



ATHABASCA DENESULINE

Protecting  
Nuheneñe

North of 60 Agreement

# Community Update

- Updates on negotiations
- Information about our Agreement
- Upcoming events

August 2021

## North of 60 negotiations pushing to the finish line



On August 5, a group of Athabasca Denesuline chiefs and representatives met with the Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller, in Saskatoon.

Their message on the North of 60 negotiations was clear. We have worked hard over the past few years to complete our agreement in spite of the pause the Government of Canada imposed in 2019. There is now only one key outstanding issue. We need to agree on an appropriate amount for ongoing implementation funding.

We are not confident Canada has offered an annual amount that will enable us to meet our responsibilities under the North of 60 Agreement.

Minister Miller agreed to carry our message to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett and advise her that we are requesting an urgent meeting to get over this final hurdle. This may be impacted by the ongoing federal election.

In the meantime, our negotiation team is finishing all the other tasks needed to finalize the agreement and get it ready for members to vote on.

*Have questions? Want to know more?*

Website: [www.nuhene.ca](http://www.nuhene.ca) Facebook: [AthabascaDenesulineNorthof60](https://www.facebook.com/AthabascaDenesulineNorthof60)

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# Negotiations down to final details

*Nunavut part of the agreement is completed, NWT part is now the focus*

There are two parts to the North of 60 Agreement, one that deals with lands and rights in Nunavut (called Part A) and one that deals with lands and rights in the NWT (called Part B).

Part A is basically finished and for Part B, there are a few technical details that still need work, but these will not change the agreement in any major way and are almost complete.

The parties also need to finish other tasks, especially agreeing on the details of the ongoing implementation funding.

It is a good idea to have a fresh pair of expert eyes review the draft agreement we've been working on for so many years. An external lawyer has been hired to review the agreement and make sure nothing has been missed. This work is underway and should be done by the end of September.

## New brochure explains key points of draft agreement

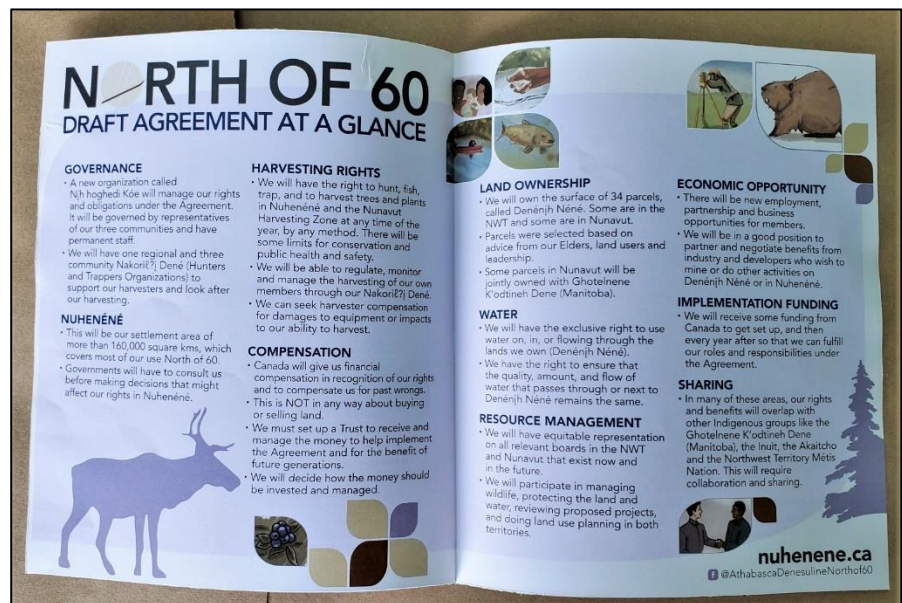
*The North of 60 negotiation team wants to make sure all members understand what is in the agreement they will eventually vote on.*

When negotiations are done, all members will get to review the full agreement, which is more than 400 pages long.

**The team is planning to get into communities soon now that COVID restrictions have eased.**

In the meantime, the negotiation team continues to look for different ways to explain all the important points in short, straightforward ways.

This summer, the team developed a short brochure that describes what the agreement says about: the settlement area, harvesting rights, settlement lands, financial



compensation, water, resource management, economic development and other important topics.

This brochure has been posted to [www.nuhenene.ca](http://www.nuhenene.ca) and shared on the North of 60 Facebook page. It has also been mailed to the three band offices and put in every mailbox in Black Lake, Hatchet Lake and Fond Du Lac.

**Make sure to get your copy!**

## What happens next?

*Once negotiations are done, there are other steps that happen before the agreement comes into effect*

After all these years of negotiating and the many delays we have faced, it may seem like all we need to do is vote on the agreement to have our rights recognized North of 60. While the vote is a major step towards finalizing the agreement, it is not the last one.

While our vote is one of the most important steps in the process, it is not the only thing that needs to happen.

Once the negotiators for Canada and the Athabasca Denesų́in  agree the draft agreement is completed and they feel it is ready to be presented to members for approval, a series of things need to happen in a specific order.

First, the negotiators have to get permission to initial the draft agreement. For the Athabasca Denesų́in , that means our negotiator Ron Robillard will seek authority to initial the agreement on behalf of the three communities.

Then the membership will get a chance to review the agreement in detail and ask questions before it is put to a vote.

Next, Canada will get its approval for the Minister sign the Agreement. After this, Parliament has to pass legislation to give force to the Agreement. Parliament needs to approve changes to other laws because of our agreement. For example, because our agreement requires changes to the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and Canada have to agree to those changes.

Finally, the agreement will be signed by all parties and they set a date for it to take effect. Then, an Order in Council will be passed giving Royal Assent to the Agreement and bringing it into effect. From that date, the rights and benefits of the agreement will flow.

These are only the main steps. There are many other tasks that need to be finished as part of this process. For example, before the agreement can be *initialled*, the parties have to complete the Financial Agreement and they have to agree on ratification rules. Before the agreement can be *signed*, the Athabasca Denesų́in  have to set up a Trust Agreement to receive the settlement money.

