries more control over the decisions that affect them every day, such as how government money is spent in their community and how local programs and services are delivered.

### **Who will be affected by self-government?**

Self-government will mean change for everyone living in DéjŃŃé. This includes DéjŃŃé First Nation members and non-members. It will also affect DéjŃŃé First Nation Band members and land claim beneficiaries who live outside the community.

Once DéjŃŃé is self-governing, members of the DéjŃŃé First Nation Band and land claim beneficiaries who are registered with the DéjŃŃé Land Corporation will all be DéjŃŃé First Nation Citizens. Their new government will be called the DéjŃŃé Got'ŃŃé Government and it will take over the roles of the land corporation and the band, as well as the Charter Community.

### **How do we get self-government?**

Negotiating the Final Self-Government Agreement (FSGA) has taken 18 years. This was done by the DéjŃŃé First Nation Band, the DéjŃŃé Land Corporation, the Government of the Northwest

Territories and the Government of Canada. They are now ready to ask for approval of the agreement.

The first approval that is needed is from DéjĪnĒ First Nation Band and land claim beneficiaries who are registered with the DéjĪnĒ Land Corporation. This will be done by a vote. For the vote to pass, more than half of everyone who is allowed to vote must vote “yes” (50% plus one vote, to be exact). This means that if there are, for example, 680 voters, at least 341 of them must vote “yes” for the vote to pass.

Once it is approved by the people of DéjĪnĒ, the agreement must be approved by the GNWT and Canada. Once this is done, Canada will create a law that recognizes the agreement as a treaty and protects it under the Constitution of Canada.

### Who is allowed to vote?

To vote you must be a member of the DéjĪnĒ First Nation or a land claim beneficiary registered with the DéjĪnĒ Land Corporation. You must also be at least 18 years old on the first day of the vote (March 10, 2014).

### How do I vote?

The DéjĪnĒ First Nation members and land claim beneficiaries will vote between March 10-12, 2014 in DéjĪnĒ and Yellowknife. Information packages will be sent to everyone who is allowed to vote. Polls will be set up in DéjĪnĒ and Yellowknife on those dates. If you can't make it then, there will also be a way to mail in ballots, and advance polls will be set up in both DéjĪnĒ and Yellowknife in February. This will help make sure everyone has a chance to vote.

A Ratification Committee has been established to manage the voting process. The Ratification Manager, Gina Bayha can help answer any questions about the voters list or voting. You can contact Gina at (867) 589-8120 or [gbayha@hotmail.com](mailto:gbayha@hotmail.com).

### What happens if I don't vote?

For self-government to happen, it's important for everyone to vote. Self-government can only pass if more than half of **all** eligible voters vote to approve it. This means that not voting is almost like voting “no,” except we won't have the ballot to officially count your opinion.



Whether you would like self-government or not, it's important to vote so we truly know how the community feels.

## What powers will Déjné get?

Self-government will give the people of Déjné more control over their language, culture, customs and traditions. The new government (called the Déjné Got'jné Government, or DGG) will bring together the existing powers of the Charter Community, the Déjné Land Corporation and the Déjné First Nation Band. It will also have the following powers:

- It will be able to make laws over many local matters (for example, education)
- It will be responsible for many programs and services that are now handled by either the GNWT or the Government of Canada (such as programs and services to support children and families)
- It will have law-making powers over Aboriginal matters for the people of Déjné (such as traditional healing)

## Is Déjné ready for self-government?

Yes. While we will still need to do careful planning, a lot of work has already been done to get ready.

The new government will not take on all of its possible roles and powers at once. At first, it will only take on what the existing organizations are already doing, as well as a few things it needs to operate as a government. Over time, it will take on more responsibilities as it is ready.

The Déjné Final Self-Government Agreement provides a lot of information about how self-government will work. There is also a detailed Implementation Plan that explains all the steps the governments will follow to make the change to self-government. An Implementation Committee has been set up to help with this process over time. It is important to remember that most of the responsibilities the new government will take on at first are already things already handled by the Charter Community, the Déjné Land Corporation and the Déjné First Nation Band. The staff of these organizations will become part of the new government.

Déjné has set up a Transition Team and is creating a transition plan to make sure the change happens smoothly.

## Can I expect to get the same level of service as before?

The Final Self-Government Agreement says that people in Déljné will continue to have programs and services that are similar to those in other communities in the NWT. To help make sure this happens, the Déljné Got'jné Government (DGG) will have to set up and enforce its own standards. This will make sure that the programs and services are delivered safely and effectively.

