



# Thaidene Nene

## “Land of the Ancestors”

Akaitcho Workshop

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017





# A Long History



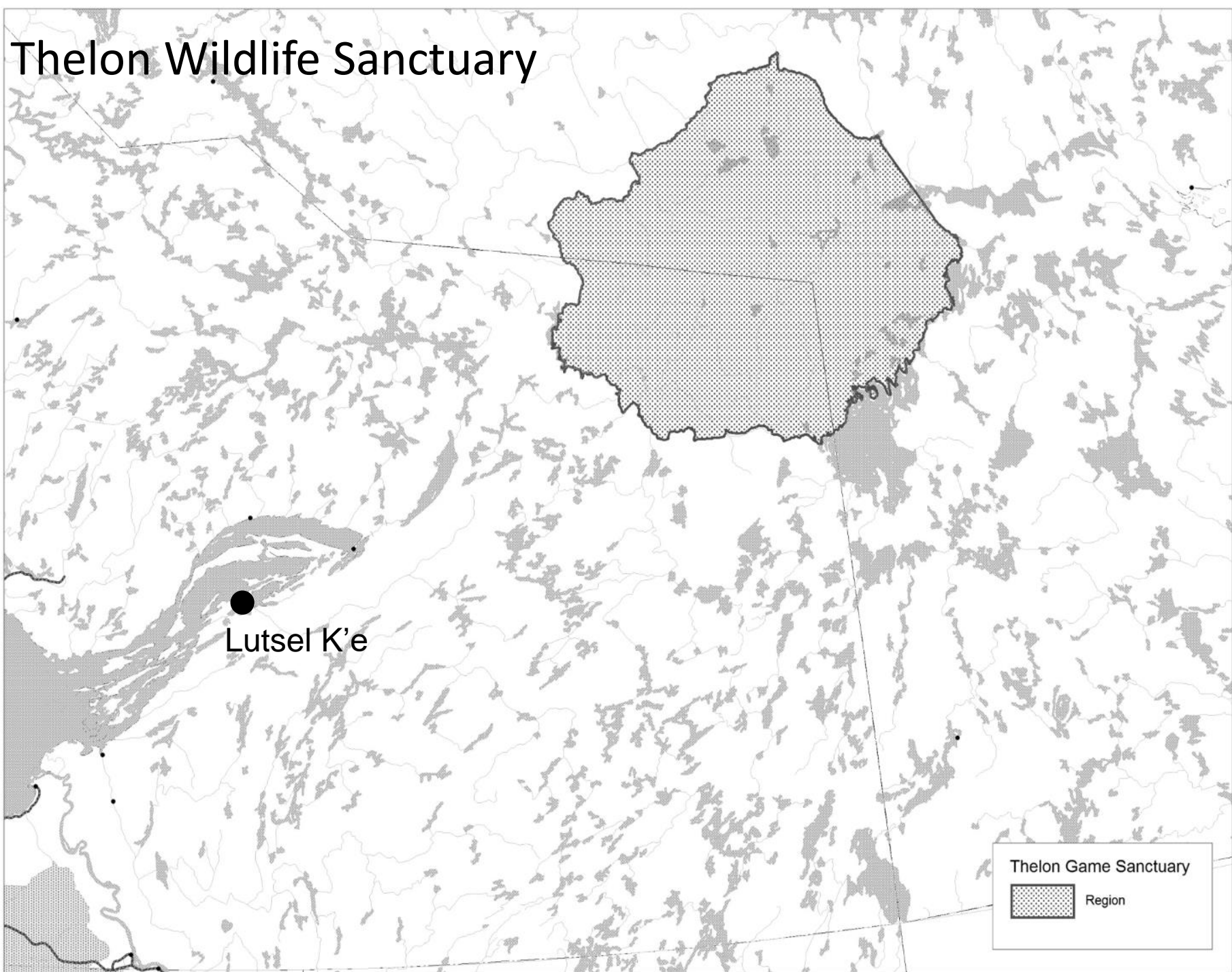


1920s

First and largest wildlife refuge in Canada established to protect muskoxen.



# Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary





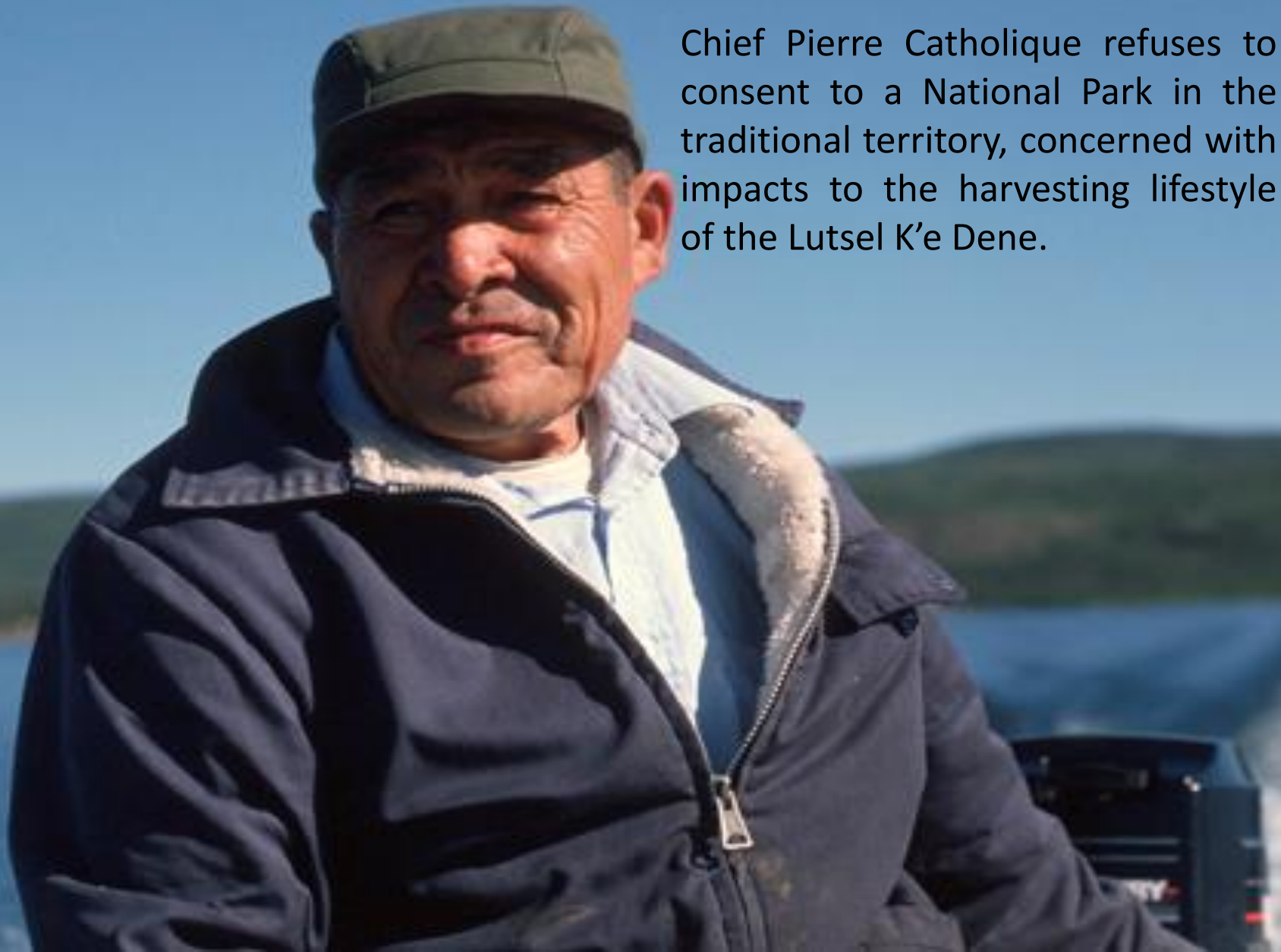


1920s-1960s

Negative experiences with Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary – many Lutsel K'e Dene arrested, families alienated from traditional land-base.

