

Intergovernmental Collaboration in the Northwest Territories

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Why Intergovernmental Collaboration?

Benefits of good intergovernmental relations include:

- Opportunities to coordinate and harmonize policies
- Share capacity, exchange information, and learn from one another
- Leverage influence
- Find flexible working arrangements.

We are very familiar with Intergovernmental Relations as it applies to:

- relations between central governments and provinces or states
- relations among the provinces and states themselves.

Focus for Aboriginal relations has often been on the negotiation and implementation of modern treaties.

IGR approaches should also be applied to Aboriginal Governments



NWT Context

The NWT:

- is a large jurisdiction with relatively small population.
- is culturally diverse with almost half the population Aboriginal.
- has many remote communities and established and emerging Aboriginal Governments
- enjoys a dynamic and evolving political system

The Northwest Territories has developed a number of intergovernmental approaches to address its unique circumstances

Settlement Areas and Asserted Territories within the NWT

Data Sources:

- (1) Canadian Centre for Cadastral Management, NWT/Nunavut Regional Office, Natural Resources Canada
- (2) British Columbia Land and Water Board, Data current as of December, 2002
- (3) Joint Secretariat Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committee, Data current as of December, 2002
- (4) Lands and Trust Services, Indian and Inuit Services Directorate, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- (5) Comprehensive Claims Branch, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. NOTE: Data might be subject to change.
- (6) Prince Albert Tribal Council Study, Chipewyan - Denesuline Bands, 2000. ("Recent and Current Land Use and Occupancy in the NWT")
- (7) Based on MLD Study, Sahtu Dene First Nation / Northlands Dene First Nation, 1992. ("Living Memory Land Use")
- (8) Dene Tha' First Nation
- (9) First Nation of the Nahcho Nyak Dun, Mayo, Yukon
- (10) Kaska Nation (Kaska Nation is comprised of Kaska Dene Council and First Nation and Red River Dene Council Internal First Nations overlaps to be resolved.)
- (11) Aho Dene Koe First Nation, 2003
- (12) For the purposes of this map, the Tłı̄chǵ Wáá' Nesho Management Area boundary is shown to be aligned with the Sahtu Dene and Mi'kwa Settlement Area boundary.

Final Land Claim Areas

- Inuvialuit Settlement Region (2)
- Gwich'in Settlement Area (2)
- Gwich'in Primary Use Area (2)
- Gwich'in Secondary Use Area (2)
- Sahtu Dene and Mi'kwa Settlement Area (1)
- Tłı̄chǵ Wáá' Nesho Management Area (5) (1)
- Tłı̄chǵ Mǫwǵi Dǫgha Dǫ Nǫjǫǫ Boundary (5)

Selected Title Lands

- Inuvialuit Final Agreement, 1984 (1)
 - Surface and Sub-Surface Rights
 - Surface Rights Only
- Gwich'in Comprehensive Agreement, 1992 (1)
 - Surface and Sub-Surface Rights
 - Surface Rights Only
- Sahtu Dene and Mi'kwa Comprehensive Agreement, 1994 (1)
 - Surface and Sub-Surface Rights
 - Surface Rights Only
- Tłı̄chǵ Final Agreement, 2005 (5)
 - Surface and Sub-Surface Rights

Reserves

- Hay River Reserve (4)
- Salt River First Nation Reserve (5)

