



Déljné Got'jné Government

Our People. Our Future. Our Déljné.



Déljné Got'jné Government Intergovernmental Relations Update

March – May, 2023



Ministerial Level Meetings



Advocating for Health Supports with Prime Minister Trudeau and Federal Cabinet Members at the Intergovernmental Leaders Forum, Ottawa May 08, 2023

On May 08, 2023, the Déljñę Drummers opened an annual meeting between all Modern Treaty and Self Government holders, with the Prime Minister of Canada, and members of his Cabinet. The purpose of the meeting was for leaders to describe critical issues in modern treaty implementation including financing, education, and language revitalization.

ʔek'wahtjǰá Danny Gaudet was one of about ten leaders asked to speak on behalf of the group, emphasizing the need for greater federal support to health and wellness issues for modern treaty holders. Drummers in attendance included: Kenny Neyelle, Leonard Kenny, AJ Kenny, ʔek'waht Raymond Taniton, Dolphus Baton, and Hughie Ferdinand. Officials in attendance included Paulina Roche, CEO; Kari Ferdinand, Executive Assistant, and Stephen Mills, DGG's Intergovernmental Advisor.



Northwest Territory Metis Nation Vice President Gary Bailey, ʔekw'ahtjádá Gaudet, NWT Premier Caroline Cochrane, and Ayoni Keh Land Corporation President Joseph Kochon at the Legislative Assembly March 29, 2023.

Supporting the NWT Law to Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

ʔekw'ahtjádá Danny Gaudet, and ʔekw'ahtj Leonard Kenny attended the tabling of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* at the NWT Legislative Assembly on March 29, 2023.

Co-developed by a working group of officials representing Indigenous governments in the NWT, the legislation is an initiative of the NWT Council of Leaders, and is a key priority

of the 19th Legislative Assembly. The proposed law will establish a process to ensure that all GNWT laws and policies implement the articles of the Declaration.

In the press release issued by the Council of Leaders, the ʔekw'ahtjádá emphasized the importance of the proposed legislation to guiding the relationship with the GNWT, and implementing self government.



ʔekw'ahtjádá Danny Gaudet, Federal Minister of Northern Affairs Dan Vandal, DKK Member Gina Dolphus, and DKK Member Leonard Kenny at their meeting in Yellowknife March 30, 2023.

Advocating for Resources for Infrastructure and Remediation with Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs Canada

ʔekw'ahtjádá Danny Gaudet, Gina Dolphus, Leonard Kenny, and Intergovernmental Advisor Stephen Mills had a very productive meeting with Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs Canada in Yellowknife on Thursday, March 30, 2023. The timing was perfect as it comes two days after the federal government released their budget. This was one of the three main topics as the budget announced new and enhanced funding for northern housing, contaminated site remediation, protection of fresh water lakes, funding for health initiatives and for a number of other initiatives and program areas. DGG is still reviewing the details. ʔekw'ahtjádá

Danny Gaudet and Gina Dolphus spoke to the Minister about the importance of Great Bear Lake to our people and that the remediation project needed to make progress. DGG and Canada signed a Governance Agreement in 2021 and it included in its vision, the need to restore the area to a state acceptable to the community of Déljñę and that it is done in a way that creates and leaves significant social, economic and cultural legacy benefits in the community. On Port Radium and the previous work of the Canada-Déline Uranium Table (CDUT), ʔekw'ahtjádá Danny Gaudet and Leonard Kenny also shared their concerns that there has

been little progress on the implementation of the 26 recommendations and that only 6 or 7 of these recommendations are complete and that it has been dormant since 2005. Minister Vandal was very receptive to

the views of DGG and committed to work with his other federal ministerial colleagues and DGG to make progress on these important files.



Déjłnẹ Delegation Urges Improved Financing and Implementing Land Rights with Crown Indigenous Relations Minister Miller

ʔekw'ahtjđá Danny Gaudet, ʔekw'aht Raymond Taniton; DKK Members Gina Dolphus and Leonard Kenny; and Elders Alfred Taniton, Leon Modeste, Frederick Kenny, Hughie Ferdinand and Intergovernmental Advisor Stephen Mills met with Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations in Yellowknife on Friday April 14, 2023. MP Michael McLeod also attended the meeting.

