

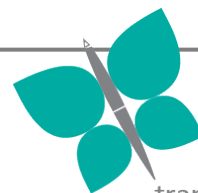
Proposed Thaidene Néné National Park Reserve

Consultation and Engagement Report

tait | communications
and consulting

Submitted to: Parks Canada

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Executive summary

Background

The proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve is a land of stunning scenery and a transition from boreal forest to tundra. It is located at the eastern end of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and includes the Artillery Lake area in the Northwest Territories. It is an area used regularly by not only residents of the nearby community of Łutsël K'e, but also of other communities such as Yellowknife.

The Government of Canada first proposed a national park in the area in the 1960s. At the time, the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation (ŁKDFN), the community closest to the proposed park, opposed the idea, and so it was put on the shelf. However, in 2000, the ŁKDFN approached the Government of Canada about revisiting the idea of establishing a national park.

For more than 15 years, Parks Canada and the ŁKDFN have worked to establish what would become the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve. The Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) became more formally involved in negotiations for the establishment of the proposed national park reserve in 2013. Both the ŁKDFN and NWTMN have cultural ties to the land and assert the area as part of their traditional territory, and have ongoing land claim negotiations with the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories.

In 2015, the Government of the Northwest Territories proposed territorial protected areas—three territorial parks and a caribou management area—adjacent to the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve.

Consultations

From January 2015 until January 2017, Parks Canada undertook public consultations with residents of communities in the NWT and across Canada to gather information and address questions about the national park reserve proposal. The consultations can be divided into three approaches:

- 18 consultation meetings held with stakeholder groups and the public in the NWT and selected cities elsewhere in Canada
 - 12 with NWT stakeholder groups
 - 3 with NWT residents (2 in Yellowknife and 1 in Hay River)
 - 3 with the public in Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa
- A comment form (questionnaire), available online on Parks Canada's website and in hard copy format (distributed during the consultation meetings or by request)
- Other written submissions, such as emails and letters

Results

The consultation process produced extensive notes from the meetings, 50 comment forms, and 996 emails and letters. Of the combined commenters (including at meetings and through written submissions), approximately **90% expressed support for establishing the national park reserve, with 9% neutral** (expressing neither support nor opposition; for example, asking questions for clarification) **and only 1% opposed**. Most of the expressed support came from written submissions.

Some notable themes came out of the consultation process:

- **Meetings—northerners want limited restrictions on use; other Canadians want environmental protection:** There was a marked difference in tone and substance of the questions and comments in the Northwest Territories (NWT) meetings compared to those held in southern Canada. In the meetings in Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa, many comments were focused on the importance of environmental protection that a national park reserve would bring, and were generally in favour of establishing the park. In the NWT, more comments were concerned about regulations and permitted activities. Commenters in the NWT wanted clarity on what activities can be carried out in a national park reserve. They are accustomed to having the freedom to use the area with few restrictions and want this to continue. For example, some residents use floatplanes and motorized boats in the area; camp, pick berries and make campfires; carry firearms for protection from wildlife such as bears; or hunt for food. While most of these activities can be permitted in national parks, some are typically not permitted (such as carrying firearms for use). NWT residents also cited examples of national parks with higher visitor numbers (such as Banff National Park) where many of these activities are not permitted, and were concerned that similar regulations may be put in place for the proposed Thaidene Néné national park reserve.
- **Written submissions—overwhelming support for a national park reserve, but there are some concerns from local users:** The vast majority of written submissions were in favour of establishing the national park reserve. It also appears that all but a few written submissions came from outside the NWT. Nearly 100% (99.7%) of emails and letters submitted were in favour of the proposed national park reserve. The majority of comment form submissions (54%) were in favour of the proposed national park reserve as well, with only 15% opposed and 30% neutral. While most respondents support the national park reserve, there are some significant concerns from local users, primarily focused on restrictions on activities or access (including fees, hunting and industrial development).

Conclusions

The conclusions that have been reached as a result of the consultation process are:

1. Proceed with the establishment of the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve.
2. Ensure Parks Canada follows through on assurances made during the consultation phase.
3. Allow users to carry firearms in the national park reserve for protection from wildlife such as bears.
4. Permit subsistence hunting for a defined set of northern users.
5. Ensure the regulations and management of the national park reserve and territorial protected areas are as similar as possible.
6. Make aircraft access as easy as possible by designating all water sites as landing areas and ensuring landing permits can be acquired as easily as possible.
7. Make the process of obtaining permits or licences (e.g. for fishing) as easy as possible by providing an option in Yellowknife or online (or both).
8. Ensure local non-Indigenous residents have ample input into regulations and management planning.
9. Ensure residents are aware that all areas of high mineral potential and almost all areas of moderate-to-high potential were excluded from the national park reserve.
10. Ensure good communication with residents on any consultation or decisions regarding the national park reserve.
11. Use lessons learned to improve the consultation process when consulting on management planning.

Background¹

Thaidene Nënë (“Land of the ancestors” in the Dënesųłíné—a.k.a. Chipewyan—language) has a long history with Parks Canada. The area around the East Arm of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories, with its stunning scenery and transition from boreal forest to tundra, was first identified as a potential national park in the late 1960s. At the time, opposition from the Łutsël K’e Dene First Nation, who live in the area, led the federal government to retract the proposal. Although a permanent land withdrawal had been put in place in 1970, the idea of a national park was put on hold indefinitely.

In 2000, however, Chief Felix Lockhart of the Łutsël K’e Dene First Nation (ŁKDFN) approached the Government of Canada to renew discussions about establishing a park. Times had changed. In the 1960s, the ŁKDFN was concerned that the federal government would abolish their rights to use the land they had used since time immemorial. By 2000, they saw a government that was more willing to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples. And, perhaps more importantly, they expressed a need to protect their traditional territory, as diamond mining and mineral exploration had become the economic drivers of the Northwest Territories.

In 2005, Parks Canada and the ŁKDFN initiated a process aimed at establishing a national park reserve that would become known as Thaidene Nënë—a name chosen by the community of Łutsël K’e. The proposed national park reserve would cover an area nearly twice the size of the original land 1970 withdrawal.

The proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve lies in an area of Canada not yet represented by a national park: the Northwestern Boreal Uplands natural region. In the 1970s, Parks Canada adopted the National Parks System Plan, which divides Canada into 39 natural regions based on physiography and vegetation (e.g. landforms, hydrology, soil, vegetation and wildlife), with the goal of establishing at least one national park in each region. Through the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, Parliament agreed that it is within the national interest to represent Canada’s natural regions in the national parks system. To date, 30 natural regions are represented, and the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve could increase that number.

¹ For more information on the timeline of the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, see <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/cnnp-cnnp/thaidene-nene/chrono>

The evolution of the Thaidene Nënë proposal

The following timeline details the evolution of the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve proposal, up to the beginning of the process for consultation on the proposed boundary:

- **1969:** The Government of Canada approached Chief Pierre Catholique of the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation with a proposal for a national park. The ŁKDFN opposed the proposal, feeling their rights would not be protected.
- **1970:** A 7,349 km² land withdrawal was put in place, with no expiry date.
- **2005:** The ŁKDFN requested the Government of Canada reconsider the boundaries of the 1970 land withdrawal. Parks Canada initiated a study to reassess the “area of interest” for a national park.
- **2006:** ŁKDFN Chief Adeline Jonasson and the Minister Responsible for Parks Canada signed a memorandum of understanding.
- **2007:** An interim land withdrawal of 26,350 km² was added to the 1970 land withdrawal, bringing the total study area to 33,690 km².
- **2013:** The Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment for the Thaidene Nënë area was published.
- **2013:** Parks Canada and ŁKDFN negotiators reached an agreement in principle, absent a finalized boundary and financial commitments, on an establishment agreement.
- **April 1, 2014:** The *Northwest Territories Devolution Act* came into effect. The Thaidene Nënë interim land withdrawal was renewed under the GNWT’s *Northwest Territories Lands Act* until March 31, 2016.
- **2015:** The GNWT initiated work on developing a matrix of protected area designations and northern tools for the 33,600 km² land withdrawal area. The GNWT, the ŁKDFN, Parks Canada, and leaders of other Indigenous groups agreed to consult on a proposal that includes territorial protected areas and a national park reserve.
- **2015:** Parks Canada and Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) negotiators reached an agreement in principle, absent a finalized boundary and financial commitments, on an impact and benefit agreement.
- **July 29, 2015:** The Government of Canada announced consultations on a proposed 14,000 km² boundary for a national park reserve in the Thaidene Nënë area.

Part of a wider protected area

The proposed Thaidene Nënë area would be unique within the Northwest Territories in that it would not only include a national park reserve, but also several territorial parks and a caribou management area proposed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) in 2015—also using the Thaidene Nënë name—adjacent to the national park reserve. These territorial protected areas would fall under the

jurisdiction of the GNWT, but the intent would be to manage the territorial and national portions as similarly as possible to ensure a seamless experience for users.

Because these protected areas would fall under territorial jurisdiction, the GNWT conducted its own consultation process for their establishment, which is not covered in this report.

A national park reserve

Since the 1970s, several new national parks in Canada have been designated as national park reserves. The distinction is an important one. National park reserves are established 'where an area or a portion of an area proposed for a park is subject to a claim in respect of aboriginal rights that has been accepted for negotiation by the Government of Canada.'

The Thaidene Nënë area falls within the asserted traditional territory of the Akaitcho Dene First Nations (close to the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation—or ŁKDFN) and the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN), both of whom are negotiating land claims with the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Because these land claims are not yet settled, Thaidene Nënë would become a national park reserve.

A national park reserve is managed like a national park under the *Canada National Parks Act*. While national parks and national park reserves are different legal entities, there is little difference between the two in practice.

National park reserves, like some national parks, are often planned and managed by both Parks Canada and the Indigenous peoples with overlapping traditional territory. This is often done through a cooperative management body.

Parks Canada is in the process of finalizing an establishment agreement with ŁKDFN, and an impact and benefit agreement with the NWTMN. Eventually each of the land claim final agreements will include a national parks chapter. Once all outstanding land claims are settled, the national park reserve will be converted into a national park, while assuring that any rights pursuant to the land claims are affirmed within the national park and that cooperative management would continue.

Indigenous peoples continue to practice resource harvesting and cultural and spiritual practices within a national park reserve, in accordance with their constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Once their land claims are settled, they may exercise their land claim rights within the national park.

Thaidene Nënë at a glance

The Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation approached Parks Canada with a proposal for a national park reserve because of the ecological and cultural protection that it could bring. Parks Canada, in turn, is interested in establishing a national park reserve because it would protect the natural region and provide an iconic visitor experience.

The area for the proposed national park reserve has the following characteristics:

- It is an excellent representation of the Northwestern Boreal Uplands natural region of Parks Canada's National Park System
- It has a configuration that will allow for the maintenance of ecological integrity (e.g. many smaller animal species spend their entire lives within the area)
- It includes areas that will provide iconic visitor experiences
- It would allow for tourism investments that benefit communities
- It excludes areas of high mineral potential
- It includes areas of importance to Indigenous communities

Geographical location and features

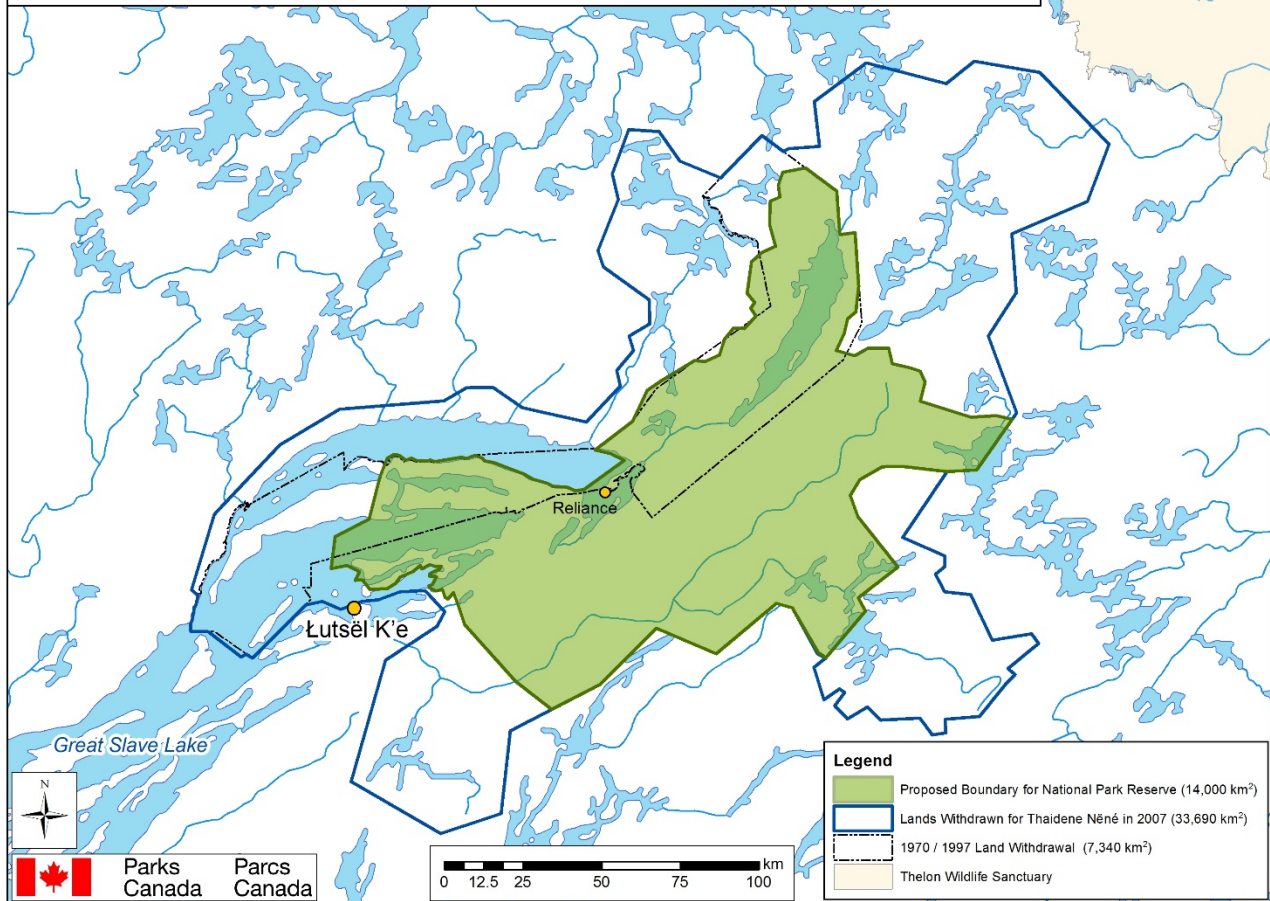
The proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve is located in the area around the East Arm of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories. The proposed boundary covers an area to the northeast of the community of Łutsël K'e, and includes Wildbread Bay and a portion of Christie Bay in the East Arm, Artillery Lake, portions of Eileen and Whitefish lakes, the Lockhart River, and most of the Snowdrift River, among other areas.



Great Slave Lake. The community of Łutsël K'e is near the end of the East Arm.

Proposed Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve Boundary for Consultation

July 2015

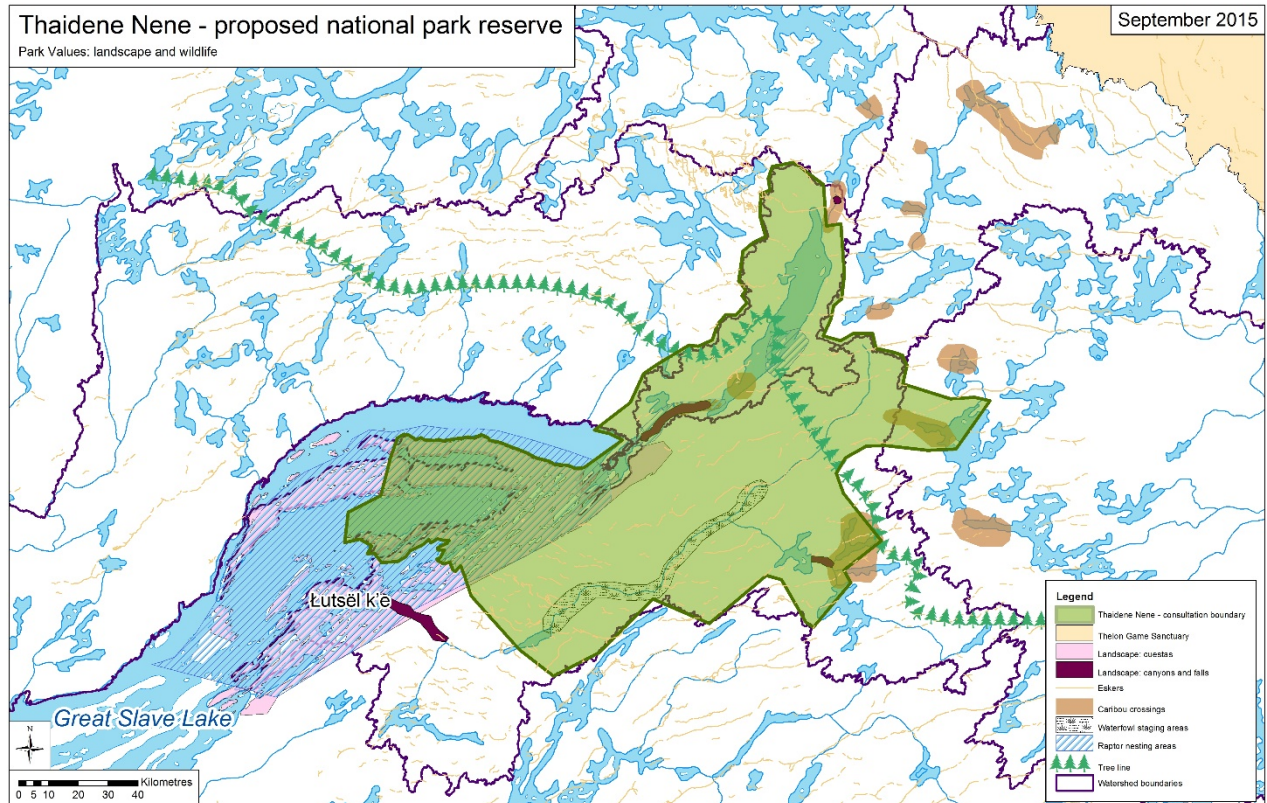


The proposed boundary for the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve (in green). The dotted outline shows the original land withdrawal, established in 1970. The solid blue line shows the interim land withdrawal, established in 2007 as a study area for the proposed national park reserve.

This proposed boundary includes a range of noteworthy natural features, such as:

- Cliffs and cuestas (hills with one gentle slope and one steep slope) on the peninsulas of the East Arm
- Waterfalls and canyons around the Lockhart River
- The deepest waters in North America (in Christie Bay)
- Large eskers and other glacial formations
- A sharp transition from boreal forest to tundra, creating the following wildlife features:
 - Habitats for caribou, moose, muskoxen, wolves, foxes, lynx, lake trout and a range of other species
 - Caribou crossings

- Raptor nesting (e.g. for eagles, hawks and falcons)
- Waterfowl staging



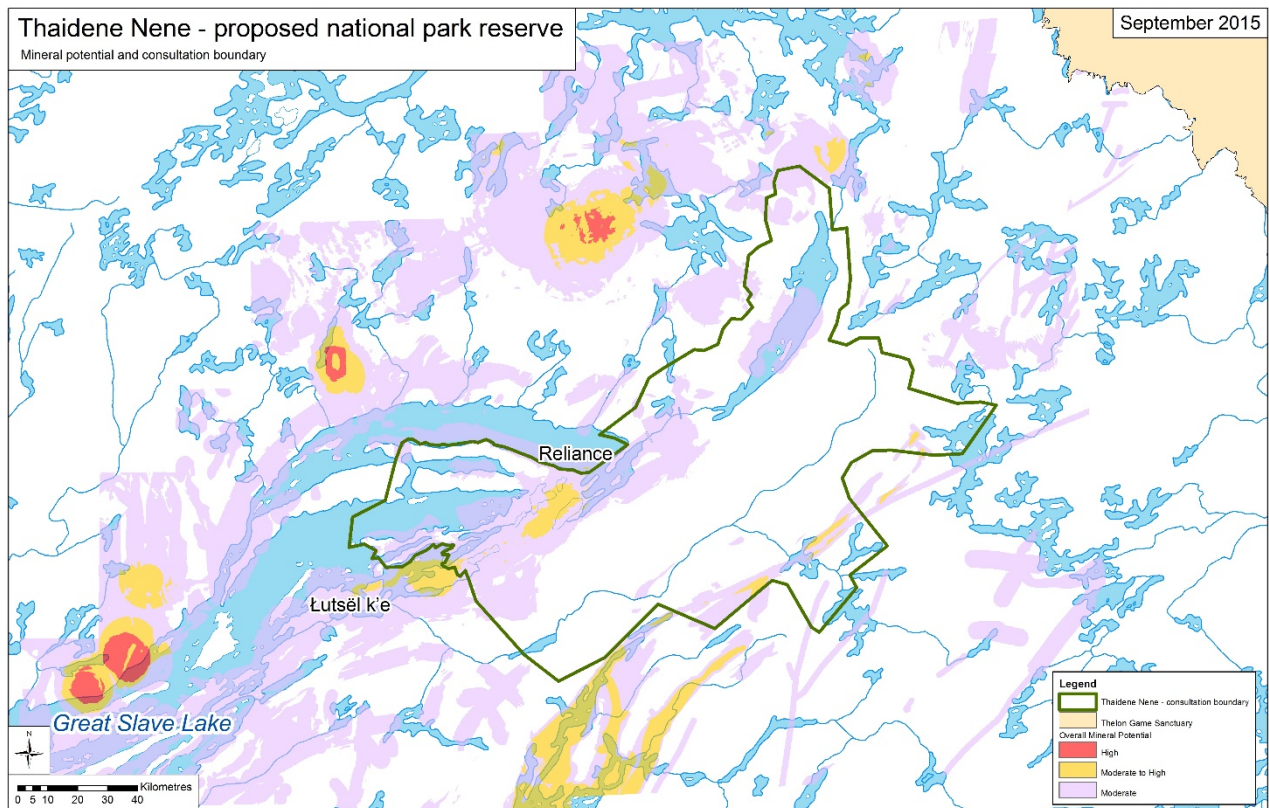
A visual representation of some of the features of the Thaidene Nënë area.

Thaidene Nënë has a rich cultural history, being an important area to the local Dene people and including spiritual places such as Ts'akui Theda, or the Lady of the Falls. It also has a history of European exploration, and includes the Fort Reliance National Historic Site (better known as Old Fort Reliance).

In addition, the area offers opportunities for outstanding visitor experiences, such as:

- Boating on the East Arm
- Paddling on the Snowdrift River and Artillery Lake
- World-class fishing
- Hiking, climbing, camping and experiencing remote northern wilderness

The proposed boundary excludes all areas of high mineral potential and most areas of moderate-to-high mineral potential that were found within the interim land withdrawal area during the Mineral and Energy Resources Assessment (MERA): a comprehensive geological study published in 2013.



A map showing the areas of high mineral potential (red), moderate to high potential (yellow) and moderate potential (purple) around the Thaidene Nënë area.

Overview of the consultation and engagement process

To establish a new national park or national park reserve, the Government of Canada must consult with the public at the national, regional and local levels. For the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, Parks Canada consulted with the public and other stakeholder groups, in addition to consulting with Indigenous groups with rights in the area and negotiating agreements with the NWTMN and ŁKDFN. The purpose of the consultation processes was to understand and address the various interests in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve. This report covers only the consultations with the public and stakeholder groups.

Pre-consultation engagement meetings began with stakeholder groups in January 2015 to inform the groups of the proposal, address any early questions and gather information to inform the formal consultation process. Formal consultations were announced on July 29, 2015, and consisted of three areas:

- Meetings held with stakeholder groups and the public in the NWT and selected cities elsewhere in Canada
- A comment form (questionnaire), available online on Parks Canada’s website and in hard copy format (at consultation meetings or by request)
- Other written submissions, such as emails and letters

Comment forms and other written feedback were collected up until January 2017.

Meetings were held in Yellowknife and Hay River, Northwest Territories; Vancouver, B.C.; Calgary, Alberta; and Ottawa, Ontario.

Tait Communications and Consulting was contracted to maintain the consultation record (including taking notes at all meetings) and produce the consultation report, which includes a summary and analysis of the comments made during the consultation phase, and resulting conclusions.

Meetings

At each meeting, Parks Canada staff presented information about the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve proposal and opened the floor to questions or comments from the audience. At the meetings in Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa, representatives of the GNWT, ŁKDFN and NWTMN also presented information and responded to questions and comments. Representatives of the ŁKDFN and NWTMN were also present at public meetings in the NWT to answer questions.

Groups were notified of the consultation meetings by a variety of means. Stakeholder groups were sent a letter with a proposed date range, and asked to coordinate a date and time with Parks Canada. These letters were generally sent a month in advance. Emails and phone calls were used to follow up on these letters. Public meetings were advertised in local newspapers and on local radio stations², and posters were placed in strategic locations. In addition, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) informed its membership of the meetings in Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa, and encouraged them to attend.

The meetings took place according to the following schedule:

Stakeholder group meetings

Pre-consultation engagement meetings

1. Northwest Territories Tourism (January 13, 2015; Yellowknife)
2. NWT Floatplane Association (January 16, 2015; Yellowknife)

² Notices were played on radio in the NWT. Parks Canada has stated that radio stations in Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa may not have run the notices.

3. Environmental non-governmental organizations—Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and Ducks Unlimited Canada (January 22, 2015; Yellowknife)
4. Recreation groups—Great Slave Yacht Club, Somba K’e Paddling Club, and Yellowknife Climbing Club (January 22, 2015; Yellowknife)
5. Commercial airline operators—Hoarfrost River Huskies, Plummer’s Arctic Lodges (Great Slave Lake Lodge)/Plummer’s Sioux Narrows Airways, Summit Air, Summit Helicopters, Air Tindi, and Open Water Charters (January 23, 2015; Yellowknife)

Consultation meetings

6. Environmental non-governmental organizations—Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Ducks Unlimited Canada, The Nature Conservancy, and Indian Mountain Lodge³ (October 6, 2015; Yellowknife)
7. Commercial airline operators—Air Tindi (October 6, 2015; Yellowknife)
8. Great Slave Sailing Club (October 6, 2015; Yellowknife)
9. Tourism operators—Bluefish Services, Indian Mountain Lodge, and NWT Tourism (October 7, 2015; Yellowknife)
10. Tourism operators (second meeting)—Great Slave Lake Tours (October 7, 2015; Yellowknife)
11. NWT Floatplane Association (November 25, 2015; Yellowknife)
12. NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines (December 8, 2015; Yellowknife)

Public meetings

1. Yellowknife (December 9, 2015)
2. Hay River (April 20, 2016)
3. Yellowknife (June 15, 2016)
4. Vancouver (September 12, 2016)
5. Calgary (September 14, 2016)
6. Ottawa (September 21, 2016)

³ Invited to attend one of the tourism operators’ meetings, but also attended the environmental NGO meeting by teleconference.

Themes arising from questions and comments

A range of themes arose from the consultation process. The greatest variety of topics came from the meetings, while only a few key themes arose from the written comments.

Meetings

While all meetings were at least somewhat positive, there was a marked difference in tone and substance of the questions and comments in the NWT meetings compared to those held in southern Canada. In the meetings in Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa, many comments were focused on the importance of environmental protection that a national park reserve would bring, and were generally in favour of establishing the park. In the NWT, more comments were concerned about regulations and permitted activities, rather than ensuring environmental protection. NWT commenters do not want regulations to significantly encumber their use of the area.

