



**POLITICAL ACCORD**

**between**

**AKAITCHO TERRITORY DENE FIRST NATIONS (Akaitcho DFN)  
(as represented by NWT Treaty 8 Corporation)**

**and**

**GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (GNWT)**

- WHEREAS,** Akaitcho DFN have governed themselves within their territory living by the Great Laws of the Dene as given to Akaitcho DFN by the Creator;
- WHEREAS,** the Akaitcho DFN negotiated and concluded a peace and friendship Treaty with the British Crown at Deninu Kue in 1900 for as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow and the grass grows;
- WHEREAS,** the GNWT understand that the Akaitcho DFN consider the commitments and obligations made by the Crown at the time of the Treaty to be binding on the Government of Canada;
- WHEREAS,** the GNWT performs functions and exercises authority and jurisdiction pursuant to the *NWT Act* and agreements with the Government of Canada;
- WHEREAS,** the Akaitcho Peoples assert their inherent right to governance;
- WHEREAS,** the inherent right of self-government is an existing right affirmed by the Canadian Constitution and recognized by the GNWT;
- WHEREAS,** Akaitcho DFN, Canada and the GNWT have embarked on a process to clarify and implement the Treaty concluded with the Crown in 1900 including the negotiation of the fulfillment of Treaty obligations and duties owed to the Akaitcho Peoples by the government of Canada ;

**WHEREAS,** the implementation of Treaty Rights of the Akaitcho DFN might involve the GNWT in some programs and services within Akaitcho DFN territory pursuant to the Akaitcho Agreement;

**WHEREAS,** the Parties agree to enter into a political accord to confirm and enhance the relationship between the Akaitcho DFN and the GNWT;

**WHEREAS,** the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories has committed itself to working with the Akaitcho DFN and other NWT Aboriginal Peoples in building a shared vision for the Northwest Territories.

**NOW THEREFORE,** the Parties agree as follows:

**1. OBJECTIVES:**

**1.1** The Parties agree to work cooperatively together on a variety of subjects including the following:

- the implementation of the Treaty Rights and other arrangements pursuant to the Akaitcho Agreement;
- the development of common goals and objectives;
- the Akaitcho DFN capacity, bearing in mind the need for the smooth implementation of Treaty Rights and other arrangements pursuant to the Akaitcho Agreement;
- the improvement of the communications and cooperation between the Parties in areas of political, economic, and social development;
- the consideration of possible arrangements for the Akaitcho DFN and GNWT in the area of natural resources and the sharing of resource revenues;
- Akaitcho DFN initiatives that might have implications on the GNWT; and,
- GNWT and territorial initiatives that might have implications on the Akaitcho DFN and their territory pursuant to the Akaitcho Agreement.

**1.2** The Parties agree to meet periodically with the aim of having open and candid discussions to share ideas and information on an ongoing basis on

the broad topics outlined above and on specific issues agreed to from time to time.

- 1.3 The Parties to this accord shall work towards enhancing the co-ordination of activities and communication between the GNWT and the Akaitcho DFN.
- 1.4 Nothing in this Accord prevents the parties from participating in other intergovernmental processes or agreements.

## **2. AKAITCHO DFN NEGOTIATIONS**

- 2.1 The role of the GNWT in the Akaitcho DFN negotiations has been set out in the Akaitcho Territory DFN Framework Agreement.
- 2.2 The Parties commit to work together to address any links between the two processes that may arise with a view to guaranteeing the integrity of the Akaitcho DFN negotiations pursuant to the Akaitcho Territory DFN Framework Agreement.
- 2.3 The Parties recognize and respect the bi-lateral relationship created between the Akaitcho DFN and the Crown by way of negotiating and concluding Treaty #8 in 1900 at Deninu Kue. As treaty issues are identified during the negotiations of subjects listed in Section 4.1 of the Akaitcho Territory DFN Framework Agreement, the Parties recognize that Canada and the Akaitcho DFN will discuss the treaty rights bi-laterally. The GNWT will have observer status at all bi-lateral discussions between the Akaitcho DFN and Canada.

Through negotiations of the subject matters identified in section 4.1 of the Akaitcho Territory DFN Framework Agreement leading to the Akaitcho AIP and the Akaitcho Agreement:

- (a) the respective relationships of the parties will be clarified;
- (b) the jurisdictions of the parties will be clarified; and
- (c) a plan for implementation of the Akaitcho Agreement will be developed.

- 2.4 The Parties agree that in areas related to the implementation of the programs and services related to the implementation of the Treaty rights as identified between the federal government and Akaitcho DFN, the GNWT will be involved in the discussions related to programs and services implementation.

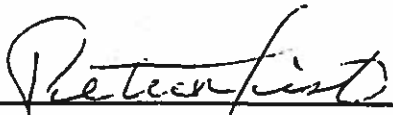
- 2.5 For greater consistency, the Parties agree that discussions entered into under this Accord should not overlap with or in any other way interfere with the Akaitcho DFN negotiations.
- 2.6 Where there is an inconsistency or conflict between this Accord and Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations Framework Agreement or the Akaitcho Agreement, the Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations Framework Agreement or the Akaitcho Agreement shall have precedence over this Accord.
- 2.7 This Accord may be terminated at any time by either party with written notice.

This Accord entered into on this day of *June 13<sup>th</sup>*, 2000.

**For the Akaitcho Territory First Nations Governments:**



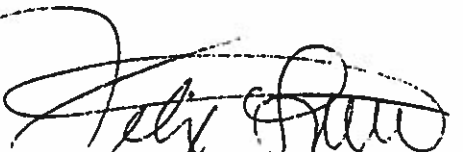
Chief Don Balsillie  
Deninu Kue



Chief Peter Liske  
Yellowknives Dene (Ndilo)



Chief Richard Edjericon  
Yellowknives Dene (Dettah)



Chief Felix Lockhart  
Lutsel K'e

**For the GNWT:**



Honourable Stephen Kakfwi  
Premier



Honourable Jim Antoine  
Minister Responsible for  
Aboriginal Affairs