



DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Simpson, NT – Feb 24-26

The Dehcho Leadership has approved the process and work plan leading up to the elections of the Dehcho Grand Chief at the Annual General Assembly.

The Nomination period will be from April 14 – May 15 2009. Nominations period to open in advance of scheduled 2009 annual assembly. This advanced notice would afford community member's ample time and opportunity to debate the candidates.

- **Prescreening by the Elections committee May 18, 2009**
Candidates will be screened as per the nominations procedures, incomplete applications and candidate not meeting criteria will be screened out.
- **Conference Call with the Leadership May 20, 2009**
Elections committee will teleconference with the Dehcho Leadership to discuss and endorse the official candidates list.
- **Official Candidates will meet with the Nahecho June 2 – 4, 2009**
As per Dehcho First Nations protocol the official candidates will meet with the Nahecho prior to the annual assembly.
- **Elections for the Grand Chief will be held at the 2009 Annual General Assembly**
It is anticipated that the elections would be the first order of business at the AGA.

For more information on please contact;

DFN Elections Committee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 3, 2009

Dehcho Leaders Offer More Concessions to Canada

Fort Simpson, NT – The leaders of the Dehcho First Nations gathered Feb 24-26th in Fort Simpson to review the current impasse in land claim and self-government negotiations with Canada.

Canada has refused to negotiate on terms proposed by the DFN last year. The leaders agreed to review their position and to give their negotiators greater flexibility.

In the summer of 2008 at their Annual General Assembly, Dehcho members adopted a resolution that placed the highest priority on completing, approving and implementing a Land Use Plan, which Canada had committed to in earlier agreements with the DFN. The resolution said that DFN would only negotiate lands, resources and self-government arrangements after approval of a Land Use Plan providing for the conservation and use of natural resources.

With the negotiations stalled the Dehcho leadership adopted a resolution modifying their position to allow land claim negotiations and negotiations on a Land Use Plan to proceed concurrently.

"It must be emphasized that the leadership have directed all work to be forward thinking and focused on resolving the sharp differences between Dehcho First Nations needs and current government policies" said Grand Chief Gerald Antoine.

The highest priority still remains the completion, approval and implementation of a Land Use Plan in a timely fashion, however negotiations on other matters can now proceed concurrently rather than in a sequential process.

--Ends --

[For more information please do not hesitate to contact Dehcho First Nations Grand Chief Gerald Antoine 1-866-995-3748 or 867-695-2355](#)