Interim Measurement Agreement (IMA) Areas

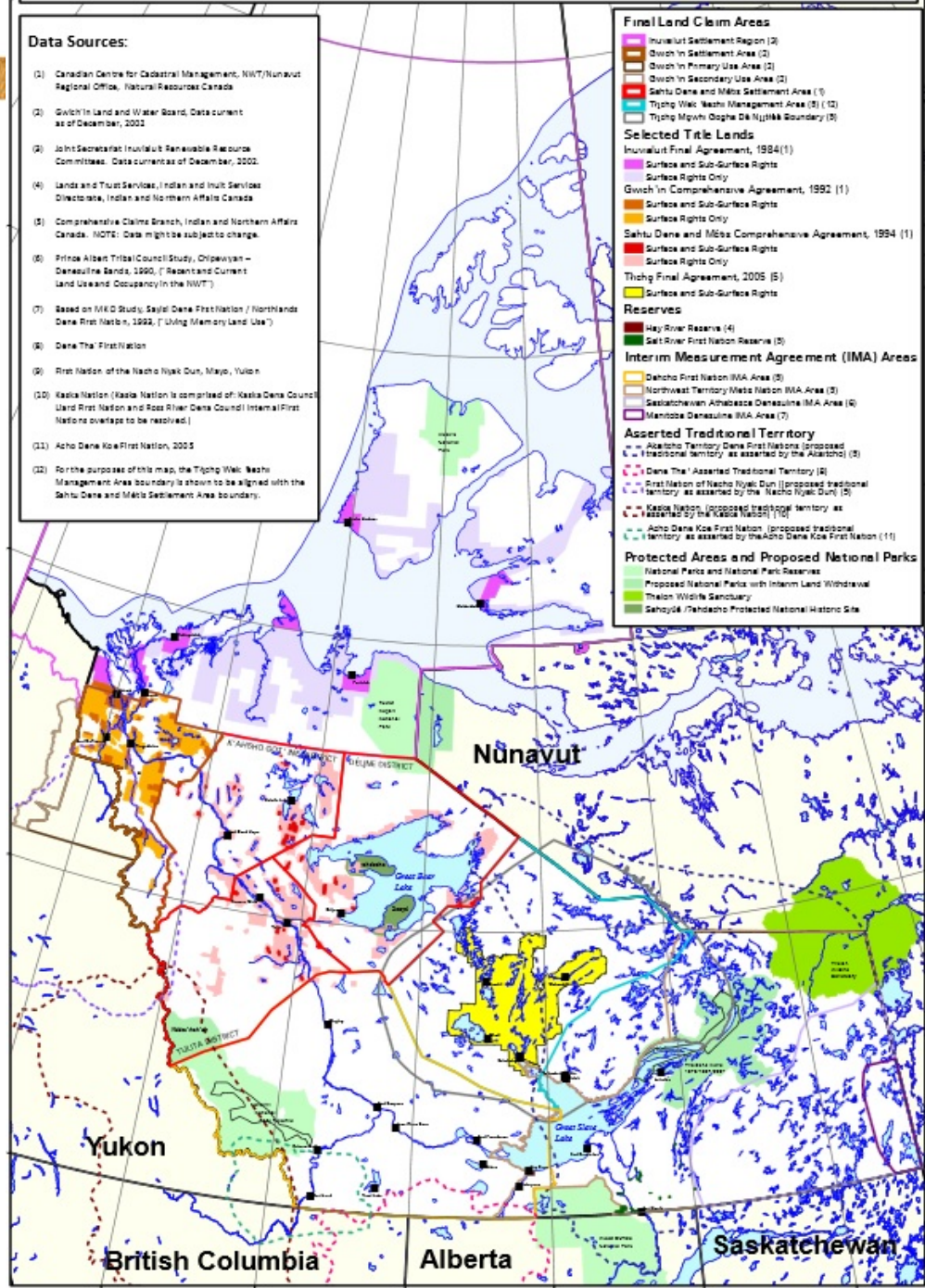
- Deneha First Nation IMA Area (3)
- Northwest Territory Naha Nation IMA Area (3)
- Sahtu Dene Athabasca Denesuline IMA Area (4)
- Mantsoo Denesuline IMA Area (7)

Asserted Traditional Territory

- Akathcho Territory Dene First Nations (proposed)
 - Traditional Territory as asserted by the Akathcho (3)
- Dene Tha' Asserted Traditional Territory (4)
- First Nation of Nahcho Nyak Dun (proposed traditional Territory as asserted by the Nahcho Nyak Dun) (5)
- Kaska Nation (proposed traditional Territory as asserted by the Kaska Nation) (10)
- Aho Dene Koe First Nation (proposed Traditional Territory as asserted by the Aho Dene Koe First Nation) (11)

Protected Areas and Proposed National Parks

- National Parks and National Park Reserves
- Proposed National Parks with Instream Land Withdrawal
- Tłı̄chǵ Wildlife Sanctuary
- Sahoyǫǫ / Tahachǫ Protected National Historic Site





Devolution of Land and Resources



Devolution of land and resource management from Canada to the GNWT offered opportunity to create an improved model for greater intergovernmental cooperation among the GNWT and Aboriginal Governments



Intergovernmental Council on Lands and Resources

As a result of devolution a Intergovernmental Council on Lands and Resource Management was created.





