



West Point First Nation

Five Year Wellness Plan 2019-2024





ABOUT US

Ts'ueh Nda community (West Point First Nation) is situated within the Town of Hay River. Ts'ueh Nda community is made up of families of Dehcho Dene that have lived here since time immemorial. This is our ancestral homeland.

West Point First Nation members are Dehcho people with roots mainly in Kakisa, Tathlina Lake, and Fort Providence. Historically West Point First Nation were fishermen and land users mostly from the West Channel of the Hay River to the mouth of the Mackenzie and Kakisa Rivers.

Today, many of the West Point members live in the West Channel or nearby.

Before 1993, most West Point First Nation members were members of the K'atlodeeche First nation, Deh Gah Gotie First Nation, or Ka'agee Tue First Nation. Because West Point people were not living close to the First Nation where they had membership, their voices and concerns were not always heard. Volunteers formed the West Point Dene Band Society mainly to raise funds for children and youth activities.

The West Point First Nation grew out of this Society and so did the need to address land and housing issues. West Point was recognized as a distinct First Nation in 1993.

VISION

West Point First Nation protects the Treaty and Aboriginal Rights of its members as well as the environment and traditional culture for the sustainability of future generations.

MISSION

We are committed to providing responsible and accountable political leadership. We will continue to be the guardians of our traditional lands, environment and resources. The West Point First Nation is dedicated to providing quality, equitable and accessible support to meet the social, economic, cultural, educational, spiritual and political needs of our membership. We will work together to build a united and healthy community.

CORE VALUES

We have identified these core values to use in carrying out our operations:

- **Respect**
- **Commitment**
- **Communication**
- **Respect and Care for Elders**
- **Encourage our Youth**
- **Traditional Values**
- **Equality**
- **Strength**
- **Our Unity brings us Strength**
- **Transparency**
- **Zero Tolerance of abuse toward council, members and staff**



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- New band office has no heavy equipment, no economics, no land for expansion
- Have a new band office but not enough employment and workshops
- Beginning new office and chief and council

COMMUNITY ASSETS, WHAT DO WE HAVE TO WORK WITH?

- Band Office, Chief and Council
- Youth Centre
- Dehcho Land Negotiations
- Out of town healers

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

- Have economic job opportunities for youth and members
- Economically stable and sustainable
- We want healing
- Band Manager
- Royalties from trust fund
- Training
- United as one community

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- Apply for various funding, submit proposals
- Hold workshops
- Life and career skill building
- On the land healing
- Traditional knowledge sharing
- Help from various organizations
- Help our youth stay in school, Sylvan Learning teacher
- Pancake breakfast for FASD
- Community garden
- Canoeing
- Arbour for summer meetings
- Clean up the beach and community
- Traditional crafts and activities
- Community feasts
- Physical activities
- Community hunts
- Healthy eating with traditional foods

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Responsible and Accountable Leadership

- 1.1 Communicate with WPFN members
- 1.2 Ensure commitment of Council Members
- 1.3 Ensure broad representation in governance
- 1.4 Participate in the Deh Cho Process
- 1.5 Determine municipal status
- 1.6 Develop administration structures

Goal #2: Guardianship of Our Traditional Lands, Environment and Resources

- 2.1 Increase capacity
- 2.2 Participate on GSLAC
- 2.3 Participate on NWTFF
- 2.4 Identify and document contaminated sites
- 2.5 Identify and document burial sites
- 2.6 Participate in Emergency Flood Planning
- 2.7 Participate in development of Harbour Plan
- 2.8 Increase capacity for Traditional Monitoring Programs
- 2.9 Support clean and safe community
- 2.10 Increase awareness of value of natural environment
- 2.11 Research and identify opportunities for 'green energy' initiatives
- 2.12 Monitor research projects

Goal #3: Develop the WPFN Economy (Economic Development)

- 3.1 Re-establish the Development Corporation
- 3.2 Identify and evaluate economic development opportunities
- 3.3 Participate in plan to develop fishing economy
- 3.4 Establish regional tourism partnership
- 3.5 Increase community infrastructure/ increase tourism
- 3.6 Increase pre- and employment readiness
- 3.7 Increase traditional work skills/seasonal employment
- 3.8 Re-establish traditional routes and sites
- 3.9 Encourage entrepreneurship

Goal #4: Support for Spirituality and Culture

- 4.1 Support Traditional Activities
- 4.2 Share Traditional Knowledge
- 4.3 Develop Traditional Skills
- 4.3 Develop Traditional Skills, continued
- 4.4 Support Community Activities
- 4.5 Provide Healing Workshops (possibly on the land)

Goal #5: Support for Social Needs

- 5.1 Support Wellness Activities
- 5.2 Support Special Events
- 5.3 Support Activities for Elders

Goal #6: Support for Educational Needs

- 6.1 Participate in South Slave District Education Council
- 6.2 Support secondary and post-secondary education
- 6.3 Promote post- secondary opportunities
- 6.4 Support Youth Leadership
- 6.5 Provide after-school educational programs

CONCLUSION

The principle that a whole village should contribute to raising a child has many advantages. Firstly, it is psychologically proven that a child benefits from having multiple role models. Also, with family, friends, and neighbor's looking after them, the child is able to thrive in a secure and loving environment. The safety net provided by the community enables them to explore and learn without coming to harm.

Secondly, pressure is taken off the parents. Mothers and fathers have one of the most difficult jobs in the world. They work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and nobody pays them for it. If the entire community takes part in raising their child, then the parents will feel less isolated, less stressed, and therefore happier. If the parent is happy, then so is the child.

Thirdly, this philosophy brings the whole community together, building trust between its members. It teaches us that we need each other, and so we must learn to get along, forgiving each other if we make mistakes. The child also learns to love his community, and look out for his family, friends and neighbors'.