



Selkirk First Nation



# THE Selkirk First Nation

OUR PEOPLE | OUR GOVERNMENT | OUR LAND | OUR LAWS | ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

# Our People





## The Selkirk First Nation is comprised of Northern Tutchone people who possess a rich, diverse and vibrant culture.

The Northern Tutchone people have their own way of social organization, which is known as the clan system. There are two clans: Wolf and Crow. Clan membership is based on the mother, which means a child belongs to its mother's clan. Whatever clan a person was born into, this is the clan that they will have throughout their lives. The clans represent who we are, our connection to other families and our connections to our environment.

The Northern Tutchone people's society was based on the concept of the group – emphasis was not placed on the individual but the community as a whole.

Elders were, and continue to be, the threads of our community, holding it together. Their roles are an extensive list of responsibilities that assist in the safekeeping of the traditional cultural ways.

Elders hold knowledge and are our history keepers.



*The two clans, Wolf and Crow, are represented in the Selkirk First Nation logo*





## Self-Government & Final Agreements

In 1973, an organization called the Yukon Native Brotherhood (now the Council of Yukon First Nations) travelled to Ottawa to present a proposal called *Together Today for our Children Tomorrow*. This document laid the foundation for the negotiation of land claims and self-government for Yukon First Nations.

On May 29, 1993, and after 20 years of negotiations, the Government of Canada, the Government of the Yukon, and the Council for Yukon Indians – now known as the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), signed an Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA).

The UFA formed the basis for the negotiation of each First Nation's Final Agreement. The Final Agreements provided for the negotiation of Self-government Agreements, which allows Yukon's Self-governing First Nations to make decisions and enact laws in relation to their lands, resources, governments and programs.

## Our Government

In July of 1997, we, the Selkirk First Nation signed our Self-Government and Final Agreements at Minto Landing.

The Selkirk First Nation is a recognized government, having many of the authorities and responsibilities of both territorial and municipal governments. We provide autonomous governance and government programs for all our Citizens throughout the Yukon.



## Our governing institutions are:

- The General Assembly
- The Elders Council
- The Chief and Council
- The Family Heads
- The Justice Council  
*(not yet set up, but is in the initial planning stages)*

We collaborate with the federal and territorial governments in a government-to-government relationship to ensure that our Citizens receive programs and services comparable to those provided across the territory.

**As a government, we have rights and benefits under our final agreements and power over our lands and resources.**

As with all Canadian governments, the Selkirk First Nation government operates within the framework of the Canadian Constitution. Our jurisdictions and authorities are intended to operate in a manner consistent with federal and territorial jurisdictions.

*“We, the Selkirk People, exercise our inherent right to Self Government and having Aboriginal rights, title and interest since the beginning of time in a vast area of land, provide for ourselves a basis for our First Nation, for our law and for our government, in order to assure for ourselves today and for countless generations in the future, protection of our language and culture, and a life that fulfills our uniqueness as human beings and sustains our well-being.”*

– Selkirk First Nation Constitution Preamble

# Our Land



For more information about accessing Settlement Land, please contact us,  
the Selkirk First Nation Government office at **867.537.3331**

The Selkirk First Nation people have lived in the Traditional Territory of the Northern Tutchone for a very long time. Prior to living in Pelly Crossing, many of the people lived at Fort Selkirk then Minto Landing, located on the banks of the Yukon river.

The Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement provides for lands called Settlement Lands.



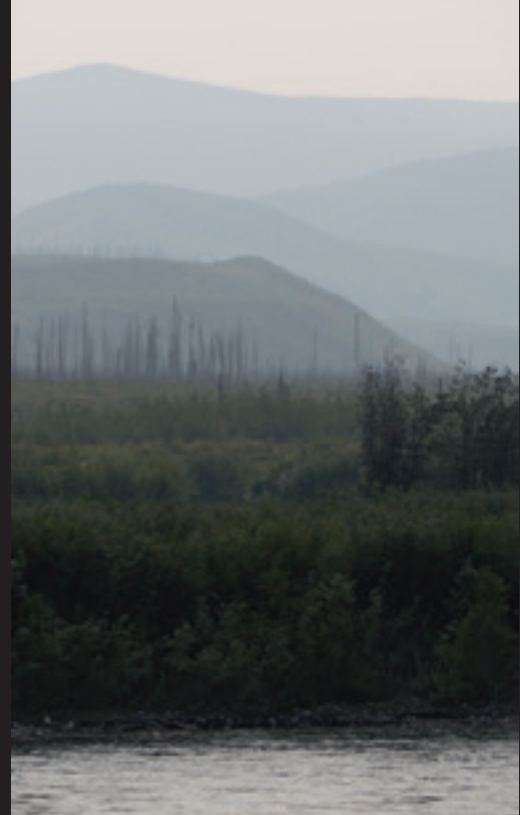
**The Settlement Land of the Selkirk First Nation is a total of 4739.68 square kilometers. We own and manage this land.**