Intergovernmental Council on Lands and Resources

The Intergovernmental Council includes the Northwest Territories and, to date, 9 Aboriginal governments.

It is required to meet annually and is supported by a secretariat.

The Council provides an important new opportunity for northern leaders to cooperate on land and resource management across jurisdictions.



Intergovernmental Council on Lands and Resources

Two meetings held so far with working groups established in the areas of:

- Aboriginal Government Capacity Building
- Finance Working Group – which provides advice on the implementation of resource revenue sharing

Priority areas identified include:

- Identifying priority legislation for review
- Reviewing processes for water management and planning
- Investigating options and best practices related to impact benefits



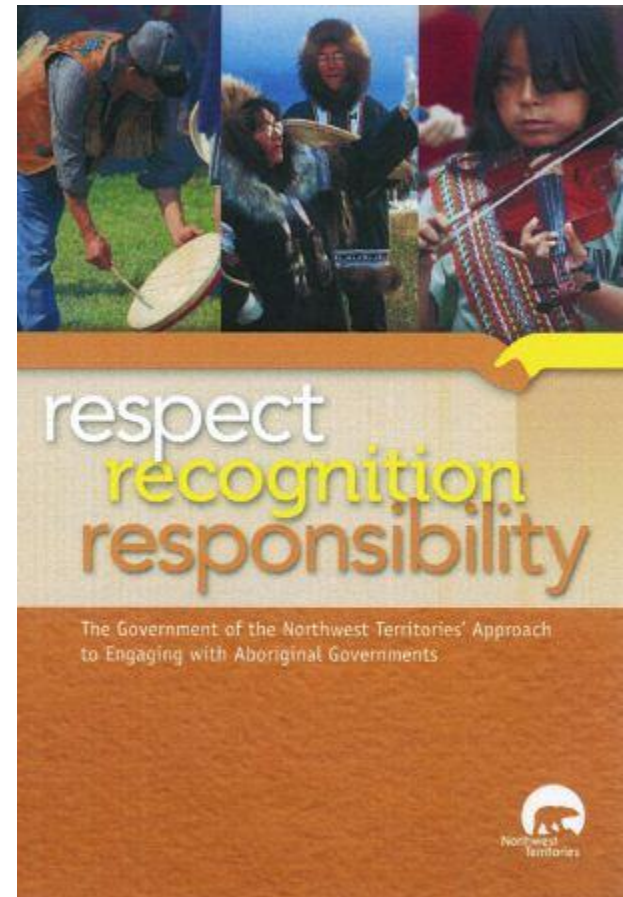
Other Intergovernmental Agreements

The Government of the NWT has developed an Aboriginal Government engagement Approach.

Principles of Engagement include:

- Recognition of rights
- Building of respectful relationships
- Responsible and flexible government to government relationships.

Has resulted in 7 intergovernmental agreements to date.





Other Intergovernmental Agreements

These IG Agreements include a requirement to meet at the most senior political levels at least once a year.

Meeting agendas are negotiated in advance

Conversations are often focused on areas of potential collaboration.

Outcomes are recorded, tracked and supported by officials.





Other Intergovernmental Agreements

The first Aboriginal government IG MoU was signed with the Tłıchǫ Government in October 2014.

Similar IG MoU have since been signed with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the NWT Metis Nation, the Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. and the Salt River First Nations.

19 bilateral meetings held between NWT Premier and Cabinet and Aboriginal leadership so far.

Meetings have led to improved relations and greater collaboration.



Key Points

IGR principles can be and have been applied to the public government/Aboriginal government context.

Formalized working relationships have fostered collaboration.

IGR agreements can compliment self-government and land claim agreements.