



# Saoyú-?ehdacho

## National Historic Site



1999

The 1999 National Historic Site designation of Saoyú-?ehdacho is an important step in recognizing the importance of the peninsulas, but does not provide protection for land. The community of Déline follows the direction of its elders to seek permanent protection for the area.

2002

An interim land withdrawal protects Saoyú-?ehdacho while assessments of the area's values are conducted.

2007

The Saoyú-?ehdacho Working Group completes its final report, which summarizes the results of the cultural, ecological and economic assessments and consultations.

2009

The Minister Responsible for Parks Canada travels to Déline to attend community celebrations and formally announce the signing of the Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site Cooperative Management Agreement. The interim land withdrawal is replaced by an indeterminate land withdrawal.

2011

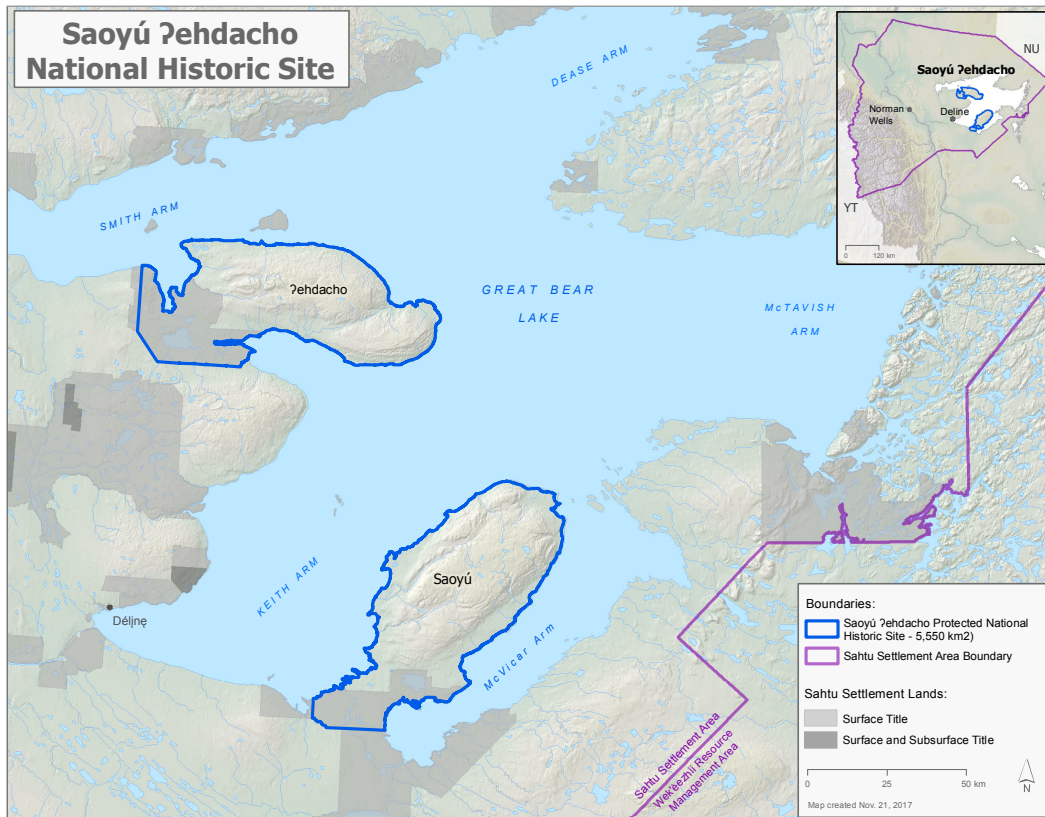
Saoyú-?ehdacho is formally protected through the National Historic Sites Order, with three agencies involved in protecting the area: the Deline Land Corporation for 20% of the surface, Parks Canada for the remaining 80% of the surface, and the GNWT for the sub-surface. The area is permanently protected.

Saoyú (*saw-you*) and ?ehdacho (*eh-dah-cho*) are two major peninsulas on the west side of Great Bear Lake, totaling 5,550 km<sup>2</sup>. These peninsulas form the Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site.

Saoyú and ?ehdacho are teaching, healing and spiritual places, essential to the cultural well-being of the Sahtúgot'ine, or the "people of Sahtú." The elders of Déline say that the protection of Saoyú and ?ehdacho is a responsibility given to the Sahtúgot'ine by their ancestors.

The site is permanently protected and cooperatively managed by the Déline Land Corporation and the Déline Renewable Resources Council, together with Parks Canada.

# Saoyú-ʔehdacho



## Status

- The site has been established as a National Historic Site with surface and subsurface protection.

## Why is it important?

- Saoyú-ʔehdacho is deeply linked to the history of the Sahtúgot'íne, the Dene of Great Bear Lake. For the Sahtúgot'íne, this region's oral traditions and stories are tied to the land and help define who they are as a people. In recognition of the historical and cultural importance of these areas, Parks Canada designated these peninsulas as a National Historic Site in 1999.
- Saoyú-ʔehdacho has intact boreal forest and is home to important wildlife species, including woodland caribou, grizzly bears, wolverine and peregrine falcons.
- The site features trails, portages, gravesites and campsites that are landmarks of how the land has been used for generations as people traveled from one place to another.