### **Who can use Settlement Land?**

- Selkirk First Nation Citizens have use of Settlement Land;
- Generally, members of the public can access Settlement Land provided that they do not cause a significant impact (such as cutting or clearing) and are not accessing the land for commercial use. This means:
  - you can walk your dog or ride your horse;
  - you can hike;
  - you can ride your ATV or drive your vehicle on certain trails or roads as long as they existed before the Final Agreements were signed. However, you must stay on the travelled part of the road or trail.

If you find any artifacts while on Settlement Land, make sure you do not touch or move them and report it to the Selkirk First Nation Heritage Department.

If you want to hunt, trap or fish on Selkirk First Nation Settlement Land, you must get written permission from our Lands Department of the Selkirk First Nation government.



## Dän Ki

Traditional Law is part of *Dän Ki* – “**The First Nation Way**” – which was our system of survival for thousands of years.

To understand *Dän Ki* you must know about Doòli.

## Doòli

*Doòli* is our ancient way of living in harmony with the natural and spiritual world. Doòli is all encompassing.

There is *Doòli* for animals and plants to show them respect. Personal *Doòli* is for how people should behave properly towards each other in everyday life.

Everyone followed *Doòli* as best they could. Making a mistake or being careless and breaking *Doòli* could cause an illness or injury to the person who broke *Doòli* or could affect someone else. It might also bring hard times to the community.

*Doòli* is an endless process of learning how to live in balance and harmony with everything in this world and the spiritual one beyond.





All of *Dän Ki*, including *Doòli* and Traditional Law, are guided by four major principles:

- **Caring**
- **Sharing**
- **Respect**
- **Teaching**

## Traditional Law

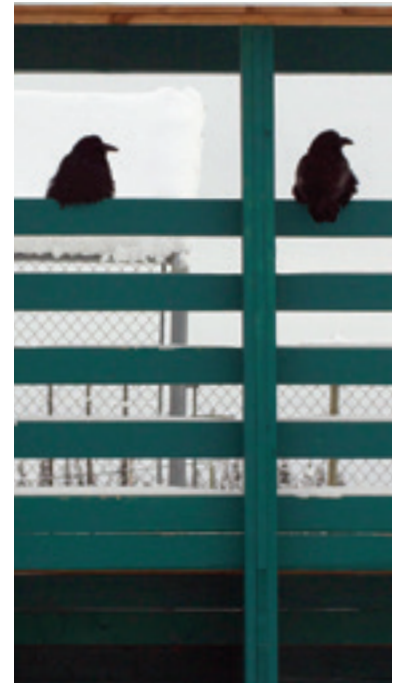
Traditional Law is a set of rules that people follow to keep a community healthy and safe. Traditional Law is also a part of *Doòli* and some people call them “*Doòli* Laws”. Traditional laws are a bit different because they are not just between a person and the creator but also require the cooperation and advice of other people. When a “law” was broken it was up to the whole community to correct this problem

All of *Dän Ki*, including *Doòli* and Traditional Law, are guided by four major principles:  
**Caring, Sharing, Respect, and Teaching**

## Clans

Traditional law regarding clans include but are not limited to:

- Members of the same clan should not marry.
- Clan members hold the rights to stories, songs, crests, regalia, objects or art and anything else that express its clan system.
- Members of a clan can only tell their clan stories not those of the other clan.



# Events & Activities



We have our own songs and dances, which reflect our way of life and our stories. We continue to practice our traditions with fish camps, hunting camps, teaching our language at the school, sewing and language classes, cabin building, dancing and singing (Selkirk Spirit Dancers).

Numerous events and activities that are open to the public are held throughout the year in Pelly Crossing. Everyone is welcomed to participate in recreational and other community events. There are certain events, which are just for our Selkirk First Nation Citizens such as the General Assembly. If you are not sure, you can ask at the Selkirk First Nation Administration office.

**We encourage you to come out and join us in the fun and learn more about the Selkirk First Nation!**

**Events and activities that are open to all include but are not limited to:**

- Carnivals
- Ball Tournaments
- National Aboriginal Day (June 21)
- Canada Day
- Selkirk First Nation Graduation
- Big Jonathan Heritage Centre Activities

For more information on the Selkirk First Nation and events visit our website at [www.selkirkfn.ca](http://www.selkirkfn.ca)





## **SELKIRK FIRST NATION**

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