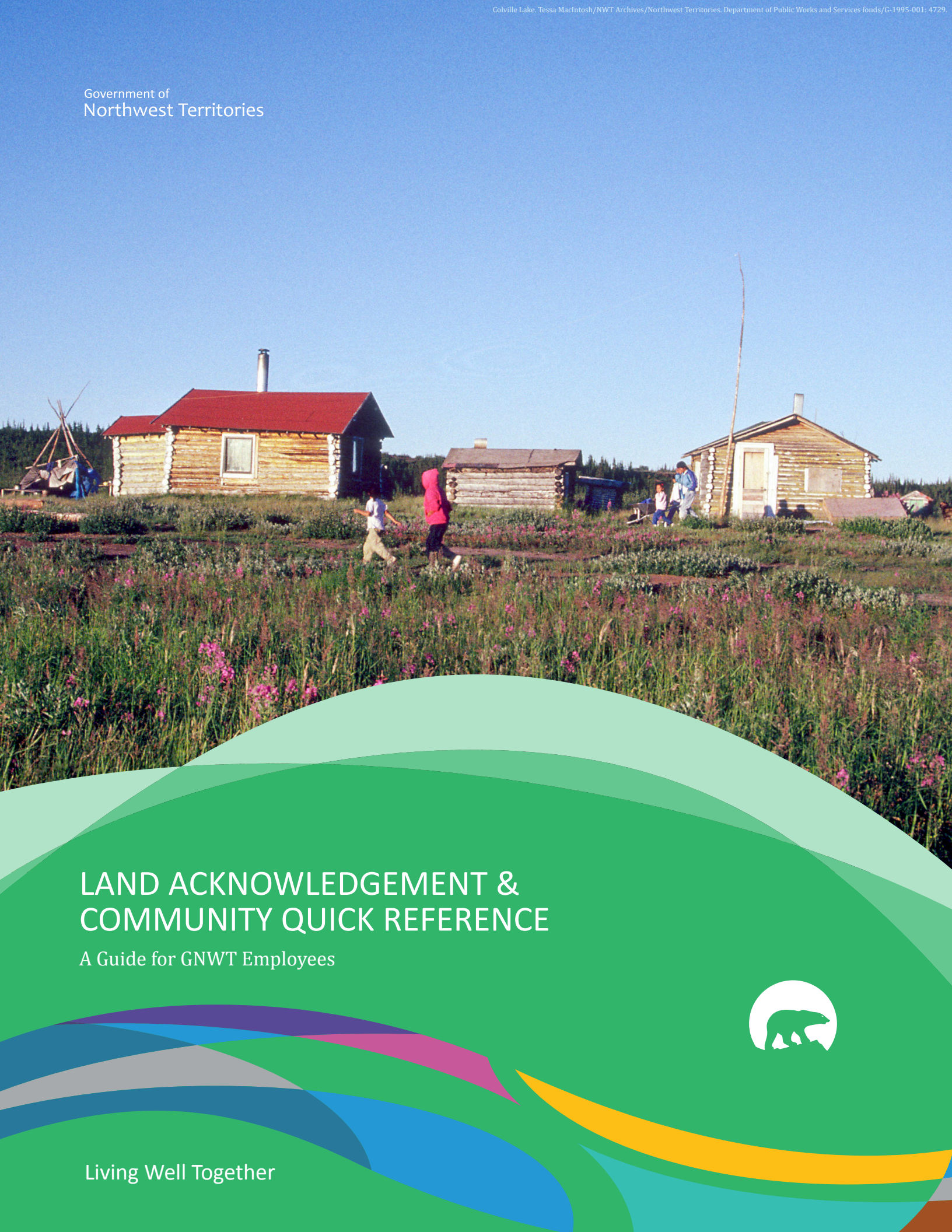


Government of
Northwest Territories



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & COMMUNITY QUICK REFERENCE

A Guide for GNWT Employees



Living Well Together

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Cover Image: Colville Lake. Tessa MacIntosh/NWT Archives/Northwest Territories. Department of Public Works and Services fonds/G-1995-001: 4729.

Introduction



This quick reference guide is intended to help GNWT employees become familiar with the basic but essential information about each community in the NWT.

