



Déljné Got'jné Government

Our People. Our Future. Our Déljné.



Déljné Got'jné Government Intergovernmental Relations Update

November 2023 – April 2024



Ministerial Level Meetings



ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ attends Trilateral Health Meeting (Virtually), February 13, 2024

On February 13, the NWT Council of Leaders and Indigenous Governments met in Yellowknife with federal Ministers: Mark Holland, Minister of Health, and Patty Hadju, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada. The Council of Leaders includes the GNWT Cabinet, and leaders of NWT Indigenous Governments.

ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Danny Gaudet decided to remain in Délı̄ne, therefore attended the trilateral health meeting virtually, as did several other NWT leaders.

DGG Officials in attendance included Cathy Taylor, Director of Community Wellness; Health Policy Advisor Bianca Romagnoli, Health Department planning lead Debbie DeLancey, Government Relations Officer Cynthia Modeste, and Intergovernmental Relations Director Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox.

During the meetings, ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ advocated for health infrastructure, and took the lead for the Indigenous Governments in advocating for improved Non-Insured Health Benefits, and support for the use of technologies that may be promising for addressing gaps in rural and remote health care.





Building Relationships with the New MLAs and Cabinet

After the NWT General Election in October, DKK Member Leonard Kenny attended the meeting between the newly elected MLAs and Indigenous Governments in Yellowknife, held in early November.

The DGG gave a presentation about the status, authorities, and initiatives of the DGG, educating MLAs on the responsibilities of the DGG as a self governing Indigenous government.

ʔekw'ahtjádá was unable to attend since the dates conflicted with his commitment to attend the Sahtu Secretariat AGM in Tulita.

However, ʔekw'ahtjádá followed up with meetings with new GNWT Ministers, speaking with the newly elected Premier and other Cabinet members about DGG priorities, advocating for supports to secure a new gravel source, infrastructure projects such as the re-alignment of the winter road, runway improvements, and the need for a new school; and, advocacy for health and mental health programs in the community.

Securing \$1.2 Million in New Funding Through Wildfire Evacuation Emergency Advocacy – October to February, 2024

During the NWT-wide state of emergency in the Summer of 2023, over 100 beneficiaries evacuated to Déljñę, with over 250 more evacuated from Yellowknife and other wildfire impacted NWT communities.

Under the leadership of ʔek'wahtjádá and the DKK, the DGG staff and leaders worked with federal and territorial officials, attending meetings to explain the DGG efforts and

experience, and seek collaboration to address the impacts, including financial expenditures, of the DGG.

The DGG was successful in seeking full reimbursement, as well as supports for ongoing emergency planning to better serve members during possible emergencies in the future.

As a result of this work, during February 2024, CIRNAC provided \$1.2 Million to the DGG to recover costs of the 2023 wildfires, and prepare for the upcoming expected wildfire season.



Ongoing Advocacy: Continuing to Fight for Funding for NWT Project Finance for Permanence to Protect Environment, Culture, and Way of Life

ᐱᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ Danny Gaudet attended advocacy meetings in Vancouver in January 2024, and in Ottawa during February 2024, with other NWT Indigenous leaders for the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP). His work included meeting with federal Environment and Climate Change Minister Stephen Guilbeault, and speaking about the importance of PFP funding for the NWT’s environment and economy.

As a result of these advocacy efforts, it is anticipated that the NWT Project Finance for Permanence will be eligible for significant funding that will be available to NWT Indigenous

Governments over ten years, 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 setting up an organization 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.

Building Relationships with Modern Treaty and Self Governing Indigenous Governments – Land Claims Agreements Coalition Annual Leaders Meeting, Ottawa, February 2024

The Land Claims Agreements Coalition (LCAC) is a coalition of most modern treaty holders in Canada. Its focus is advocating for the implementation of modern treaties with the federal government.

Modern Treaty leaders from across Canada met in Ottawa during February 2024. ᐱᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ Danny Gaudet attended, along with DKK members Leonard Kenny and Gina Dolphus. CEO Paulina Roche and Core Governance Director Jessica Iveson also attended associated technical officials meetings.

ᐱᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ Gaudet used the opportunity to describe the impacts of the NWT state of emergency on the community. In addition, during a meeting with of the LCAC with CIRNAC

Minister Anandasangaree he advocated for infrastructure and mental health supports in the community and the Sahtu region. ᐱᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ 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.



Building Relationships: Economic Opportunity, Housing, and Infrastructure



Above: ʔekw'ahtǵdǵ highlighting Déljñę economic priorities on a panel on inter-regional relationships with leaders from Tlicho and Dehcho regions at the NWT Economic Leaders Forum; advocating for Déljñę with GNWT Housing Minister Lucy Kuptana and Housing NWT President Eleanor Young.

On April 8- 12, 2024, ʔekw'ahtǵdǵ Danny Gaudet attended the NWT Economic Leaders Forum in Yellowknife. He used the opportunity to set up additional in person meetings with GNWT Ministers to advocate for housing and infrastructure. While the DGG has been able to secure funding for 20+ new homes and renovations of existing housing units in the

community, the needs far exceed the housing available. At the Economic Forum and in individual meetings with Ministers, ʔekw'ahtǵdǵ advocated for investment in long term, sustainable financial mechanisms to support home access and ownership in the community; and, partnering with GNWT to seek federal supports.

Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations(IGR) staff include Paulina Roche, CEO; Cynthia Modeste, Government Relations Officer; Alex

Ker, Fiscal 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

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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.

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