NWT meetings

Overall themes

Key themes arising from the NWT meetings included:

- **Primary theme—address local concerns to increase support:** In many cases, commenters are not opposed to the park per se, but have concerns that they would like to see addressed if a park is to be established. They are worried that the establishment of a park will take away their ability to enjoy the area the way they do now. They wanted assurances and details from the consultation process. Based on their concerns, it could be inferred that many commenters may support the idea of a park assuming the right conditions are met, although few stated this explicitly.
- **Most common topics—continuing to use the area as normal:** The most commonly mentioned topics were the importance of maintaining easy access to the area (including by boat and floatplane); the ability to continue traditionally “northern” activities and practices on the land, such as berry picking and collecting firewood; and the importance of being able to carry firearms for protection from bears.
- **Common topic— the consultation and establishment process:** The second most commonly mentioned topic was about the consultation and park reserve establishment process. Questions and comments were related to additional opportunities to provide input into the consultation

“As a lifetime northerner, we use the land, and the idea of a national park is great, but we currently don’t have boundaries, and we want to see that continue.”

—Tourism representative

and establishment process, how Indigenous peoples fit into the process (including groups other than the ŁKDFN and NWTMN), how groups such as tourism operators and other stakeholders fit into the process, and what types of questions should be addressed to Parks Canada and what types to the GNWT.

- **Common topic—environmental protection:** The third most commonly mentioned topic was the importance of environmental protection and ecological integrity.
- **Other commonly mentioned topics:** At six of the 15 NWT meetings, there were questions or comments on the following topics:
 - Details on the cooperative management arrangement for the proposed national park reserve and surrounding area (including input or participation by non-Indigenous residents and management of the proposed territorial protected areas).
 - Ensuring regulations and management procedures in both the national park reserve and territorial protected areas are similar enough that they do not create an issue for users crossing from one into the other.
 - Regulations and permitting for aircraft landing in the national park reserve. For example, whether permits would be required, how to obtain a landing permit, whether permits could cover a long period (e.g. annual permits), and where aircraft could land (e.g. on any water site or only at designated sites). Commenters at stakeholder meetings stressed the importance of making the permitting process simple and allowing as much access as possible, as plans to go to or leave the Thaidene Nëné area, and where to land when there, are often based on the weather, and could change on short notice.
 - The importance of fuel caches for aircraft and boats (especially the cache at Reliance) and any regulations that could be put in place on fuel caches.
- **Other topics:**
 - The timeframe for consultation and for the establishment of the national park reserve.
 - Whether Indigenous rights will be maintained or whether there will be any impact to those rights (e.g. hunting rights).
 - Maintaining existing land leases or titles (e.g. for cabins or lodges), and any effects on those leases or titles.
 - Overall management and regulations, such as fees for permits, licences, facilities, etc.; whether management agreements with the ŁKDFN or NWTMN could restrict non-Indigenous people from accessing certain areas; and general clarity on planned regulations (e.g. permitted activities).
 - Support for non-Indigenous subsistence hunting. While there was some opposition to recreational (i.e. non-subsistence) hunting, commenters at four meetings (including one meeting with environmental non-government organizations) spoke in favour of non-Indigenous subsistence hunting for local residents. Commenters at public meetings were cautiously optimistic that Parks Canada is willing to define traditional non-

Indigenous land users for activities such as subsistence hunting, but want clarity as to who will be included in this group.

- Support for outfitted hunting. A commenter at a stakeholder meeting mentioned possible tourism opportunities tied to outfitted hunting in the area. Comments in favour of outfitted hunting indicated that there may currently be a tour operator licensed to conduct outfitted hunts in or near the Thaidnene Nënë area, and that restricting outfitted hunting could significantly impact this business. This sentiment was echoed and elaborated upon in written comments from NWT Tourism and from a self-identified tour operator, but it was not apparent he or she operated in the proposed national park reserve.
- Operations and regulations of businesses, such as questions or comments on tourism activities that could take place in the national park reserve, investment or business opportunities for nearby communities (especially Łutsël K'e), the benefits of a conservation economy, and whether Parks Canada offers a one-day fishing licence.
- Questions on the boundary, such as whether a land survey was conducted to ensure the boundary is correct, why Łutsël K'e was excluded from the boundary, and whether the watershed was considered in defining the boundary.
- Development and natural resources, such as questions and comments related to whether a winter road or transportation corridor could exist in the park, the location of areas of high or low potential for minerals, whether the Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment was sufficient for determining the locations with high mineral potential, and whether the federal government would compensate the NWT for the loss of mineral potential. One person in the NWT meetings stated he or she was opposed to development near the park boundary.

NWT stakeholder meetings

Key themes for each stakeholder group included:

- **Tourism sector—ensure opportunities for tourism operators:** Representatives of the tourism sector (NWT Tourism and tourism operators) are prepared to support the national park reserve, but want to ensure that it will create opportunities for tourism operators as opposed to new barriers.
- **NWT Floatplane Association—ensure northern lifestyle is permitted:** The NWT Floatplane Association representatives did not seem immediately opposed to the park, but wanted to ensure that a northern lifestyle is permitted there (i.e. that northerners can continue the same activities they have been enjoying in the area), and that regulations on air access, licensing and landing do not present a barrier.
- **Commercial airline operators—questions on aircraft regulations:** Commercial airline operators were primarily curious about the proposal, rather than seeing a need to address specific issues.

They did have questions about how aircraft are currently used in the area, and any new regulations that would be in place.

- **Aircraft operators (overall)—importance of fuel caches:** Aircraft operators overall pointed out the importance of fuel caches in the Thaidene Nënë area, especially the cache at Reliance.
- **Environmental non-governmental organizations—overall support and allowing a northern lifestyle:** Environmental non-governmental organizations expressed overall support for the park. They also expressed support for allowing activities such as berry picking, collecting firewood and carrying firearms for protection from bears, which are currently practiced in the Thaidene Nënë area but aren't typically permitted in most national parks
- **Recreation groups—ability to continue recreation activities:** The recreation groups were in favour of the park overall, but want to ensure that it will not create barriers to access or to recreational activities.
- **Chamber of Mines—ensure mining interests are not impacted:** The NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines representatives were not opposed to the idea of a national park reserve overall, but want to ensure that a national park reserve will not interfere with mining interests, and could even accommodate those interests (e.g. by allowing a transportation corridor or aircraft staging within the national park reserve).

NWT public meetings

Key themes for each community included:

- **Yellowknife—people want assurances before supporting a national park reserve:** In the Yellowknife meetings, a number of residents were cautious about the establishment of a park, not directly opposing it but fearing that it could restrict their use of the area. There were also a few concerns about the ability to trust Parks Canada. In the second public meeting, commenters wanted clarification on regulations, management, etc. before lending support to the idea of a national park reserve.
- **Hay River—in support of environmental protection:** In Hay River, there were very few commenters—and very few attendees—but those who did comment gave the impression of being in favour of the environmental protection a park would bring.

National meetings

Key themes included:

- **Major theme—environmental protection and ecological integrity:** A major focus was environmental protection and ecological integrity, more so than in the NWT meetings. In particular, several commenters noted the importance of protection from industrial development, including development near a park boundary.

- **General management and regulations:** There were a number of questions about the general management and regulations of the proposed national park reserve, such as how the levels of protection will compare between the national park reserve and territorial protected areas, whether park regulations would be in place to help protect against damage from potential nearby mining developments and whether outside commercial operators will be allowed to conduct business within the park.
- **Vancouver—focusing on Indigenous rights and environmental protection:** At the Vancouver meeting, there were few comments—partly because the presentations ran long and there was little time for comments—but most focused on Indigenous rights and environmental protection, indicating that the commenters are in favour of the park.
- **Calgary—focusing on Indigenous rights and environmental protection:** Commenters at the Calgary meeting generally were in favour of the park, as many questions and comments focused on protecting the environment and Indigenous rights.
- **Ottawa—focusing on ecological protection and ecological integrity:** There were few questions and comments at the Ottawa meeting. The questions that were asked primarily related to ensuring ecological protection and ecological integrity, including ensuring that the proposed boundary can ensure ecological protection and why certain areas were excluded from the boundary. These questions indicate that commenters are only in favour of the park if strong ecological protections can be ensured.

Written submissions

In contrast to the meetings, there were only a few key themes arising from written submissions, despite the fact that written submissions significantly outnumbered the commenters at meetings.

Many more **comment form** respondents stated they were from outside of the NWT (66%) than were residents of the territory (34%). Although each individual comment on the comment form cannot be tied to a respondent's location, the concerns raised in form submissions are similar to the concerns heard during engagement meetings in the NWT.

Based on a review of the **emails and letter submissions**, it seems likely that a significant number of those resulted from the efforts of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)—a Canada-wide environmental organization that is supporting the proposed national park reserve—to inform its members of Thaidene Nënë and generate support for its establishment. A majority of emails followed a similar format, with similar content, and CPAWS had stated that it was encouraging its members to write in support of the park. If this is the case, it is possible that most of the emails and letters originated outside the NWT as well, although this cannot be ascertained. If this is true, it would mean that commenters from outside the NWT are more likely to support the park unconditionally than those commenters who reside in the NWT.

Emails and letters

The key theme was:

- **Protecting the land, ecosystem, culture and/or wildlife:** Despite the number of emails and letters, there were very few topic areas covered. Virtually all emails and letters made reference to protecting the land, ecosystem, culture and/or wildlife of the area. And 99.7% expressed support for establishing the national park reserve. Only three emails and letters (of 996) opposed the establishment of the proposed national park reserve.

Comment forms

Key themes included:

- **A wide range of uses:** People use a wide range of the Thaidene Nënë area for a variety of activities, such as fishing, boating, camping, hunting and more. Most of the use is concentrated in areas of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and the major rivers (Thelon, Snowdrift, Lockhart, etc.).
- **Major draws:** The scenery/wilderness (mentioned by 65% of respondents) and fishing (mentioned by 41% of respondents) are major draws to the area.
- **Importance of hunting:** While hunting is not a major draw to the area, it is an important activity for people who currently use the area—14% of respondents listed hunting as an activity they had done in the area, and 8% cited concerns about the impact to hunting that a national park reserve would bring.
- **Protecting the environment and culture:** Those who support the park (the majority of respondents) see great value in protecting the environment and culture of the area. Several respondents indicated that the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve is special because it would protect the environment (35% of respondents) or protect the local culture (29% of respondents), and 49% of respondents mentioned that environmental protection would be a beneficial aspect of establishing the park. When asked about the most important factors to consider when establishing the proposed national park reserve, 74% of respondents cited ecological values and 53% cited cultural values.
- **Local concerns around access and restrictions on activities:** While most respondents support the park, there are some concerns from local users, primarily focused on restrictions on activities or access (including fees, hunting and industrial development). When asked about possible concerns over establishing a national park reserve, respondents mentioned regulations and fees as their top concern (18% of respondents). A few respondents also cited concerns over regulations and fees in response to questions not related to that topic.

Statistical analysis

An analysis was conducted of all commenters to determine the number in favour of and opposed to establishing the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, and how these numbers break down by group. Note that this analysis determines whether each identified commenter is in favour of or opposed to establishing the park reserve, and not whether each individual comment expresses support or opposition.

“In favour” and “opposed” refer to those commenters who explicitly expressed support or opposition. “Neutral” refers to those commenters who did not express support or opposition, but made a general comment or asked a question. Some of these commenters may actually be in favour of or opposed to the national park reserve, but did not explicitly state their opinion. For example, some of those in the neutral category expressed support for environmental protection in general, but did not explicitly give support for establishing a national park reserve.

All percentages have been rounded.

Overall analysis

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
In favour	1,028	90%
Neutral	102	9%
Opposed	15	1%
Total		1,145

Note that the numbers above tally comments from meetings, comment forms, emails and letters. These numbers are provided for information only. Because the types of information collection varied so widely, and produced varying levels of discussion and interaction, the comments should not be weighted equally. The following sections provide a better explanation of the meaning behind the numbers.

Meetings

Note that “in favour,” “opposed” and “neutral” ratings are based on actual comments made, and not an attempt to ascribe intent to a comment. Additional information can be gleaned from the meeting themes (see page 13), as they can help provide more clarity on support for or opposition to the proposed national park reserve.

Group	In favour	Neutral	Opposed
All meetings (n=103)	10% (n=10)	85% (n=88)	5% (n=5)
NWT combined (n=81)	12% (n=10)	81% (n=66)	6% (n=5)
NWT stakeholders (n=48)	10% (n=5)	90% (n=43)	0% (n=0)
NWT public (n=33)	15% (n=5)	70% (n=23)	15% (n=5)
National public (n=22)	0% (n=0)	100% (n=22)	0% (n=0)
"n" values refer to the number of identified commenters			

In the table above, "national public" refers to the meetings held in Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa. "NWT public" refers to the public meetings held in Yellowknife and Hay River, NWT. "NWT stakeholder" refers to meetings held with stakeholder groups. "NWT combined" refers to NWT public and stakeholder meetings combined. "All meetings" refers to a combination of all of the meetings listed above.

Note that comments taken collectively at the national public meetings indicate that the audiences are in favour of establishing a national park reserve; however, none of the commenters explicitly expressed support for doing so.

Most questions and comments from meetings are considered neutral because a significant number are about park regulations, administration, features, etc.—commenters were looking for information and were not stating explicit support for or opposition to the park. This is markedly different from the written submissions (below), where people were much more likely to expressly state their support or opposition. Note, however, that in no case did Parks Canada directly ask commenters whether they support the establishment of the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve. Rather, Parks Canada used the consultation process to gather information on a range of topics related to the proposed national park reserve, including open feedback. Because many commenters chose to state their support or opposition (especially through written comments), tallying these comments is useful as it illustrates the level of support and opposition expressed as well as the difference between meetings and written comments. But note that it cannot be used to determine the overall level of support for the proposed national park reserve. For example, as previously stated, some commenters marked as "neutral" may support or oppose the national park reserve, but did not make a statement as such.

More detail can be found in Appendix A.

Written submissions

There was no question on the comment form explicitly asking whether respondents supported the establishment of the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve. As such, levels of support must be inferred based on responses to individual questions. The two questions that provided useful responses were:

- Q1a: What makes the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area special to you?
- Q5: Do you have any other questions, concerns, suggestions or comments regarding the proposed establishment of Thaidene Nënë national park reserve?

Because the comment form results do not track an individual person's responses from one question to the next, the responses from these two questions cannot be aggregated. However, an analysis of each question is provided below, and the results are very similar.