Information in this guide includes:

- ▶ A list of all of the communities in the NWT by region
- ▶ Suggestions for delivering land acknowledgements
- ▶ The official and traditional names of each community
- ▶ The pronunciation of community names
- ▶ Indigenous Government(s) and Indigenous Governing Organizations (IGOs) in each community
- ▶ The languages spoken in each community
- ▶ The suggested nations and peoples to be recognized in land or territory acknowledgements for each community

Note: The suggestions made in this reference should be verified with community leadership before making an acknowledgement.

This information is useful when preparing for and delivering land acknowledgements, planning for trips to communities and for communicating with community leadership and organizations.

Having some knowledge about the communities you work with is an important step toward building and strengthening relationships. It shows you've put some work into learning. However, it is also important to be humble, to ask questions and to listen. Remember, this is a quick reference guide intended to get you started, not provide you with definitive answers.



Communities in the NWT

The Northwest Territories has 33 communities that are designated authorities, hamlets, villages or cities located in five regions. The names and locations of these communities are shown on this map (current as of 2019).

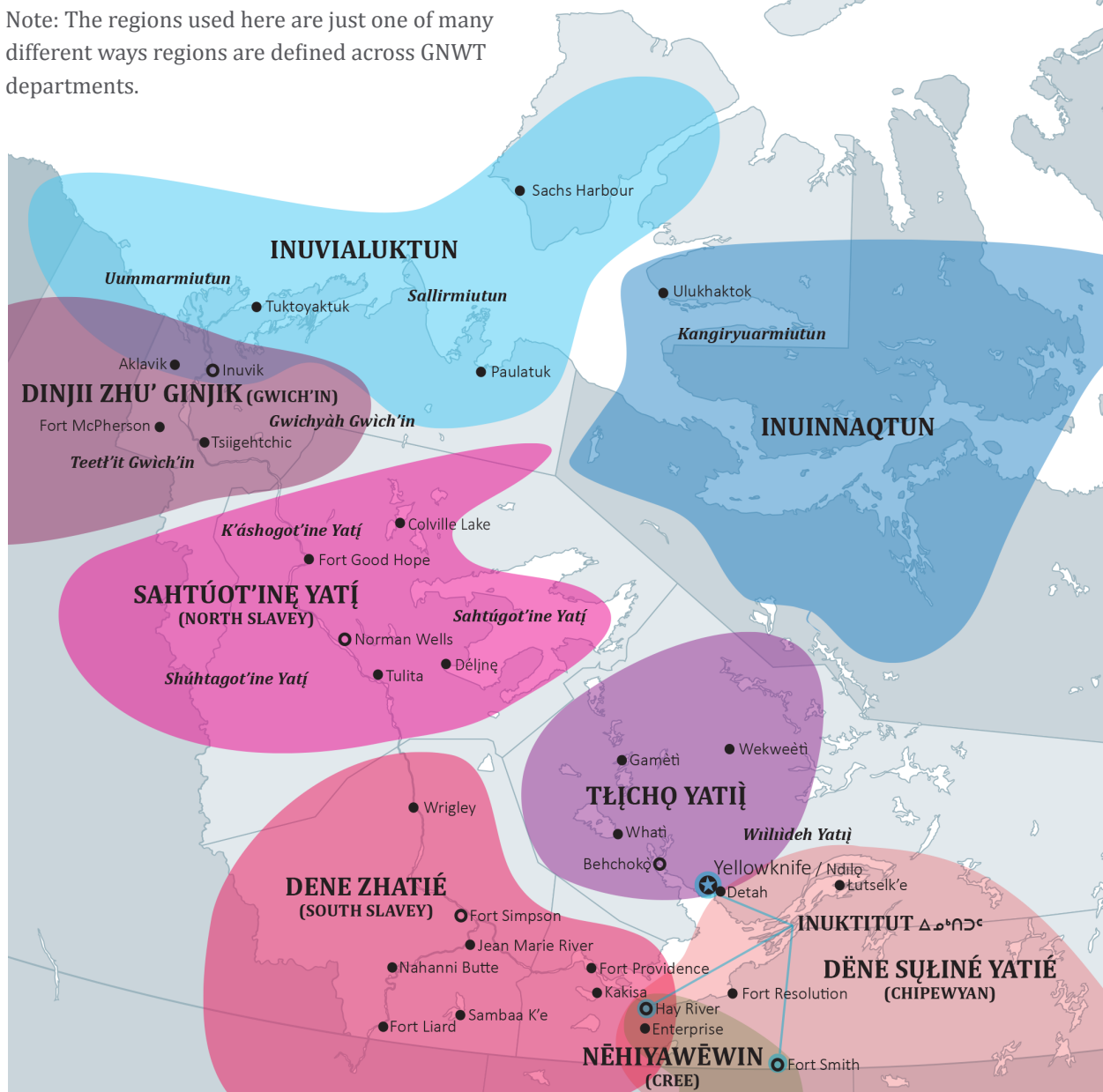
Community names and their spellings may change over time due to the settling of comprehensive land claims, renaming, remapping and/or reclamation projects, etc. See the *Community Profiles* section for more about each community.