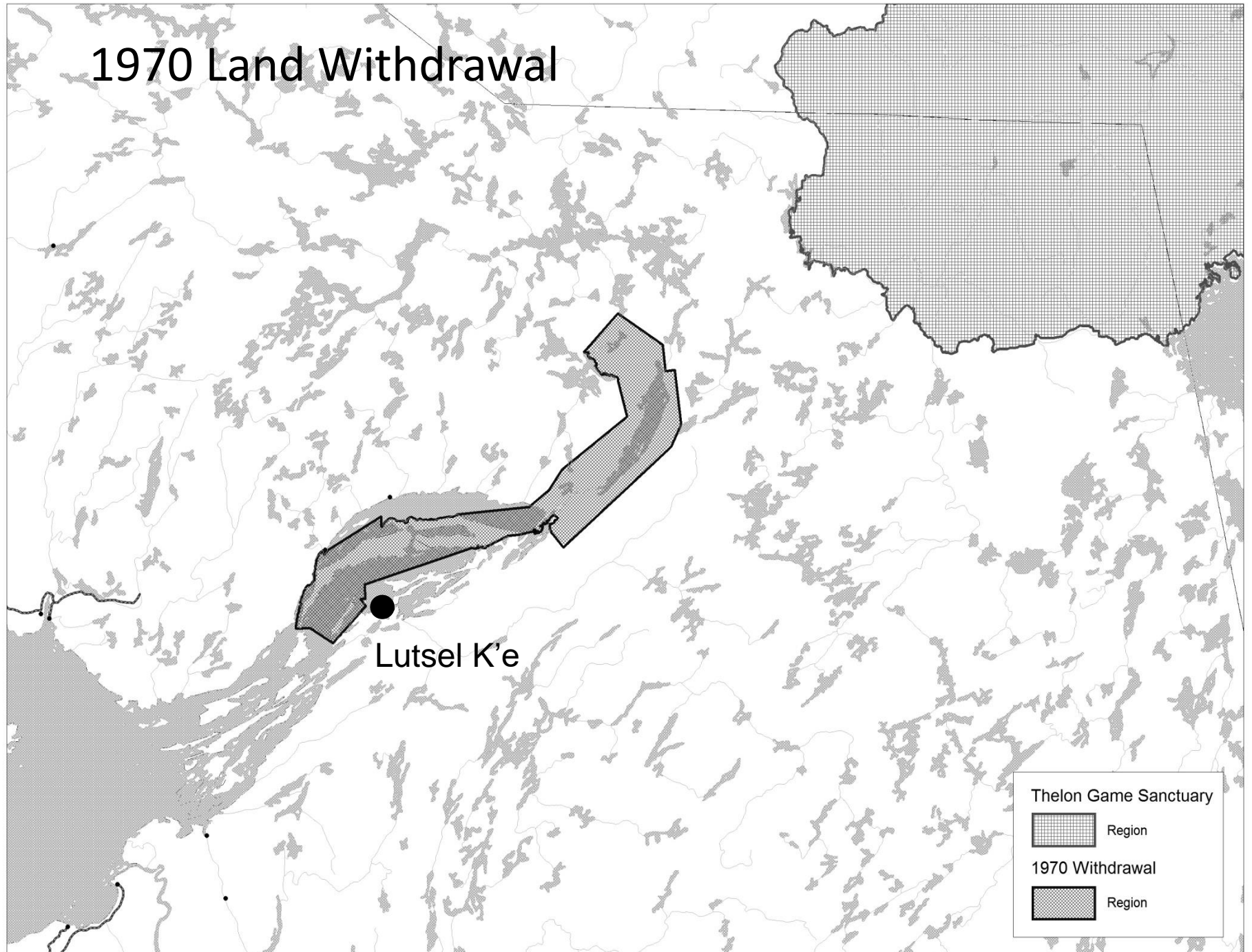
1969-1970

Chief Pierre Catholique refuses to consent to a National Park in the traditional territory, concerned with impacts to the harvesting lifestyle of the Lutsel K'e Dene.