The table below tallies results from all written submissions, including comment forms, emails and letters.

<i>Format</i>	<i>In favour</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Opposed</i>
Comment forms <i>based on question 1a</i> (n=46)	54% (n=25)	30% (n=14)	15% (n=7)
Comment forms <i>based on question 5</i> (n=35)	51% (n=18)	29% (n=10)	20% (n=7)
Emails and letters (n=996)	99.7% (n=993)	0% (n=0)	0.3% (n=3)
"n" values refer to the number of identified commenters			

In addition to the written submissions tallied above, CPAWS submitted a list of 681 people who signed a pledge to support the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve. This submission has not been counted in the statistical analysis.

More detail can be found in appendices A-D.

Conclusions

Several conclusions can be made, based on the information collected from the public consultation process.

1. Proceed with the establishment of the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve

It simply cannot be ignored that 99% of identified commenters are either in favour of, or neutral toward, the establishment of the national park reserve (with 90% in favour). Although the clear majority of comments were not gleaned from in-depth discussions such as in-person meetings, the bulk of Canadians who know about the Thaidene Nënë national park proposal support it.

It is important to note, however, that most commenters in the NWT—particularly those from Yellowknife—are not unconditionally in favour of the national park reserve. Residents of Yellowknife and the community of Łutsël K'e make up the majority of current users of the Thaidene Nënë area. In meetings and written submissions, Yellowknifers expressed an understanding of the need for ecological and cultural protection, but do not want this to compromise the way they currently use the area—which they stated is compatible with ecological and cultural protection of such a large area with so few users per year.

It seems that NWT residents are willing to support the establishment of the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, but only if the right conditions are met. Should Parks Canada proceed with the establishment of the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, it must carefully consider the desires of local residents and stakeholders, and ensure good communication with these groups to help allay their concerns.

2. Ensure Parks Canada follows through on assurances made during the consultation phase

During some of the consultation meetings, Parks Canada representatives made assurances to NWT residents that the establishment of the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve would not significantly impact the way they currently use the area. These assurances included that:

- Activities such as shore lunches, camping, berry picking and building campfires could continue.
- No park entry fee would be charged to users.
- There is an expectation that motor boats would be permitted in the waters of Great Slave Lake and that low-impact, non-motorized boating would be permitted in all routes (precise regulations will be based on consultations in developing the management plan).
- The fuel cache at Reliance will remain and other fuel caches may be permitted.
- Snowmobile access would be permitted for travelling between communities and undertaking traditional activities.

NWT residents have firmly stated that these activities and features are important to them. They are currently able to use the area without any associated restrictions and want to see this continue. For residents to support the park, these assurances must remain intact.

3. Allow users to carry firearms for protection from wildlife such as bears

NWT residents have stated firmly that they do not feel safe in the area without a firearm. Most national parks do not permit users to carry firearms for protection. However, current Thaidene Nënë users stated that they are accustomed to using a firearm as a tool for protection. Other reasons cited for carrying firearms include that the area is large and would be patrolled by few Park Wardens or other Parks Canada employees, that bear bells are insufficient, and that it is hard to hear bears around fast-moving water.

“We’ve all come close to bears in the area. I’d like to be able to protect myself.”

—Aircraft operator

While other national parks may not permit all users to carry firearms for protection, there is some precedent. For example, users can travel with licensed polar bear guides (who carry firearms) in some northern national parks.

While Parks Canada may not be able to permit all users to carry firearms for protection, finding a way to accommodate as many users as possible would go a long way toward reassuring people who currently use the area.

4. Permit subsistence hunting for a defined set of northern users

Parks Canada has clearly stated that it will respect Indigenous rights within the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, and expects Indigenous harvesting to continue. It has also acknowledged that NWT-based non-Indigenous land users—some of whom have used the land in the Thaidene Nënë area for generations—are accustomed to hunting in the area as well. With this in mind, Parks Canada has stated that it is possible for subsistence harvesting to continue for some non-Indigenous users. Any such subsistence hunting would have to be considered in the context of Parks Canada’s priorities of conservation and visitor experience.

Subsistence harvesting may be permitted within a national park under special provisions. Section 17(1) of the *Canada National Parks Act* states that “traditional renewable resource harvesting activities” may continue in a national park when they are provided for in agreement between the Government of Canada and the government of the province or territory in which the park resides. This would mean that the details of permitting any subsistence harvesting would have to be determined in the Government of Canada’s agreement with the GNWT for the establishment of the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve.

There is also precedent for allowing such traditional harvesting activities. For example, local residents are defined for Wapusk National Park, and the park agreement sets out a list of permitted activities for local residents that are not normally allowed in a national park, but only for a set period of time. The

agreement for Akami-Uapishk^u-KakKasuak-Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve defines “traditional users” of the area and permits a list of activities for them that are considered part of the traditional Labrador way of life, including some subsistence harvesting, and there is no sunset clause as in Wapusk.

Several non-Indigenous NWT users have stated, through both meetings and comment forms, the importance of hunting in the area. With this in mind, it is recommended that the Government of Canada should negotiate with the GNWT on permitting subsistence harvesting in the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve for defined non-Indigenous users.

Based on feedback received during the consultation process, it is recommended that this list of “traditional users” covers as broad a geographical area within the NWT as feasible. A significant proportion of the people who currently use the Thaidene Nënë area for hunting comes from communities outside of Łutsël K’e, primarily Yellowknife. Because the NWT is so vast, these communities are not necessarily “next door” to the Thaidene Nënë area, although they are the closest communities besides Łutsël K’e. Defining the traditional non-Indigenous users of Thaidene Nënë as NWT residents, or at least residents of other communities in the Great Slave Lake area—and who have lived there for a reasonable time period—would help ensure the support of these residents.

5. Ensure the regulations and management of the national park reserve and territorial protected areas are as similar as possible

NWT residents were primarily concerned about new regulations, and one of the primary topics was about the consistency of regulations between the proposed national and territorial protected areas. National parks and territorial parks (and other protected areas) fall under different jurisdictions and are subject to different regulations and styles of management. Commenters have stated that it would be a significant annoyance to have to worry about separate regulations in the national and territorial portions of the Thaidene Nënë area, and which side of the boundary they are on at any given time. For example, it could be a burden to users if fees are different from one portion to the other, or if an onerous process is in place to obtain fishing licences from both Parks Canada and the GNWT.

NWT commenters, especially, have stated that they would prefer as few barriers as possible in using the protected areas so that they can continue to enjoy Thaidene Nënë if it gains the ecological protection that national and territorial protected area status would bring.

For these reasons, the governments of Canada and the NWT should make a concerted effort to ensure that any agreements, regulations and management plans for both the national and territorial protected areas mirror one another as closely as possible so that users have a seamless experience crossing from one area to the other.

6. Make aircraft access as easy as possible by designating all water sites as landing areas and ensuring landing permits can be acquired as easily as possible

Parks Canada has acknowledged that aircraft operators have emphasized the importance of being able to land at any given water-based site in the Thaidene Nënë area. Users like to explore different areas of Thaidene Nënë, and weather can make landing sites unpredictable at times, meaning that pilots must take advantage of the best landing site they can find at the time. Furthermore, designating just a few landing zones would make these places congested.

National parks must have designated landing sites if aircraft are to land in the park. Nahanni National Park Reserve, for example, has a short list of designated sites. However, this is primarily because these are the only reasonable places for an aircraft to land in the national park reserve. Thaidene Nënë is a much more open area, with many more options for aircraft landing. Aircraft operators have stated that water-based landings in a number of areas are common, while land-based landings are rare. Although Parks Canada must designate landing sites, it has stated that it is able to make that designation as broad as “any water body.” Making the designation this broad would make air access simple.

Aircraft operators have also stated that they cannot make plans to fly well in advance. For example, pilots may decide to take a short-notice trip to the area when they have nice weather, or may cancel a planned trip if the weather turns foul. Considering these short-notice plans, acquiring a landing permit for a specific day may prove to be a challenge, especially if the permits take a long time to process or if the issuing office is closed on a weekend.

Parks Canada has stated a willingness to ensure that landing permits are issued expeditiously and even to grant long-term landing permits (e.g. for a duration of a year). Ensuring these expectations are met would not only make air access simple, but would also help allay the concerns of NWT users of the Thaidene Nënë area.

7. Make the process of obtaining permits or licences (e.g. for fishing) as easy as possible by providing an option in Yellowknife or online (or both)

Parks Canada has stated that it envisions Łutsël K’e as the “gateway” to the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve. This makes sense, given the community’s proximity to, and connection with, the Thaidene Nënë area, as well as the investment it is preparing to make in tourism services and infrastructure. It would be relatively easy for visitors to stop at Łutsël K’e while en route to Thaidene Nënë, and the community could provide an additional experience.

However, a significant number of current users of the Thaidene Nënë area depart from Yellowknife and choose not to stop in Łutsël K’e. While Yellowknife is not as close to the Thaidene Nënë area as Łutsël K’e, it is still close enough that a direct trip is easier than stopping in Łutsël K’e first. A few commenters

stated that having to stop in Łutsël K'e would be an inconvenience, and that they would much prefer to pick up any permits, licences, etc. in Yellowknife.

While Parks Canada should do everything possible to promote Łutsël K'e as the gateway to Thaidene Nënë, providing options for users to pick up permits, licences, etc. would help make their experience enjoyable. Commenters suggested that, if possible, Parks Canada should provide options for users to acquire the documents in Yellowknife. Commenters also suggested that an even easier option for users would be to purchase them online; however, it appears that Parks Canada does not yet have an online system for purchasing permits, licences, etc. Should an online option ever become available, this would be ideal.

8. Ensure local non-Indigenous residents have ample input into regulations and management planning

Parks Canada has stated that it intends to form a cooperative management body for the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve. This body would include representatives of Parks Canada, the ŁKDFN, the NWTMN, and potentially the GNWT. At consultation meetings, a number of commenters asked about the possibility of a seat for non-Indigenous residents, presumably to ensure that their interests and concerns are heard.

Parks Canada has stated that residents would be able to provide input into the management planning process through a separate consultation, and that this would be the best way to provide input. However, because several residents have asked about the possibility of a seat on the cooperative management body, Parks Canada should ensure that it provides clear, timely, visible communication to residents emphasizing the fact that the consultation process is the best way to provide input, including the reasons why this is the case.

Because residents want to ensure their concerns are heard, this consultation process should ensure plenty of opportunity to make their concerns known.

9. Ensure residents are aware that all areas of high mineral potential and almost all areas of moderate-to-high potential were excluded from the national park reserve.

All areas of high mineral potential and almost all areas of moderate-to-high mineral potential (as identified through the MERA) are to be excluded from the proposed national park reserve boundary. Some of these areas had been part of the interim land withdrawal, but are no longer being considered within the national park reserve boundary. Even though some stakeholder groups and other commenters expressed a desire for the entire interim land withdrawal to become the national park reserve boundary, the GNWT's view is that the potential for mineral exploration and development is important to the NWT because of the benefits it could bring to the territory's economy. This sentiment was echoed by some

commenters, who expressed opposition to establishing the national park reserve because of the limits it could place on development.

Some commenters were concerned that there may be a “buffer zone” around the national park reserve, limiting or restricting development within this zone. This would effectively increase the size of the national park reserve boundary.

Parks Canada should ensure that good communication is provided to stakeholders and residents, assuring them that communication on mineral exploration and development opportunities outside of the Thaidene Nënë boundary are at the discretion of the GNWT.

Of course, the ecological integrity of the national park reserve is important. As such, Parks Canada would have the option to provide comments on any potential development, should such a development have the potential to harm that ecological integrity. Parks Canada should also clearly communicate this to stakeholders and other interested parties.

10. Ensure good communication with residents on any consultation or decisions regarding the national park reserve

The largest theme arising from consultations with NWT residents is that they want to ensure they can continue the activities they are accustomed to in the Thaidene Nënë area without significant barriers. Parks Canada has shown that it is willing to accommodate this desire as much as possible, but NWT residents want assurances if they are to support the national park reserve. The best way to provide this assurance is through clear, open, detailed and highly visible communication.

Parks Canada should ensure that NWT residents and stakeholders are notified through several appropriate channels whenever there is an opportunity for consultation or other input into the management planning process, or whenever any official decisions have been reached regarding regulations or management of the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve. Such communication could alleviate the concerns of residents and help them to support the national park reserve.

For example, clearly communicating to residents and stakeholders that mineral exploration and development outside of the park boundary will not be impacted, or that details have been confirmed about the ability of traditional users to engage in subsistence harvesting, would demonstrate to residents that Parks Canada is taking their concerns seriously and is working to accommodate them.

NWT residents have stated that they want to be provided with confirmed details about the proposed national park reserve whenever possible. As such, Parks Canada should limit meetings to when it has confirmed details or when it needs specific input from residents and stakeholders. However, it should find other channels to keep these audiences informed (e.g. the Parks Canada website or an email distribution list), and should publicize them as much as possible (e.g. at meetings).

Interested parties throughout the rest of Canada should be kept informed as well, but they have already demonstrated that they are in support of the national park reserve, so communication should be kept to important updates.

11. Use lessons learned to improve the consultation process when consulting on management planning

While Parks Canada provided plenty of time and opportunity for people to provide input during the first round of consultations on the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, there are some lessons learned that could improve future consultations (e.g. on management planning).

