



# Déljné Got'jné Government

Our People. Our Future. Our Déljné.



## Déljné Got'jné Government Intergovernmental Relations Update

June - November 2023



Northwest Territory Metis Nation Vice President Gary Bailey, ʔekw'ahtjɔ́ Gaudet, NWT Premier Caroline Cochrane, and Ayoní Keh Land Corporation President Joseph Kochon at the Legislative Assembly March 29, 2023.

## Establishment of the NWT Law to Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was passed into law at the NWT Legislative Assembly on October 06, 2023.

The new UNDRIP Law was an initiative of the NWT Council of Leaders, and was a key priority of the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. The law establishes a process to ensure that all

GNWT laws and policies implement the articles of the Declaration.

In the press release issued by the Council of Leaders, the ʔekw'ahtjɔ́ emphasized the importance of the proposed legislation to guiding the relationship with the GNWT, and implementing self government.

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## Wildfire Evacuation Emergency Meetings August and September 2023

During the NWT-wide state of emergency, over 100 beneficiaries evacuated to Déljñę, with over 250 more evacuated from Yellowknife and other wildfire impacted NWT communities.

During this time, the DGG provided various supports to members, including:

- Evacuation flights into the community;
- Assistance to stranded medical travelers who could not return home after medical travel appointments were completed;
- Cash payments to assist with evacuation costs;
- Payments to support those with special needs;

- Emergency advocacy assistance to vulnerable and those in need of medical care;
- Creation of service navigators located in Edmonton, Calgary, and within DGG dedicated to assisting evacuees.

Behind the scenes, senior management, leaders, and the intergovernmental relations team were hard at work advocating for greater involvement in emergency management; explaining the impacts on individuals, the community, and the DGG to federal and territorial officials; and meeting with federal government Ministers to advocate for resources and reimbursements of the costs associated with supporting evacuees.

Meetings took place with Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Anandasangaree; Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hadju; and with the NWT Council of Leaders, including the NWT Premier. Ongoing officials discussions will result in reimbursement of DGG emergency-related costs.



ᑭᑭᑦᑦᑦᑦ Danny Gaudet Speaks at the Signing of the Project Finance for Permanence Framework Agreement Signing at the Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife, October 11, 2023 (right); PFP participants gathered for the signing event (below).

### **NWT Project Finance for Permanence: Championing Environment, Conservation, Culture, and Way of Life**

ᑭᑭᑦᑦᑦᑦ Danny Gaudet attended the signing of the Framework Agreement for the Project Finance for Permanence along with four other Indigenous Leaders, GNWT Environment and Climate Change Minister Shane Thompson, and federal Environmental and Climate Change Minister Stephen Guilbeault.

The Project Finance for Permanence will see \$100Million available to NWT Indigenous Governments to support environmental conservation measures, such as the Guardians and other on the land program activities within protected and conserved areas in the NWT. For Déljñę, this includes Tsá

Tué / Great Bear Lake and the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area.

The next steps include negotiating the mechanism through which Indigenous Governments will work together to share the NWT PFP funds, and work with Canada, the GNWT, and funders to ensure the long term stability of the PFP. Gina Bayha and her team in the Department of Lands, Resources, and Conservation, and the DGG IPCA Steering Committee, have done excellent work to bring the benefits of this project to the community.





## Advocating for Climate Resilient Infrastructure at the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework Leadership Committee Meeting, October 13, 2023, Whitehorse, Yukon

The Arctic and Northern Policy Framework provides an overall guide to federal policies and initiatives aimed at supporting Northern development. An officials secretariat undertakes work as directed by the Leadership Committee. Participants include federal, territorial, provincial, and Indigenous governments in the provincial and territorial norths.

The Leadership Committee met on October 13, 2023 in Whitehorse Yukon. ʔekw'ahtjda Danny Gaudet attended,

and was supported by Stephen Mills, Federal Relations Advisor. ʔekw'ahtjda Gaudet used the forum to describe the impacts of the NWT state of emergency on the community, and advocated for climate resilient infrastructure, and mental health supports. He emphasized the need for DGG to be able to support its citizens, and the role that reliable infrastructure plays in being able to meet the needs of DGG residents and beneficiaries over the long term.



## Representing the Northwest Territories as NWT Council of Leaders Chair at National Federal-Provincial-Indigenous (FPTI) Meeting in Ottawa, November 14-15, 2023

On the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Election day, the Premier could not take part in the annual FPTI meeting in Ottawa. As Council of Leaders Chair, ʔekw'ahtjda Gaudet represented the NWT, sitting with provincial and

territorial premiers, and the leaders of the National Indigenous Organizations. It was the first time an Indigenous leader sat in for the NWT premier at a national meeting. The meeting focused on how the provinces and territories can work together on achieving economic reconciliation. Tasked with representing the whole NWT, ʔekw'ahtjda drew from Déljine' challenges, experiences, and successes to advocate for economic reconciliation.

# Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations(IGR) staff include Paulina Roche, CEO; Cynthia Modeste, Intergovernmental Relations Officer; Stephen Mills (Vuntut Gwichin), Intergovernmental Advisor, and Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Director of Intergovernmental Relations.

The IGR staff are responsible for all files that involve other governments. They support leadership to secure Ministerial meetings to advocate and resolve issues, and through their day to day work, respond to and manage interactions with other governments and organizations.

The IGR team participates in a variety of working groups and initiatives, and produces research and takes action to effectively implement the self government agreement and land claim. They ensure that Déljñę Got'jñę Government leaders have all the information they need to make decisions, and meet with other governments to discuss issues, and ensure that Déljñę Got'jñę Government interests are represented, protected, and advocated for, in all intergovernmental forums.

**Contact:** [intergovernmental.director@gov.deline.ca](mailto:intergovernmental.director@gov.deline.ca)

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