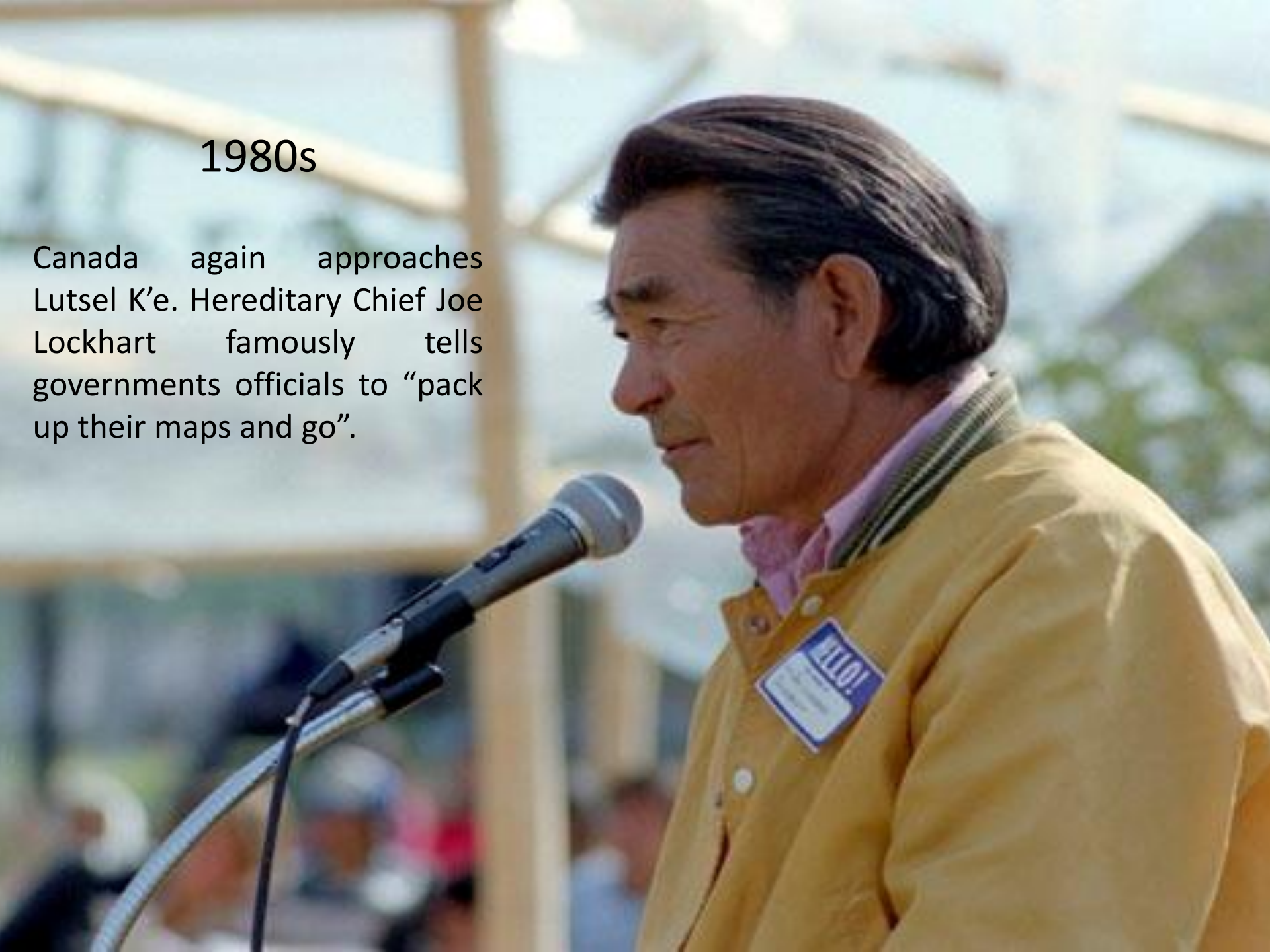


# 1970 Land Withdrawal



1980s

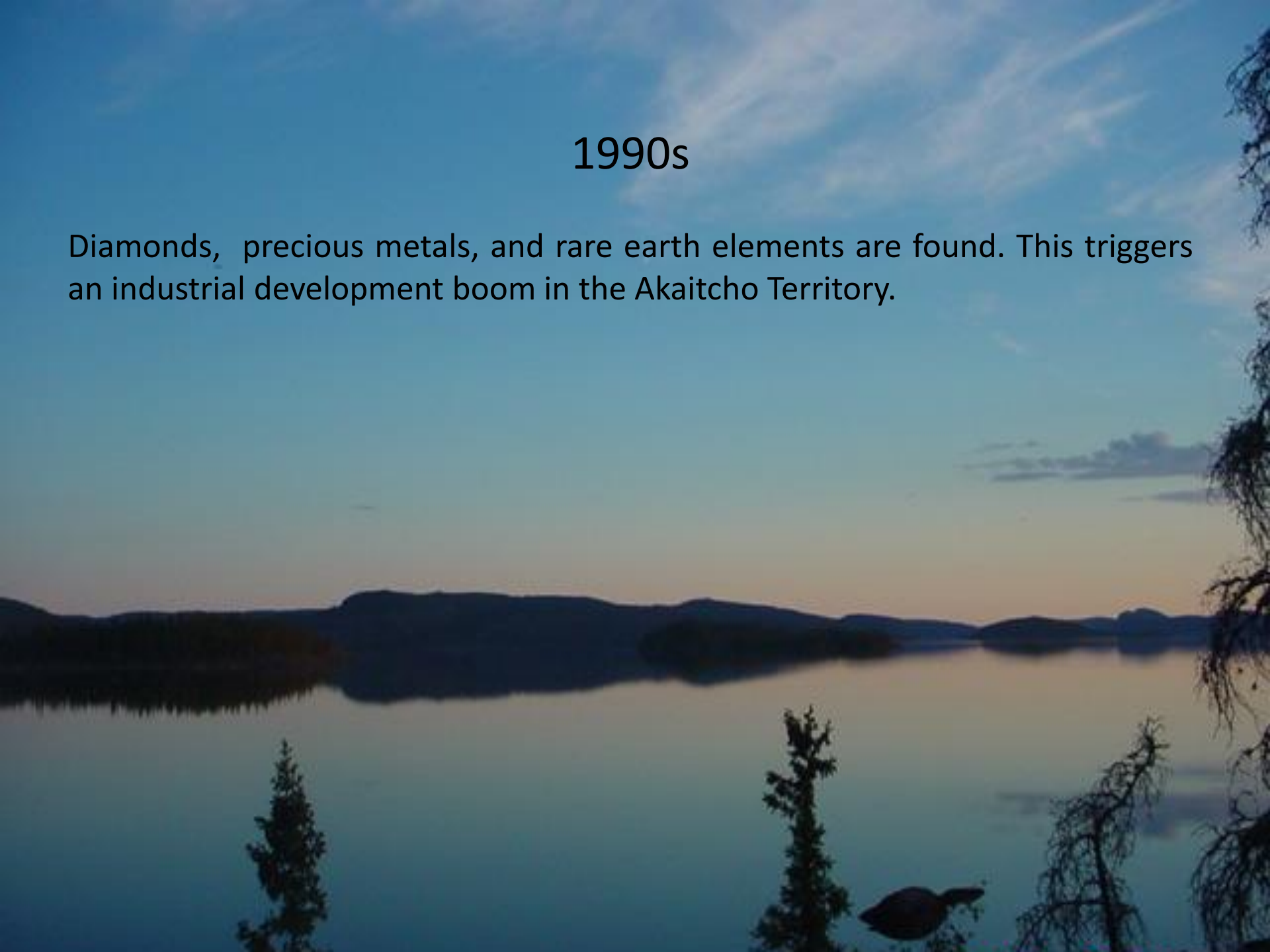
Canada again approaches Lutsel K'e. Hereditary Chief Joe Lockhart famously tells governments officials to “pack up their maps and go”.





# 1990s

Diamonds, precious metals, and rare earth elements are found. This triggers an industrial development boom in the Akaitcho Territory.



As well, since the *Constitution Act of 1982*, the aboriginal and treaty right to hunt, fish, trap, and gather in new protected areas is respected. Constitutional rights are stronger than legislation.





2000

Chief Felix Lockhart approaches Canada to renew discussions about a potential protected area around the East Arm and towards the barrenlands.





2005

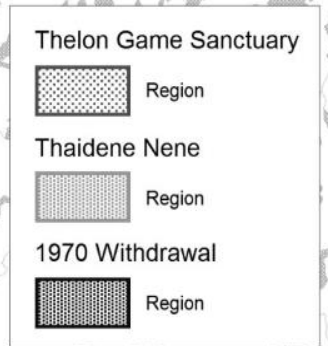
Led by elders, the Lutsel K'e Dene identify and name "Thaidene Nene", the Land of the Ancestors, as a proposed protected area.