Note: The regions used here are just one of many different ways regions are defined across GNWT departments.

Official languages are shown in **ALL CAPS**. Major dialects are shown in *italics*.

Please note that language and dialectal distinctions vary across communities.

The names appearing here represent the most widely used and agreed upon designations as of the printing of this map, and may evolve over time.



Official Languages by Community



There are eleven official languages in the NWT, nine of which are Indigenous languages.

Indigenous languages are the foundation of culture, identity, pride and community within which Indigenous values and beliefs are passed on from generation to generation. They communicate wisdom, tradition and worldview.

Each Indigenous language and its dialects tend to be spoken within particular regions and communities, which are outlined below. However, languages move with the people that speak them. Please remember that any one language or dialect is not limited to the area it is associated with. All of the official languages, for example, are spoken in Yellowknife.

The official terms used to refer to the languages as of 2020 are shown in bold.

Dene Languages

- 1. Chipewyan** (Dëne Sų́hné Yatıé and Dëne Dédłiné)
Spoken in: Łutselk'e, Fort Resolution, Hay River, Fort Smith and Dettah
- 2. Gwich'in** (Dinjii Zhu' Ginjik)
Spoken in: Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson
- 3. North Slavey** (Sahtúqt'ıne)
Spoken in: Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Tulita and Délıne
- 4. South Slavey** (Dene Zhatıé)
Spoken in: Sambaa K'e, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte, Kakisa, Fort Providence, Jean Marie River, Wrigley and Fort Simpson
- 5. Tłıchų Yatı**
Spoken in: Gamètı, Wekweètı, Whatı and Behchokò, Wıłıdeh, Ndlıq and Dettah



Inuit Languages

- 1. Inuvialuktun**

Spoken in: Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk, Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik and Inuvik

- 2. Inuinnaqtun**

Spoken in: Ulukhaktok

- 3. Inuktitut**

Spoken in: Yellowknife and some regional centers

Algonquian/Cree Languages

- 1. Cree (nēhiyawēwin)**

Spoken in: Fort Smith and Hay River

Land (Territory) Acknowledgements



Land acknowledgements, also known as territory acknowledgments, are statements of recognition and appreciation of the Indigenous nations and peoples whose ancestral territory one is in.

Land acknowledgements are typically done at the start of meetings and gatherings. They are an essential sign of respect and should be sincere and meaningful. These acknowledgements are not just housekeeping items to be done hurriedly at the start of a meeting or gathering.

Often, land acknowledgements are concise statements along the lines of: “Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of [nation names].”

Where applicable, you may include the name of a local treaty or need to acknowledge more than one nation in your statement.

Remember to ask the leadership in the community if what you have prepared is appropriate and complete.

Example for Yellowknife:

“I would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene on Chief Drygeese Territory, as part of Treaty 8, in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.”

While Yellowknife is on Yellowknives Dene land, it is also the traditional territory of the Tłıchǫ. It may be appropriate to also acknowledge the Tłıchǫ and the North Slave Métis when in Yellowknife.

While a brief acknowledgement may work for some groups, you may also wish to add more intention and detail to your acknowledgement. This might include your relationship to or reason for being in the territory, the history of the territory or the impacts of colonization on the territory.

Example:

“I am thankful and honoured to be here in the homeland of the Inuvialuit, in the community of Tuktuuyaqtuuq and on the shores of the Arctic ocean.

