



Intergovernmental Meeting between Tłıchǫ Government and Government of the Northwest Territories

Behchokò, NT (May 16, 2024) – Tłıchǫ Government Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty, Chief Clifford Daniels, Chief Doreen Arrowmaker, Chief Adeline Football, and Chief Alfonz Nitsiza met with Premier R.J. Simpson, Minister Caroline Wawzonek, Minister Vince McKay, Minister Caitlin Cleveland, Minister Lucy Kuptana (virtually), Minister Lesa Semmler, and Minister Jay Macdonald on Friday, May 16, 2024, in Behchokò. Monfwi MLA Jane Weyallon-Armstrong was also in attendance.

This was the first official government-to-government meeting since the election of the new Executive Council of the Government of the Northwest Territories. There was an emphasis on unity, working together and the shared responsibility of honouring the Tłıchǫ Agreement. Key issues discussed included:

- The need to work together to address mental health and addictions recovery, including the importance of an Indigenous perspective around treatment; and the required addictions supports such as aftercare and a need for a focus on youth;
- Areas of common interest in infrastructure, including the Gamètì and Wekweètì Corridors and electricity generation, including advancing an MOU on the Nàìlǫ Hydro project;
- Collaboration on the expected 2025 renewal of the Intergovernmental Services Agreement (ISA) and Tłıchǫ exercise of jurisdiction for education and early childhood development; and
- Ongoing caribou co-management in Wek'èezhìi.

Leaders also discussed the 2023 wildfire season, including the evacuation of Behchokò, and impacts on Tłıchǫ citizens of the evacuation of Yellowknife. They agreed to new approaches to communication and collaboration in this area.

Quick Facts

- The Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding recognizes the importance of the government-to-government relationship between the Tłıchǫ Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories.
- The agreement commits both governments to meet at least twice per year.
- The *Working Together: Tłıchǫ Government/GNWT Intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding* was signed in June 2012 and was renewed twice to date, and the renewal is currently under negotiations.

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