# Elder's Thaidene Nene

Lutsel K'e



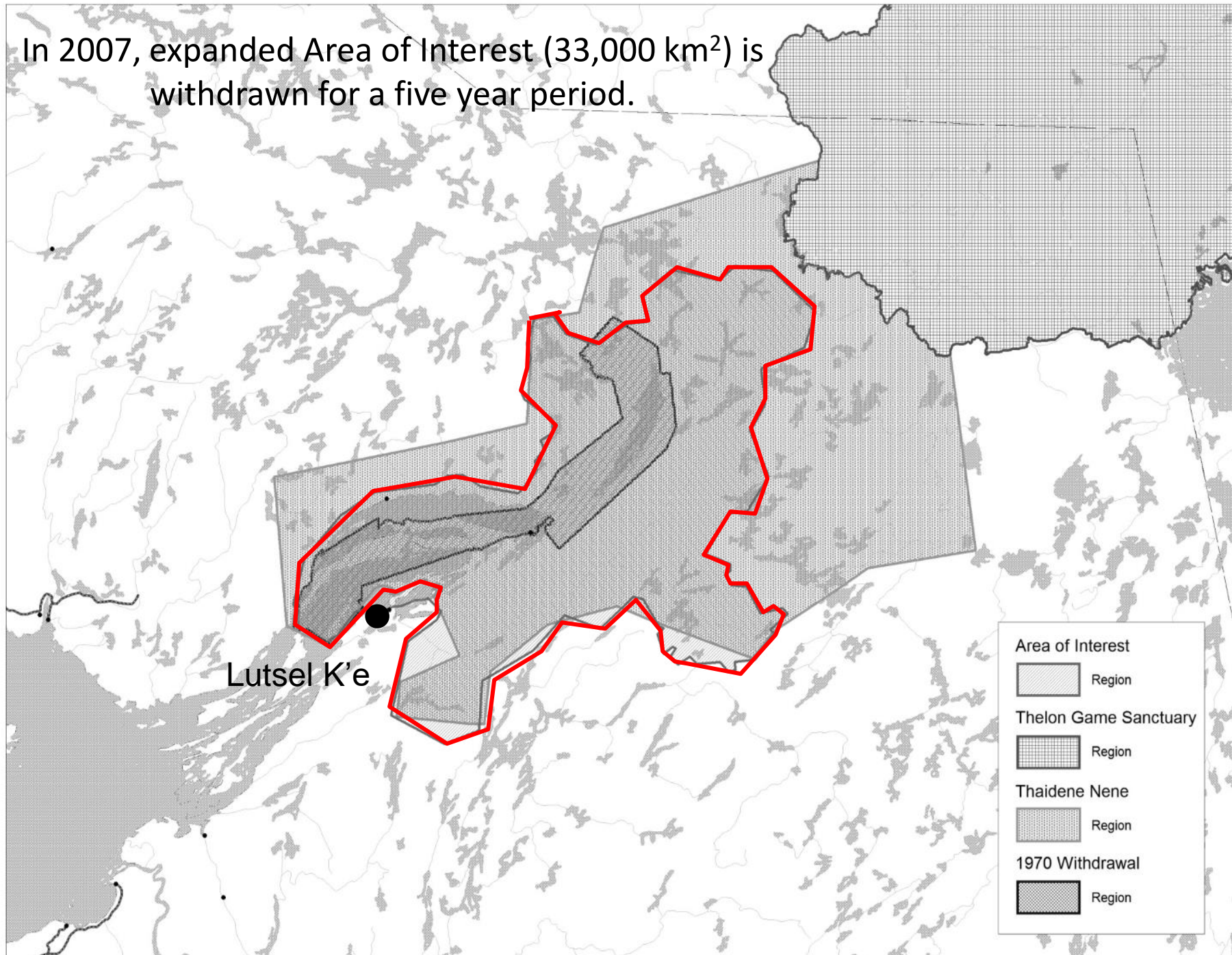
2006

Chief Addie Jonasson and  
Parks Canada sign a MOU  
to investigate the  
feasibility of a new  
protected area in  
Thaidene Nene.