The standards for many programs, like those for child protection, must line up with standards across the NWT. For other programs and services, the DGG will be able to set standards that are better suited to the language, culture and traditions of Déljné.

## What programs and services will be managed by the new Déljné government?

The Déljné Got'jné Government (DGG) will manage community affairs and local services such as the following:

- Liquor and gaming regulation
- Aboriginal affairs, including language and culture
- Education, including early childhood education
- Adoption
- Health services
- Social housing and income support
- Tourism in the Déljné district
- Local land use planning

The DGG will not take on all of these responsibilities right away. For example, education and health services are complex areas. They will be managed by the GNWT until the DGG is ready to take them on.

## How will the new government be organized?

The Déljné Got'jné Government (DGG) will bring together the Charter Community, the Déljné Land Corporation and the Déljné First Nation Band into a single government.

It will include:

- The ʔekw'ahtjǰé (Chief)
- The Déljné K'áowǰó Kǰ (Council)
- Déljné ʔǰhda K'áowǰ Kǰ (Elders Council)
- Déljné K'ǰ Dats'eredi Kǰ (Justice Council)
- Beneficiaries Board (Land Claim Board)

Each part has its own roles and responsibilities. The Beneficiaries Board will be separate from the rest of the DGG and will make decisions on how land claim money, assets and rights are used and managed.

### Why are the Band, the Charter Community and the Land Corporation being replaced by a single Déljné government?

The Band, the Charter Community and the Land Corporation each handle different things and are governed by different laws. For example, the Band was created by the *Indian Act* and many decisions are made by the federal government. The Charter Community falls under GNWT laws, and the GNWT can change municipal laws when it wants. The Déljné Land Corporation is created through the land claim. It is responsible for the land claim rights and assets (lands, buildings, businesses) of beneficiaries.

Having so many organizations, councils and committees can sometimes be confusing and does not make it easy for organizations to work together. Often the frustration is increased because the final decisions about some programs and services are made in Yellowknife or Ottawa.

A major benefit of self-government is that all of these different responsibilities, programs and services can be done by one organization, under one set of rules. There will be one election and one council to make decisions. There will be stable funding for five years at a time. This will allow for longer-term budgets, staffing and planning.

Having one government will also make it easier to consult people, get their input and explain how decisions are made. The new government will be set up to make sure it is open and accountable.

### Will there still be a Charter Community?

Everything the Charter Community does will still happen as normal, but these things now be handled by the DéjĪnĒ Got'ĪnĒ Government (DGG) instead of the Charter Community. The people who work for the Charter Community will do similar jobs for the DGG.

### Who will pay for the government? Will it be enough?

The responsibility of paying for the government will be shared by the Government of Canada, the GNWT and the DéjĪnĒ Got'ĪnĒ Government (DGG). There is a Financing Agreement that makes sure the DGG had enough money to take on its responsibilities. This includes funding the band, the land corporation and the Charter Community receive, plus funding for new responsibilities the DGG will take on. This funding will be better because it will be in place for five years at a time. To make sure the DGG can continue to support its programs and services, funding will be adjusted over time. Also, as the DGG takes on more responsibilities, it will negotiate additional funding for those responsibilities with the GNWT and Canada.

The DGG will be able to raise its own money in a number of ways. For example, it can collect taxes, charge fees for permits, licences and land rentals, and make money from investments.

### Does it change our treaty or our land claim?

No. Self-government will not change the rights and benefits the DéjĪnĒ Dene and Metis have under Treaty 11 or the land claim. Instead, it builds on them by giving the people of DéjĪnĒ the ability to make laws and take over programs and services in the community and on Settlement Lands.

### Will we still be Status Indians?

Under self-government, DéjĪnĒ First Nation Citizens will no longer be governed by the *Indian Act*. However, DéjĪnĒ First Nation citizens who qualify to be Status Indians can still be registered under the *Indian Act*. This means they can still qualify for any government program intended for Status Indians as long as it is not a program being delivered by the DéjĪnĒ Got'ĪnĒ Government.

One thing that will change is our taxation status. After a transition period, band members will lose their Section 87 tax exemption under the *Indian Act*. This will not happen right away. After 8 years of being self-governing, band members will no longer be eligible for the exemption from sales taxes such as the GST and fuel and tobacco taxes. After 12 years, they will not be exempt from paying tax on income earned on a reserve.

Because DéjĪnĒ is not a reserve, many DéjĪnĒ First Nation members already pay income tax and GST, and this money goes to the Government of Canada. Once DéjĪnĒ is self-governing, most of this money will go to the DGG to deliver programs and services.

