Saoyú (saw-you) and ʔehdacho (eh-dah-cho) are two major peninsulas on the west side of Great Bear Lake, totaling 5,550 km². These peninsulas form the Saoyú-ʔehdacho National Historic Site. Saoyú and ʔehdacho are teaching, healing and spiritual places, essential to the cultural well-being of the Sahtúgot’ı̨nę, or the “people of Sahtú.” The elders of Déliņę say that the protection of Saoyú and ʔehdacho is a responsibility given to the Sahtúgot’ı̨nę by their ancestors.

The site is permanently protected and cooperatively managed by the Déliņę Land Corporation and the Déliņę Renewable Resources Council, together with Parks Canada.
Saoyú-ʔehdacho

Why is it important?

- Saoyú-ʔehdacho is deeply linked to the history of the Sahtúgot’į́nę, the Dene of Great Bear Lake. For the Sahtúgot’į́nę, this region’s oral traditions and stories are tied to the land and help define who they are as a people. In recognition of the historical and cultural importance of these areas, Parks Canada designated these peninsulas as a National Historic Site in 1999.

- Saoyú-ʔehdacho has intact boreal forest and is home to important wildlife species, including woodland caribou, grizzly bears, wolverine and peregrine falcons.

- The site features trails, portages, gravesites and campsites that are landmarks of how the land has been used for generations as people traveled from one place to another.

For more information please contact conservationplanning@gov.nt.ca
www.enr.gov.nt.ca

Status

- The site has been established as a National Historic Site with surface and subsurface protection.