I am also thankful for the Elders, leaders and community members who have agreed to participate in this meeting today and to share their knowledge despite the wrongs that have been done to them through colonization.”

If you’re comfortable, you may even try to learn some words such as a greeting in the appropriate Indigenous language to incorporate into your acknowledgement.

Always take the time to prepare thoughtfully and to learn the correct pronunciation of the nations and territories you are acknowledging. Practice helps too.

You will find a list of the nations, Indigenous governments and Indigenous governing organizations that should be acknowledged in each community in the *Community Profiles* section of this guide.

Community Profiles



Legend:



BOAT



PLANE



ROAD



ICE ROAD

Beaufort Delta Region

Aklavik

Official name: Aklavik

Traditional name: Aklarvik

Pronunciation: A-klah-vihk

Regional Government: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Gwich'in Tribal Council

Indigenous Governing Organizations: Aklavik Indian Corp., Aklavik Community Corp.

Language: Gwich'in, Inuvialuktun & English

Land acknowledgement: Ehdiiat Gwich'in Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Fort McPherson

Official name: Fort McPherson

Traditional name: Teet'it Zheh

Pronunciation: Tet-hlih-t-zhay

Regional Government: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Gwich'in Tribal Council

Indigenous Governing Organizations: Métis Local 58, Tetlit Gwich'in Council

Language: Gwich'in & English

Land acknowledgement: Tetlit Gwich'in Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:





Inuvik

Official name: Inuvik
Traditional name: Inuuvik
Pronunciation: I-noo-vik
Regional Government: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Gwich'in Tribal Council
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Inuvik Community Corp., Nihtat Gwich'in Council
Language: Inuvialuktun, Gwich'in, French & English
Land acknowledgement: Nihtat Gwich'in Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Paulatuk

Official name: Paulatuk
Traditional name: Paulatuq
Pronunciation: Pall-a-tuck
Regional Government: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Language: Inuvialuktun & English
Land acknowledgement: Home of Inuvialuit

ACCESS:



Sachs Harbour

Official name: Sachs Harbour
Traditional name: Ikaahuk
Pronunciation: Ih-kah-hook
Regional Government: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Language: Inuvialuktun & English
Land acknowledgement: Home of Inuvialuit

ACCESS:





Tuktoyaktuk

Official name: Tuktoyaktuk

Traditional name: Tuktuujaqrtuuq

Pronunciation: Tuck-toy-yak-took

Regional Government: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Language: Inuvialuktun & English

Land acknowledgement: Home of Inuvialuit

ACCESS:



Ulukhaktok

Official name: Ulukhaktok

Previous name: Holman Island

Traditional name: Ulukhaqtuuq

Pronunciation: Oo-loo-hak-took

Regional Government: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Language: Inuinnaqtun & English

Land acknowledgement: Home of Inuvialuit

ACCESS:



Tsiigehtchic

Official name: Tsiigehtchic

Previous name: Arctic Red River

Traditional name: Tsiigehtshik

Pronunciation: Tsih-gay-chik

Regional Government: Gwich'in Tribal Council

Language: Gwich'in & English

Land acknowledgement: Gwichya Gwich'in Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Dehcho Region



Fort Simpson

Official name: Fort Simpson

Traditional name: Łíídlı́ Kúé

Pronunciation: Hlih-dlinh-kwenh

Indigenous Governing Organizations: Fort Simpson LTA, Łíídlı́ Kúé First Nation, Métis Nation Local 52

Language: Dene Zhaté & English

Land acknowledgement: Łíídlı́ Kúé Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Nahanni Butte

Official name: Nahanni Butte

Traditional name: Tthenáágó

Pronunciation: T-theh-na-ah-go

Indigenous Governing Organizations: Nahanni Butte Dene Band

Language: Dene Zhaté & English

Land acknowledgement: Nahanni Butte Dene Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Sambaa K'e

Official name: Sambaa K'e

Previous name: Trout Lake

Traditional name: Sambaa K'e

Pronunciation: Sahn-ba-k-ay

Language: Dene Zhaté & English

Land acknowledgement: Sambaa K'e Dene Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:





