

DENE NATION
DENENDEH NATIONAL OFFICE



P.O. Box 2338
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P7

Phone: 873-4081
Fax: 920-2254

October 3, 1996

Ms. Jane Groenewegen
Members Office
Legislative Assembly
Government of the N.W.T.
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
FAX: 920-4735

Dear Ms. Groenewegen:

RE: Naming the Western Territory

Further to our letter dated August 26, 1996, I would like to address the following concern with regards to naming the Western Territory.

From our archives, located at the Dene National Office, I have retrieved three similar motions in relation to affirming the commitment to naming the Western Territory, Denendeh. Two of the motions were addressed in 1984 leadership meetings, one in April in Fort Good Hope, the other in December of 1984 in Yellowknife. The third motion was dated September 1987 at a leadership meeting in Fort Simpson, NT.

The motions are attached for future reference when determining an approach to follow when determining a name for the Western Territory.

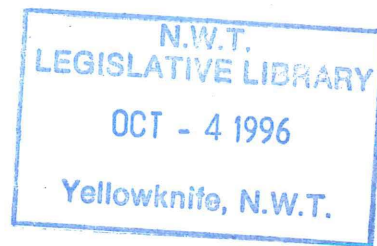
I look forward to hearing from you or for a possible meeting with you in the near future in regards to the issue.

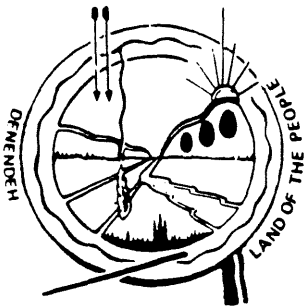
Sincerely,


Bill Erasmus
Denendeh National Chief

BE/nu.201

- c.c. All Chiefs, Denendeh
- MLAs/Cabinet Members - GNWT
- Municipal Governments - NWT
- Native Womens Association - NWT
- Northern Media





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MOTION #96/97-005(25)

26TH DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
DENINU K'UE, DENENDEH
AUGUST 12-19, 1996

RE: DENENDEH - NAME FOR WESTERN NWT

WHEREAS a territory will be established in the Western NWT; and

WHEREAS talks on the development of a constitution are in progress; and

WHEREAS the Dene refer to their homelands as Denendeh;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 26th Dene National Assembly supports that the name of the territory be Denendeh.

CERTIFIED BY:

Bill Erasmus
Dene National Chief

DENE NATION LEADERSHIP MEETING
YELLOWKNIFE, NWT
DECEMBER 3-7, 1984

motion 11

WHEREAS the land itself and streams, lakes and other landmarks in Denendeh are known to the Dene by Dene names and;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories have violated Dene tradition, Dene culture and the Dene right to self-government by giving non-Dene names to landmarks in Denendeh and;

WHEREAS the recent "naming of the Western NWT" contest has caused some confusion about the future name of Denendeh;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the Dene Nation affirms its commitment to Denendeh as the name of our homeland and instructs the Executive to inform the Government of the N.W.T. of this commitment.
2. That in conjunction with the Dene Nation, the government of the N.W.T. immediately establish a public commission with a majority Dene membership to implement the following objectives:
 - a) Giving appropriate Dene names to presently unnamed landmarks and to give Dene names to all new roads, public buildings and places in Denendeh.
 - b) Systematically and officially recognizing and renaming, with Dene names, all landmarks roads, public buildings and places now known by English names.

MOVED BY:

CHIEF JOE PARESCA, FORT RAE

SECONDED BY:

CHIEF HARRY DEHEW, FORT LIARD

CARRIED

UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION n 7

LEADERSHIP MEETING
FORT GOOD HOPE, N.W.T.

11 - 16 APRIL 1984

DRAFT MOTION RE: NAME FOR A NEW WESTERN TERRITORY

WHEREAS the Dene Leadership has discussed the need to name a new western territory; and

WHEREAS the Dene Leadership feels strongly that a native name should be chosen for a new western territory, since a majority of the residents of the new territory shall be native; and

WHEREAS the western part of the N.W.T. is, for the most part, the traditional and continuing homeland of the Dene; and

WHEREAS the Dene continue to be the rightful owners and managers of the Dene homeland; and

WHEREAS the Dene have, through a process of community consultation and discussions over the past several years, and taking into account the five Dene languages, chosen Denendeh (Land of the People) as the name for our homeland; and

WHEREAS the Dene believe that naming the new western territory Denendeh would be a positive step in recognizing the Dene heritage and the rightful place of the Dene as full participants in the shaping of our future;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dene leadership strongly affirms its position that the name for a new western territory should be Denendeh in recognition of the existence of the Dene in this part of the north since time immemorial and in recognition of our future role as full participants in a new government in the new western territory.

MOVED BY: Alexi Arrowmaker, Regional Vice President, Sreare Lakes

SECONDED BY: Chief Pat Martel, Hay River

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

(1 ABSTENTION)

April 12, 1984

DENE LEADERSHIP MEETING
FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T.
SEPTEMBER 21,22,23, 1987

Re: Support for Division and W.C.F. Constitutional Process and
Iqaluit Agreement

WHEREAS the Dene people have supported the Inuit in their demands for an Inuit Territory called Nunavut; and

WHEREAS the Dene continue to support changes to the present Territorial Government structure to make the government more reflective of the Dene method of governing, which include our culture and values; and

WHEREAS the creation of a new government structure sensitive to the Dene with specific aboriginal guarantees is an integral part of the claims strategy and represents the political part of the claim; and

WHEREAS the Dene have supported the process called the WCF or Western Constitutional Forum which has been established to negotiate the division of the N.W.T. and the creation of Nunavut and Denendeh and which will contain these political guarantees; and

WHEREAS the W.C.F. and N.C.F. (Nunavut Constitutional Forum) have negotiated the January 87 Iqaluit Agreement which establishes a timetable for division, a process to negotiate the structure of the two new governments and recommends that the division boundary be the RATIFIED claims boundary yet to negotiated and ratified by the Dene and Metis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Leadership reaffirms its support for the creation of Denendeh in the Western part of the N.W.T.; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Leadership reaffirms its support for the January 87 Iqualuit Agreement with the same condition that the division boundary be a RATIFIED claims boundary; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Leadership directs the Dene Nation Executive to transmit the content of this motion to the Inuit leaders of Nunavut.

MOVED BY: Chief Jonas Sangris
Yellowknife "B" Band, N.W.T.

SECONDED BY: Chief Grace Blake
Arctic Red River, N.W.T.

CARRIED: September 23, 1987

between the two parties...
The constitutional development...