

Tłegóhų Got'ine Government

“The Government of the People Where the Oil Is”

Why Self-Government?

Moving forward while keeping what you have
under the Land Claim and Indian Act as Sahtu
Dene and Metis of Norman Wells

What are we now?

- We are not a Treaty “Indian Band” in Norman Wells.
- We do not received funding based on per capita to operate like a First Nation.
- We are a Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act corporation.
- We are no different from any other nonprofit corporation across Canada, that you and I can start by incorporating.
- Our funding is what we can get through contribution agreements with Canada and the GNWT.

Can members that have been adopted into TGG Inc. Vote on Self-Government?

- Yes; if their names are on the Official Voters List.
- This is because the Official Voters List is based on the most current list of Sahtu Dene and Metis participants enrolled with TGG Inc. as their Land Corporation under Chapter 4 of the Land Claim Agreement.
- Who prepares that enrolment list? The Sahtu Enrolment Board.

- The Sahtu Enrolment Board is not controlled by TGG Inc.
- The Sahtu Enrolment Board is an independent Board set up by the Land Claim Agreement specifically to decide who are and are not Sahtu Dene or Metis – who are and are not entitled to be enrolled as a participant under the Land Claim Agreement.
- Challenges to the Enrolment Board's decision go to the Supreme Court of the NWT.

What is a Self-Government?

- A clearer representation of who you are: Tłegohłı Got'ıne
 - This is in addition to being a Dene and Metis of the Sahtu of Norman Wells
- The right to make your own laws under the FSGA
- A Government that represents you to Canada, GNWT and industries
- The land claim has remained static, and self-government is the next chapter to enforce your Indigenous Rights.
 - Much like the land claim was the next chapter to enforce your treaty rights. There was no replacement or elimination, just in addition to.

Self-Government vs. Land Claim

| Self-Government | Land Claim |
|---|---|
| Direct Representation to Canada and GNWT, your own voice | Being represented as 1 of 5 communities through the Sahtu Secretariate Inc. (SSI) |
| Create your own laws under the FSGA | Continue to utilize provisions under the land claim |
| You have your own Constitution: it can evolve as and when you want to | Corporate By-Laws under the Canada Not-for-Profit Act |
| Long-term Core Governance Funded by Canada: Financial Stability | Short-term Government Program Contribution Agreements: Financial Instability |

What is the difference between TGG Inc. and TGG (the self-government)?

| TGG, the self-government | TGG, the non-profit |
|--|---|
| Be recognized and operates as Government in the constitutional framework of Canada | Operating as a non-profit organization |
| Receives core governance funding | Does not have any sort of guarantee funding or funding sources |
| Enables the creation of its own programs and services that does not have geographical boundaries | Because of contribution agreements, programs and services do have geographical boundaries |

Obligatory Core Funding from Canada

- When you vote yes to ratify the Final Self Government Agreement, Canada will be obligated to fund your self government in the minimum amount of \$4.6 million per year.
- There is no “renegotiation” or need to “re-apply”. We will receive a base of \$4.6 million every year. This funding arrangement will be reviewed with Canada every 5 to 7 years to adjust for inflation.

What does the \$4.6 million pay for?

- Currently, day-to-day operations of TGG are paid for by administrative fees from contribution agreements with the GNWT and Canada, and topped up by our own money. This includes funds received from Canada for self-government negotiation support.
- Excluding the funds we receive from Canada for self-government negotiations, we currently receive less than \$1.5 million from contribution agreements.
- If the final self-government agreement is not ratified, the self-government negotiation support funding will no longer be available.

- Getting \$4.6 million in core governance funding per year will enable TGG to reallocate its own money to provide programs that the Tłegóhłı Got'îné need regardless where they live.
- For example, programs are being considered for citizens regardless where they live, including:
 - Lowering the elder's assistance age (from 60 years old to 55 years old)
 - Low Income and Living Standards Assistance in:
 - Utility expenses
 - Grocery expenses
 - Childcare expenses
 - Sports and Culture Assistance (e.g. sports equipment for kids)
 - the availability of home renovation and maintenance programs to every TGG household across Canada

How will your Self-Government get started?

- After you successfully ratify the FSGA and Constitution, there will be a 1-year period to transition from a not-for-profit corporation to a self-government.
 - During this 1-year transition we will, along with many other things, create a basic set of laws.
 - These laws will be a starting point enabling the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government to begin operations.
 - Once the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government starts operating, if those basic set of laws need amending, they can be amended to better reflect how you want your government to operate.

Examples of a Basic Set of Laws

- Financial Administration
- Election
- Disclosure and Transparency
- Privacy Protection
- Appointments of non-elected positions

Why aren't social programs in the basic set of laws?

- The FSGA lists TGG's jurisdictions over areas of social programs such as adoption, income support, education, social housing, etc.
- The reason why these types of social programs are not in the basic set of laws is because our elected government needs to ensure it has then capacity to take on these important programs.
- Until then, these programs will continue to be provided by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).
- Once TGG is operating as a government, it can consider what other laws, including social programs, might be enacted under the FSGA.

