

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE ŁUTSĚL K'E
DENE FIRST
NATION**

**THE PARKS
CANADA AGENCY**

**AS REPRESENTED
BY**

AND

**AS REPRESENTED
BY**

**THE CHIEF OF THE
ŁUTSĚL K'E DENE
FIRST NATION**

**THE MINISTER OF
THE
ENVIRONMENT**

RESPECTING MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPLORING THE

FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING

A NATIONAL PARK IN THE VICINITY OF THAYDENE NENE

(EAST ARM OF GREAT SLAVE LAKE AND ARTILLERY LAKE),

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

BACKGROUND

1. The Crown entered into Treaty #8 with the ancestors of the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation at Deninu Ku'e in 1900.
2. The ancestors of the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation entered into Treaty #8 with the understanding that it was for as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow, and the grass grows.
3. Section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982 states that "the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed."
4. The Akaitcho Framework Agreement includes Parks and Protected Areas as one of the subject matters for negotiation.
5. Parks Canada maintains a long-standing interest in representing the Northwestern Boreal Uplands natural region of Canada's national park system with a national park that provides protection, quality visitor experiences, and opportunities for heritage presentation.

WHEREAS The Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation has identified Thaydene Nene, an Area of Interest for Protection within its traditional territory, as described on attached Map A; and

WHEREAS within the area of Thaydene Nene, Parks Canada has identified a Preliminary Area of Interest for a National Park as described on attached Map B; and

WHEREAS the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada wish to explore the feasibility of establishing a national park within Thaydene Nene.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada will, with reference to the Akaitcho Process, in communication with the Deninu Ku'e First Nation and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and according to the attached Schedule of Activities, work cooperatively towards:

- completing work on aspects of a feasibility study toward the possible establishment of a national park, such work to be completed within three years; and
- recommending a boundary for a national park; and
- assessing the potential impacts and benefits of a national park, and recommending measures to increase Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation capacity to deal with such impacts and benefits; and
- consulting with the public regarding possible establishment of a national park; and
- other items that may be agreed to by the Parties.


Schedule of Activities

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding	October 2006
Feasibility Study, Impact Assessments, Capacity Development, and Consultations	October 2006 to September 2009
Boundary recommendations	October 2009

It is Parks Canada's intention that, after receiving the recommendations concerning measures to increase Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation capacity to deal with the potential impacts and benefits of the national park, it will begin action to implement those recommendations according to priorities that may be agreed to by the parties.


This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to be legally binding or to recognize, create, define or detract from any rights of the Parties.


Chief Adeline Jonasson


Honourable Rona Ambrose, M.P., P.C.

Witnesses:


Pierre Catholique


Mr. Alan Latourelle


Roland Catholique


Mr. Bob Gamble, M.S.M.

Signed this day, October 13, 2006