### Will I be able to deal with the new government in my language?

Yes. The official languages of the DéjĪnĒ Got'ĪnĒ Government (DGG) will be North Slavey and English. You will be able to communicate with the DGG in either language.

The DGG will also be able to decide how their language, culture and traditions are used in programs and services.

### What will happen to my taxes?

There will be two noticeable changes to taxes under self-government. As a government, the DéjĪnĒ Got'ĪnĒ Government (DGG) will have the ability to raise money by collecting taxes. The tax status of individual DéjĪnĒ band members will also change.

The DGG and Canada intend to make an agreement that will allow the DGG to collect its own income tax from people living in the community of DéjĪnĒ or on Settlement Lands. The DGG's tax would replace 95% of the federal income tax. This means there would be no increase in tax levels for DéjĪnĒ residents. Residents will still use the same process to file their taxes. The Canada Revenue Agency will still collect these taxes, but it will transfer the revenues to the DGG.

The DGG and Canada will also make an agreement so the DGG can have its own tax on goods and services (GST). The DGG's GST would apply to all goods and services used in the community of DéjĪnĒ and on Settlement Lands. The Government of Canada will use a formula to estimate the average amount of GST paid by NWT residents. It will use this number to decide how much GST is transferred to the DGG each year.

### Why should I care about self-government if I don't live in DéjĪnĒ?

Self-government will give people who live in DéjĪnĒ and all DéjĪnĒ land claim beneficiaries more control over things that are important to the well-being of their people and their community. Even if you don't live in DéjĪnĒ, these things can benefit your family and friends in the community.

The new government will be able to make laws to strengthen and protect the language, culture and spirituality of the Aboriginal people of DéjĪŅé. It will also have more control over programs and services in the community: things like education, and services for children and families. This means that it can create or change those programs and services to better serve the needs of the community.

In addition, as a government and not a “band” under the authority of the *Indian Act*, it will be accountable to its own citizens, even those who are not residents.

### Will I still be able to get free dental care, prescription medication and prescription glasses?

Yes. If you are eligible to register as a Status Indian under the *Indian Act*, you can still register after self-government is in place. This means that you will still qualify for non-insured health benefits provided by government for Status Indians like dental care, prescription medication and prescription glasses benefits.

### Can we change the agreement if it isn't working?

The Final Self-Government Agreement (FSGA) is only a tool. How it works is the responsibility of the DGG, the GNWT and the Government of Canada. The FSGA provides a lot of flexibility to allow the DGG to change and adapt over time.

If either the DéjĪŅé Got'ĪŅé Government, Government of Canada or GNWT would like to change the FSGA, it can ask to do so, but all three governments must agree before any changes are made. Most issues that come up can probably be dealt with among the governments in less formal ways, including through the Implementation Committee. This ensures the three governments will continue to work together to make the agreement work for many years to come.

### What does the agreement say about education?

The DéjĪŅé Got'ĪŅé Government (DGG) will be able to make laws about K-12 education, early childhood education and adult education and training. It can deliver programs in these areas and form partnerships to help the community build capacity to deliver programs.

Under the DGG, the education system will follow the GNWT's education system, but the DGG can also add things to promote and strengthen the language, culture and traditions of the people of DéjŃĚ. Educational programming can include the knowledge and skills of Elders, as well as Dene language and culture. The DGG will also be able to certify teachers in DéjŃĚ.

This is not a responsibility the DGG will take right on away, but it is a priority area they will look at taking on in the first five to ten years. Until the DGG is ready, the GNWT will continue to deal with education matters in the community as it does now.

When it is ready, the DGG will be able to establish post-secondary programs (such as diploma programs) and create the institutions to deliver them. It will also be able to make its own laws for the education of adults.

Finally, the DGG will be able to provide education support services for DéjŃĚ First Nation Citizens, no matter where they live. This means that the DGG can choose to support the education of its citizens anywhere in Canada.

## Who will make decisions about how the land and money from our land claim can be used?

Once the DéjŃĚ Got'ŃĚ Government (DGG) is created, it will take on the land claim responsibilities that are now handled by the DéjŃĚ Land Corporation. Decisions about the land claim will be made by the DGG but only with the consent of the Beneficiaries Board. The DGG will be open and transparent with beneficiaries and make sure they know how the land and money from the land claim will be used.

Like the DéjŃĚ Land Corporation, the Beneficiaries Board will be controlled by and accountable to beneficiaries. Only land claim beneficiaries will be able to sit on the board and make decisions about land claim assets and rights. Beneficiaries do not have to live in DéjŃĚ to be on the board. The people who sit on the board will be elected by beneficiaries and all beneficiaries can vote, no matter where they live.

