

Northwest Territories Council of Leaders hold Climate Change Meeting

Yellowknife (May 24, 2022) – Indigenous leaders and leaders from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) held a special meeting of the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders (NWTCOL) on Climate Change on May 20, 2022, in Yellowknife and virtually.

Leaders discussed issues on Climate Change including:

- an overview of the Climate Change Strategic Framework in the NWT including current adaptation and mitigation measures;
- the role of the NWT Climate Council, and the importance of including Youth and Elders and connecting its work to the Council of Leaders;
- how climate change is impacting communities, cultures, food, and ways of life;
- that programs for the Northwest Territories need to reflect the energy realities of the Northwest Territories;
- moving forward together on proactive approaches to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change in the NWT; and
- working together on energy projects and Greenhouse Gas reduction projects to ensure that energy in the NWT is affordable, secure, and sustainable for all residents.

Leaders particularly acknowledged and offered support to the people of Kátł'odeeche First Nation, West Point First Nation, Hay River, as well as Samba K'e and Fort Liard during this flood season.

The NWTCOL is an example of meaningful partnership between the Indigenous and GNWT leaders, consistent with the principles of reconciliation.

The NWTCOL forum offers members the opportunity to discuss territory-wide social and economic issues that are of interest to all of governments.

Leaders attending the meeting in person included:

- Councillor Kendra Schaeffer, Salt River First Nation (Co-Chair of NWT Climate Change Council)

- ʔekw'ahtı Leonard Kenny, Délıne Got'ıne Government
- Grand Chief Ken Kyikavichik, Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Chief April Martel, Kátł'odeeche First Nation
- Sub-Chief Peter Sabourin, Kátł'odeeche First Nation
- Councillor Robert Lamalice, Kátł'odeeche First Nation
- Chief Steve Vital, Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- Secretary Treasurer Alan Harman, North Slave Métis Alliance
- Chairperson Charles McNeely, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
- Grand Chief Wilbert Kochon, Sahtu Dene Council
- Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty, Tłıchǫ Government
- Chief Adeline Football, Tłıchǫ Government
- Premier Caroline Cochrane
- Minister Diane Archie, Deputy Premier, Infrastructure

Leaders attending the meeting virtually included:

- Interim Grand Chief Stanley Sanguetz, Dehcho First Nations
- Chair/CEO Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Minister Shane Thompson, Departments of Lands; Environment and Natural Resources; Municipal and Community Affairs

Quick Facts

- Strengthening relationships with Indigenous governments is a priority of the 19th Legislative Assembly.
- The *Northwest Territories Council of Leaders Memorandum of Understanding* was signed by leadership on June 11, 2021. The MOU was signed for a four-year term.
- Signatories to the NWT Council of Leaders include: Délıne Got'ıne Government, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Kátł'odeeche First Nation, Nahanni Butte Dene Band, North Slave Métis Alliance, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Salt River First Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Inc., Tłıchǫ Government, and the Government of the NWT.
- The last NWTCOL meeting was held on November 18-19, 2021, in Yellowknife, NT and virtually. This special meeting was a commitment of that meeting.
- The MOU commits the NWT Council of Leaders to meeting annually.

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