



## Dene National Office Assembly of First Nations (NWT)

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DENE NATIONAL CHIEF PRAISES INCREASED DENE INVESTMENT IN NORTHLAND UTILITIES

YELLOWKNIFE – Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus today praised Denendeh Investments Incorporated (DII) for committing to become an equal partner with ATCO in Northland Utilities.

DII signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to increase its ownership in Northland Utilities to 50 per cent, ATCO holds the other 50 per cent. DII previously owned 14 per cent of the company, it has been a partner with ATCO in the electric utility for nearly 30 years.

“Increasing Dene ownership in Northland Utilities to become equal partners is the logical next step in a mutually-beneficial business partnership that has grown over three decades,” said Erasmus adding that the company serves 11,000 customers in nine communities. “We look forward to exploring the opportunity in having a Dene company serve all Dene communities.”

Northland Utilities is a full-service electrical company that provides retail, distribution, transmission and generation services in the Northwest Territories (NWT). DII represents 27 Dene First Nations and 50 per cent of the Aboriginal population in the NWT. DII was created to invest in programs and business ventures to help build sustainable communities for its people.

Erasmus said, “These types of business partnerships allow for financial participation in the NWT’s economy by First Nations and creates real job opportunities for our people.”

The partnership launch, celebrated at noon today at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife, was organized under the umbrella of DII in partnership with ATCO.

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*“Upholding and Protecting the Right and Interest of the Dene Nation”*