1. **Present information that the audience wants to know.** Some NWT residents stated that they were hoping the consultation meetings would be an opportunity to get specific, confirmed details from Parks Canada on the intended regulations and management plan for the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve. One respondent stated on a comment form that he or she had attended a national public meeting and “was not impressed by the speakers. It seemed to be about airing old grievances and not about a new park.” When engaging in a new consultation process for the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, Parks Canada should ensure that it (and any of its partners who are presenting) are truly able to speak to the needs of the given audience. If Parks Canada is holding a follow-up meeting with a group, and is unable to provide updates on all issues from the previous meeting, this should be communicated as clearly as possible in advance so that appropriate expectations are set.
2. **Ensure good planning and coordination ahead of time if co-presenting with other groups.** At national public meetings in Vancouver, especially, but also in Calgary and Ottawa, little time was given for questions and comments because the presentations took longer than expected. In these cases, presentations were given by Parks Canada, the GNWT, the ŁKDFN and the NWTMN. These timing issues were due to insufficient coordination between the parties in advance. The most significant issues were dealt with prior to the meeting in Calgary, but the number and length of presentations still left relatively little time for questions and comments. In addition, some of the content was focused less on the proposed national park and the benefits it would bring, and more on the history of the parties involved and their agreements. Informal feedback received by Parks Canada after the Vancouver meeting indicated that it was not what participants were expecting. As indicated in the previous paragraph, one person commented that the meeting felt like it was about “airing old grievances.” Good planning and coordination, well in advance, can help address many of these issues.
3. **Ensure the process is well advertised.** While there were no complaints about the advertising for the consultation process, other than that some people had just heard about the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve proposal for the first time, it doesn’t hurt to emphasize that advertising is important. Interested people want to know the details of the national park reserve proposal

because it may impact their lives. The only way they can know these details is by knowing about the ways they can be kept up to date or to provide input.

4. **Avoid summer meetings.** In the previous consultation process, Parks Canada avoided meetings in the peak of summer, holding one NWT meeting in mid-June and three national meetings in mid-September. This is good, as some commenters, especially in the NWT, noted that it is best to avoid summer meetings. Many NWT residents are not available during the summer.
5. **Structure any questionnaires to ensure data can be easily analyzed and that questions do not appear biased.** In analyzing the results of the comment form, Tait Communications noticed that some open-response questions were structured to seek highly specific types of information, but due to the open-response nature of the questions, respondents were free to answer in a variety of ways, and the responses were somewhat challenging to codify. This information would be more useful to anyone analyzing the data if the questionnaire were organized as a series of option-based questions, with spaces to provide more information if respondents wished to do so. For example, question 1 (“Indicate how, where and when you currently use the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve area, listing activities, locations, month of year and length of time in the area.”) could have been broken into several questions with several options for responses. One such question could have been “If you have used the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve area in the past, what activities have you done there?” and the user could have been presented with a list of options, one of which was “other” with a space to fill in a response.

Among the comment form responses, there was at least one response accusing Parks Canada of a bias in the way questions were framed (e.g. of having a “locals know best” attitude). Parks Canada should take care with the wording of any future questionnaires to ensure that no questions seem biased or leading. For example, using a structure such as “Have you used the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve area in the past? (yes/no) If yes...” could help avoid a perception of bias and steer people away from questions that are irrelevant to them. At the same time, if the questionnaire is to be answered by people outside the NWT, the questions should also be structured to adequately capture their input.

Appendix A: Consultation summaries

The following are summaries of the information collected from the two consultation methods: meetings (including stakeholder and public meetings) and written submissions (including emails and letters, and comment forms). Note that because the types of information collected from each method was different, the summaries are presented differently for each.

Meetings

The following is a summary of the questions and comments heard.

Stakeholder meetings

Tourism sector

NWT Tourism (Jan. 13, 2015)

- Whether Parks Canada can provide details of the upcoming formal consultation process and additional opportunities to provide input.
- Whether Parks Canada has met or will meet with licensed tourism operators in the East Arm area.
- How the proposed national park reserve would affect licensed tourism operators.
- Why the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation was not involved in the meeting.
- How other parties (e.g. the ŁKDFN and GNWT) fit into the engagement process.
- Whether Parks Canada can provide details on the co-operative management of the proposed national park reserve by Parks Canada, the ŁKDFN and the NWTMN (concern over lack of clarity on the process).

Tourism operators meeting 1 (Oct. 7, 2015)

- Whether there are differences in the operation of national parks and national park reserves.
- Whether the NWTMN and Akaitcho Dene First Nations (ADFN) have agreements with Parks Canada (or provisions in their pending land claims) related to the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve.
- Whether national historic sites could be established within the proposed national park reserve (such as the Lady of the Falls), and whether there would be separate licences needed to access national historic sites.

“I’m afraid, as a small business, that I’m going to have to follow additional rules. If there are new rules, I don’t know what I’m dealing with.”

—Tourism operator

- Whether businesses that typically operate outside the park would need a Parks Canada business licence to enter the park, and under what circumstances (e.g. if customers enter the park on their own behalf).
- Which Indigenous groups will be consulted in the park establishment process.
- What will happen if the park has not been established by March 31, 2016 (the expiry date of the interim land withdrawal).
- The legislative framework for the interim land withdrawal (e.g. who are the parties to the land withdrawal agreement?).
- The types of tourist activities that could take place in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve and investment opportunities for nearby communities.
- Whether a Parks Canada business licence could be an impediment to businesses currently operating around the East Arm area of Great Slave Lake.
- Whether Parks Canada could participate in a travel trade commission structure with tourism operators.
- Ensuring that the establishment of a national park reserve will provide opportunities for tourism-based business growth in nearby communities, such as Łutsël K'e.
- Ensuring that the process of obtaining licences, permits, etc. for both the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve and territorial protected areas will not be onerous.
- Whether outfitted hunting of muskoxen will be permitted, as it is a potentially important tourism activity in the area.
- Ensuring that the establishment of a national park reserve will not create additional barriers for operation of a tourism-based business.
- Ensuring management and regulations in both the national and territorial parks will be the same.
- Whether there would be new regulations around fishing.
- The possibility of creating a less expensive one-day visitors' fishing licence, in addition to the current seasonal licence.
- The potential definitions of traditional land uses and traditional users, and whether those will include non-Indigenous people.
- The process for review of a business licence application, including when an environmental assessment could be conducted and who could screen an application.
- Where the proposed park boundary is located on the waters of Great Slave Lake.
- Whether there could be some sort of facilitated meeting between tourism operators and Aboriginal groups in the area to discuss concerns related to the establishment and management of a national park reserve.
- The requirements and conditions for obtaining a business licence and operating a business within a national park reserve.
- The regulations surrounding landing aircraft in a national park reserve (both private and commercial aircraft).

Tourism operators meeting 2 (Oct. 7, 2015)

- Not opposed to paying small fees for licensing.
- The importance of environmental protection.
- It makes sense to not have recreational hunting or guided outfitting.
- The importance of firearms for protection from bears.

Aircraft operators

NWT Floatplane Association meeting 1 (Jan. 16, 2015)

- Ensuring that access to the area can be maintained.
- Concern about ensuring their comments are heard in the consultation process and about not knowing what the process is—especially related to Parks Canada’s negotiations with Indigenous governments.
- The nature of the establishment agreement with the Łutsel K’e Dene First Nation and the impact and benefit agreement with the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, and how the agreements affect other interested parties (concern that additional input would not be meaningful since the agreements in principle already exist).
- The likely fee structure for the national park reserve.
- The importance of fuel caches (especially the cache at Reliance).
- Possible regulations on aircraft access and fuel caches.
- Whether activities such as hunting, fishing, berry picking and building campfires will be permitted and under what circumstances (in favour of these activities).
- Procedures for providing additional input.

NWT Floatplane Association meeting 2 (Nov. 25, 2015)

- Parks Canada’s position on the Government of the Northwest Territories’ proposed territorial park surrounding the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve.
- Whether consultation has taken place with other stakeholder groups.
- Whether firearms would be permitted for protection from bears.
- Ensuring that the regulations for the proposed national park reserve would align with the way that northern residents are currently using the area.
- Details on landing permits (e.g. whether long-term permits could be issued).
- Whether there could be improved access to weather reports in the area.

“An annual permit would be good because we don’t always know when we’re going to fly because of things like weather and mechanical problems. Needing a permit for every day wouldn’t be workable.”

—Aircraft operator

- The importance of being able to land at all water sites, as opposed to designated landing sites, because of weather concerns and the way the area is used.
- Whether the number of planes that could land at each landing site would be limited.
- Whether Reliance will be included in the proposed national park reserve.
- Whether the fuel cache at Reliance will remain and whether there will be new regulations on it.
- Whether there would be guarantees that leaseholders in the Thaidene Nënë area could maintain their leases long-term.
- Details on the types of activities that would be permitted in the proposed national park reserve.
- Whether subsistence hunting could be permitted and potential regulations around subsistence hunting (in favour of subsistence hunting).
- The potential area that could define traditional users of the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve (e.g. whether Yellowknife would be included).
- Whether the regulations in the proposed territorial protected areas and national park reserve will be similar.

Commercial airline operators meeting 1 (Jan. 23, 2015)

- Whether a target date exists for creating the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve.
- Whether other Indigenous groups will be consulted about the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, aside from the NWTMN and ŁKDFN.
- Whether the agreements with the NWTMN and ŁKDFN will be made available to the general public.
- What Indigenous rights would be maintained within a national park designation.
- How businesses will be allowed to operate in the proposed national park reserve (e.g. implications for hunting, fishing, landing aircraft, etc.)
- Rules regarding land leases and how they may be administered if a national park is established.
- How the East Arm area of Great Slave Lake is currently used by commercial aircraft operators (e.g. landing sites and fuel caches).
- Possible permitting procedures to access the proposed national park reserve (e.g. whether permits could be purchased in Yellowknife).
- Regulations about collecting firewood or building materials.
- Regulations about winter roads through the park, such as to serve the mining industry.
- How best to provide information to Parks Canada about current uses, concerns etc., whether verbally or through written submissions.
- Regulations about the types of aircraft that could be permitted to land in the park (e.g. 737s at Plummer's Arctic Lodges/Great Slave Lake Lodge).

Commercial airline operators meeting 2 (Oct. 6, 2015)

- Pick-up and drop-off points for the Snowdrift River are on Eileen Lake, Tent Lake and around the canyon near the end of the river.
- Access to landing sites (e.g. whether landing sites will be designated or open).
- The importance of the fuel cache at Reliance.
- Whether the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area has been surveyed.

Environmental non-governmental organizations

Meeting 1 (Jan. 22, 2015)

- Available opportunities to provide input into the park establishment process.
- Why Parks Canada expects the final boundary to be smaller than the interim land withdrawal (in favour of using the entire land withdrawal).
- Parks Canada can make a strong case for including as much of the interim land withdrawal area as possible in the final park boundary (preferably the entire area) for adequate cultural and ecological protection.
- Using the Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment and other ecological studies of the area to demonstrate why the entire interim land withdrawal area should be included in the park (e.g. mineral-rich areas are outside the current study area and ecological studies such as the “Mondor” and “Gunn” reports have made arguments for a larger protected area).
- Ensuring northerners can continue activities in the area such as camping, fishing, carrying firearms for protection and landing planes, and that regulations are appropriate given the northern and regional context.
- How environmental groups can get involved in the park establishment process.
- How the general public can provide input.

Meeting 2 (Oct. 6, 2015)

- How to view information from the Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA).
- How the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve would protect the ecological integrity of the Northwestern Boreal Uplands geographical region.
- Where areas of high and low mineral potential lie in relation to the proposed national park reserve.
- Whether the MERA was accurate enough for the establishment of a national park reserve.
- The form that consultation meeting notes will take in the public record.
- Why specific areas are included in the proposed boundary.
- How the final agreements and management body (with the ŁKDFN, NWTMN and GNWT) will be structured.
- Ensuring recreational (i.e. non-subsistence) hunting will not be permitted.

- How subsistence hunting and other traditional land use will be managed (in favour of subsistence hunting).
- Whether any park infrastructure will be established.
- How other Indigenous groups will be consulted (aside from the ŁKDFN and NWTMN) and how their Indigenous rights could potentially be impacted by the establishment of a national park reserve.
- The rules and regulations surrounding commercial aircraft access.
- Planned timeframes for consultation and park establishment (including a possible extension of the interim land withdrawal).
- The status of the Thaidene Nënë Trust and how Parks Canada would work with it.
- Whether Parks Canada's commitment to the area would be reduced because of a reduction in the size of the proposed park.
- Whether (and how) the GNWT and Parks Canada will coordinate the management of the territorial and national protected areas.

Recreation groups

Collective meeting (Jan. 22, 2015)

- Why the park boundary will likely be smaller than the study area.
- The relationship between the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve and the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The ability to continue recreational activities in the Thaidene Nënë area and how a national park reserve designation might impact those activities (e.g. climbing or boating).
- Whether fees will make an area inaccessible to those who can't afford the cost, and fee options such as organized club membership discounts.
- Options for groups to be involved in the operational aspects of national parks, such as how recreational activities will be managed.
- Potential regulations in the proposed national park reserve (e.g. whether guides will be required or whether guns will be permitted for protection).
- How access and park permits will be managed as well as how fees will be collected.
- The management of fuel caches for boats and aircraft.
- Whether agreements with Indigenous groups could affect general access to the park.
- Whether the creation of a park could increase tourism numbers.

Great Slave Sailing Club (Oct. 6, 2015)

- Mineralization around the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area (e.g. whether mineralization in The Wildbread Bay area is offshore).
- How cooperative management will affect the Akaitcho Dene First Nations.
- How lease holders and fee simple title holders will be affected by the establishment of a national park reserve.
- The ability to carry firearms for protection (in favour of carrying firearms, e.g. can't hear bears around fast-moving water).
- Whether usage in the area will increase from the establishment of a national park reserve (including usage outside the park boundaries) and whether there will be park infrastructure to facilitate that usage.
- How to monitor the visitors to the park.
- Whether the park could be promoted in conjunction with the GNWT.
- Whether the office to manage the park could be in Yellowknife, given its proximity to the area.
- Whether float plane access will be permitted.
- Whether environmental assessments for business licence applications would fall under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.
- When the park could be established.
- Whether a national park reserve could bring benefits for users such as improved nautical charts, VHF radio and improved access to weather station data.
- Who would have authority for search and rescue and who would conduct operations.
- Whether non-Indigenous users will have input in the cooperative management body.
- The procedures for clean-up of the Thaidene Nënë area, once a park is established.

NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines (Dec. 8, 2015)

- Whether the new federal and territorial governments are likely to proceed with the establishment of the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve, and whether the GNWT is likely to renew the interim land withdrawal.
- Why the current proposed boundary is larger than the land withdrawal from 1970.
- The mineral potential that exists in the proposed Thaidene Nënë area, and where potential deposits are located.
- Who currently owns the land of the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve.
- Parks Canada's position on expanding the boundary for the proposed national park reserve.
- Whether there could be the possibility of a transportation corridor through the national park reserve.
- Whether Reliance could still be used as a fuel cache and staging area, and the scale of operations that could be conducted from there.

