



## Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee

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May 15, 2006

**To: Dehcho First Nation(s)**

**RE: Submission of Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan**

Dear Leaders,

We are pleased to present to you the Final Draft of “Respect for the Land: The Dehcho Land Use Plan” (“Ndéh Ts’edíichá: Dehcho Ndéh T’áh Ats’et’í K’eh Eghálats’ènda”) and the associated Background Report. These documents are the result of four years of intensive work with your communities, governments and other planning partners.

*“The purpose of the Plan is to promote the social, cultural and economic well being of residents and communities in the Dehcho territory, having regard to the interests of all Canadians. Taking into consideration the principles of respect for the land, as understood and explained by the Dehcho Elders, and sustainable development, the Plan shall provide for the conservation, development and utilization of the land, waters and other resources in the Dehcho territory” (IMA).*

The Plan has been completely revised to address comments received and discussions with communities and planning partners since November 2005. This includes revisions to zoning identified in discussion with your communities. In addition, the Plan has gone through a legal review to ensure it is clear and consistent, and can be implemented within existing legislation.

The Committee has undertaken considerable work to address the GNWT’s and Canada’s concerns raised at the Regional Forum in February 2006. This includes a meeting with the GNWT’s Deputy Ministers, and a legal meeting between the Committee, DFN, GNWT, DIAND and Environment Canada. We are confident that the revisions have addressed their key concerns, while maintaining DFN’s values and priorities.

The Final Draft Plan will be distributed to you with this letter via email so that you can begin your review immediately in preparation for approval. If you are having difficulties receiving the Plan, please call our office for assistance. Hardcopies of the Plan and Background Report will be printed over the next few weeks and provided to you at the next DFN Leadership Meeting in Fort Liard on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Committee Directors and staff will attend that meeting to review all aspects of the Final Draft Plan with you and answer any questions you may have so you understand the changes and final contents.

We will be submitting the completed Plan for approval as per sections 9 and 10 of the IMA which state:

*s. 9. When the Plan has been completed it will be forward to the Dehcho First Nations for approval.*

*s. 10. Following approval by the Dehcho First Nations, the Plan will be forwarded to the GNWT Minister of [Environment and Natural Resources] for approval and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (DIAND) for consideration.*

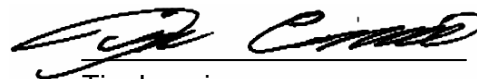
As such, the Final Draft Plan will not be forwarded to the GNWT or Canada, or publicly released until DFN has approved the Plan. As per DFN Resolution # 4 passed on March 9, 2006 at the Winter Leadership Meeting in Fort Simpson, "DFN will indicate their approval of the Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan by a resolution passed at a Regional DFN Leadership Meeting or at the Annual DFN Assembly in Kakisa".

Should you have any questions regarding the Plan or DFN approval before May 31st, please contact Heidi Wiebe at (867) 699-3164 or [hwiebe@dehcholands.org](mailto:hwiebe@dehcholands.org).


Mahsi Cho!



Herb Norwegian  
Chair



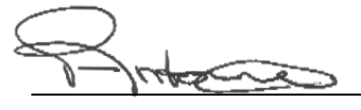
Tim Lennie  
Vice-Chair  
DFN Representative



Adrian Boyd  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Canada Representative



Petr Cizek  
Director  
DFN Representative



Ron D. Antoine  
Director  
GNWT Representative