First Election of the Legislative Council

- There are currently 8 directors on the board (and 1 vacancy). On the effective date, these directors will become the legislative council.
- The first election for the legislation council must take place within 2 years of the effective date.
- We will elect 4 councillors and a president for a 4-year term and we will elect 4 more councillors for a 2-year term. After that, there will be an election every 2 years for 4-year terms.

Participation by Non-Residents

- Currently non-residents cannot be on the board of directors.
- Under the Constitution, 4 of the 9 legislative councillors may be non-residents.
- All **Tlegóhı́ Got'ı́ne**, resident and non-residents, will be Citizens on effective date.

What kind/type of Self-Government will you be voting for?

- As a Citizen you will cast a vote for the President and for each the 8 other Council positions.
- Under the Constitution the President must be a resident of Norman Wells; but up to 4 of the 8 councillors may be non-residents.
- Council can then make appointments to non-elected positions within the Government.

How can I participate in Self-Government?

- Regardless where you live in Canada, under the proposed Constitution, you can run for a seat on your Legislative Council
- Regardless where you live in Canada, you may be the best candidate for appointment to the Institutions that the Legislative Council may establish to provide programs or services or to represent your Self-Government in negotiations with other governments.

Why self-government now?

- Ratifying the Final Self-Government Agreement negotiated over the last 17 years will fulfill the promise of having self-government as set out in the Land Claim.
- If ratified, your Self-Government, as a “government within the constitutional framework of Canada,” will be in a position to advocate for and protect your Inherent Rights directly to other Canadian governments.

Ratification Process

- The Final Day for the Ratification Vote is March 31, 2025.
- Canada, through a contribution agreement, is funding the entire ratification process through The Tłegóhłı Got'ınê Government Incorporated, paying for:
 - A Ratification Committee to oversee meetings and the voting process
 - Independent legal advice for the Ratification Committee
 - And independent Chief Ratification Officer and support staff to run the ratification vote
 - All communication and travel costs for holding information meetings before the ratification vote
 - Office and administration

What will I be voting on? Two Things

- **The Final Self-Government Agreement for the Tłegóhı́ Got'îné**
 - Like the Land Claim Agreement it will be a constitutionally protected treaty
 - See the Summary of the Final Self-Government Agreement
 - Can only be amended by agreement between you and Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories
- **The Tłegóhı́ Got'îné Government Constitution**
 - This is your Self-Government's Constitution governing how your Self-Government will exercise the jurisdictions and authorities set out in the Final Self-Government Agreement
 - You can amend the Constitution without asking or requiring the consent of Canada or the Government of the Northwest Territories

Both Documents must be Approved by you in the Ratification Vote.

If you want your voice to be heard, and if you want to make a difference, you need to cast your vote.

50% plus 1 of you must vote and of the votes cast, 50% plus 1 must be in favour of both documents.

Summary of the Ratification Vote Process

Understanding the Steps and Examples

Step 1 – Ensure Enough Votes Are Cast

- For the Ratification Vote to proceed, at least **132 votes** must be cast.
- This is **50% + 1** of 262 members on the Official Voters List.
- If fewer than 132 votes are cast, the Ratification Vote does not pass.
- If the Total Votes Cast is 132 or more, we proceed to Step 2.

Step 2: Calculate 50% + 1 of Total Votes Cast

- After confirming enough votes are cast, calculate **50% + 1** of the total votes.
- The number of **Yes votes** must meet or exceed this threshold for the vote to pass.

Example 1:

135 Total Votes Cast of 262 Voters

- **50% + 1** of 135 = **69 Yes votes** needed for the vote to pass.
 - $67.5 + 1 = 68.5$ (Round up if value is less than a whole number).
- **69 Yes votes** and **66 No votes**: The vote passes.
- **68 Yes votes** and **67 No votes**: The vote fails.

Example 2:

140 Total Votes Cast of 262 Voters

- . **50% + 1 of 140 = 71 Yes votes** needed for the vote to pass.
- . **71 Yes votes and 69 No votes:** The vote passes.
- . **70 Yes votes and 70 No votes:** The vote fails

Example 3:

262 Total Votes Cast of 262 Voters

- **50% + 1 of 262 = 132 Yes votes** needed for the vote to pass
- **132 Yes votes and 130 No votes:** The vote passes.
- **131 Yes votes and 131 No votes:** The vote fails

Summary of Key Points

- Step 1: Ensure at least 132 votes are cast to proceed to Step 2. If fewer than 132 votes are cast, then the Vote fails.
- Step 2: Calculate **50% + 1** of the total votes cast. The **Yes Votes** must equal or exceed that number to pass the vote.

What's Next?

- Appeals of the Preliminary Voting List are closed
- Notice of Vote and Official Voters List will be mailed on January 27, 2025. Posted on TGGVote.ca
- Mail-in Ballots
 - Every member will receive a mail-in ballot package
 - Requires a witness
- Advance Polls
 - Norman Wells –March 15-TGG Office
 - Yellowknife –March 17 – Explorer Hotel

- Ratification Day –March 31
 - Polls in Norman Wells - TGG Office
 - Yellowknife – Explorer Hotel
 - Edmonton – Fairfield Hotel at Edmonton Airport
 - Mobile assistance will be available
 - Transportation expenses (taxi, Uber) – reimbursed. Details on website