- Whether mining operations or staging could be conducted near the boundary of the national park reserve.
- Whether Parks Canada and the GNWT would have similar regulations for the proposed territorial and national protected areas, and which group would likely take the lead on setting regulations.
- How Indigenous groups such as the Akaitcho Dene First Nations and Northwest Territory Métis Nation are involved in the negotiation process.
- Whether park users would be allowed to carry firearms for protection from bears.
- Whether Parks Canada will formally respond to the concerns raised.

Public meetings

NWT public meetings

Yellowknife meeting 1 (Dec. 9, 2015)

- How the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve would support tourism and community investment.
- How Łutsël K'e would function as the gateway to the proposed national park reserve.
- Whether Parks Canada has consulted with all tourism operators licensed to operate in the Thaidene Nënë area.
- The deadline to provide comments to Parks Canada on the proposed national park reserve.
- Whether the creation of a park would impact the ability of local residents to harvest game such as muskoxen and caribou.
- Whether non-Indigenous local residents who occasionally harvest game for food would be classified as subsistence or recreational hunters.
- Whether the North Slave Métis Alliance is being consulted.
- Whether park users will be permitted to carry firearms for protection.
- Whether there is an estimate of the number of people who currently visit the Thaidene Nënë area.
- How the needs of other affected Indigenous groups, such as the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Deninu Kué First Nation and Tłı̄chǫ, are being addressed.
- How a conservation economy could help affected communities such as Łutsël K'e and Yellowknife.
- How the consultation process will proceed (e.g. whether there will be opportunities for input on regulations and the management plan).
- Whether there can be enough confidence in the Minerals and Energy Resource Assessment to be certain there is no significant high mineral potential within the proposed boundary.
- Whether ongoing land claim negotiations should be settled before the national park reserve proposal proceeds.

- Whether the potential for roads and aircraft landing sites could exist within the national park reserve.
- Whether the interim land withdrawal was renewed without consultation immediately prior to NWT devolution (April 1, 2014).
- The types of infrastructure that will be put in place in Łutsël K'e to support the proposed national park reserve and where the investment will come from.
- How the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve will be unique.
- Whether details could be provided on the financial agreements with affected Indigenous peoples.
- Whether park regulations could change over time, causing a negative impact on users (e.g. whether entry fees could be implemented at a later date).
- Whether the GNWT is conducting its own consultations for territorial protected areas in the Thaidene Nënë area.
- CPAWS has over 300 signatures from supporters of the proposed national park reserve.
- The facilities and services that could exist in the proposed national park reserve that could incur a fee.
- Whether users would be restricted to using specific routes or areas for specific activities (e.g. anchoring boats in designated areas), and whether there would be fees involved.
- Whether one-day fishing licences could exist for the national park reserve.
- Whether there will be a public report on the consultations.
- Whether the Yellowknives Dene First Nation was excluded from the park establishment process.
- The importance of having an area to protect wildlife (e.g. from hunting).

Yellowknife 2 (Jun. 15, 2016)

- Where archaeological or cultural objects would be housed, if found within the national park reserve, and whether new facilities could be constructed in Łutsël K'e to house such objects.
- Whether the notes from public meetings will be made publicly available and whether the names of individual people should be included.
- Whether there is clarity on the ability for visitors to carry firearms for protection from bears, and what the specific rules and regulations would be regarding firearms.
- Whether Indigenous hunting rights would continue and how Indigenous rights would be verified.
- Whether there could be a corridor through the national park reserve for accessing mineral-rich areas outside the park.
- Whether there would be compensation provided to the NWT for removing access to potential mineral development areas.

- Whether motorized boat access to the Thaidene Nënë area could continue, and whether that access could be rescinded at any time in the future.
- Whether the ŁKDFN or NWTMN could restrict access to areas of the national park reserve.
- Whether lands could be removed from the park for Indigenous land claims.
- What, if any, restrictions would be in place for snowmobile access to the park.
- Whether Parks Canada can provide certainty at this time around questions of permitted activities, and disappointment that some questions still cannot be answered.
- What the structure of the cooperative management board will be, and whether there will be positions on the board for NWT residents who are not members of the ŁKDFN or NWTMN, or who are not appointed on behalf of Parks Canada or the GNWT.
- Why the area around Łutsël K'e was excluded from the proposed park boundary.
- Whether there has been a decision on aircraft landing sites (i.e. whether all water-based sites will be permitted).
- Whether there is confirmation on whether non-Indigenous hunting could be permitted.
- Why the interim land withdrawal for the Thaidene Nënë area was renewed a day before NWT devolution took effect (April 1, 2014).
- The Government of the Northwest Territories should be responsible for nature conservancy within the NWT.
- Whether the ŁKDFN would be able to engage in high-value economic developments in the Łutsël K'e area.
- Whether residents should bring questions and concerns to Parks Canada, the GNWT or both.

“[W]e support a northern park that supports northern interests. There are rules that apply to southern parks regarding, for example, camping, dogs, carrying a firearm, fishing or landing a plane, and those rules won't gain much support should they be implemented in Thaidene Nënë.”

—Environmental non-governmental organization member

Hay River (Apr. 20, 2016)

- Whether the rules and regulations between the Thaidene Nënë national and territorial protected areas will be consistent and seamless.
- Whether the Thaidene Nënë national and territorial protected areas will be managed by joint or separate management committees.
- Whether there could be a territorial wilderness protection area.
- Whether the national park reserve could be developed before the territorial protected areas portion, or if they will be developed at the same time.
- The views of the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation and Northwest Territory Métis Nation on resident hunting in the Thaidene Nënë area.

- Whether Indigenous hunting rights will extend to Métis of English descent.
- Whether there are examples in Canada of existing parks with “buffer zones” to protect the park from contamination from development.
- Whether the watershed was considered as part of the boundary for consultation for the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve.

National public meetings

Vancouver (Sept. 12, 2016)

- The difference between a national park and a national park reserve.
- Whether Indigenous hunting is allowed in Wood Buffalo National Park, and the length of time it took for First Nations and Métis people to be allowed to hunt there.
- How the levels of protection will compare between the national park reserve, territorial park and territorial caribou management area.
- Whether First Nations members of the Canadian Rangers could potentially work in the national park reserve to help with conservation.
- Whether Indigenous governments are prepared to be betrayed by mineral development companies.
- Whether existing diamond mines in the NWT have disrupted caribou migration.
- Whether park regulations would be in place to help protect against damage from potential nearby mining developments.

Calgary (Sept. 14, 2016)

- Whether issues limiting Indigenous rights exist in Riding Mountain National Park.
- The location of the proposed park boundary from the shoreline of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake.
- Whether excluded areas could be included the park at a later date if there is no development.
- Whether development next to the proposed parks could cause pollution or disrupt caribou herds.
- Whether there are any sites within the proposed national park reserve boundary that would have to be remediated.
- Whether any park infrastructure will be built and where a visitors’ centre or other facilities will be located.
- Whether funding for a new national park comes from the existing Parks Canada budget.
- The commercial opportunities available for Indigenous people.
- Whether lodges within the proposed national park reserve boundary would be expropriated.
- Whether Plummer’s Arctic Lodges are located within the proposed park boundaries.

- Whether outside commercial operators will be allowed to conduct business within the national park reserve.
- The number of current and future commercial operators within the proposed park boundary.
- The NWTMN is not agreeing to cede land to establish a national park reserve.

Ottawa (Sept. 21, 2016)

- The ecological integrity that the proposed boundary can maintain.
- The work that has been done in relation to cultural resources.
- Similarities and differences of management, conservation and regulations between the national and territorial protected areas.
- Whether the primary goal for the territorial protected areas will be ecological integrity.
- The level of industrial development permitted in the proposed territorial protected areas.
- Whether industrial development in excluded areas could impact the protected areas.
- The reasoning behind, and intended regulations for, the proposed caribou protection area.

Written submissions

Emails and letters

Although there were 996 emails and letters submitted during the consultation period, there was relatively little variety in the subject matter of these submissions. The submissions supporting the park (992 of the 996), can be summarized with the following six topics:

- The Thaidene Nënë national park reserve is important because it would protect the ecosystem and wilderness (mentioned in 793 submissions, or 80%).
- The Thaidene Nënë national park reserve would help preserve the culture of the local Indigenous peoples (mentioned in 512 submissions, or 51%).
- Establishing a national park reserve would help protect the wildlife of the area (mentioned in 388 submissions, or 39%).
- Establishing a national park reserve would bring new tourism opportunities (mentioned in 293 submissions, or 29%).
- Establishing a national park reserve would bring benefits to the local economy (mentioned in 247 submissions, or 25%).
- General support for the park—no specific details given (184 submissions, or 18%).

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) stated that it encouraged its members to send emails in support of establishing the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve, and a number of submissions identified the commenters as CPAWS members. It can be assumed that many, if not most of the email submissions are from CPAWS members, which could account for the short list of topic areas.

In addition, CPAWS submitted a list of 681 people who signed a pledge to support the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve.

The submissions opposing the park (3 of the 996) can be summarized as follows:

- The proposed national park reserve would be too big and too exclusive.
- Establishing a national park reserve would negatively impact the NWT's economy because of lost potential for natural resources development.
- The consultation process was not inclusive enough.

Comment form

The comment form consisted of five open-response questions, two multiple-choice questions, and two short-answer questions designed to gather contact information for internal use only (e.g. whether respondents would like to sign up for regular communications). The responses to these last two questions will not form part of this report.

Each of the open-response questions had some responses that were deemed invalid, as they were unintelligible, duplicated or otherwise contained no relevant information. Invalid responses have been discarded from the main body of this report, but can still be found in the full comment form report (Appendix B).

The comment form received the following response count:

- Question 1a (open-response): 46 valid responses (plus 4 invalid)
- Question 1b (open-response): 42 valid responses (plus 3 invalid)
- Question 2 (open-response): 39 valid responses (plus 2 invalid)
- Question 3 (open-response): 37 valid responses (plus 2 invalid)
- Question 4 (open-response): 34 valid responses (plus 1 invalid)
- Question 5 (open-response): 35 valid responses (plus 2 invalid)
- Question 6 (multiple-choice): 42 responses
- Question 7 (multiple-choice): 42 responses

“Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve will protect the heart of the homeland of Lutsel K’e Dene First Nation and provide a chance for LKDFN to share and strengthen their culture and special relationship with the land – this is their vision for Thaidene Nene. Protecting a special place like Thaidene Nene shows the role that conservation can play in reconciling the priorities and perspectives of indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians.”

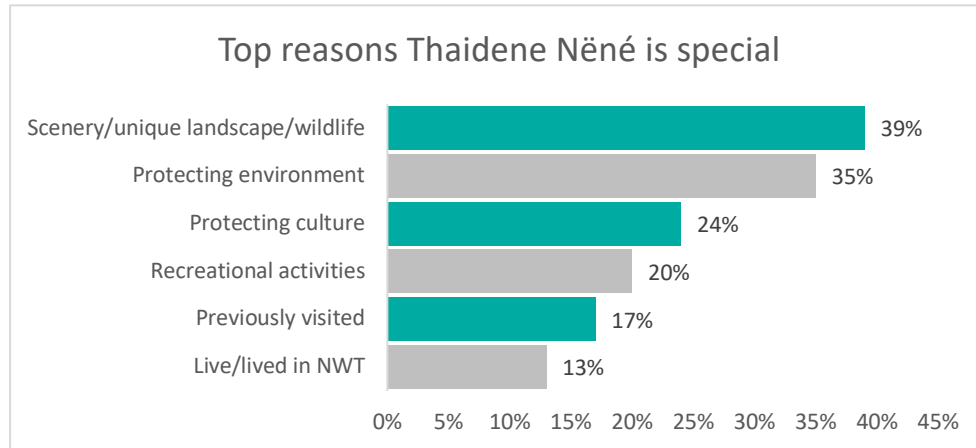
—Environmental non-governmental organization member (via written submission)

- Question 8 (multiple-choice): 41 responses

Response summaries

Q1a: What makes the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area special to you? (46 valid responses)

The most common topics were (by percentage of respondents who mentioned the topic):



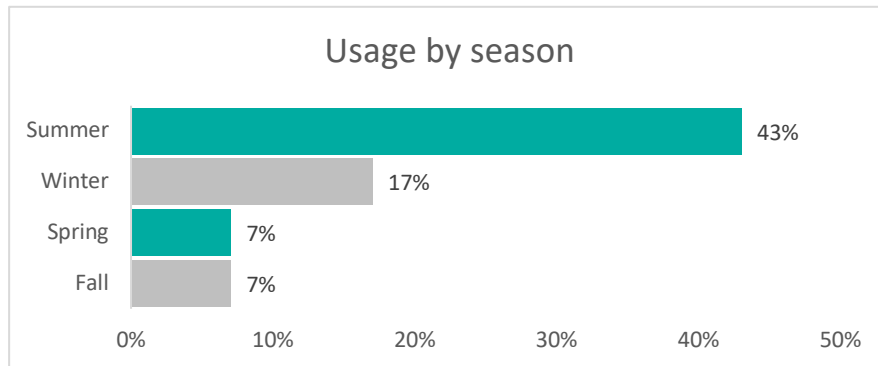
Notes:

- *“Protecting culture” refers to protecting local Indigenous culture or way of life.*
- *Recreational activities include canoeing, camping, hunting, fishing, etc.*
- *“Previously visited” includes people who have visited the nearby area, but not necessarily within the proposed boundary.*

Seven respondents (15%) expressed opposition to the establishment of a park. The following reasons were given:

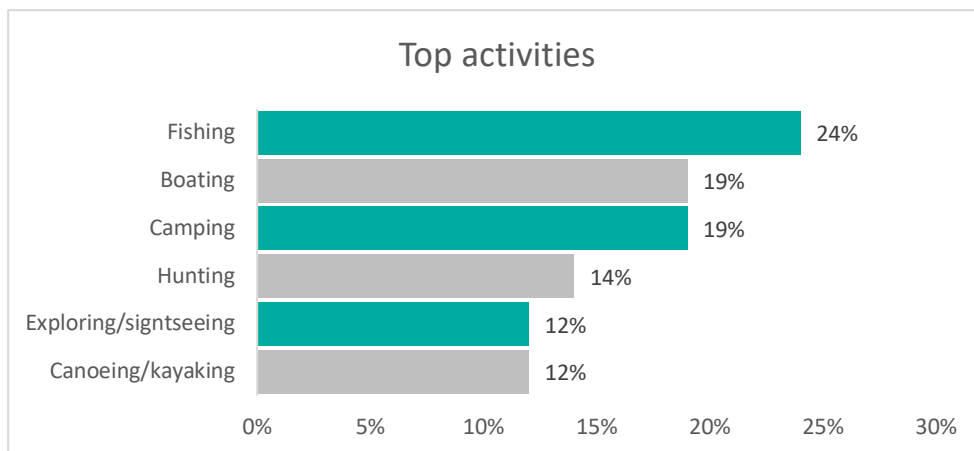
- Concern over fees or too many regulations on activities (3 respondents—7% of total)
- Opposed to restrictions on development (2 respondents—4% of total)
- Opposed to restrictions on hunting (2 respondents—4% of total)
- Feel that conservation of NWT lands should be the responsibility of the GNWT (1 respondent—2% of total)
- Feel that outstanding land claims in the area should be settled before a park is established (1 respondent—2% of total)

Q1b: Indicate how, where and when you currently use the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area, listing activities, locations, month of year and length of time in the area. (42 valid responses)



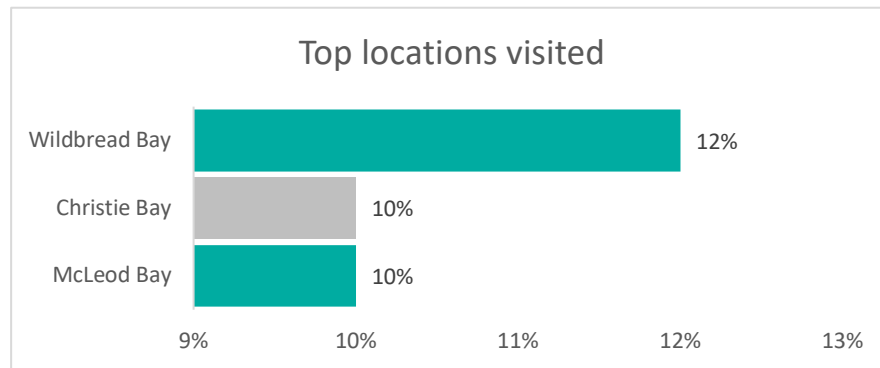
Activities

- Respondents listed 16 different activities that they have done in the area. The most popular are:



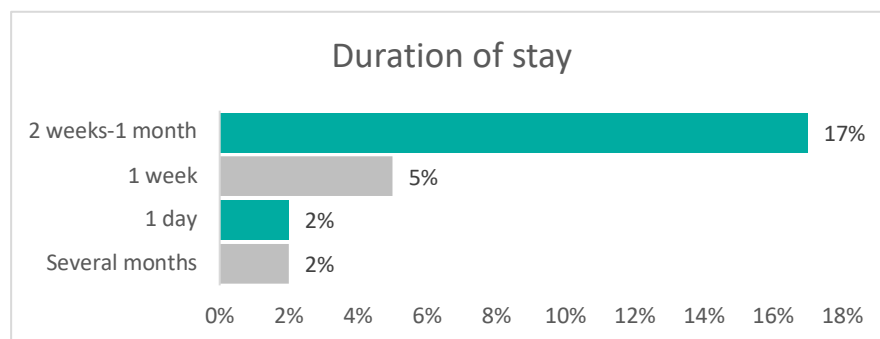
Locations visited

- Nearly half of all respondents (45%) haven't visited the area yet.
- The respondents who have visited the area listed 24 locations that they have visited. Some respondents gave non-specific locations such as Łutsël K'e and the surrounding area (12% of respondents) and the East Arm of Great Slave Lake (10%), but most locations were more specific. Of the more specific locations, the most popular were:



Duration of stay

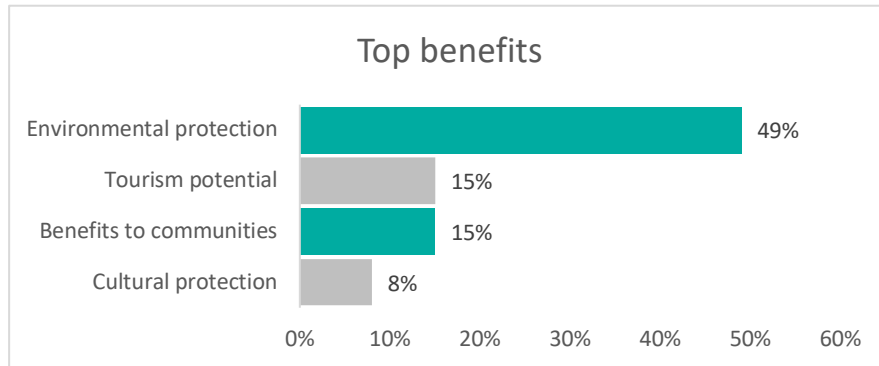
- Most respondents opted not to provide information on the duration of their stays. Of those respondents who did provide this information, their stays lasted anywhere from a day to several months. The most common trip duration (17% of total respondents) was between two weeks and a month.
- Respondents used the space for this question to provide a few other comments not directly related to the question being asked (six comments total). Two of these comments were about the importance of environmental protection. Two were in support of hunting in the area. One was a concern about park fees. One was a concern about the question itself, expressing a feeling that the question indicates a “locals know best” attitude toward establishing a park.



Q2: What beneficial aspects do you see and/or concerns do you have with how a national park reserve might affect your use of the Thaidene Nënë area? (39 valid responses)

Beneficial aspects

- Respondents listed nine topic areas.
- The most common topics were (by percentage of respondents who mentioned the topic):



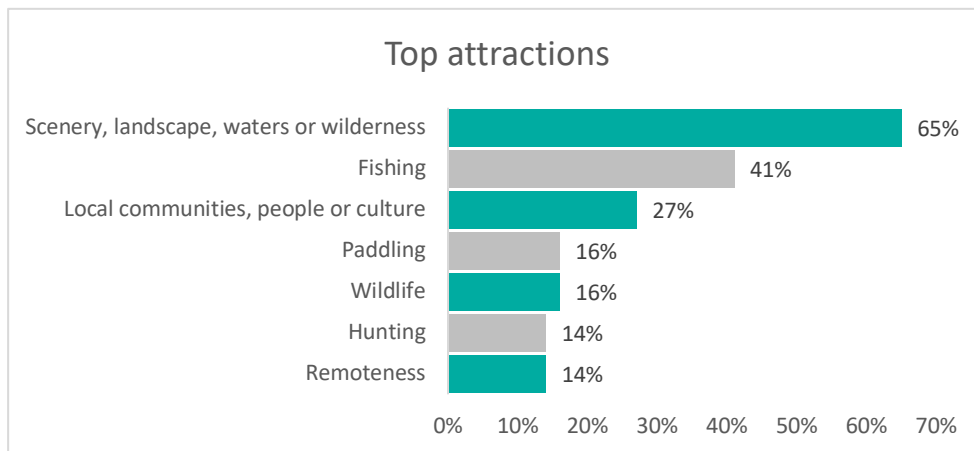
Concerns

- Respondents listed 10 topic areas. The most common topics were (by percentage of respondents who mentioned the topic):



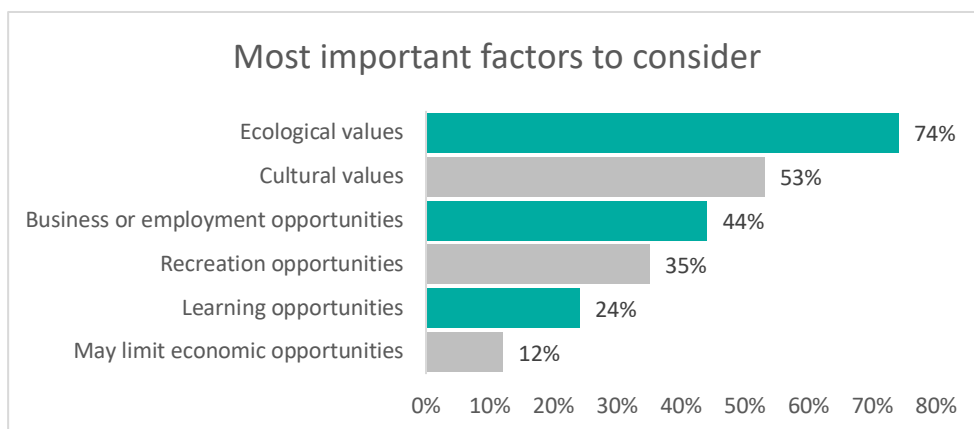
Q3: What special features do you think attract visitors to the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area? (37 valid responses)

Respondents listed 20 topic areas. The most common were (by percentage of respondents who mentioned the topic):



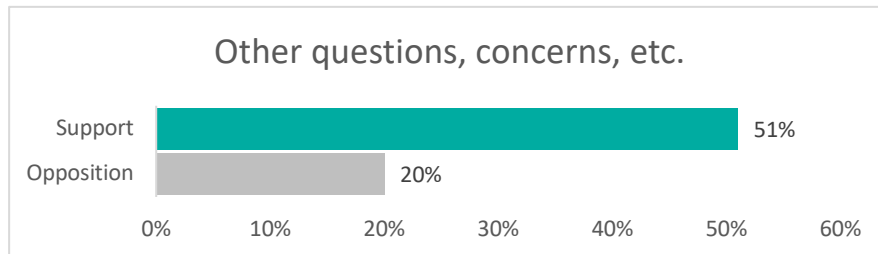
Q4: What do you think are the most important factors in considering establishing the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve such as ecological values, cultural values, recreation opportunities, learning opportunities, business opportunities, employment opportunities, or other? (34 valid responses)

Respondents generally agreed that the factors listed in the question are the most important. In addition, four respondents (12%) cited that a park may limit economic opportunities.



Q5: Do you have any other questions, concerns, suggestions or comments regarding the proposed establishment of Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (35 valid responses)

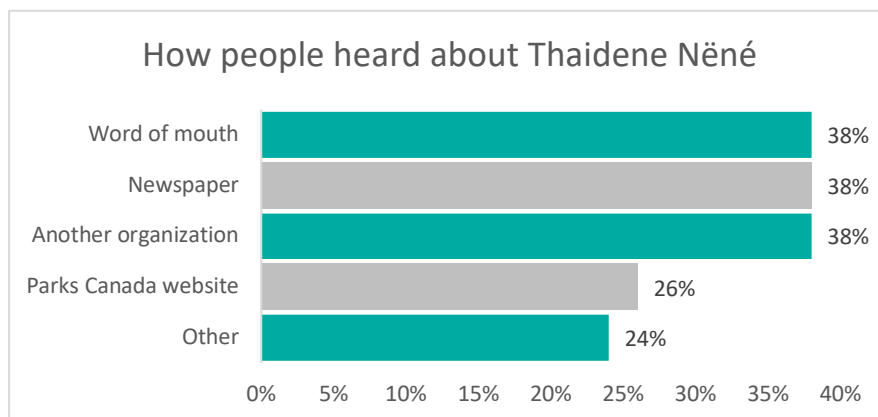
Respondents' comments included 29 topic areas, very few of which were echoed by another person. However, 51% expressed general support for the establishment of a park reserve, and 20% expressed general opposition. The remaining comments related to neither support nor opposition.



Three respondents (9%) criticized some aspect of the consultation process.

Q6: How have you heard about the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (42 responses)

Respondents could choose more than once source.:

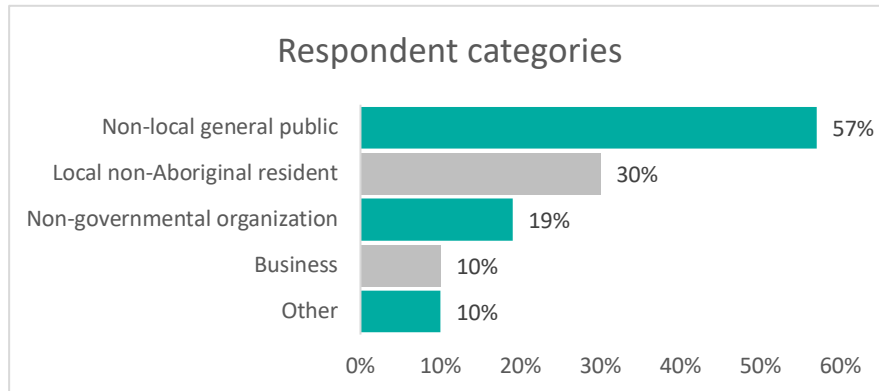


Of those respondents who heard about the proposed national park reserve through another organization, 63% heard about it through the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

There was a range of "other" sources, the most common being the Internet.

Q7: Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (42 responses)

Respondents could choose more than one category. The most common responses were:



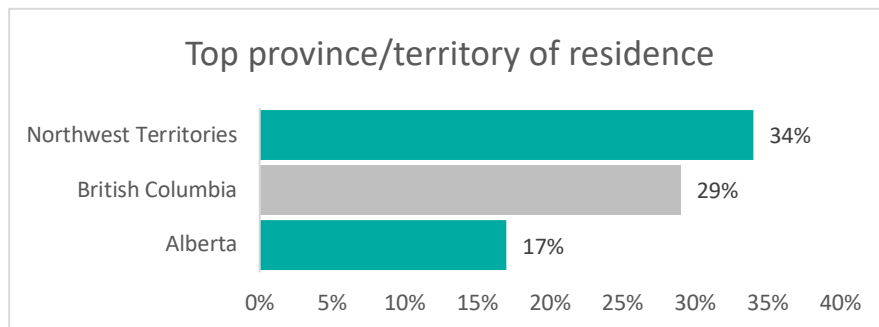
Of those respondents who selected “non-local general public,” few chose to give a hometown.

Of those respondents who selected “local non-Aboriginal resident,” all but one listed Yellowknife as their home community.

