



NORTHWEST TERRITORY MÉTIS NATION

PRESS RELEASE

October 23, 2017

Decision of the Federal Court regarding duty of consultation to the NSMA

The Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) continues to actively negotiate and advocate for the recognition of the aboriginal rights and title of our Indigenous Métis members from the Fort Resolution Métis Council, Fort Smith Métis Council, and Hay River Métis Government Council.

As a follow-up to the decision of the Federal Court, the NWTMN advises as follows:

- Final land claim agreement (Treaty) negotiations will continue. The Court did NOT halt negotiations and the Court did NOT set aside the signed Agreement-in-Principle. The Court did not provide the full relief sought by the NSMA;
- The NWTMN has made substantial headway for the recognition of harvesting rights into the North Slave region together with additional benefits after the Court case was started;
- The NWTMN continues to be the legitimate governing body for our Indigenous Métis members from the Fort Resolution Métis Council, Fort Smith Métis Council, and Hay River Métis Government Council. The Court never made any orders against the NWTMN. The court case did not question the legitimacy of the NWTMN or the legitimacy of the NWTMN land and resource negotiation process;
- The Court directed Canada to continue to consult the NSMA during final agreement negotiations, which consultation has been planned irrespective of the court case. The NWTMN is not involved in the consultation process as this is the responsibility of government;
- The NWTMN is confident that the issues raised by the NSMA will be addressed through respectful dialogue. The NWTMN comprehensive final agreement will not adversely affect the *Powley* harvesting rights of the NSMA.

The NWTMN will press ahead for the recognition and reconciliation of the aboriginal rights and title of the Indigenous Métis members from the Fort Resolution Métis Council, Fort Smith Métis Council, and Hay River Métis Government Council.

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For more information, please contact:

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