



Thaidene Nënë

Proposed National Park Reserve

Parks Canada and Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation Negotiations

Parks Canada has identified 39 distinct terrestrial natural regions across the country, based on unique physiographic and vegetative characteristics. This natural region framework constitutes the National Park System Plan. Parks Canada's goal is to have at least one national park in each natural region. The completion of the system will protect outstanding examples of Canada's natural diversity, and provide Canadians with opportunities to experience, understand and appreciate that diversity.

The criteria used to identify candidate areas for new national parks include: how characteristic of a given natural region an area is; how well a national park would protect biodiversity and habitat; opportunities for exceptional visitor experiences as well as learning about

natural and cultural heritage; whether there are land use conflicts as well as whether there is support from governments, including local Aboriginal governments. A study area and its regional context are assessed to determine a proposed boundary and to negotiate agreements to establish a national park. An essential component is consultations with Aboriginal groups, third party interests and the public.

Located at and around the eastern end of Great Slave Lake in south-central Northwest Territories, Thaidene Nënë means 'Land of the Ancestors' in the Chipewyan language. Thaidene Nënë is a culturally rich area, including the traditional and present-day hunting, fishing, gathering and spiritual areas used by Aboriginal people.



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada



The Thaidene Nënë area, at the eastern end of Great Slave Lake, in the Northwest Territories, has been of interest to Parks Canada as a proposed national park since the late 1960s. In 2010, the Government of Canada and the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation committed to negotiate an agreement for the establishment of Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve. In October 2010, Parks Canada and the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation began negotiation of a national park establishment agreement for Thaidene Nënë. Negotiators reached an agreement in principle on most elements of the agreement on November 14, 2013. The agreement is now subject to internal review and consultation by both the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada.

Since this agreement is between the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada, it speaks only to the relationship between these Parties and not to the interests of other parties. Other parties will be engaged in the national park proposal through other processes. Once signed and executed, this agreement is a legally binding contract and as such does not speak to any Aboriginal or Treaty Rights that the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation may have, nor is it intended to be a treaty or land claim agreement within the meaning of section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

WHAT'S IN THE AGREEMENT?

The agreement sets out the relationship between Parks Canada and Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation. It provides the framework for cooperation in the planning, management and operation of the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve and sets out how Parks Canada and the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation will cooperate to ensure that Thaidene Nënë will be maintained and promoted for the use, benefit, education and enjoyment of future

generations. Two key components contained within the agreement are the cooperative processes between the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada, and how disputes are resolved if a conflict arises in the cooperative processes. Other aspects of the agreement include: infrastructure, contracting, training, employment and cultural continuity.



For more information:

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