ʔekw'ahtjđá Gaudet spoke to the Minister about the importance of Déjłnẹ's Financing Agreement, that we have entered the final year of our Financing Agreement, and that Déjłnẹ is ready to negotiate a new arrangement and needs Canada to join us at the table. ʔekw'ahtjđá also asked Minister Miller for a quick resolution to other funding requests that are important for Déjłnẹ to continue to set up

its structures. Minister Miller committed to following up on these issues.

Regarding the Great Bear Lake Remediation Project and Canada-Déline Uranium Table (Port Radium), ʔekw'ahtjđá spoke to the vision of restoring the area to a physical state acceptable to the community of Déjłnẹ and in a way that creates significant social, economic and cultural benefits in

the community and furthers reconciliation. Elder Advisors Alfred Taniton, Leon Modeste, Frederick Kenny, and Hughie Ferdinand spoke to the importance of the Lake to current and future generations and their appreciation for the meeting.

The issue of Tłjchq's overlap into the Déjłnẹ District triggered a longer conversation. Raymond Taniton spoke to his role in the early 1990s in leading a delegation that reached a contiguous boundary with Tłjchq and that the map was signed by representatives of Tłjchq and Déjłnẹ.

Unfortunately, this boundary was impacted when Tłjchq finalized their agreement. ʔekw'ahtjđá set out Déjłnẹ Got'łnẹ Government's concerns with overlapping rights and the need for Canada and Déjłnẹ to resolve this issue between them since Canada created the problem. Minister Miller was very receptive to the conversations and will work with Déjłnẹ to explore resolving issues and advancing reconciliation.



ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Danny Gaudet greeting Governor General Mary Simon at the Indigenous Guardians National Gathering, held May 09, 2023 in Ottawa. ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Danny Gaudet with (L-R) Ethel Blondin-Andrew, NWT Metis Nation President Gary Baily, Minister Guilbeault, ᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty, and Guardians Program Executive Director Valerie Courtois.

Standing Up for Federal Support to NWT Indigenous Guardians Program Funding

ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Danny Gaudet and Gina Bayha, Director of the Department of Lands, Resources, and Environment attended the National Indigenous Guardians Gathering in Ottawa during the week of May 08, 2023. ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Gaudet was asked to speak alongside other NWT Indigenous leaders to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change,

Stephen Guilbeault, advocating for more resources to support this important effort to protect Indigenous lands, culture, and way of life. There are over 120 Guardians programs in Canada, including in Déljñę. Guardians are the eyes and ears on the land, monitoring ecological health, maintain ingcultural sites, and protect sensitive areas and species. The federal government is supporting the National Guardians Network, and continued leadership advocacy and dialogue is essential to ensure it continues and grows.



Discussion Seeking Improved Airport Infrastructure and Education Supports With Minister Dan Vandal, May 09 2023 in Ottawa

ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Danny Gaudet, CEO Paulina Roche, and Intergovernmental Advisor Stephen Mills met with Minister Vandal for a short follow up meeting on May 09 in Ottawa, to

advocate for improvements to airport infrastructure, and advocate for education supports in the community.



Championing Regional and Community Concerns at Bilateral Meeting Between SSI Board of Directors and the GNWT Cabinet

ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Danny Gaudet and other Sahtú leaders met with the GNWT Cabinet on April 26, 2023 in Yellowknife. During the meeting, ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ Gaudet raised the issue of the lack

of housing for teachers impacting the continuity and quality of education in the community. This agenda item will also be discussed when the GNWT Cabinet visits the community on June 06, 2023. Public health issues and the impact of illegal drugs in the region were discussed as well, along with the Mackenzie Valley highway.

Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations(IGR) staff include Paulina Roche, CEO; Cynthia Modeste, Intergovernmental Relations Officer; Stephen Mills (Vuntut Gwichin), Intergovernmental Advisor, and Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, Director of Intergovernmental Relations. The IGR staff support leadership to secure meetings at the Ministerial level to advocate and resolve issues, and manage interactions with other governments and organizations. The IGR mandate is to ensure implementation of the self government agreement and land claim, 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 and advocated for in all intergovernmental forums.

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