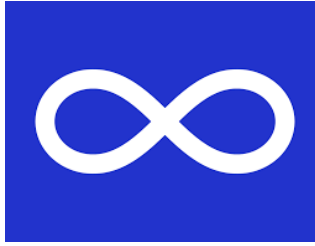




Deninu Kue First Nation



Fort Resolution Metis Government

For Immediate Release -

Declaration of the Slave/Taltson Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) Committee

November 6, 2023 Fort Resolution - Deninu Kue First Nation and the Fort Resolution Metis Government announce the formalization of a new Committee to oversee the Slave/Taltson Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) initiative. The Slave/Taltson IPCA Committee endeavours to uphold the inherent rights, jurisdiction, and responsibility of Deninu Kue First Nation (DKFN) and the Fort Resolution Metis Government (FRMG). Protecting and maintaining an area of traditional territory according to Dene and Metis Indigenous law integrated with stewardship efforts that include science and legislated protections is a goal.

“We applaud Environment and Climate Change Canada for financial support and organizations such as Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society NWT (CPAWS-NWT) and all others who have worked very hard to advance this opportunity. We now begin the process of developing a concrete plan for our own community protected area. We are eager to take advantage of this historic opportunity to align our interests with our inherent title, law and traditional knowledge,” said Chief Louis Balsillie, Deninu Kue First Nation.

“Protecting and conserving land, fish, water and wildlife is a responsibility that we have always taken seriously, this responsibility will continue tomorrow and into the future”. The Slave/Taltson IPCA Project confirms responsibility for land and water stewardship in our area, conservation achieved by way of community collaboration is a key message” said President Arthur Beck, Fort Resolution Metis Government.

The Slave/Taltson IPCA project will be overseen by the Slave/Taltson IPCA Committee and rely on input from community members, land users, elders and youth for:

- Selecting an IPCA study area;
- Identifying where and how monitoring for ecological integrity will occur;
- Determining how and where significant cultural sites will be protected, refurbished and used by community members;
- Ensuring that the spiritual, cultural and physical sustenance of our Dene/Metis people, are sustained within conservation driven economic opportunities;

- Providing direction to partners such as NGO's and sponsors as they bring support to the IPCA project;
- Identifying other priorities and opportunities as the project advances;

The Slave/Taltson IPCA Committee is now established with DKFN and FRMG IPCA committee members including elders and youth in attendance for a signing ceremony (Thursday Nov 2nd, 2023) in Ft. Resolution. The committee will meet quarterly and host community meetings to receive input as the project progresses.

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Committee Members:

DKFN Representatives - Garrett Balsillie, Diane Giroux, Dean Mckay, Patrick Simon (Elder), Kylee Mckay (Youth) Chief Louis Balsillie: Co-Chair

FRMG Representatives – Ronald Beaulieu, Frank Fabian, Tammy Hunter, Lloyd Cardinal (Elder) Teegan Larocque (Youth) President Arthur: Co-Chair

About:

Situated along the south shore of Tu' Cho (Great Slave Lake), the land and waters of the Slave River Delta and Taltson Watershed are important habitats for moose, fish, fur bearers and the ducks and geese which are staples of food security, and local economic and cultural activity for DKFN and FRMG. Extensive peatlands and old growth forest contribute carbon storage, a critical natural solution to climate change mitigation.

Deninu Kųé First Nation pronounced “Deneh-noo-kweh”, meaning Moose Island and also known as Fort Resolution is located on the south shores of Great Slave Lake in the Akaitcho Territory and was signatory to Treaty 8, July 25, 1900.

The Fort Resolution Metis Government is comprised of self-governing peoples in the Fort Resolution (Deninu) area of the Northwest Territories, with a rich regional history spanning centuries, continuing to live in harmony with nature and with respect to the bounties of the land.

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