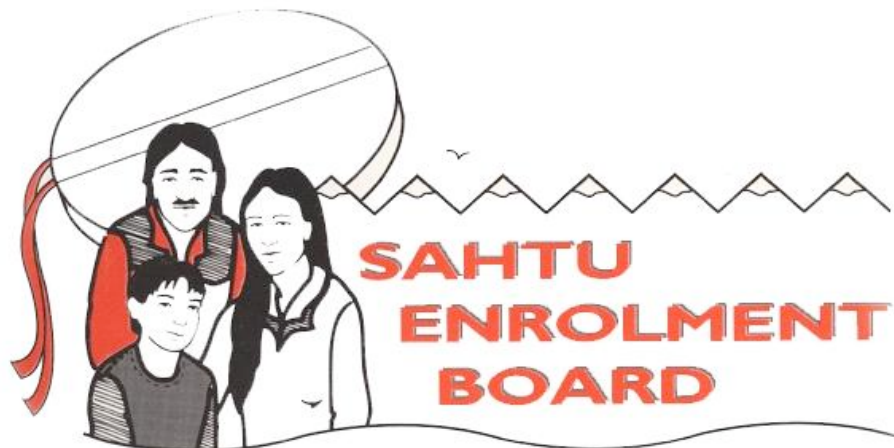


Enrolling in the Sahtu Claim



Why do I have to enroll?

Enrollment is a process by which an eligible Sahtu Dene or Metis becomes a Participant in the Claim: The Agreement states that Participants must apply to be enrolled in the Claim by filling an application form with the Board. When you apply to enroll, you must identify one of seven Aboriginal Communities that you wish to be enrolled with.

Who is eligible to apply?

You are eligible to apply for enrollment if you are a Sahtu Dene or Metis person. This means that you, your parents, your grandparents or your great grandparents are of Slavey, Hare or Mountain ancestry and resided in, or used and occupied, the settlement area on or before December 31, 1921. You also must be a Canadian citizen. You can apply for enrollment if you were adopted as a young person by a person of Sahtu Dene and/or Metis ancestry as described above, or if you are a descendant of such a person, and are a Canadian citizen. The provisions for such enrollment are set out in section 4.2.1 of the Comprehensive Claim Agreement.

How do I apply?

Application forms will be sent out to all the people who were enumerated for the Sahtu Ratification Vote held in July, 1993. Forms will be available from the Sahtu Enrollment Board office in Deline. Within the Sahtu Settlement Area, application forms also will be available from the Dene Band or Metis local offices.

Can I apply on behalf of my children?

You can apply on behalf of children who are under 19 years of age, as long as you are the parent or guardian of the child. A Person who is 19 years of age or older must apply on his or her own behalf.

Can I apply on behalf of my relatives?

Adults must apply for enrollment on their own behalf. If you have relatives whose names were not included on the Official Voters List for the Sahtu Ratification Vote, please tell the Enrollment Coordinator so that an information package can be sent out to those people.

What about Community Accepted People?

The Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Claim Agreement says that a person who is not eligible to be enrolled as a Participant (see "*who is eligible to apply?*") maybe enrolled in the Claim if that person is a "*Canadian citizen if aboriginal ancestry resident in the settlement area, who was accepted by a Sahtu Community at CUV time following the date if settlement legislation.*"

Accepted by a Sahtu community means that the person was sponsored by a person who is eligible to be enrolled as a Participant under section 4.2.1 of the Agreement and was approved by a process determined by the Participants living in the relevant Sahtu Community. Community Accepted people are enrolled under the provisions

of section 4.2.2 of the Comprehensive Claim Agreement.

Before being enrolled, a person who applies to be enrolled under section 4.2.2 must agree in writing that once they are enrolled, they will be considered to be Sahtu Dene or Metis as set out in Chapter 3 of the Agreement.

How will I know that I am enrolled?

Participants who are enrolled in the Claim will receive an enrollment certificate and may apply for an enrollment identification card. The Board also will publish the Sahtu Enrollment Register once a year, listing all the Participants who have been enrolled in the Claim and the Dene or Metis community with which they have chosen to be affiliated.

What happens if the Board rejects my application?

If the Board finds that you are not eligible to be enrolled in the Sahtu Dene and Metis Claim, the Board will tell you why your application was rejected. You can appeal this decision to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, which may either reverse the Board's decision or refer the matter back to the Board for reconsideration.

What if I am enrolled in another claim?

You cannot be enrolled as a Participant in the Sahtu Claim if you are already enrolled in another land claim in Canada. If you are enrolled in another claim but are eligible for and would prefer to be enrolled in the Sahtu Claim instead, you will have to resign from the other claim before you can be enrolled in the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Claim.

What happens once my application is accepted?

Your name is then entered into the Enrollment Register and you become a Participant. You also become a member of the Aboriginal community that you asked to be affiliated with. By becoming a member of an Aboriginal community, you automatically become a member of that community's land and financial corporations. You also become eligible for the other benefits of the Claim including hunting, fishing and trapping rights. You cannot transfer your enrollment or eligibility to another person.

Does enrolling in the Claim affect my Treaty rights?

Section 3.1.13 of the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement confirms existing Treaty rights arising out of those parts of Treaty 11 which were not surrendered. Enrolling does not in any way affect these existing Treaty rights. The agreement also states that nothing shall affect the status under the Indian Act of any Sahtu Dene or of any Indian band in the Sahtu Settlement Area. Enrolling does not affect any of these rights.

Does it matter which Aboriginal Community I enroll with?

The Comprehensive Agreement requires that those Sahtu Dene and Metis who apply to become Participants specify which Aboriginal Community they wish to be enrolled with. Aboriginal Communities are defined "in the Comprehensive Agreement to mean:

- (a) a Dene band in Colville Lake, Deline, Fort Good Hope or Fort Norman or
- (b) the Metis local in Fort Good Hope, Fort Norman or Norman Wells.

It is possible that an individual could pick anyone of the seven Aboriginal Communities.

The information contained in this brochure is not intended to summarize or interpret the provisions of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. Anyone reading this information is encouraged to review the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement for further information.

How do I get more information about enrollment?

More information is available from the Enrollment Board office in Deline and by visiting our website www.sahtu.ca/enrolment.html

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