

Dehlà Got'jne Self-Government Negotiations UPDATE

March 2019



Dehlà Got'jne Team focussed on communication and consultation with members
New website, newsletter and community workshops are a priority

Brandy Barnaby, 12 years old, completed the quiz in our last newsletter and got every answer right! She won a \$100 gift certificate to the Coop for her efforts. Congratulations, Brandy!

Keep an eye out for our next quiz for a chance to win.

Tell us what you think!

This is our 4th newsletter so far. We'd love to know what our members think of it.

- Is the information easy to understand?
- Do you have other topics or questions you would like us to cover?
- Any recommendations to make the newsletter more interesting or useful?

Send us an email at dehlaselfgov@gmail.com. Or go to the contact section on our website at www.dehlaselfgov.ca.

The Dehlà Got'jne Self-Government Negotiations team works for the members of the Behdza Ahda" First Nation and the Ayoni Keh Land Corporation. We publish regular updates on the negotiations and related activities to make sure our members know what is happening and can see how their feedback is being used.

Members' questions and feedback are welcome.

Have questions or comments?

Stop by the BAFN office or contact David Codzi
867.709.2700 • davidcodzi@behdziahda.com

Dehlà Got'jne self-government online

Check out our new website

Dehlà Got'jne Self-government Team is proud to announce it has a website dedicated to the self-government negotiations. There are all kinds of information available on the site, from past editions of this newsletter and background information on self-government, to the details on community workshops and the latest updates on the negotiations.

Check it out and let us know what you think. There is a form for feedback on the site under the *Contact Us* link.

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Welcome

The Dehlà Got'jne have occupied and lived in our traditional territory since time immemorial. It is our home, our history, and our future.

We are negotiating a self-government agreement to strengthen the authority and capacity to govern ourselves here in our own territory. This authority and capacity was eroded by the actions of the Canadian government and Government of the Northwest Territories over many years that denied Indigenous people in Canada their basic human rights. The damage done to Indigenous people through residential schools and other government policies was so serious that it has been called a "cultural genocide" by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Dehlà Got'jne Self-Government
DUTLA - TAGA - TAHSHINE - T'VOOK

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We welcome your questions and feedback at any time. Stop by our offices, call us at 867.709.2700 or email us at dehlaifgov@gmail.com. You can also [submit your comments or questions](#) through this website.

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New logo and website highlight our got'jnes



The Dehlà Got'jne self-government negotiations now have a logo that will help make it easy to identify any information or materials related to the negotiations.

The logo features a caribou, because this animal has always been such an important part of our livelihoods and culture.

It also shows the names of our four got'jnes as this is the very foundation of how we have governed ourselves for many generations and how we will continue to govern ourselves into the future.

New website features the wisdom of our got'jnes

In the past, the Dehlà Got'jne had to work hard to survive. Life was difficult, but people were happy. Our connection to the land and our traditions made us strong, resilient and independent people.

Self-government is about respecting and restoring this knowledge and way of life.

The Dehlà Got'jne traditional model of governance that will be restored through self-government is based on the four got'jnes: distinct traditional family groups that have been associated with specific areas on the land since time immemorial.

Each family carries ancient knowledge and wisdom that has been passed down through generations which we keep orally until we can document and protect for the generations to come.

The wisdom of our got'jnes



Gabriel Kochon

Duta Got'jne: Take your time and be strong at what you do

"This is advice from my late grandfather from the Duta Got'jne. These words reflect on all aspects of survival in the past, present and into the future. This tells me to ensure you do it right, and do it yourself. It also tells me that one must be strong to face the challenges of independence and leadership. This is why today, we are exercising certain rights before self-government, to ensure we get a taste and have the ability to make changes as we move ahead."

Tage Got'jne: Be supportive and compassionate

"Be supportive and compassionate. This is what I learned from a late Elder from the Tage Got'jne who spent many years in leadership. Regardless of the many challenges we face we have to be supportive and compassionate of everyone. He said that without these principles what are you doing in leadership?"



Charles Gully



Johnny Blanco Sr

Táhshjne Got'jne: Our way of life

"This is what I learned from a late Elder from the Táhshjne Got'jne who spent many years in leadership. He would say that our people have a way of life as a Tseduweh (original people, without western influences) and as long as I am on this earth I will hang on to our ways, as our ancestors have taught us. Even if I can no longer walk, I will crawl to the tree and cut it down myself."

Ts'ogá Got'jne: Don't talk, just do it

"Don't talk, just do it comes from a late Elder from the Ts'ogá Got'jne. These words reflect the very essence of one aspect of being Ts'ogá Got'jne: they like to get things done as soon as possible and not waste time. Many Ts'ogá Got'jne that we witnessed started their daily chores as early as 5 or 6 in the morning and were done by 12. These words give us a mandate from our people to just speak once and get it done and move on."



Philip Codzi

Harmonization of laws in the K'áhshq District

Joint Community Workshop

Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope are negotiating agreements that will establish two governments. Both will have law-making power in the same district.

In late November, members of the two communities met in Fort Good Hope to update each other on their negotiations and to start talking about how they will harmonize their laws to make sure they don't cause confusion for members or conflict between the two governments once they are self-governing.

The goal was to share information about each community's negotiations and to get input from community members on how the negotiation teams should approach harmonization of laws.

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

- The leadership of both communities expressed their support for harmonization and for working together.
- Many participants said they appreciated the workshop and thought the two communities should have more workshops and conferences.
- Participants shared their knowledge of how the K'áhshq and Dehlà people governed themselves in the past and how that can be applied to the issues the communities are facing today.
- People support the harmonization approach. They do not want a line between the communities. This is also the direction given by the Elders.



- Many people also said they want the two communities to work together and speak in a more unified way.
- It is important to honour this history and to continue to listen to the Elders. The stories and the words of Elders provide the wisdom that is needed to govern ourselves.
- People see self-government as a chance to revitalize culturally-based ways of governing that were damaged by the colonizers. It is a chance to do things our own way again.
- People shared stories to explain the key principles of the Dene way of life that should be the foundation for how we govern ourselves: listening, sharing, helping each other, being respectful, being independent, and being honest.
- The Dene way of making decisions is based on consensus. In the past, we could agree to disagree and then come up with a solution. We lived in harmony. We didn't get mad or argue about who is right. We stayed positive and we found "peaceful resolution".