Fort Liard

Official name: Fort Liard

Traditional name: Echaot'je Kúé

Pronunciation: Etch-ah-oat-eenh-kwenh

Community/ Indigenous Governing Organizations: Acho Dene Koe First Nation

Language: Dene Zhaté & English

Land acknowledgement: Acho Dene Koe Nation / Treaty 11 Territory / Métis Local 67

ACCESS:



Jean Marie River

Official name: Jean Marie River

Traditional name: TtheK'édélj

Pronunciation: T-theh-k-ay-day-leenh

Indigenous Governing Organizations: Jean Marie River First Nation

Language: Dene Zhaté & English

Land acknowledgement: Jean Marie River Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Wrigley

Official name: Wrigley

Traditional name: Pedzéh Kí

Pronunciation: Pedh-zeh-keenh

Indigenous Governing Organizations: Pehdzeh Ki First Nation

Language: Dene Zhaté & English

Land acknowledgement: Pehdzeh Ki Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



North Slave Region



Behchokò

Official name: Behchokò

Traditional name: Behchokò

Previous names: Rae and Edzo combined to make Behchokò

Pronunciation: Beh-cho-konh

Regional Government: Tłıchų Government

Indigenous Governing Organizations: Tłıchų Government

Language: Tłıchų & English

Land acknowledgement: Home of the Tłıchų / Treaty 11 Territory

Note: Edzo is considered to be a part of Behchokò, however it is situated outside of the community.

ACCESS:



Gamètì

Official name: Gamètì

Previous name: Rae Lakes

Traditional name: Gahmìtì

Pronunciation: Gah-minh-tea

Regional Government: Tłıchų Government

Language: Tłıchų & English

Land acknowledgement: Home of the Tłıchų / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:





Wekweètì

Official name: Wekweètì
Previous name: Snare Lakes / Wekwetì
Traditional name: Wekweètì
Pronunciation: Weh-kway-tea
Regional Government: Tłıchq Government
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Dechi Laot'i First Nations
Language: Tłıchq & English
Land acknowledgement: Home of the Tłıchq / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Whatì

Official name: Whatì
Previous name: Lac La Martre
Traditional name: Whatì
Pronunciation: Wah-tea
Regional Government: Tłıchq Government
Language: Tłıchq & English
Land acknowledgement: Home of the Tłıchq / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:





łutselk'e

Official name: łutselk'e
Previous name: Snow Drift
Traditional name: Łútsèłk'é
Pronunciation: Hloot-sul-k-ay
Regional Government: Akaitcho Territory Government
Indigenous Governing Organizations: łutsel K'e Dene Band
Language: Dëne Sųłné Yaté & English
Land acknowledgement: Home of the łutsel K'e Dene First Nation / Treaty 8 Territory

ACCESS:



Dettah

Official name: Dettah
Previous name: Dettah
Traditional Name: T'è>ehda
Pronunciation: deh-tah
Regional Government: Akaitcho Territory Government
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Dettah
Language: Wiilideh & English
Land acknowledgement: Chief Drygeese Territory & Yellowknives Dene First Nation/ Treaty 8 Territory

ACCESS:





Ndilq

Official name: Ndilq
Regional Government: Akaitcho Territory Government
Traditional name: Ndilq
Pronunciation: Dee-low
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Yellowknives Dene First Nations, Ndilq
Language: Willideh & English
Land acknowledgement: Chief Drygeese Territory & Yellowknives Dene First Nation / Treaty 8 Territory

ACCESS:



Yellowknife

Official name: Yellowknife
Traditional name: Sòmbak'è
Pronunciation: Sawm-ba-k-ay
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Dene Nation, Native Women's Association of the NWT, North Slave Métis Alliance, Nunasi Corporation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Language: Variety of all 11 official languages are spoken
Land acknowledgement: Chief Drygeese Territory / Treaty 8 Territory

ACCESS:



Sahtu Region



Colville Lake

Official name: Colville Lake
Traditional name: K'áhbamjútúe
Pronunciation: K-ah-ba-meenh-tway
Regional Government: Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Behdzi Ahda First Nation Band
Language: K'áshogot' Iné Kede & English
Land acknowledgement: Behdzi Ahda Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Déljné

