

# Dehlà Got'jine Self-Government Negotiations UPDATE

September 2021



## WIN \$200 AT THE CO-OP

Answer the QUESTIONS on the LAST PAGE of this newsletter to be entered in the draw!

**DEADLINE: September 30**

*The Self-Government Agreement is being negotiated to further the nation-to-nation relationship originally established between the Dene and the Crown in Treaty 11, which the Dene have always understood to be a sacred commitment to work together in peace and friendship. It is also being negotiated in fulfillment of the promise of self-government made in the land claim.*

*The Self-Government Agreement will respect the spirit and intent of Treaty 11, uphold the Sahtu Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, and secure the place of Dehlà Got'jine as a distinct, self-governing people within Canada.*

## Negotiations making progress on new path

Since June 2020, the Dehlà Got'jine self-government negotiation team has been taking a different path to negotiations. As we had been having a lot of trouble making progress in areas of territorial government jurisdiction, we have decided to focus only on subjects and jurisdictions that Canada can negotiate directly with us.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is still participating, but its negotiators can no longer slow down the negotiations. For now, we are going to focus on getting a basic self-government agreement in place quickly and setting up our Dehlà Got'jine Government as soon as we can. This will allow us to access much more funding to run our government while we continue to negotiate additional jurisdictions with the GNWT.

We have been clear that the GNWT must have a mandate to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) before we can make progress with them in our negotiations.

*The Dehlà Got'jine Self-Government Negotiations team works for the members of the Behdzi 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.*

## Questions or comments?

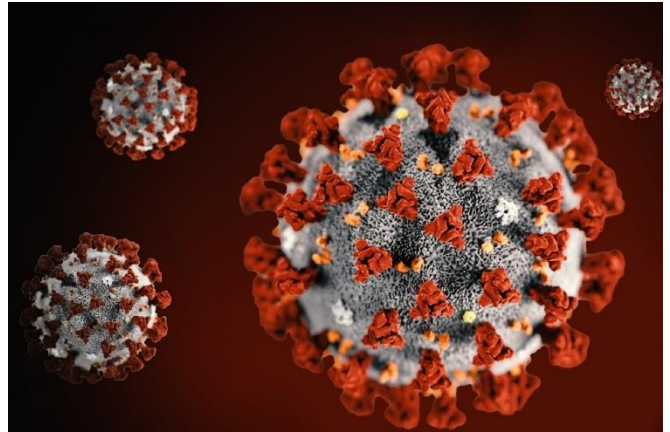
- ✓ Email [dehla-selfgov@gmail.com](mailto:dehla-selfgov@gmail.com)
- ✓ Website: [www.dehla-selfgovernment.ca](http://www.dehla-selfgovernment.ca)
- ✓ Stop by the BAFN office
- ✓ Contact David Codzi 867.709.2700 • [davidcodzi@behdziahda.com](mailto:davidcodzi@behdziahda.com)

# Negotiating during COVID

**With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to change the way we live and work across Canada, the Dehlà Got'jne self-government negotiation has also had to adapt.**

The negotiations have been slowed down as the members of each team deal with different challenges. Some continue to have to work from home, travel is highly restricted and even gathering in small groups has been challenging at times.

For the federal team, there was also the challenge of getting the internal attention and support they need for our negotiations because the whole government is so focussed on the COVID response.



Despite this we have kept the pressure on and continue to make progress on key issues.

We have met using the online meeting app “Zoom” and we held a session in July, when some GNWT and Dehlà team members traveled from Yellowknife to Colville for a session, while other representatives were on Zoom.

## Recent progress

### ✓ Translation continues

The team is working with Dehlà translators to ensure that the agreement reflects the Dehlà Got'jne dialect as much as possible.

### ✓ Economic Development chapter added

A chapter was added recognizing Dehlà law making authority for Economic Development. This will ensure that the Dehlà Got'jne Government can pass laws, make policies, and create programs that promote economic development in Colville Lake.

### ✓ Child and Family Services chapter added

A new chapter recognizes that the Dehlà Got'jne Government will be able to pass laws about Child and Family Services. This will ensure the Dehla Got'ine Government has control over how to protect children who are in need of protection.

### ✓ Ratification details clarified

The Ratification Chapter will have an appendix that will include details about how the agreement will be approved by Dehlà Got'jne members.

**Canada passed a law, on June 21, 2021, to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).**

This is important because the law sets out minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

We are working to convince the GNWT to adopt a similar law, and we are including provisions in our Self-Government Agreement to require all parties to uphold UNDRIP standards.

# Dehlà Got'jne words in our Agreement

It has been a priority for the Dehlà Got'jne negotiation team to ensure the Dehlà Got'jne dialect is integrated into the language of the self-government agreement. Below is a table that shows some of the words in the agreement.

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
Behdzi Ahda"	<i>Bed-zee Ah'-dah</i>	Caribou head-shaped point (on Colville Lake)
Berah Gut'qn Túé	<i>Bare-ah-goot-on Tu-ay</i>	Rediscovered or found again lake that had a huge abundance of fish, also known as Colville Lake
Dáhádädi	<i>Dah-he dee-dee</i>	Definitions, what it means
Dehlá Got'jne	<i>Deh-lah got'ee-nay</i>	Most northerly people of the Dene
Dehlá Got'jne K'óhoweke	<i>Deh-lah got'ee-nay ko-ho-weh-keh</i>	Dehlá Got'jne are the leaders
Dene Bek'óhwéré	<i>De-nay Bek'-oh-war-ay</i>	Leader of the people who speaks or provides guidance for the future
Dene Bek'óhwéré k'é dáhw'i	<i>De-nay Bek'-oh-war-ay keh-day-we</i>	councillors or representatives
Dene Bek'óhwéré k'é weda	<i>De-nay bek'-oh-war-ay keh way-dah</i>	The next one in charge (sub-chief)
Deneséréya?əhtj ke	<i>De-nay seer-ee-uh eh-tee keh</i>	Judiciary
Deneséréya? əh say'tj k'eh ghare ?ewi kurerahya? əh ts'ehtj	<i>De-nay seer-ee-ya eh say-tee keh-gahre-ehwi koo-re-ra-yah eh-ts-eh-ti</i>	To guide them back to themselves on the right path. (Restorative Justice).
Deneséréya?əhtj	<i>De-nay seer-ee-uh eh-tee</i>	Court
Duta Got'jne	<i>Due-tah got'ee-nay</i>	People of a cluster of islands at the North end of Colville Lake
Got'jne	<i>Got'ee-nay</i>	People
Tage Got'jne	<i>Tah-gae-got'-ee-nay</i>	The in-between people, in between the other 3 areas
Táhshjne Got'jne	<i>Tah-shee-n got'ee-nay</i>	People from a lake where dry wood around the shore is white, waves hit the shore, because of wind
Ts'jduwe	<i>Ts'- say-du-way</i>	The original people without western influences. A Dene who is a member of the Dehlá Got'jne or is otherwise recognized in accordance with Dehlá Got'jne Law. A BAFN or Land Corporation member.
Ts'ogá Got'jne	<i>Ts'-oh-gah got'ee-nay</i>	White lichen area people

# *Dehlà Got'jne Self-Government*

## **CONTEST**

Answer the THREE QUESTIONS below to be entered in a draw to win a \$200 gift certificate for the Co-op!

Drop off your answers in writing at the BAFN office or email them to:  
[dehlaselfgov@gmail.com](mailto:dehlaselfgov@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE: September 30**

Question 1: Who has a mandate to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) right now (circle only one of the following answers).

- a. The Government of Canada
- b. The Government of the Northwest Territories
- c. Both the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories
- d. No government in Canada

Question 2: Name one of the two new chapters that has been added to our agreement recently.

---

Question 3: Which of these words is used to describe the “leader of the people” in our agreement?

- a. Dehlá Got'jne
- b. Dene Bek'óhwéré
- c. Deneséréya?əhtj

**Good luck!!!**