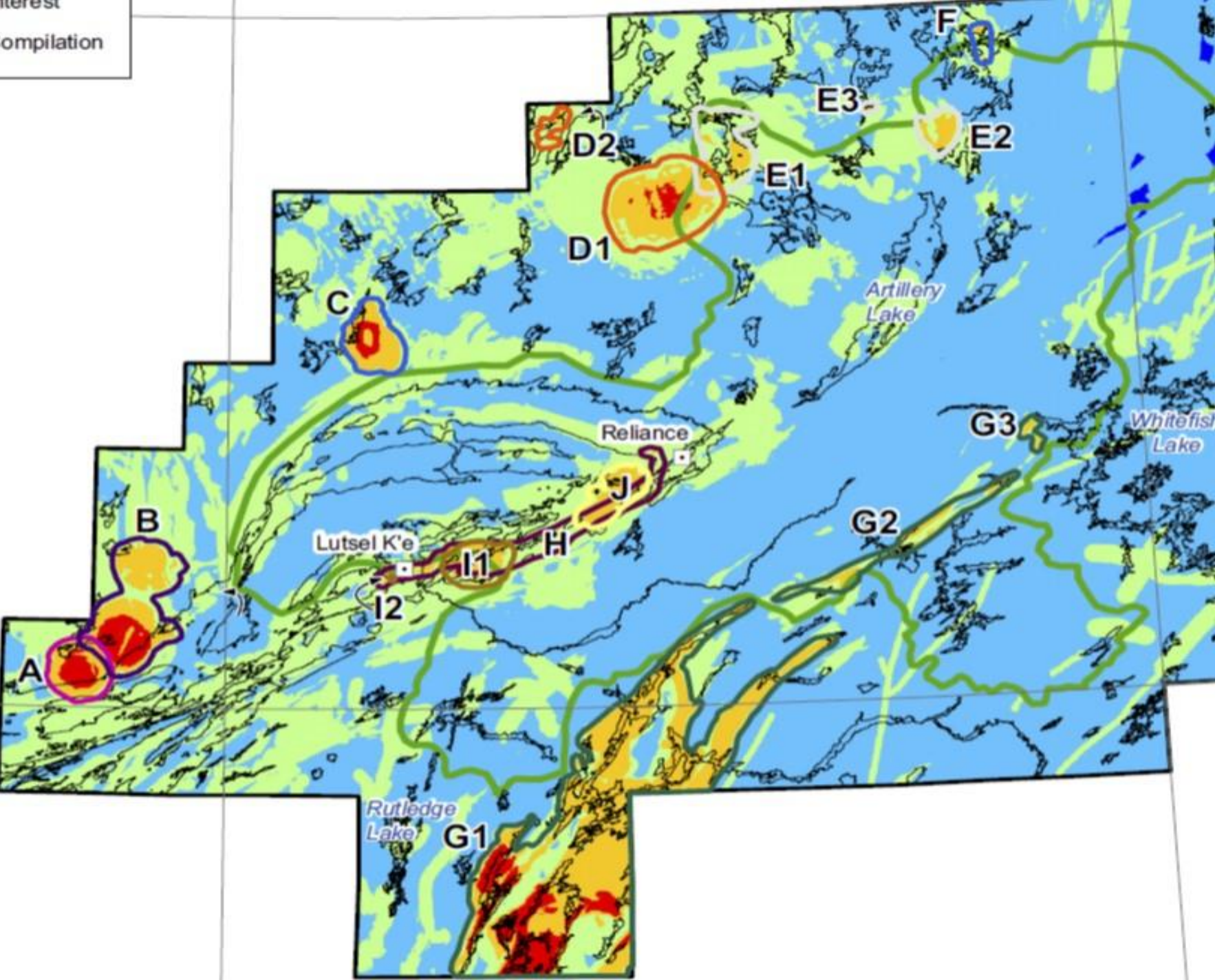


In 2007, expanded Area of Interest (33,000 km<sup>2</sup>) is withdrawn for a five year period.

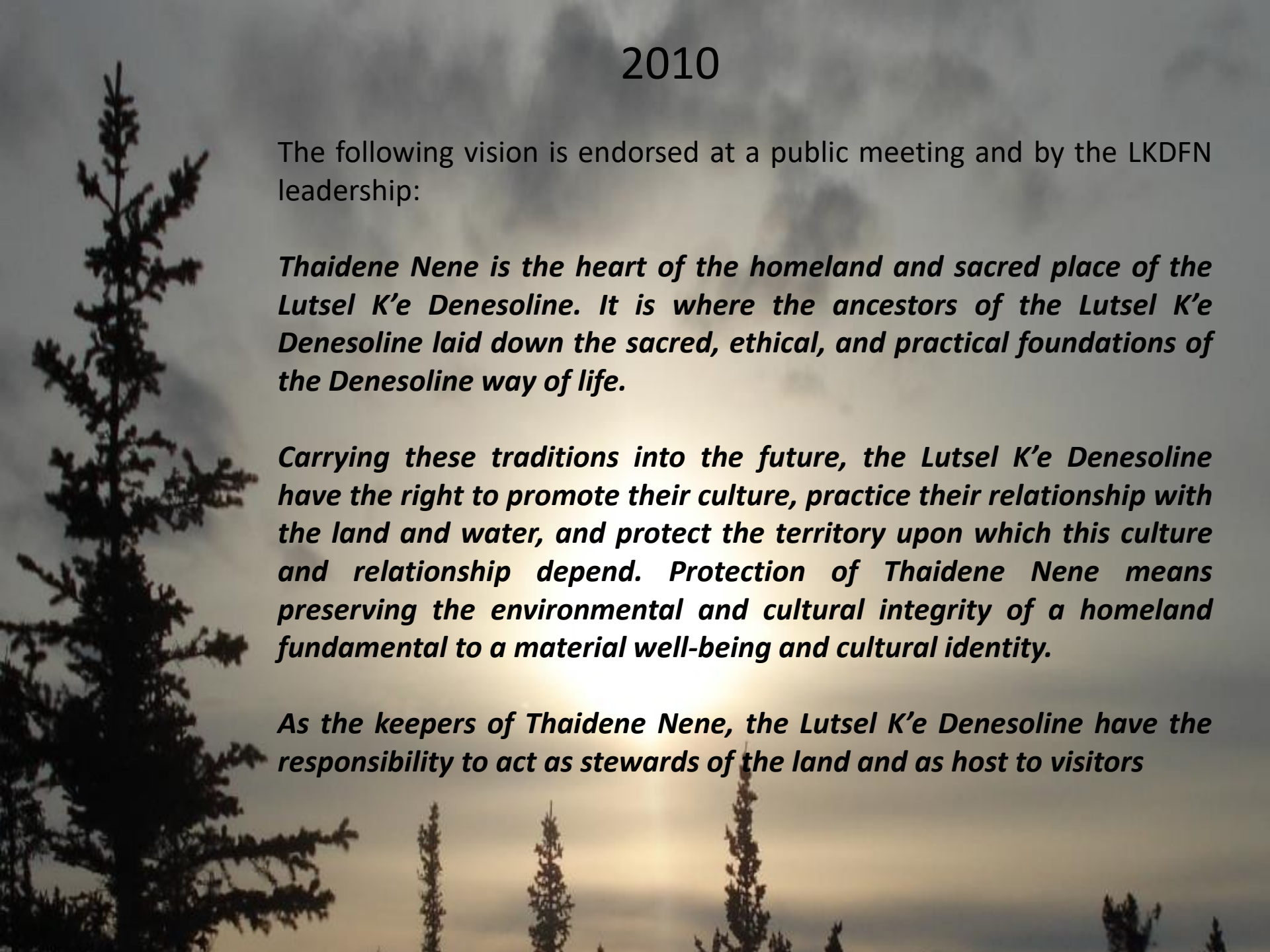




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# 2010

The following vision is endorsed at a public meeting and by the LKDFN leadership:

***Thaidene Nene is the heart of the homeland and sacred place of the Lutsel K'e Denesoline. It is where the ancestors of the Lutsel K'e Denesoline laid down the sacred, ethical, and practical foundations of the Denesoline way of life.***

***Carrying these traditions into the future, the Lutsel K'e Denesoline have the right to promote their culture, practice their relationship with the land and water, and protect the territory upon which this culture and relationship depend. Protection of Thaidene Nene means preserving the environmental and cultural integrity of a homeland fundamental to a material well-being and cultural identity.***

***As the keepers of Thaidene Nene, the Lutsel K'e Denesoline have the responsibility to act as stewards of the land and as host to visitors***



2010

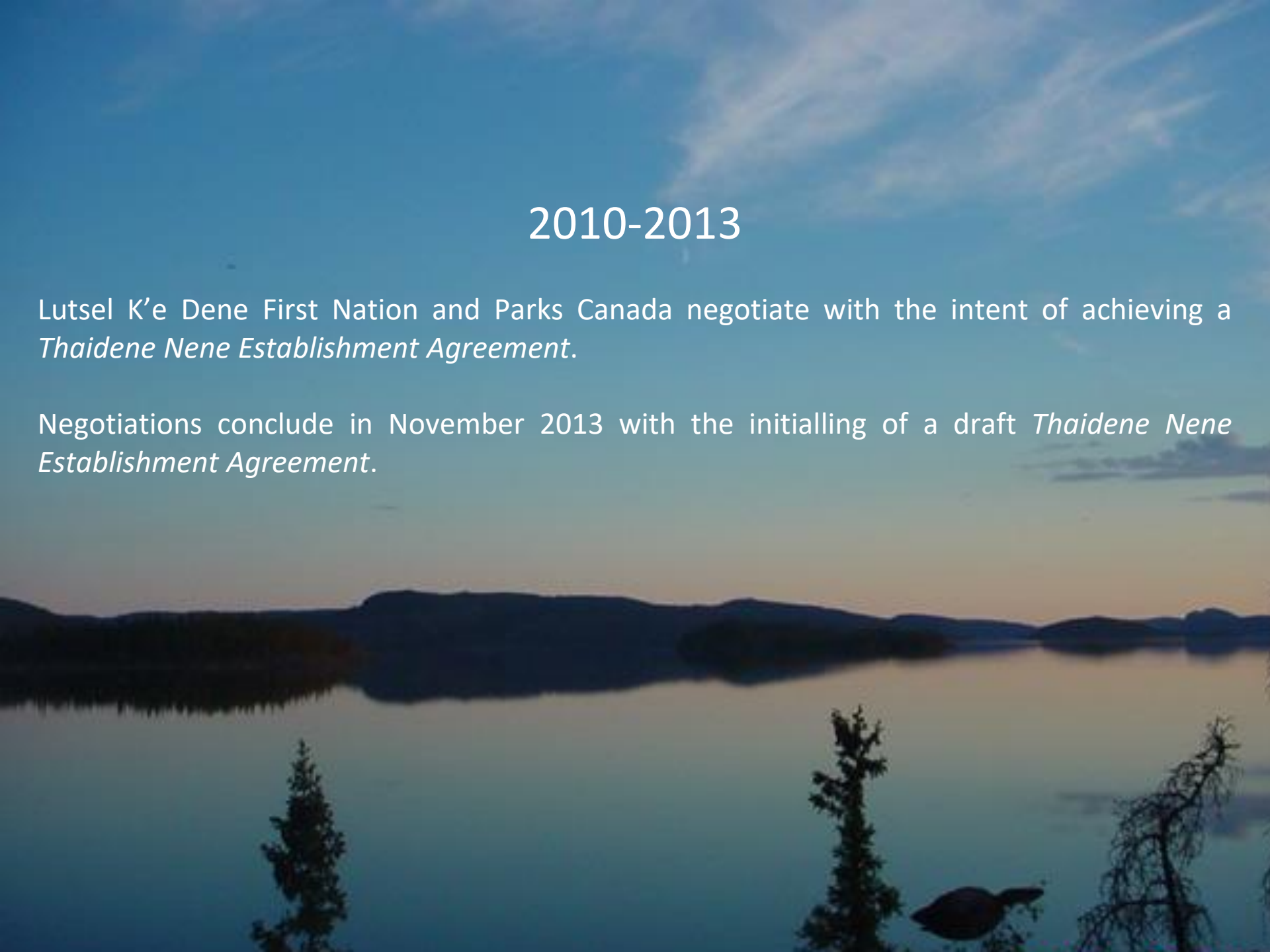
Chief Steven Nitah launches the Thaidene Nene Establishment Process by signing a framework agreement to guide discussions with Canada. The framework agreement is witnessed by Akaitcho leadership, and a side table to the Akaitcho Process, led by the LKDFN, is created.



## 2010-2013

Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada negotiate with the intent of achieving a *Thaidene Nene Establishment Agreement*.

Negotiations conclude in November 2013 with the initialling of a draft *Thaidene Nene Establishment Agreement*.



## 2014-2016

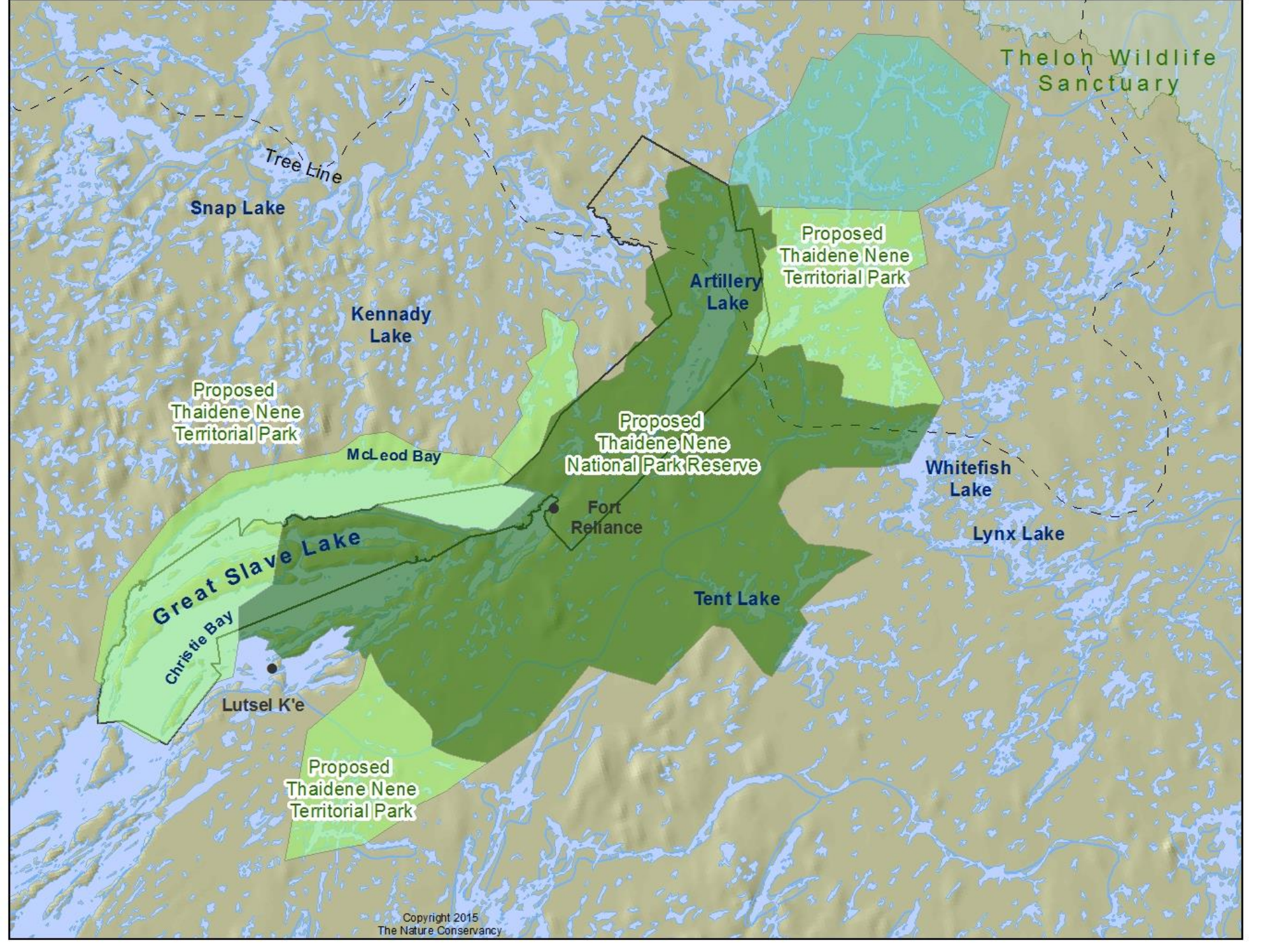
Devolution brings the GNWT into the mix as they must now consent to any boundary.

Boundary discussions with GNWT, Parks Canada, and neighbouring aboriginal groups.

Negotiators agree on proposed boundaries for Thaidene Nene, with permanent protection being provided by a core National Park Reserve and neighbouring Territorial Parks.

GNWT confirms that Territorial Park designations will be permanently protected from industrial development.







# Thaidene Nene Governance





## TYPE OF GOVERNANCE

**Contractual agreement** between Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada that is subject to any Akaitcho Agreement.

**Recognizes any treaty and aboriginal rights** that the Lutsel K'e Denesoline have or may have.

**Recognizes ongoing dispute regarding rights and titles**, but does not resolve it (this is done through the treaty negotiations).

**Title to land** remains unresolved.

**Co-governance, or shared jurisdiction model.**



# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LKDFN AND PARKS CANADA

## Joint Objectives

The Parties intend to cooperate in the planning, management, operation, monitoring and evaluation of Thaidene Nene, and will share resources and cooperate towards the fulfillment of the following objectives:

- The Ecological Integrity of Thaidene Nene and the Cultural Continuity of the Łutsël K'e Denesoline will be maintained and promoted.
- Thaidene Nene will be maintained and made use of so as to leave it for the benefit, education and enjoyment of future generations.

The Parties acknowledge the importance of the Dene way of life and Denesoline Knowledge, and are committed to incorporating these concepts and practices into the planning, management, operation, monitoring and evaluation of Thaidene Nene;

To further their shared responsibilities and mutual objectives, the Parties will work to ensure that their relationship is consensus-based, participatory, accountable and transparent.



# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LKDFN AND PARKS CANADA

## Management

A Management Body for Thaidene Nene will be established that will **make decisions** concerning the planning, management, operation, monitoring, and evaluation of Thaidene Nene.

- Management plan development (e.g. forest fire plans, visitor plans, sacred place site plans...)
- Approving guidelines, protocols, rules and licenses/permits
- Approving all communication materials
- Research and monitoring

The Parties will appoint an **equal number of members** to the Management Body.

The Management Body will make all decisions by **consensus** of its members.

The Parties will **carry out the decisions of the Management Body**.

# RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LKDFN AND PARKS CANADA

## Fixing Disputes

Disputes might arise between the Parties for various reasons, including when a **Party is unable or unwilling to carry out a Management Body decision.**

Disputes on carrying out Management Body decisions are resolved through a **consensus process**, a formal way that the Parties can dialogue and negotiate with each other in a positive manner in order to come to a mutually-agreeable outcome.

If, after going through the consensus process, there is a **clear and final disagreement** between the Parties, the **matter is put into abeyance and the Chief and the Minister must resolve together.**