

Tłegóhtł Got'ine Government

“The Government of the People Where the Oil Is”

Why Self-Government

Moving forward while keeping what we have under the Land Claim and what some of us have under the Indian Act.

Give us legal recognition as an Indigenous People represented by our own government.

(see also FAQs ##1 – 3, #6, ##14 - 15, and #20)

What are we now?

- We are an Indigenous community with rights under the Land Claim. Some of us are Sahtu Dene, registered as Indians under the Indian Act. Some of us are Metis with Sahtu Dene ancestors.
- We are represented by a corporation incorporated under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.
- That is, we are no different from the Members of any other nonprofits corporations across Canada – bound by the governance rules set out under that Federal Act.
- We are not a Band under the Indian Act and are not governed by other Federal Acts applying specifically to “First Nations”.
- Unlike “First Nations” we do not receive per capita funding from Canada to operate.

What is a Self-Government

- A clearer, constitutionally protected recognition of who we are: The Tłegohłj Got'jneę; one of the Dene and Metis Peoples of the Sahtu
- The right to make our own laws under the FSGA: see FAQs #8, #23 and #12; and also Chapters 33 – 41 of the FSGA
- A constitutionally recognized Government that represents us to Canada, GNWT and Industry: see FAQs #3, #6
- The next step towards exercising our ancestors' rights of self-determination and protecting and enforcing our Inherent Rights in the future. A step specifically contemplated in Chapter 5 of the Land Claim.
- An addition, without replacement or elimination, to our treaty rights.

Self-Government vs. Land Claim

Self-Government	Land Claim
Direct Representation to Canada and GNWT	Representation through the 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 and Regulations under the Canada Not-for-Profit Act
Government Operation Funded by Canada: Financial Stability	Government Program Contribution Agreements: Financial Instability

How will your Self-Government Work

- Before we have self-government, you will need to ratify the FSGA and the Constitution.
- After ratification there will be a 1-year period to enable our 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 starter kit-of-laws.
 - These laws will be a starting point. That means, if you don't like these laws or the ratified Constitution, you can change them once our government is up and running.
 - These laws, and even the ratified Constitution may not be perfect; but, once our government is up and running, as set out in the FSGA and in the Constitution, you can change them to better reflect what you think is best for all of us. These laws and the Constitution can be corrected, or changed to fill gaps or amended, as set out in the FSGA and in the Constitution.

Examples of the Starter Kit-of-Laws (required under the FSGA)

- Financial and Administration
- Election
- Disclosure and Transparency
- Privacy Protection
- Appointments
- See also FAQs #8 and #23

- After 1 year, on April 1, 2026 we will have a functioning self-government.
 - See FAQs ##4 - 7
- Then within 2 years, there will need to be an election for a new Legislative Council.
 - These elections will be held under our own election law and regulations: see FSGA Chapter 9
 - Our own election law must re-create the staggered election system we now use to elect our Board of Directors and must also comply with our ratified Constitution: see Constitution sections 4 – 8

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

- A mix of republic and “Northern” system.
 - You will directly vote for the President and each of the other 8 Legislative Council positions.
- Council can then make appointments to non-elected positions.
- Under the Constitution the President must be a resident of Tłegohłj (Norman Wells); but
- Up to 4 of the other 8 members of the Legislative Council can be non-residents.

Why not have a perfect self-government from the start

- Everyone has a different conceptualization of what a perfect government is
 - We need to have a starting point. And this is the starting point.
- As time progresses, you can amend your Constitution, and with Canada and GNWT agreeing – you can also amend the FSGA.
- Right now, what we have is a small government and relatively simple.
- As time progresses, your government will grow and will need to adjust to accommodate.

How Can I directly participate in the Self-Government?

- Regardless where you live in Canada, you can vote directly for the President and the 8 other members of your Legislative Council
- 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.

- Having a self-government that you elect directly to represent you at the table with Canada, will benefit you and the generations after you.
- Ratifying the Final Self-Government Agreement negotiated over the last 17 years is the next step in taking back your ancestors right of self-determination, contemplated in the Land Claim Agreement.
- Self-Government for the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells, the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne, will fill in one of the outstanding gaps left by the Land Claim Agreement.
- Our Self-Government will, as a “government within the constitutional framework of Canada”, be in a position to advocate for and protect our Inherent Rights directly to other Canadian governments.

What will I be voting on? Two Things

- **The Final Self-Government Agreement for the Tłegóhłı Got'ınê**
 - Like the Land Claim Agreement it will be a constitutionally protected treaty
 - See the Summary of the Final Self-Government Agreement
 - Can be amended in the future but only by agreement between you, the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne, and Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories
- **The Tłegóhłı Got'ınê 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 by referendum vote 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.

Ratification Process

- The Ratification Vote will take place on March 31, 2025
- Canada, through a contribution agreement, is funding the ratification process through The Tłegóhłj Got'îné 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

When and How Can I Vote

Appeals of Preliminary Voting List close January 13 (Monday)

Notice of Vote and Official Voter List mailed shortly thereafter. Will be available on the website.

Mail-In Ballots

Every Member will receive a mail-in ballot

Witness

Advance Polls

Norman Wells – March 15 –TGG Office

Yellowknife –March 17 – Explorer Hotel

Ratification Day – March 31

Polls in Norman Wells, Yellowknife and Edmonton

Mobile assistance available