



NORTHWEST TERRITORY MÉTIS NATION

NEWS RELEASE

Establishment of the East Arm National Park Reserve and the signing of the Impact Benefit Agreement

Fort Resolution (August 22, 2019) - On August 20, 2019, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) celebrated an important milestone with the signing, in Fort Resolution, of an Impact and Benefit Agreement for the East Arm National Park Reserve (also referred to as Thaidene Nene) with Parks Canada. The Agreement was signed by Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna, and President Garry Bailey of the NWTMN on behalf of the Fort Resolution Métis Government Council, Fort Smith Métis Council and the Hay River Métis Government Council.

The Northwest Territory Métis Nation has worked on a government-to-government basis, in partnership with Parks Canada, in the establishment of the national park reserve and with the Government of the Northwest Territories in the establishment of the Thaidene Nene protected area. The negotiation of the Impact and Benefit Agreement with Parks Canada and the Establishment Agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories recognize the ongoing presence and inherent right of the self-government of the NWTMN and are important steps towards reconciliation with Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The East Arm area is very important to the NWTMN. The harvesting practices, culture, history and way of life of the NWTMN are tied to the land, resources and waters in the East Arm area, in particular at the historic trading post of Fort Reliance. The aboriginal harvesting rights of Indigenous Métis Members will continue in the East Arm area ensuring our way of life will flourish for the generations to come. Indigenous Métis Members will continue to harvest wildlife, fish, plants and trees, and continue to use camps, cabins and traditional travel routes to exercise harvesting rights in the East Arm Area.

The NWTMN will have equal representation on the Management Board that will be established for the National Park and Protected Area. The NWTMN will be working with the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada on a government-to-government basis on the Management Board, that will prepare the Management Plan and provide recommendations to

the decision-makers for the management of the National Park and the Protected Area. We are proud to be one of the decision-makers.

The NWTMN is always balancing environmental stewardship and economic development for our members. In this area, we have prioritized environmental stewardship, while promoting our participation in the evolving conservation economy. Through the the implementation of the Impact and Benefit Agreement, we have created opportunities for our Indigenous Métis, including:

- A youth camp at Simpson Island;
- Summer employment and scholarships for our students;
- A Building for the Métis Cultural Institute at Fort Resolution;
- A Guardianship program;
- Water monitoring;
- Economic development opportunities in the conservation economy for our three local Métis Governments or our Indigenous Métis Members;
- Employment opportunities and contracting opportunities; and
- Participation on the Management Board.

The NWTMN would like to commend and congratulate Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation on their work in establishing the National Park Reserve. The NWTMN looks forward to working with Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada in managing the National Park on a government-to-government basis.

The NWTMN recognizes the Liberal Government for all it is doing to achieve reconciliation with indigenous people of Canada. We appreciate Michael McLeod, the Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories, for his dedication to ensuring issues of importance to the residents of the Northwest Territories are considered by the Federal Government.

The establishment of the National Park Reserve will ensure the area encompassed by Thaidene Nene will continue to be protected and managed for present and future generations of Indigenous Métis, Akaitcho, and all Canadians.

For more information, please contact:

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