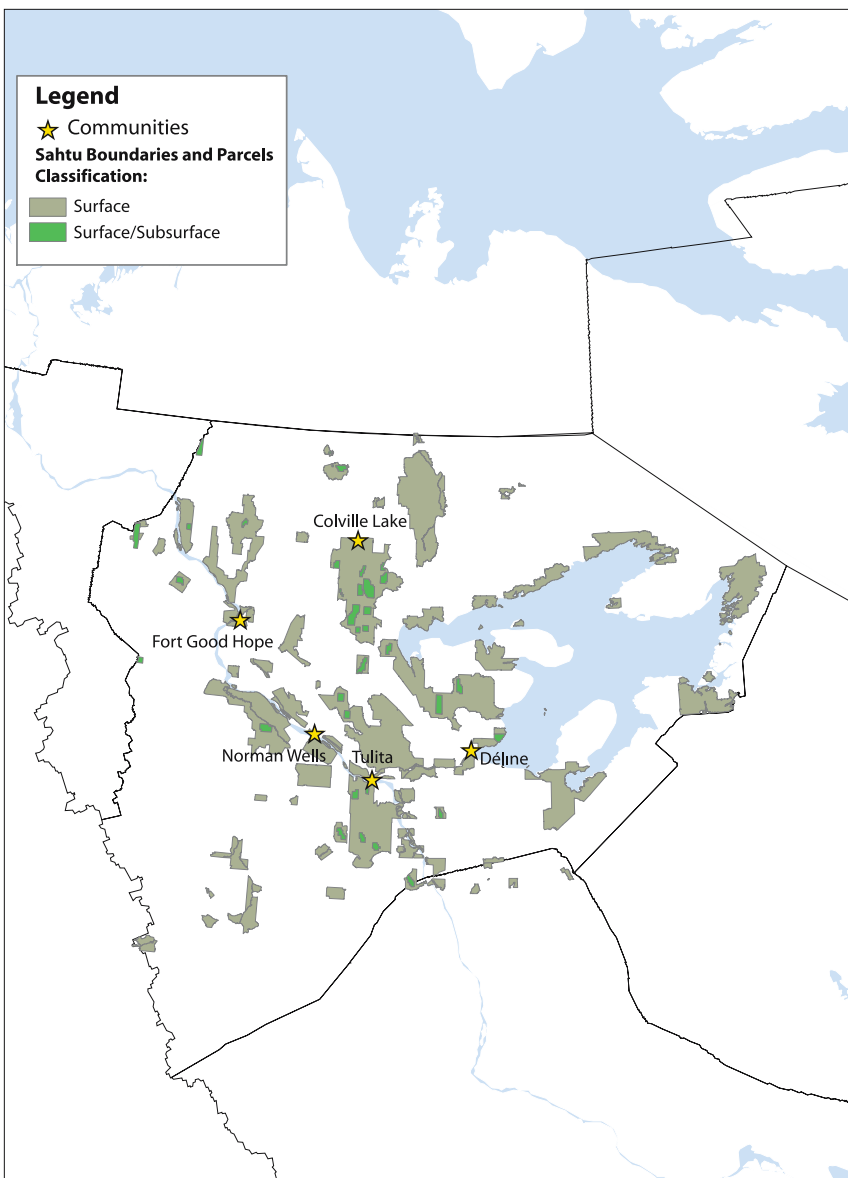




NWT Plain Facts

*On Land and
Self-government*

Sahtu Dene & Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement



In September 1993, the Sahtu Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was signed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the NWT Government Leader,

Chiefs and Metis Presidents representing the Sahtu region Dene and Metis, and representatives from the Sahtu Tribal Council. The Agreement came into effect on June 23, 1994.

Highlights of the Agreement

Sahtu-owned land

The Sahtu Dene and Metis own 41,437 square kilometres of land in the Mackenzie Valley. This includes subsurface (mineral) rights to 1,813 square kilometres of land.

Economic benefits

The Sahtu Dene and Metis receive a tax-free payment of \$75 million (1990) paid over a 15-year period and a yearly share of resource revenues from development in the Mackenzie Valley.

Land and environmental management

Through provisions of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Sahtu Dene and Metis participate in land use planning and in the management of renewable resources, land, water, and Sahtu heritage resources. The Sahtu Tribal Council must be consulted before lands are opened up for oil and gas exploration; before any oil and gas exploration, development or production takes place; and before any mineral exploration requiring a land use permit or water licence takes place.

Hunting and fishing

The Sahtu Dene and Metis maintain the exclusive right to trap and the right to hunt and fish in a 280,238 square kilometre area which includes Great Bear Lake. This does not exclude the public from hunting and fishing on Crown lands.

Self-government

The Government of Canada agreed to negotiate community self-government agreements with the Sahtu Dene and Metis. There are five communities that fall within the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. So far, Delina, Tulita and Norman Wells are the only communities who have entered into negotiations for a self-government agreement. Currently, Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake are initiating their processes.

Benefits for other northerners?

The Agreement clarifies who owns and has rights to the land and resources in the Sahtu settlement area. Certainty encourages economic development in the area. The Sahtu Dene and Metis are able to use their resources, including money, to stimulate regional economic growth.

For more information:

For more Plain Facts on land and self-government in the NWT, visit the website at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nt/pt

For general information on INAC policies, programs and services, visit the department's website at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

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