



## **TIMELINE: Dehcho Land Use Plan**

- May 2001 Dehcho First Nations (DFN), Government of Canada and the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) sign an “Interim Measures Agreement” (IMA) that establishes a tripartite Dehcho Land Use Committee (DLUPC) composed of two Dehcho appointees, one Canada appointee, one GNWT appointee and a neutral chair. The IMA sets out a detailed four year technical planning and consultation process at a budget of almost \$1 million per year, including ongoing funding for the DLUPC for plan implementation and monitoring.  
[http://nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca/dehcho/pdf/DehChoIMA\\_e.pdf](http://nwt-tno.inac-ainc.gc.ca/dehcho/pdf/DehChoIMA_e.pdf)
- February 2002 DFN, Canada and the GNWT appoint representatives to the DLUPC, who sit as the Board of Directors of an incorporated non-profit society, with an office and staff based in Fort Providence. Staff begin extensive research and consultations with all Dehcho communities, government agencies and other stakeholders.
- April 2003 DFN and Canada negotiate and sign “Interim Land Withdrawals” that prohibit development on 50% of the Dehcho land for a five-year period while the planning process is underway. WWF International recognizes this as a “Gift to the Earth,” its highest award for a globally significant conservation achievement.  
[http://www.dehcholands.org/docs/deh\\_cho\\_qtte\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.dehcholands.org/docs/deh_cho_qtte_fact_sheet.pdf)
- March 2005 DLUPC hosts a “Regional Forum” on the Hay River Reserve to discuss the “Working Draft Land Use Plan” attended by over 135 participants from all Dehcho communities, government agencies and stakeholders.
- Summer 2005 DLUPC releases the “Draft Land Use Plan.” DLUPC staff conduct individual consultations with all Dehcho communities, government agencies and stakeholders. Canada and GNWT state that they have concerns about the plan’s terms/conditions and total size of proposed conservation areas, but do not propose any specific zoning changes.
- June 2005 Canada and DFN sign an out-of court Settlement Agreement to end DFN litigation about the Mackenzie Gas Project. Article 13 states: “The parties agree to implement a land use plan that is approved by the Dehcho First Nations, approved by the GNWT Minister of Environment and Natural Resources and favourably considered by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, as soon as possible after the plan’s completion.”

November 2005	DLUPC releases the “Final Draft Land Use Plan” which prohibits non-renewable resource extraction in about 60% of the Dehcho territory. DLUPC staff conduct individual consultations with all Dehcho communities, government agencies and stakeholders.
February 2006	DLUPC hosts a second “Regional Forum” on the Hay River Reserve to discuss the “Final Draft Land Use Plan” attended by representatives from all Dehcho communities, government agencies and stakeholders. Canada and GNWT again state that they have concerns about the plan’s terms/conditions and the total size of conservation areas, but still do not propose any specific zoning changes.
Spring 2006	DLUPC meets with all GNWT Deputy Ministers to address their overall concerns with the “Final Draft Land Use Plan.” DLUPC meets with lawyers from DFN, Canada and GNWT to address their legal concerns about the terms and conditions in the “Final Draft Land Use Plan.” Canada and GNWT again state that there is too much land designated as conservation zones, but still do not propose any specific zoning changes. DLUPC revises the plan’s terms and conditions based on legal feedback, but does not make changes to zoning due to lack of any specific direction from Canada or the GNWT.
June 2006	DFN unanimously approve the “Final Draft Land Use Plan” at the Kakisa Annual Assembly.
November 2006	Canada writes a letter to DFN stating its intent to terminate the DLUPC and to consider the Land Use Plan only after the completion of an “Agreement-in-Principle” (AiP) in the Dehcho Process land claim negotiations. Previously, there was no link between approval of the LUP and progress in land claim negotiations.
December 2006	At the Dehcho Process land claim negotiations in Edmonton, Canada re-iterates its intent to terminate the DLUPC and to consider the land use plan only after the signing of an AiP. DFN reminds Canada of its commitments to continue funding the DCLUPC under the IMA and to implement the land use plan under the 2005 Settlement Agreement.
January 2007	At the Dehcho Process land claim negotiations in Fort Simpson, Canada proposes that the DLUPC report to a new “Lands Working Group” and that no more than 40% of the land should be zoned for conservation. DFN counter-proposes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="573 1793 1377 1887">• Canada and GNWT give instructions to its representatives on the DLUPC, appoint new representatives, and/or select a new chair so that the plan can be revised.</li> </ul>

- Upon approval of the revised plan, that the zoning be implemented through revised and modified land withdrawals.
- Upon approval of the revised plan, that the terms and conditions serve as “guidelines” until they are legally implemented following the initialing of an AiP.

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Canada and GNWT agree to keep the existing structure of the DLUPC, to appoint new members and to select a new Chair. Canada and GNWT continue to argue that only 40% of the land should be zoned for conservation and that the plan’s terms and conditions are not consistent with existing legislation, but refuse to provide any specific details or propose any zoning changes. DFN counter-proposes a Memorandum of Understanding that makes no mention of an AiP. Canada is unable to obtain instructions but invites the DLUPC to submit a funding proposal for the next fiscal year based on ongoing funding committed in the IMA.

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Canada postpones further Dehcho Process negotiations while its Chief Negotiator seeks further instructions from the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs.