

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT SELF-GOVERNMENT AND THE CONSTITUTION

Q 1. What is the inherent right of self-government?

- A.** We are the Dene and Metis of Norman Wells, the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę, the "People Where The Oil Is".

Our Dene ancestors, living in the lands on both sides of the River between the Franklin and Mackenzie mountains, around what is now called Norman Wells, made all the decisions needed to govern themselves within their community and their use of their lands.

In the 1900's the power to make those decisions was taken away from our ancestors. Those decision were made for the Dene and Metis of Norman Wells by the government of Canada (Canada) and sometimes by the government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and sometimes by the town of Norman Wells. (the Town).

In 1993 the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (our Land Claim) gave us back our ancestors' power to make decisions necessary to use and protect our land.

Self-government will give us back some of our ancestors' power to make the decisions necessary to govern ourselves, the Sahtu Dene and Metis Community of Norman Wells.

Q 2. What is a "self-government agreement"?

- A.** The Canadian Encyclopedia defines "Aboriginal self-government" as:

"... the formal structure through which Indigenous communities may control the administration of their people, land, resources and related programs and policies, through agreements with federal and provincial governments."

Our self-government agreement will be an agreement between the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells and Canada and the Northwest Territories.

It will list the kinds of decisions that we will be able to make for our community (Jurisdictions listed in chapters 9 – 28 of the FSGA).

Without a "Self-Government Agreement", if anyone breaks one of our laws and we need to go to Court to enforce our law the first thing we would have to do is prove to the Court that our ancestors had the power to make the kind of law that was broken. For example, if the law that was broken was an adoption law we would have to prove to the Court that our ancestors had the power to decide how anyone could be adopted into the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę. Proving what our ancestors did in the 1700's and 1800's could be very expensive and we would have to do that every time we have to go to Court to enforce one of our laws. A "Self-Government Agreement" that clearly lists all our decision-making powers avoids all that expense.

Also, if we vote in favour of the Final Self-Government Agreement, that Agreement will become a Treaty protected under section 35 of the *Canadian Constitution Act, 1982* just like our Land Claim and Treaty No. 11 are constitutionally protected by section 35.

Q 3. Why self-government?

- A.** Self-Government is the next step in restoring to the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę their Inherent Right of self-determination and self-government, the self-government rights of your ancestors.

The Self-Government Agreement would recognize and constitutionally protect the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government's status as a "government within the constitutional framework of Canada", just like the federal and provincial governments are governments recognized in the *Constitution Act, 1867*.

Also, Canada has recognized, in chapter 29 of Part II and chapter 52 of Part III, that it shares responsibility for ensuring the financial viability of our government. Subject to the necessary appropriations in Parliament, core governance funding from Canada will enable our government to operate

day-to-day and allow our government to use its own resources to provide programs and services to all Tłegohłı Got'ıneę.

Our Self-Government Agreement has three Parts. Part I sets out the general purposes of the Agreement; it sets out general principles that will apply to our government (whether operating under Part II or Part III); it sets out the rules for ratification, implementation and future amendment of the Agreement; it sets out the rules for resolving disputes over the Agreement's interpretation and implementation; it sets out rules governing the relationship between the Town of Norman Wells and our government when our government is operating under Part II; and, it sets out how, in the future, our government may start operating under Part III.

Q 4. What will self-government be like on day-one?

- A. On the Effective Date, the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government will be an Exclusive Indigenous Government operating under Part II of the FSGA and exercising the jurisdictions in chapters 8 - 29.

Once we make up more than 70% of the population in Norman Wells our government can, if we decide to under 6.3 – 6.7 of the FSGA), transition from an Exclusive Indigenous Government to a Public Aboriginal Government that would operate under Part III of the FSGA and exercise the jurisdictions in chapters 30 - 52.

Q 5. What is the difference between Exclusive Indigenous Government and Public Aboriginal Government?

- A. As an Exclusive Indigenous Government the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government will only represent us, the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells, and will only make decisions for us under chapters 9 – 28 of the FSGA. The Town of Norman Wells will remain in place as the local municipal government for all residents of Norman Wells.

If, sometime in the future, we decide to transition to an Aboriginal Public Government, the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government would continue to represent

all the Tłegohłı Got'ıne but it would also become the local municipal government for all the residents of Norman Wells even if they are not Tłegohłı Got'ıne. It would replace the current Town government and the Town would cease to exist.

Q 6. What will self-government do for me?

- A.** What it will do is build on your rights by defining our community's ability to make laws for ourselves and for our children to preserve and protect our language and culture within the modern community of Norman Wells and within the Sahtu Settlement Area, to take over and provide programs and services that are important to the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells across Canada, and to provide our community with elected leadership that Canada and the GNWT will recognize as a “government within the constitutional framework of Canada”.

What self-government will not do is: It will not change your rights under our Land Claim; It will not change the protection of your Aboriginal and Treaty rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Self-Government will also not change anyone’s status as an “Indian” under the *Indian Act*. It will not change anyone’s ability to register as and “Indian” under the *Indian Act*. It will not change any benefits that are available to “Indians” under the *Indian Act*. For example, section 87 of the *Indian Act* which exempts registered “Indians” from paying tax on their personal property if that property is on an Indian Reserve, will continue to apply to Tłegohłı Got'ıne who are also registered “Indians.

Q 7. How will our self-government work?

- A.** The Government Of The People Where The Oil Is, the Tłegohłı Got'ıne Government or the TGG for short, will have a President and 8 other members of the Legislative Council. All 9 will, as long as we are an Exclusive Aboriginal Government operating under Part II of the FSGA, be elected by all Tłegohłı Got'ıne across Canada under our own election rules

(chapter 9 of the FSGA). And, under the Constitution, while the President must be a resident of Norman Wells, 4 of the other 8 members of the Legislative Council may be non-residents.

Those 9 elected members of the Legislative Council will then make the decisions that our Land Corporation currently makes for you under the Land Claim Agreement and they will also make, under chapters 9 – 28 of the FSGA, the decisions that our ancestors once made to protect and benefit the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells, in Norman Wells and across Canada.

Q 8. What is the Effective Date?

- A.** Once you ratify the FSGA and the Constitution, we will require at least one-year to transition from a non-profit corporation to an Exclusive Indigenous Government. We hope April 1, 2026, will be our Effective Date, the date on which the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government will be recognized in Canadian law as “a government within the constitutional framework of Canada”.

Within that transition period, we will develop a set of internal fundamental laws, laws that are expressly required under the FSGA that need to be put in place “on day one”. For example:

Government Administration Law

Establish rules for conflict of interest, the privileges, immunities of Members of the Legislative Council (8.5.1 a) of the FSGA).

Establish rules that may limit the personal liability of elected and appointed members of the TGG (§ 8.5.1 b) of the FSGA).

Establish rules for the safe collection, retention and protection of personal information of Citizens, Staff, members of the TGG, third parties, and other governments (8.5.1 c) and d) of the FSGA).

Establish a Public Registry of Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Laws (2.17.3 and 8.9 of the FSGA).

Establish rules for certification and proof of copies of Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Laws (8.5.1 e), 8.8 and 8.10 of the FSGA).

Establish procedures for dealing with International Obligations (2.12 of the FSGA).

Establish procedures for giving and receiving Notices under 2.19 of the FSG

Financial Administration Law

Required to provide safe and transparent financial rules for the government under 8.5.2 of the FSGA.

Including the maintenance of accounts for TGG's operations as a Designated Sahtu Organization under the Land Claim, separate from its accounts as the government (§ 8.5.5 of the FSGA).

Including the procedure for negotiating or negotiating amendments to Fiscal Arrangements under chapter 29 of the FSGA.

Treaties and Intergovernmental Agreements Law

Establish procedures for:

Entering into Intergovernmental Agreements under § 8.12 of the FSGA.

Pre-Transition meetings with the Town of Norman Wells (6.1 of the FSGA).

Consultation with the GNWT (§ 6.2 of the FSGA).

invoking Transition to Indigenous Public Government under 6.3 and 6.4 of the FSGA.

negotiations and execution of Settlement Lands Agreement referred to in 5.5 of the FSGA.

transfer of lands to TGG, including under 8.1.3 and chapter 27 of the FSGA.

Election Law

Required, under chapter 9 of the FSGA, to hold elections to the Legislative Council which must be held within 2 years of the Effective Date in accordance with sections 5 – 8 of the Constitution, any by-election that might be required under sections 14 and 15 of the Constitution, and any other TGG election.

Citizenship Law

Required, under chapter 10 of the FSGA, to govern who is and is not a Citizen of the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government.

Justice and Dispute Resolution Law

Required to provide for:

the appointment of the 3 independent members of the Justice Council required under 8.3.1 c) and 26.1.1 of the FSGA.

procedures for carrying out some or all of the duties of the Justice Council listed under 26.8.1 of the FSGA.

procedures for TGG's appearance before the NWT Courts under 26.9 of the FSGA and mediators and arbitrators under chapter 4 of the FSGA.

procedures for TGG's engagement with the GNWT under 26.10 of the FSGA.

Q 9. What will our government look like if it transitions in the future to a Public Indigenous Government?

- A. On Transition to a Public Indigenous Government, the Tłegohłı Got'ıne Government would continue to make decisions for us under the Land Claim and under what were chapters 9 – 28 of Part II of the FSGA and have been repeated as chapters 31 – 45 and 48 – 51 in Part II of the FSGA. But it also become the local municipal government for all residents of Norman Wells and make local municipal decisions under chapters 46 – 47 of Part III of the FSGA. Because those local municipal decision affect all residents not just those who are Tłegohłı Got'ıne, residents who are not Tłegohłı Got'ıne would be allowed seats on the Legislative Council and would be allowed to vote.

However, only the Tłegohłı Got'ıne who sit on the Legislative Council will be able to pass laws respecting our Land Claim and Inherent and Treaty Rights, and our language and culture.

Also on Transition, a new Beneficiary Council made up entirely of Tłegohłı Got'ıne will be established under Part III of the FSGA. Tłegohłı Got'ıne in Norman Wells and across Canada will be entitled to sit on and vote for the Beneficiary Council. And, before the Tłegohłı Got'ıne who sit on the Legislative Council can pass any laws respecting our Land Claim and Inherent and Treaty Rights, and our language and culture, they must get the consent of the Beneficiary Council.

Q 10. Why would we want to make our own membership/Citizenship rules?

- A. Just like Canada decides who is and can become a part of the larger Canadian community as a Landed Immigrant and as a Canadian Citizen, our ancestors decided who would be welcomed into and become a part of the Dene and Metis community through custom adoption and custom acceptance.

But under the old *Indian Act* that power was taken away. Canada told many women and men of Dene ancestry that they and their children were not “Indian” and refused to recognize that they had any aboriginal rights.

Taking back control of who is and who can become Tłegohłı Got'ıneę, Citizens of the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government, is a big step in taking back control over who we are.

Q 11. Who would make our Citizenship rules?

- A.** You would: by electing the President and the other 8 members of the Legislative Council, who would then pass a Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government Citizenship Law.

Under the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government Constitution, that Citizenship Law and all other laws and policies of the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government must only be passed in keeping with the general principles, customs and traditions of your ancestors and in keeping with Dene Law.

Under 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of the FSGA everyone who is currently enrolled as a participant under the Land Claim with the Sahtu Community of Norman Wells will be a Citizen and everyone who is entitled to be enrolled as a participant under the Land Claim with the Sahtu Community of Norman Wells on the Effective Date has the right to become a Citizen.

Q 12. Does TGG have to take on this or any of the other decision-making powers listed in chapters 9 – 28 of Part II of the FSGA?

- A.** No.

Other than the fundamental laws referred to in Question 8, your Legislative Council can decide when and which other decision-making powers the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government needs to exercise to benefit our community and to provide programs and services to you.

Q 13. Does the Adoption jurisdiction affect our custom adoptions? And, if so, how?

- A.** Yes, but only if your elected Legislative Council passes a Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government Adoption Law that changes your existing, but unwritten, adoptions customs.

If that Adoption Law only writes down how the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells have traditionally adopted children, then the only change will be that your adoption customs rules will have been written down.

But if that Adoption Law also requires, for example, that you register with the TGG the name and age of your custom-adopted child, then your custom adoption rules will have changed to include that requirement.

Q 14. Would self-government change my rights under the Land Claim Agreement?

A. No (see 2.2.4 of the FSGA).

Q 15. How will anyone know we have self-government rights? Who will remind GNWT and Canada when it passes laws?

A. That will be the job of the Tłegohłı́ Got'ı́neḡ Government.

Before the Final Self-Government Agreement comes into force:

- 1) you must vote in favour of it; and
- 2) both Canada and the GNWT must pass laws ratifying it.

Once that happens, it will be a Treaty protected by section 35 of the *Canadian Constitution Act, 1982*.

Also, Canada and the GNWT will still have a common law duty to consult with the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells by consulting with the Tłegohłı́ Got'ı́neḡ Government.

Also, the Tłegohłı́ Got'ı́neḡ Government will maintain a public registry containing the FSGA and any future amendments to the FSGA, the Tłegohłı́ Got'ı́neḡ Government Constitution and any future amendments to the Constitution, and all laws passed by your Legislative Council.

Q 16. Why are our settlement lands in the "Tulita District" instead of in the "Tulita – Norman Wells District"?

- A. The Land Claim does not name any districts within the Sahtu Settlement Area. Our settlement lands are shared by the Tłegohłı̄ Got'ı̄neḡ Government Incorporated, the Tulita Land Corporation and the Fort Norman Metis Community. They are located within the part of the Sahtu Settlement Area that has come to be called the "Tulita District". But it should be called the "Tulita – Norman Wells District". We have asked the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. to make this change to their documentation.

Q 17. How does the "District Management Agreement" describe the District and its purpose?

- A. The name of the Agreement is the "Fort Norman/Norman Wells District Land Agreement". The parties to that Agreement are your Land Corporation, the Tulita Land Corporation and the Fort Norman Metis Community's Land Corporation and the Tulita District Land Corporation which was incorporated by your Land Corporation along with the Tulita Land Corporation and the Fort Norman Metis Land Corporation. Other than naming the Tulita District Land Corporation as a party the Agreement does not refer to the "District" or the District's purpose.

Q 18. What are the taxes referred to in the Tax Chapter?

- A. "Direct Taxes" are taxes on things that the taxpayer pays directly to the government. Examples are income tax and property taxes.

"Indirect Taxes" are taxes that the taxpayer pays indirectly. An example is GST, where the store adds the tax to the price they charge you and then pays the government the GST on your behalf.

Q 19. Will I pay more taxes?

- A. Most of us do not live on an Indian Reserve or near an Indian Reserve so most of us are already paying income tax to Canada and to the GNWT or the

province in which we live. Most of us are already paying GST too. That will not change. So, self-government will not mean you pay more taxes.

Q 20. Will those of us who are Status Indians still be Status Indians?

A. Yes.

Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government Citizens who qualify to be Status Indians under the *Indian Act* (Canada) will continue to be able to register under the *Indian Act* (Canada). As Status Indians they will qualify for any government program intended for Status Indians if the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government has not obtained funding from Canada to deliver that program directly to TGG Citizens.

Q 21. What am I voting on March 31, 2025?

A. You are being asked to vote whether you approve **both** the Final Self Government Agreement that is published on the TGGVOTE website **and** the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government Constitution that is also published on that website.

You are not voting on the list of powers in the Final Self Government Agreement that your government might choose to exercise sometime in the future.

You can amend the published Final Self Government Agreement later, if necessary, if your government, Canada and the GNWT first agree to amend it under chapter 5 of the FSGA and then only if you also approve the amendment in another referendum held under your Constitution.

You can amend the published Constitution, if necessary, if you approve the amendment in another referendum held under sections 21 – 23 of that Constitution.

Q 22. Larry Tourangeau's May 8, 2024, Questions

1. I believe the 100-kilometer clause has to be deleted (There is no need to divide our people between the members in Norman Wells and the 250 members outside the 100 km.)

A. There is no 100-kilometer clause in the Final Self-Government Agreement that is being voted on on March 31, 2025.

2. Residency Clause should be open. (again, dividing our people)

A. Because the Tłegohłı Got'ıne Government would be a Sahtu Dene and Metis government, sharing the whole of the Sahtu Settlement Area with the Sahtu Dene and Metis Communities of Deline, Tulita, Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake, with continuing obligations to act as a designated Sahtu organization under the Land Claim Agreement, nominating a director to the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. and a trustee to the Sahtu Trust, it is important that it be based in Tłegohłı/Norman Wells and be in touch with all 5 Sahtu Communities. It is also important that the Tłegohłı Got'ıne who are not resident in Tłegohłı/Norman Wells be involved. The balance struck in the Tłegohłı Got'ıne Government Constitution is that the President must be resident but that up to 4 of the 8 other members of the Legislative Council can be non-residents.

But for that constitutional requirement and 9.2.2 b) and 9.3.2 b), there are no other residency rules unless our elected Legislative Council decides to make some. Future Legislative Councils can amend any residency rules except for those fixed in the Constitution and in 9.2.2 and 9.3.2 of the FSGA.

3. Elections need to be open. (Presently prevents qualified people from running and there should be a platform that can be questioned in an open forum.)

A. Any Election Law passed by our Legislative Council for the Exclusive Indigenous Government under chapter 9 of the FGSGA

must provide for fair and open elections by secret ballot (9.1.2 of the FSGA). All other election or campaign rules will be for our elected Legislative Council to decide and make (or amend in the future).

4. I understand the present Board of Directors want to slide in the New Government I am not in favor of that. (We see very little Financial Transparency as it is.)

A. One of the common problems faced by Indigenous communities across Canada after signing a self-government agreement has been continuity of leadership during the transition from negotiations to government. 8.1.9 a) of the FSGA and section 4 of the Constitution sets out that the President and other Directors in office on the Effective Date continue as the President and other members of the Legislative Council. But 8.1.9 b) of the FSGA and section 5 of the Constitution require that there be a new election within two years of the Effective Date; and sections 6 – 8 of the Constitution require the Legislative Council to include in the new Tłegohłı Got'ıne Election Law provision implementing the staggered elections currently held every 2 years.

Financial Transparency is required by 8.5.2 and 8.5.3 of the FSGA in the Tłegohłı Got'ıne Financial Administration Law that needs to be passed by our Legislative Council on Effective Date. Financial Transparency is also required under section 18 of the Constitution.

5. I am sure other members have similar concerns and may have others to add.

A. Question asked by other members about self-government and about the constitution are included in this FAQ.

6. None of these important issues should be PUNTED for 5 years down the road for someone else to deal with.

A. The only issues that have been punted in the FSGA are whether our

government wants to take on the power to deal with Wills and Estates and Guardianship and Trusteeship (chapters 20 and 21 of the FSGA); and, our government will be talking to the self-governments or self- government negotiators in the other Sahtu Communities before exercising self-government powers over any settlement lands owned by the Tulita District Land Corporation.

Q 23. Why are we not passing laws under the adoption, child and family services, income support or social housing Jurisdictions “on day one”?

- A.** During the transition year between a successful ratification vote and the anticipated Effective Date of April 1, 2026, our Board of Directors’ priority must be working out and agreeing upon the set of internal fundamental laws listed in the answer to Question 8. Why? Because that “kit of laws” is needed for our self-government to operate administratively, financially, and inter-governmentally “on day one” as a government within the constitutional framework of Canada.

However, once that kit of laws has been agreed upon and is ready to go on the Effective Date, our Board of Directors can start working on one or more of the social Jurisdictions set out in chapters 38 – 41 or on one or more of the other Jurisdictions set out in chapters 33 – 37 and chapters 44 – 51.

What would that work require? First, the Board of Directors will have to identify issues that need to be resolved by passing a law under one of those jurisdictional chapters. Then it will have to be considered how best to deal with those issues. It may need to study how other communities have dealt with those or similar issues and then find out what we want to do. It must also considered whether the Tłegohłı́ Got’ı́neᑦ Government has or will have the administrative and financial capacity to provide the preferred solution or program or service for the benefit of all of us. This will take some time, just as it will take time to work out the “kit of laws” needed “on day one”.

Q 24. Doesn't 6.7 of the FGSGA take the right to vote for our self-government representatives away from non-resident Tłegohłı Got'ıneę on the Effective Date?

A. No.

On the Effective Date our self-government will become an Exclusive Indigenous Government representing only the Sahtu Dene and Metis of Norman Wells (see answers to Question 4 and Question 5). The right of Non-resident Tłegohłı Got'ıneę to vote for our Exclusive Indigenous Government is guaranteed by 9.2 of the FSGA and also by the Constitution.

6.7 of the FSGA only applies if, as first provided for in the Agreement-in-Principle and as still provided for in chapter 6 of the FSGA, we decide that our self-government should take over the Town of Norman Wells. If we make that decision under either 6.3 or 6.4 of the FSGA, the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Government will transition to and become the Public Indigenous Government described in Part III of the FSGA.

That Public Indigenous Government will still have a President who must be a resident Tłegohłı Got'ıneę and 8 other Legislative Councillors but we will also have a new 9-member Beneficiary Council.

The reason for the new Beneficiary Council is that, as negotiated in the Agreement-in-Principle, the Legislative Council would become the local municipal government for all residents of Norman Wells even if they are not Tłegohłı Got'ıneę. Those non-Tłegohłı Got'ıneę residents will be allowed to vote for and run for some seats on the Legislative Council, but 31.4 guarantees that a majority of the seats on the Legislative Council of the Public Indigenous Government will always be held by Tłegohłı Got'ıneę.

However, non-Tłegohłı Got'ıneę members of the Legislative Council cannot make decisions about our Land Claim or Inherent and Treaty Rights. So, as negotiated in the Agreement-in-Principle, only those

members of the Legislative Council who are Tłegohłı Got'ıneę will be able to make those decisions for us. Also, before they make those Land Claim, Inherent and Treaty Rights decision, those Tłegohłı Got'ıneę Legislative Councillors must first obtain the consent of the Beneficiary Council.

Only Tłegohłı Got'ıneę, regardless of their place of residence, who are participants under the Land Claim Agreement can vote for, nominate candidates for and sit on the Beneficiary Council.

In this way the Agreement-in-Principle struck a balance between protecting the democratic rights of the Tłegohłı Got'ıneę and the democratic rights of non-Tłegohłı Got'ıneę residents of Norman Wells which, upon Transition, will be renamed Tłegohłı.

Q 25. Can we change the Constitution before the March 31, 2025 Vote?

- A.** No; not if we want to keep the March 31, 2025 vote and the anticipated April 1, 2026 Effective Date. This is because 7.2.1 of the FSGA requires that the Constitution be submitted for approval on the same day as the FSGA and because the Constitution lays down the fundamental internal governance rules that must be followed by our self-government starting “on day one”.

The Constitution has been presented at the Engagement Meetings across Canada these last 3 years. It contains the basic requirements of a constitution (see list in 8.2 of the FGSGA). It also contains other provisions that you asked for during those Engagement Meetings; e.g., direct election of the President, the re-establishment of the existing systems of staggered elections every 2 years, making seats on the Legislative Council available for Tłegohłı Got'ıneę who are not residents of Norman Wells, and protecting against interference with personal spiritual beliefs and spiritual practices. After a successful ratification vote, if there are changes that should be made to the Constitution, those changes can be made by referendum held under section 22 of the Constitution and without having to get the consent of Canada or the GNWT.

Q 26. When did the rule for ratification of the FSGA and the Constitution change to the double majority rule now in 7.7.2 of the FSGA?

A. May 13, 2024, after Canada suggested using the test that has been used for years for the surrender of reserve land under the *Indian Act* to ensure that the decision is made by members who care or are interested enough to actually cast a ballot.

This double majority requires that a majority (50% plus 1) of Tłegohłı Got'ıneę 18 years of age and older must vote **and that** a majority (50% plus 1) of the votes cast must be in favour of the FSGA and the Constitution. It is a two-step test:

STEP 1: ENSURE ENOUGH VOTES ARE CAST

For the Ratification Vote to proceed, at least 132 votes must be cast because **that is 50% + 1 of the 262** Tłegohłı Got'ıneę on the Official Voting List.

If less than 132 votes are cast, the Ratification Vote does not pass.

If the number of votes cast is 132 or more, we proceed to Step 2.

STEP 2: ENSURE ENOUGH VOTES ARE CAST IN FAVOUR

Example 1: 135 Total Votes Cast

- **50% + 1 of 135 = 69 Yes votes** needed for the vote to pass.
(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

- **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: 150 Total Votes Cast

- **50% + 1 of 150 = 76 Yes votes** needed for the vote to pass.
 - **76 Yes votes and 74 No votes:** The vote passes.
 - **75 Yes votes and 75 No votes:** The vote fails.

Example 4: 201 Total Votes Cast

- **50% + 1 of 201 = 102 Yes votes** needed for the vote to pass.
(Round up if value is less than a whole number).
 - **102 Yes votes and 99 No votes:** The vote passes.
 - **101 Yes votes and 100 No votes:** The vote fails.

Example 5: 262 Total Votes Cast

- **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.

Q 27. Does David represent only the board and executive and not the beneficiaries. And if not who represents all beneficiaries. Does his firm represent the entity and if so I would like an answer if we do not have legal representation.

A. These self-government negotiations are between the collective citizenry of Canada, represented by a negotiating team appointed by the Government of Canada's Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and the collective Tłegóhłı Got'ıneę, (all Sahtu Dene and Metis who are enrolled as participants under the Land Claim Agreement with our Land Corporation), represented by a negotiating team appointed by our Land Corporation.

The negotiating team representing the collective citizenry of Canada is assisted by a lawyer who, appointed and paid directly by the Government of Canada, along with the other members of the negotiating team represents the collective citizenry of Canada.

The negotiating team representing the collective Tłegóhłı Got'ıneę is assisted by David Rolf who, appointed by our Land Corporation and paid under a contribution agreement with the Government of Canada, along with the other members of our negotiating team represents the collective Tłegóhłı Got'ıneę.

Just like Canada's lawyer does not take instructions from or represent individual Canadian Citizens or small groups of Canadian Citizens, David Rolf does not take instructions from or represent individual Tłegóhłı Got'ıneę or small groups of Tłegóhłı Got'ıneę.

Q. 28 Why can't we be like Deline?

A. The Délıneę Got'ıneę Government is a "Public Indigenous Government" which passes laws for the Délıneę Got'ıneę and also acts as the local municipal government for non-Délıneę Got'ıneę residents of Délıneę.

On the Effective Date of our FSGA, as negotiated between 2011 and 2020, the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́ne Government will be an “Exclusive Indigenous Government”. It will only pass laws for the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́ne exercising the Jurisdictions set out in chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 of Part II of our FSGA. These are the exact same subject-matter Jurisdictions that the Délı́ne Got'ı́ne Government may exercise under chapters 5, 18, 14, 8, 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, 15, 29, 25, 20, 21, 13, 19, 17, 12, and 22 of the Délı́ne FSGA.

The only Jurisdiction that the Public Indigenous Délı́ne Got'ı́ne Government has that our Exclusive Indigenous Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́ne Government will not have is the “Local Services” Jurisdiction in chapter 9 of the Délı́ne FSGA. That is the Jurisdiction to act as the local municipal government for all residents of Délı́ne, whether or not they are Délı́ne Got'ı́ne.

However, as explained in answer to FAQ #4 and #5, in the future our Exclusive Indigenous Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́ne Government may transition to a Public Government under chapter 6 of our FSGA. If that happens the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́ne Government will have the exact same “Local Services” Jurisdiction under Part III (chapter 47) of our FSGA that the Délı́ne Got'ı́ne Government exercises under chapter 9 of the Délı́ne FSGA. And, the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́ne Government will also continue to have, under chapters 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45., 48, 49, 50, and 50 of Part III of our FSGA, all of the same Jurisdictions over the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́ne that it had as an Exclusive Indigenous Government under Part II, all of the same Jurisdictions that the Délı́ne Got'ı́ne Government has over the Délı́ne Got'ı́ne.

Q. 29 **Canada would never pay for all these negotiations and for the Ratification Voting, isn't someone lying?**

A. No, no one is lying about this.

It has all been paid for and is being paid for by Canada under contribution agreements in furtherance of Truth and Reconciliation. Ask Canada's representatives who have been attending the Information Meetings.

Q. 30 How can Canada allow this Ratification Vote to take place when there is no Parliament in place?

A. Parliament is still “in place” and will remain “in place” until a federal election is called. Prorogation only suspends all meetings of the Senate and the House of Commons.

Also, the federal government that initialed our FSGA on November 19, 2024 remains “in place” until a federal election is held and a new House of Commons is sworn in.

Q. 31 Does chapter 9 of the FSGA give the 9 elected members of the Legislative Council the power to restrict non-resident voting?

A. Yes, just like Parliament and the provincial legislatures have the constitutional power to impose residency conditions on voters and on candidates in federal and provincial and municipal elections. **However**, the voting and candidacy rights of non-residents are protected by the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́neḡ Government Constitution.

That Constitution tells the Legislative Council that “non-residents” **must be able to sit** on the Legislative Council if elected (sections 5, 6, and 7). That Constitution **requires** that the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́neḡ Government, the President, and the Legislative Council exercise their powers consistent with Dene Law and the Constitution, “fairly and without discrimination against, or abuse of, any individual” (sections 9, 10, and 13). That Constitution also **confirms** that the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* applies to the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́neḡ Government and the laws it

passes (section 19); see also section 2.10.1 of the FSGA.

And, to resolve any possible ambiguity, on January 27, 2025, your Board of Directors approved adding section 20(b) to the draft Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government Constitution making it absolutely clear that, if the Constitution is ratified, the Legislative Council shall not make any law that “denies an individual’s right to vote based on their residence”.

Q. 32 If I do not live in Canada but have voting and participation rights am I voting myself out of my current status?

A. No.

If your name is on the Preliminary Voters List and after the appeal period it stays on the Official Voters List that means (1) that you are or will be at least 18 years old on March 31, 2025 and (2) that your name is on the Sahtu Enrolment Board’s list of individuals who are enrolled as a “participants” under the Land Claim Agreement with the Sahtu Dene and Metis community of Norman Wells. Ratifying the FSGA cannot change your status or rights as a “participant” under the Land Claim Agreement (see FSGA, sections 2.2.5, 2.11.3, and 2.11.6).

Further, any Citizenship Law passed under chapter 10 after the Effective Date **must ensure** that you are on the list of Citizens of the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government.

Q. 33 Why can’t we have a complete “corporate structure”, with by-laws and budget, constitution, roles, responsibilities, voting policies and independent oversight in place in the FSGA before we vote on it?

A. The FSGA together with the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government Constitution that we are voting on establishes the “corporate structure” and constitution of the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government (see chapter 8 for structure on Effective Date and chapter 30 for structure if it transitions to a Public

Indigenous Government).

Section 8.5.2 (and after transition section 30.5.2) of the FSGA **require** that the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government provide “a system of financial administration ... that is comparable to those of a government exercising similar Jurisdiction and Authority in Canada”; that is, comparable to financial structures and transparency provisions of the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments in Canada.

Section 18 of the Constitution **requires** that there be a General Assembly of the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne every year at which the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne will receive an annual report in writing on government activities and audited financial statements.

Also, sections 9 – 13 of Constitution **require** the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government, its President, members of the Legislative Assembly, employees and members of Institutions created by the Legislative Assembly to carry out their duties in accordance with Dene Law, the FSGA and Constitution.

Section 14 of the Constitution provides a mechanism for the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne to recall and replace their elected officials.

The rules set out in the FSGA have been negotiated between the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne, Canada and the GNWT. The Constitution is, however, an expression of our Inherent Right of Self-Determination and Self-Government, and provides mandatory foundational guidance to our self-government immediately upon the Effective Date. Guidance that can restrict the powers otherwise available to the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government under the FSGA. For example, sections 4 – 8 of the Constitution **require** the Legislative Council to enact an Election Law that re-establishes the current system of staggered elections and that ensures that 4 of the 8 Legislative Councillors may be non-residents.

All by-laws, budgets, voting policies, and other laws will and must be expressions of our Inherent Right of Self-Government, drafted, enacted,

and amended by our elected Legislative Council as and when necessary. They should not be frozen in time in a Treaty that cannot be amended without Canada's consent.

Q. 34 What is the interaction between the FSGA and the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government Constitution?

A. The FSGA is basically the Agreement-in-Principle that was negotiated for us by a team lead by Chief Negotiator Larry Tourangeau and signed in 2019. The Agreement-in-Principle set the structure of our self-government, provides that we shall elect our self-government, lists the Jurisdictions and Authorities that our elected self-government may choose to exercise on our behalf, and makes provision for the Tłegóhłı Got'ıne Government to transition in the future from an Exclusive Indigenous Government to a Public Indigenous Government if we want it to transition. However, between 2020 and 2024 amendments to the Agreement-in-Principle and new provisions were negotiated by a team lead by Chief Negotiator Ethel Blondin Andrew that:

1. removed GNWT oversight of our self-government's exercise of our social envelop Jurisdictions ("CPO's");
2. overhauled the Tax Chapter;
3. revised the Settlement Lands Chapter so it reflects the fact that all Settlement Lands are shared by all 5 Sahtu communities under the terms of the Land Claim Agreement;
4. preserved the benefits of section 87 of the *Indian Act* for those of us who are registered as status Indians;
5. overhauled the Chapter dealing with future amendments to ensure that our FSGA would not be frozen in time and could be amended as a "living document";

6. expanded our "Liquor" Jurisdiction to include "Intoxicants" (essentially cannabis products);
7. established the process to be followed by Canada when international obligations might affect our Inherent Rights; and
8. added a Fiscal Relationship Chapter.

The FSGA is the treaty negotiated between the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́neę and the Crown that will bind and govern our government-to-government relationship.

The Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́neę Government Constitution is different. While section 8.2 of the FSGA lists 9 things that needed to be included in the Constitution, things like the way the Constitution can be amended in the future, this Constitution was drafted and redrafted to reflect the input and suggestions made by the members who attended the Self-Government Engagement Meetings that have been held in Toronto, Gravenhurst, Edmonton, Vancouver, Nanimo, Red Deer, Yellowknife and Norman Wells since 2020. This Constitution is our document. It establishes foundation internal rules that we have decided must bind our self-government when it conducts its day-to-day operations and that we have decided must bind our elected Legislative Council when it exercises any of the Jurisdictions and Authorities set out in the FSGA.

The Constitution binds our self-government to Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́neę-made rules, rules that only the Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́neę can change.

Q. 35 Has a thorough due diligence process been completed to assess voter eligibility, ensuring all requirements and criteria have been met?

A. To be on the voters list as an eligible voter section 7.4.1 of the FSGA requires that an individual be:

- i) Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́neę, that is a Sahtu Dene and Metis as defined in section 2.1.1 of the Land Claim Agreement who is enrolled as a participant under chapter 4 of the Land Claim Agreement with the Sahtu community of Norman Wells; and
- ii) at least 18 years of age before or on March 31, 2025.

Under chapter 4 of the Land Claim Agreement it is the Sahtu Enrolment Board that decides who is Sahtu Dene and Metis and who enrolls applicants as participants with a Sahtu community; and, the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories hears challenges to the Enrolment Board's decisions.

All individuals whose names are on the voters list have been enrolled by the Sahtu Enrolment Board as participants under the Land Claim Agreement with the Sahtu community of Norman Wells and will be at least 18 years of age before or on March 31, 2025.

Q. 36 Why should we expect the new self-government to pass transparency rules when “the old government is already obliged to publish a schedule of remuneration by the *First Nations Financial Transparency Act* but they don't?”

All living citizens of Canada have a right to privacy in their personal information. Federal, provincial, and territorial laws across Canada confirm that right when they lay down the rules that apply when they permit the public release of your personal information, information that they have collected from you as citizens.

One of the federal laws that make an exception to the right of privacy is the *First Nations Financial Transparency Act*. That requires First Nations to publish the salaries paid to members of their elected Councils. But our “old government”, The Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́neę Government Incorporated, is not an *Indian Act* band or “First Nation” as defined in the *First Nations Financial Transparency Act*. That federal disclosure law does not apply

to our “old government”. The *First Nations Financial Transparency Act* does not apply to The Tłegóhłı Got’ıne Government Incorporated. What applies to The Tłegóhłı Got’ıne Government Incorporated is the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* and the Regulations passed under it (“the governing Corporations Act”).

The Tłegóhłı Got’ıne Government Incorporated, like all corporations in Canada, has a duty to protect the privacy of its employees’ personal information and the privacy of its shareholders’ and Members’ personal information.

The governing Corporations Act requires that a professional auditor do a complete audit of our ‘old government’s” financial books and records every year and requires that the annual audited financial statements be then made available to Members. Our “old government” has done this since at least 2011. It has complied and is complying with the governing Corporations Act.

Q. 37 Why did Kristine Geary only get all Members names and mailing addresses and not their emails and phone numbers after threatening legal action?

The governing Corporations Act (referred to in the answer to Q. 36 above) applies here too. It creates a very limited exception to the laws of privacy that protect the personal information of all living citizens of Canada. The governing Corporations Act:

- a) requires that The Tłegóhłı Got’ıne Government Incorporated keep a membership list;
- b) prescribes that that membership list shall only consist of the names and mailing addresses of the Members; and
- c) requires that that membership list be given to a Member, but only if:

- (i) she asks for it, and only if
- (ii) she swears that she will only use the personal information on that membership list for matter relating to the affairs of the corporation.

The Tłegóhłı́ Got'ı́ne Government Incorporated provided Kristine Geary with its membership list containing all Members names and mailing addresses in December 2022, not after being threatened with legal action but after it received a Statutory Declaration signed by her, in which she promised to abide by the condition that she would only use the personal information of the Members on the membership list for matters relating to the affairs of the corporation.

Some say that membership list provided in 2022 should have included all Members emails and phone numbers not just names and mailing addresses because this is “2025”. However, the governing Corporations Act does not allow disclosure of Members’ emails and phone numbers to anyone without Members consent, not even to another family member.

Q. 38 Will the President carry the title “President” or will it be Chief or some sort?

Under the FSGA, the leader of TGG will be called the "President".

Q. 39 Does TGG affect only Norman Wells or all of the Sahtu communities, in terms of self-governance?

The TGG will only represent the Sahtu Dene and Metis that are currently affiliated to the community of Norman Wells, who live in and outside of Norman Wells. The self-government does not impact the other Sahtu communities as under Schedule B of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, each community will have their own self-government agreement with Canada and the GNWT.

Q. 40 Will TGG act as a regional government representing the communities, such as the Tłı̨cho Regional Government?

No, under the FSGA (and the Land Claim Agreement) TGG will only represent its citizens across Canada that is the Sahtu Dene and Metis affiliated to the community of Norman Wells.

Q. 41 What requirements would be needed to be on the Justice Committee, as I would like to be apart of it if it is approved.

Under TGG's Constitution, anyone, no matter where you live, can be appointed to the Justice Committee as long as they are able to perform their duties consistent with Dene Law, the Constitution, and TGG Law. Over time their precise duties may include some or all of the duties described in chapter 26 of the FSGA,

Q. 42 Can you speak to the relationship between Imperial Oil and the proposed TGG government? I ask this, because I have found work with Sahtu United Incorporated as an environmental technician and I really enjoy the work but I feel sad that it feels like it is coming to an end and just got here.

TGG will be a government and Imperial Oil is a corporation. There is no pre-supposed or established relationship between the two. What likely will happen is that TGG will have better resources and be better able to represent you to industries like Imperial Oil and to advocate for economic stability in the community.

Q. 43 How is SSI going to be incorporated into TGG? Is the plan to transfer governance power to SSI under the new TGG name? And will this

affect negotiations with Imperial Oil and them continuing their operations and their water license renewal?

The SSI will not be incorporated into TGG. It will continue to represent every Sahtu community for purposes under the Land Claim Agreement. This will not change even after every Sahtu community has its own self-government. That is, your self-government, TGG, will represent you directly to all governments and industry and the SSI will continue to represent all Sahtu communities as it currently does under the land claim. The land claim has some gaps to enforce your rights, and the self-government agreement closes those gaps.

Q. 44 Is there a plan to replace the economic output that Imperial Oil provides in the case that they permanently shut down operations? I am very hopeful they do not.

No corporation can replace the economic impact of Imperial Oil that has been here for over 100 years. However, once non-renewable oil and gas are extracted, it is gone and corporations move on to other locations, some are in the Sahtu, to conduct more extractions. Once we form a self-government, TGG, it can use its funds to create sustainable and very localized employment opportunities, but it will be nowhere near Imperial Oil's economic impact.