## How will the DGG work with other governments? How will DGG laws and rules work with the laws and rules of other governments?

Self-government is the start of a new relationship between governments. This relationship will change over time. But the Final Self-Government Agreement (FSGA) says how the Déljné Got'jné Government (DGG), the GNWT and Canada will work together after self-government is in place. The Implementation Committee is one way the governments will continue to work together to make sure the change to self-government is happening properly and to deal with any issues that come up.

The DGG will be able to make its own laws for the community. The FSGA says how these laws will work with the laws of the NWT and Canada. If there is a conflict between the DGG law and federal or NWT laws, in many cases the DGG law will be followed.



## Voting information

The Déline Self-Government Agreement has been finalized and will soon be put to a vote. It is very important that everyone who is eligible to vote understands the importance of voting and has the information that they need to decide how they want to vote.

### ***About voting***

To vote on the agreement you must be a member of the Déline First Nation or a land claim beneficiary registered with the Déline Land Corporation. You must also be at least 18 years old on March 11, 2014.

The Preliminary Voters List (located at <http://www.delinefirstnation.com/#!/deline-self-government>) and other important voting information is now available on the internet.

For the agreement to be accepted, 50% plus one of all eligible voters must vote yes. That means if voters do not vote, will be counter as if they are saying no. Even if you do not support the agreement, it is important to take the time to vote so the decision is clear.

The vote is planned for March 10-12, 2014.

Polls will be set up in Déline and Yellowknife from March 10-12, 2014. If you can't make it then, there will also be a way to mail-in ballots and advance polls will be set up in both Déline and Yellowknife in February to make sure everyone has a chance to vote.

It is important that all eligible voters participate in this important decision. All eligible voters will receive information about the agreement in the mail, or it will be delivered in person to homes in Déline beginning in December. If at any time you have questions about the self-government agreement, or wish to have any information, you can contact the following people. They will make sure your questions are answered.

## For information on the Preliminary Voters List or the voting process

If you will be 18 or older by the first day of voting and are a band member or land claim beneficiary registered with the Deline Land Corporation, you may be eligible to vote.

Contact Gina Bayha, Ratification Manager  
(867) 589- 8120  
gbayha@hotmail.com

The Preliminary Voters List is on the web at [www.delinefirstnation.com](http://www.delinefirstnation.com) (under Self-Government).

## For more information on the agreement and what self-government means for you

There are a number of people in DéjĪŅé and Yellowknife who are working to make sure that all residents and eligible voters receive information and have their questions answered.

Workshops on the Community Constitution, the Beneficiaries Board, and general information sessions will be held in DéjĪŅé, Yellowknife and other communities where there are eligible voters.

### ***In Deline:***

In DéjĪŅé, the Self-Government Transition Team (Pauline Roche, Phebie Kenny and Diane Andre) and staff at the new Self-Government Office at the Cultural Centre (Raymond Tutcho, Clarence Tutcho and Brianna Taniton) are ready to provide information and answer questions.

Stop by the Self-Government Office at the Cultural Centre

### ***In Yellowknife:***

In Yellowknife, Ron Cleary and Ron Mackeinzo are responsible for making sure that First Nation members and Land Corporation beneficiaries living outside of DéjĪŅé are well informed about the agreement and have their questions answered. They will be contacting individuals and providing information through general information sessions and through workshops on the Community Constitution and the Beneficiaries Board.

Stop by the Self-Government Office upstairs from North Wright Airways at the airport

***From anywhere in Canada:***

Call 1-855-428-5522 (toll-free)

Or you can also visit [www.ourdeline.ca](http://www.ourdeline.ca) and send an email using our “contact us” form. We will make sure someone answers your question.

## ***Ratification Committee***

The Ratification Committee has been set up to manage the vote. It is made up of 2 representatives of the First Nation, 2 representatives of the Déljné Land Corporation, 2 representatives of Canada and representatives of the GNWT. The Ratification Manager is Gina Bayha.

The Ratification Committee is responsible for:

- making sure there is a list of voters that is complete and correct and that all voters are aware they are on the list
- making sure all voters receive copies of the self-government agreement and other important documents and have information required for voters to make a decision about how to vote
- planning and overseeing the Ratification Vote in a way that ensures everyone on the final voters list has the opportunity to vote

If you have questions about the vote, contact:

Gina Bayha, Ratification Manager  
(867) 589- 8120  
[gbayha@hotmail.com](mailto:gbayha@hotmail.com)