

Ratification and Implementation

The Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement was negotiated by the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia and the Lheidli T'enneh. The Final Agreement provides Lheidli T'enneh with certain rights and benefits regarding land and resources, and self-government over its lands and resources and its citizens. It provides certainty with respect to ownership and management of lands and resources and the exercise of federal, provincial and Lheidli T'enneh governmental powers and authorities.

The negotiation of a Final Agreement marks Stage Five of the six-stage British Columbia treaty process, and is the conclusion of substantive treaty negotiations. Once ratified by all parties, the Final Agreement will become a treaty through legislation. It will be a constitutionally-protected, legal agreement that creates mutually binding obligations and commitments.

RATIFICATION

On Jan. 4, 2016, Lheidli T'enneh announced it would undertake a community ratification vote on its Final Agreement and Constitution.

The vote will take place in October 2016. Fifty per cent-plus-one of eligible voters will need to vote in favour of the Final Agreement for it to be approved by Lheidli T'enneh. The voting threshold for the Constitution requires a double majority. In other words, the Constitution will be approved if a majority of eligible voters participate in the vote, and a majority of those who vote, vote in favour of the Constitution.

If the Lheidli T'enneh community ratifies the Final Agreement, British Columbia will then proceed through its ratification process.

A minister from the provincial Cabinet must recommend the agreement for approval, and settlement legislation will then be introduced into the Legislature, where it will be debated.

If British Columbia ratifies the Final Agreement, the Government of Canada will proceed through its ratification process.

Similar to the procedure at the provincial level, a federal Cabinet minister

must recommend the Final Agreement, and settlement legislation will be introduced in Parliament for debate. Once enacted through legislation, the Final Agreement will become a treaty.

IMPLEMENTATION

During the process of negotiating the Final Agreement, the parties also negotiated an implementation plan. The implementation plan identifies each party's obligations and responsibilities in implementing the treaty.

Some parts of the treaty will be implemented on the day

that the Final Agreement comes into effect or shortly thereafter. Some parts, such as taxation provisions, will be implemented according to a predetermined schedule over a number of years. Other parts of the Final Agreement may not be implemented until a later date to be determined by the parties.

An implementation committee, comprised of a representative from Lheidli T'enneh, Canada, and British Columbia, will be established on the effective date of the treaty. This committee will oversee and monitor the implementation of the treaty.

Lheidli T'enneh

Lheidli T'enneh “the people from the confluence of two rivers,” is a Carrier-speaking First Nation that has traditionally occupied and used the land around Prince George, east to the Alberta border.

The main Lheidli T'enneh community is located on the Shelley reserve, 20 kilometres northeast of Prince George. The band has 429 members, about 100 of whom live on Indian Reserve No. 2 near Shelley. The majority of the other members live in Prince George.

If you would like more information about the Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement, contact:

The logo for Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag to the right.

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