Official name: Déljné
Previous name: Fort Franklin
Traditional name: Déljné
Pronunciation: Day-linh-nay
Regional Government: Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
Indigenous Governing Organization: Déljné Got'Iné Government
Language: Sahtúqt'Ine & English
Land acknowledgement: Déljné Got'Iné Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:





Fort Good Hope

Official name: Fort Good Hope
 Traditional name: Rádey!łkóé
 Pronunciation: Rah-day-inh-linh-kway
 Regional Government: Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
 Indigenous Governing Organizations: Yamoga Land Corp.
 Language: K'áshogot' ɥnɛ Kede & English
 Land acknowledgement: K'áshogot' ɥnɛ Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Norman Wells

Official name: Norman Wells
 Traditional name: Tłegóhtɥ
 Pronunciation: T-hleh-gonh-teenh
 Regional Government: Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
 Indigenous Governing Organizations: Norman Wells Land Corp., Métis Local 59
 Language: Sahtúɥt' ɥne & English
 Land acknowledgement: Home of the Sahtu People/ Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Tulita

Official name: Tulita
 Previous name: Fort Norman
 Traditional name: Tulít'a
 Pronunciation: Too-lee-tah
 Regional Government: Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and Dehcho First Nations
 Indigenous Governing Organizations: Fort Norman Band Council, Fort Norman Métis/Land Financial Corp., Métis Land Corp.
 Language: Shuhtagot' ɥnɛ & English
 Land acknowledgement: Home of the Sahtu people/ Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



South Slave Region



Kakisa

Official name: Kakisa
Traditional name: K'ágee
Pronunciation: K-a-gay
Regional Government: Dehcho First Nations
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation
Language: Dene Zhaté & English
Land acknowledgement: Ka'a'gee Tu Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Hay River / Kát'odeeche Reserve

Official name: Hay River / Kát'odeeche Reserve
Traditional name: Xát'odehchee
Pronunciation: Kat-Low-Dee-Chay
Regional Government: Dehcho First Nations, Kát'odeeche First Nation
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Kát'odeeche First Nation
Language: Dene Zhaté and English
Land acknowledgement: Kát'odeeche Nation / Treaty 8 & 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Fort Providence



Official name: Fort Providence
Traditional name: Zhahti Kúé and Deh Gáh
Pronunciation: Ja-tea-kwenh
Regional Government: Dehcho First Nations
Indigenous Governing: Dene Band Council office, Deh Gáh Got'ı̨ First Nation,
Organizations: Fort Providence Métis Nation
Language: Dene Zhaté & English
Land acknowledgement: Deh Gáh Got'ı̨ Nation / Treaty 11 Territory

ACCESS:



Fort Resolution

Official name: Fort Resolution
Traditional name: Denínu Kúé
Pronunciation: Deh-nih-noo-kwenh
Regional Government: Akaitcho Territory Government and NWT Métis Nation
Indigenous Governing: Denínu Kúé First Nation, Fort Resolution Métis Association Local 53,
Organizations: NWT Métis Nation
Language: Dëne Sų́łné Yatı̨, Dëne Dédłı̨né, nēhiyawēwin & English
Land acknowledgement: Denínu Kúé First Nation / Treaty 8 Territory

ACCESS:



Fort Smith



Official name: Fort Smith
Traditional name: Tthebacha
Pronunciation: T-theh-batch-ah
Regional Government: Akaitcho Territory Government and NWT Métis Nation
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Salt River First Nation 195, Smith Landing First Nation, NWT Métis National Local No.58
Language: nēhiyawēwin, Dēne Sųłíné Yaté, French & English
Land acknowledgement: Smith Landing and Salt River Nations / Treaty 8 Territory

ACCESS:



Enterprise

Official name: Enterprise
Regional Government: NWT Métis Nation
Language: English
Land acknowledgement: Home of the Dehcho people / Treaty 8 Territory

ACCESS:



Hay River

Official name: Hay River
Traditional name: Xátł'odehchee
Pronunciation: Hat-hlow-deh-chee
Regional Government: NWT Métis Nation
Indigenous Governing Organizations: Hay River Dene Band, Hay River Métis Council
Language: nēhiyawēwin, Dēne Sųłíné Yaté, English & French
Land acknowledgement: Home of the Hay River Dene First Nation / Treaty 8 Territory

ACCESS:

