



Deninu Kue First Nation  
P.O. Box 279  
Fort Resolution NT X0E  
0M0Phone:  
867-394-4335/4336 Fax:  
867-394-5122

## News Release November 2021 – Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories

Deninu Kue First Nation (DKFN) with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) have completed a successful first field season documenting shoreline and wetland habitat in the area of the Slave River Delta and Taltson Watershed.

The project, funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada through the Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP), supports the development of technical capacity and collaboration to ensure greater involvement by DKFN in fish and fish habitat conservation and protection. Funding spanning 3 years will further DKFN's work with community leaders, Elders, youth, land users, and knowledge holders to document fish and wildlife habitat in the area. CPAWS- NWT and DUC, who work with Indigenous Governments to protect ecosystems, species, and a healthy environment, are project partners providing in-kind capacity and technical support.

Highlights of the project include integrating DKFN Traditional Knowledge with photo documentation and mapping of habitat to build a better picture of landscape change over time. The information will inform land use planning and conservation decisions for the protection of fish and other species that sustain food security and a local economy for the community. A training component has increased the number of available field staff, including youth, to participate in the project and forms a building block for a local guardian program.

*“Indigenous Knowledge together with western science is a source of valuable environmental evidence to Deninu Kue First Nation that plays a crucial role in shaping our own responses to climate change, conservation and opportunities for economic development.”*

– Louis Balsillie, Chief, Deninu Kue First Nation

*“With the area being impacted by climate change, it is critical to work together to maintain the great ecological significance and traditional history, culture and knowledge of the Slave River Delta. This initiative fits our mandate and we support Indigenous Governments who want to conserve crucial wetland areas.”*

- Barrett Lenoir, Manager, Northwest Territories, Ducks Unlimited Canada

*“The Slave River Delta is a fascinating ecosystem, a globally significant opportunity to protect biodiversity, and natural solution to climate change. I look forward to learning more about the area from DKFN's expert guides and community members as the project progresses”*

- Kris Brekke, Executive Director Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society –NWT Chapter

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For More Information, Contact:  
Minnie Whimp, Lands  
Manager Deninu Kue First  
Nation  
867-394-4335  
lands@dkfn.ca



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