Of those respondents who selected “non-governmental organization,” 50% listed the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

Q8: Where do you reside? (41 responses)

The most common responses were:



Appendix B: Comment form report

The following report was produced by Parks Canada from comment form submissions from the Parks Canada website. Responses from hard-copy comment forms was added by Tait Communications. Information that may personally identify individuals has been removed. Open-text responses deemed invalid for analysis have not been removed from this version of the report. The responses have not been edited for spelling, punctuation, etc.

[Q1a] What makes the Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area special to you?

#	Response
1.	Dont allow parks service to use helicopters, they ruin our nataional parks. I want peace and quite. No motorized craft and no fees as I can not afford to use National parks. Have been sailing on Great Slave many times.
2.	xx
3.	Northwest Territories Tourism describes this area as "a sub-arctic paradise," and they do not exaggerate. Stunning scenery, ancient rocks.
4.	The Thaidene Nene national park reserve is special to me because it protects the upper boreal forest, the caribou and other animals that call that place home as well as the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation's cultural and subsistence livelihood such as hunting and trapping. To me this national park reserve creates a sustainable economy in a relatively remote area. It should be protected before it is developed and disturbed.
5.	As a Canadian the Canadian Shield has been an iconic landscape for me since my first trip across Canada to Expo 67 as a student. I have canoed the Churchill River of Saskatchewan and spent considerable time on the north shore of Lake Superior but it has been so apparent to me that the Canadian Shield is very under represented in Canada's national park system. Thaidene Nene is the pinnacle of the Canadian Shield in many ways. I used to live in Fort Smith NWT and I am familiar with an aspect of this landscape.
6.	The area is unique in the sense that the shield country north of the lake isn't nearly as pristine as this area; same goes for the shield further south towards Saskatchewan. This area combines a unique and virtually untouched landscape unlike any other in Canada. My personal interest isn't nearly as interesting as that of those who have lived there since time immemorial - for me, I love the shield country and wish to see more of it protected from resource development. A national park gives a community like Lutsel K'e an opportunity to develop a long term sustainable tourism industry, as opposed to a handful community members being trained for mining jobs that might last a decade.
7.	Its a beautiful place, but Parks Canada should not designate it as a Canadian Park, restricted to development. There are already a number of factors up here restricting development, and our people need jobs.

#	Response
8.	Spectacular scenery and pristine environment
9.	It will protect the natural and cultural heritage of a rich and wonderful part of humanity from the ravages of reckless and harmful industrial development. The people who live near the park and have used the area for time-immemorial have the right to live a traditional lifestyle and remain connected to the land in order to derive their spiritual and physical sustenance. Canada has an obligation to protect the integrity of the land that gives us life; Thaidene Nene represents one step in the right direction.
10.	It protects an important part of the northern boreal forest; caribou and other animal (e.g., moose, arctic wolf, arctic fox, etc.) and their habitat; and protects and fosters local Denesoline ways of life and connections to the land, water, and animals.
11.	<p>Outstanding wilderness , pristine for the most part (in particular McLeod Bay). Unparalleled canoeing and kayaking, camping, with numerous camp spots for self-propelled boats.</p> <p>The cliffs and the geology of the East Arm are spectacular. The area is varied.</p> <p>Last trip we did in McLeod Bay allowed us to see moose, bear, lynx, and of course eagles, birds galore. Literally had lake trout swimming past my legs as I fished out from shore.</p> <p>It is one of Canada's best jewels.</p> <p>It also has amazing history, with Pike's Portage, Fort Reliance, and the homesteaders such as the Olesens .</p>
12.	Fsvggzw3 video 7zxc
13.	Being way out on the lake is so relaxing. It's like the most beautiful landscape on earth, but nobody else is there to see it. Its a special feeling walking where few others have walked, or having miles of crystal clear lake water to yourself. Using this area for recreation is one of the main reasons I continue to reside and work in this area.
14.	Traditional access to exploring, hunting and fishing in the area. Prohibiting resident hunting in the proposed area circumvents the land claim process where access to land for hunting is negotiated. Legitimate conservation concerns for wildlife are the responsibility of the NWT Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. To unilaterally remove access to this area for resident hunters, without just cause, is wrong.
15.	Remote but accessible wilderness area with pristine water and lands. Long summer daylight hours for camping and boating.
16.	remote, culturally important
17.	It is an absolutely beautiful place and there are too many beautiful places in the Northwest Territories that are at risk of development. I would love to see a park created here and with the support of community members in Luselk'e, I think it has tremendous potential to provide lasting positive gains to the environment, to the local community, to visitors and to future generations.
18.	From what I understand it represents a combination of geology, geography, flora and fauna not yet represented in any other national park. With the added support of our indigenous and Metis nations, it is a no-brainer.

#	Response
19.	Canada needs to preserve at significant area of all our many geographical/biological areas. This park will be a significant contribution to the goal. I feel that we should preserve areas like this rather than wring our hands and issue regrets when we destroy something and then later discover what has been lost (e.g. the destruction of forests and the wildlife living in them in British Columbia and Alberta).
20.	It was special because the First Nations were getting along with non Aboriginals in the area. The culture in this area is kind and it is like one big family. The Aboriginals welcomed people to their area.
21.	We do not live in the NWT any more, but still hold an active interest and concern for the very special places in this vast Territory. Preservation of the land, its Peoples, its wildlife, its waters, should be of prime importance to all of Canada. Far too much of my beautiful country is being damaged, even destroyed, by our rush to fossil fuel extraction, mining, etc. We must preserve such rare and pristine places for future generations to love, to enjoy, and to learn from.
22.	It is special to me because it is special to the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation. It is their home and they want to take care of it.
23.	The area is special now and making it a park will make is less special. We camp where we like not in "campgrounds". There are no special rules of extra fees.
24.	Unsure, unfamiliar with the area.
25.	It's a beautiful area but it's another block of our northern land being closed off to use by the Federal Government, which will apply more rules on us.
26.	This is an area that as a Yellowknife resident I can easily go to in my boat and can fly to by float plane to enjoy for fishing and hiking and other outdoor activities.
27.	What I like most about the East Arm of Great Slave Lake is that it is NOT a national park under the jurisdiction of Parks Canada. It is a lake to enjoy without excessive or unnecessary rules and regulations on powerboats, fishing, camp sites, etc. What makes it special is that the area is relatively "untouched", and that includes being untouched by government.
28.	Why is this referred to as the "Thaidene Nene national park" when is should be referred to as the "Proposed Thaidene Nene national park." No decision has been made at this point in thime so all your references should state that is is proposed. I like this area to go camping in with my family.
29.	Test
30.	I think it's important that we settle land claims before designating areas for recreation or parks or any other use. While it's important to have parks, is this park on any important mineral deposits?
31.	I am a sport fisherman in the area and surrounding area.
32.	been going there all my life. The best place in the world!
33.	I've been travelling the proposed area for over 40 years. I was witness to several natural changes over those years and have experienced many great memories with my growing family.
34.	I use this area for recreation and want the freedom to continue to do so without restrictions or fee's.

#	Response
35.	This represents an area in relative close proximity to Yellowknife (where I live) that can be accessed for canoeing (Thelon River), historical significance (Fort Reliance) and amazing geographical changes within boundary of proposed Park.
36.	I have lived in Yellowknife, NWT and have hunted, fished, and trapped in the area as well as canoed on the Great Slave Lake. I believe we need to preserve these precious Northern lands for many reasons especially to maintain and protect the varied and diverse flora and fauna particular to the area. The continued warming of our environment has made access to the North more attractive and we must do all possible to prevent continued resource exploitation from occurring on a grand scale.
37.	The Barren Lands are the best place on Planet Earth and some parts of Thaidene Nene past the treeline are some of the best places in the Barren Lands.
38.	THIS PARK IS JUST THE NATIVES WAY TO PREVENT ALL OTHER RACES FROM HUNTING/FISHING THE AREA. RACISM TO ALL OTHER RACES
39.	Knowing that this beautiful, unique, wild area is protected and its close connection to our first peoples.
40.	Like those relatively few remaining non industrialized, non agriculturalized landscapes in Canada, this land has to be protected for its value as a reservoir of biodiversity, and its capacity to neutralize green house gas emissions produced by the rest of Canada.
41.	The North has always been an area of special interest to me as a geographer and a visit to Bathurst Inlet Lodge a few years ago reinforced the interest. There are too many proposals for large scale extractive activities in this fragile land, so any time we can identify and protect an area where the natural features and landscapes can be protected forever is something to celebrate.
42.	The North has always been an area of special interest to me as a geographer and a visit to Bathurst Inlet Lodge a few years ago reinforced the interest. There are too many proposals for large scale extractive activities in this fragile land, so any time we can identify and protect an area where the natural features and landscapes can be protected forever is something to celebrate.
43.	<p>This park initiative is an inspiring example of Indigenous leadership and of how conservation can contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>I support permanently protecting Thaidene Nene to conserve land, water, wildlife and culture, creating a big northern park for northerners that builds a sustainable local economy and creates jobs based on tourism and conservation. Not to mention that our global environment needs all the help it can get to mitigate global warming. This is a great step for humanity as well.</p> <p>I look forward to visiting Thaidene Nene once it is protected.</p>
44.	The world needs to protect all the remaining wilderness to ensure wildlife and humans survive in the face of climate change. The reserve is a huge area that would be protected.
45.	ThaiDene Nene national park reserve area was the destination of a very special trip I made with my 12-year old daughter this past summer. We are from Quebec, and we went to the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and stayed in Lutsel K'e with a member of the Dene community. This was a trip of a lifetime for the two of us, where we both saw our first muskox ever, and where my daughter caught her first fish. We experienced 21 hours of daylight with the rosy sunsets that last for hours. For this place to become a national park reserve would mean that we could count on being able to return to

#	Response
	this beautiful place and know that it will be there for us, for the Dene people and for all visitors for generations to come. This would mean a lot to my daughter and I.
46.	Always interested about stories and people of the North. Love watching “Canada Over the Edge.” Husband worked for Pacific Western Airlines and traveled a lot to NWT. Born and raised in Alberta—have traveled to NWT (Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk). Brother taught at Nahanni Butte and Fort Good Hope (1960s). Sister lived @ Fort Resolution. Remember prior discussion of tar sands and diamond mines—concerned about destruction of wilderness and climate change due to exploration, pipelines, mining and tailing ponds.
47.	Preserving the environment.
48.	Its existence
49.	I first learned of Thaidene Nene tonight at the Vancouver consultation meeting. It is important to me because it is important to the local aboriginal people and because all remaining untouched land in Canada should be considered for protection—we have few remaining wildernesses.
50.	The unique landscape, the remoteness, the deep lake, the special geology, the people who leave there and seem to be good stewards of their land

[Q1b] Indicate how, where and when you currently use the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area, listing activities, locations, month of year and length of time in the area?

#	Response
1.	tt
2.	In July-August 2009 we spent 22 days canoe-camping in this area. A Yellowknife float plane dropped us at Utsingi Point. We paddled along Christie Bay, through the Gap into Wildbread Bay, through Lost Channel into McLeod Bay, then back through Wildbread Bay, where we were picked up by our float plane 22 days later. Canoeing, camping, and gawking at the scenery were our activities.
3.	I have traveled to Lutsel K'e and surrounding area in 2013 and 14 to conduct research with the community.
4.	I have never been in the actual area, closest I have been is Yellowknife. As I stated before I used to live in Fort Smith NWT.
5.	Unfortunately I have not had the pleasure of visiting.
6.	I use it every summer to fish in the East Arm and every winter to hunt and converse with my family in our cabin.
7.	summer, East Arm, Quiet Cove, Wildbread Bay. Boating, camping, fishing
8.	I have visited Lutsel K'e on two occasions.

#	Response
9.	I have visited the east arm of great slave lake in 2013 and 2014. I stayed in the community of Lutsel K'e in December 2013 from two weeks and April-July 2014 for several months.
10.	<p>Have canoed through the area and up Pike's Portage into the Hanbury-Thelon drainage.</p> <p>We generraly kayak out in the East Arm- either Christie or McLeod Bay for 2 1/2 weeks self-supported each summer.</p> <p>We also dogsled with the Olesens (of the Hoarfrost) on their winter tours- for up to a week- generally just outside the proposed park boundary on the north shore of Mcleod Bay.</p> <p>We either paddle out to the area or fly in and get dropped off by float plane.</p> <p>In the winter we fly out with Dave Olesen on his ski plane.</p>
11.	Fxxfccchtzzfbbhxz
12.	I have a tourism lodge that is in this area., hiking, fishing, eco tourism, hunting, june, july, August, September, October and winter months northern light viewing for my tourism business.
13.	Every year in July to august I spend about a month in this area traveling by boat. We use to go moose hunting here in the fall by float plane. I am a third generation local northerner. I am also non aboriginal. I think if it is racial discrimination to allow aboriginal peoples to continue to hunt here, if others are not allowed. You seem to have a lot of interest in protecting the traditions of the people from lutselke but what about other peoples traditions. Are they not important?
14.	<p>Summer use for camping, boating, fishing and exploring with family and friends. We have visited the east arm of Great Slave, Christie Bay and Lutselke area all but 2 years since 1991. Trips are usually in July and last up to 2 weeks. Gas resupply for outboard and trolling motors is in Lutselke. Camping areas are near Fortress Island, Wildbred Bay, Ethen Island and MacLeod Bay etc. Trips are always with at least 2 boats, sometimes 3 with kids and adults.</p> <p>Have also done one sailing trip to Macleod Bay in early 1983. (Two sailboats and four adults)</p>
15.	hiking, canoeing. 2-6 weeks, summer
16.	I have lived in Norman Wells, NWT, but have never had the opportunity to visit this area. However, it would certainly be something of interest to me in the future and more so if there were a national park reserve!
17.	Never been there, but have get some vicarious enjoyment through various media articles. With it being a NP, I would have a greater incentive to visit, particularly as an amateur photographer.
18.	I don't use the area.
19.	We have not been there.
20.	Have never been there! However, I am familiar with the area in and around Yellowknife, and have visited many other places around the NWT. Our revered Father Rene Fumoleau lived in Lutsel'ke for some time, and we were in touch with him as he enjoyed being 'on the land'.
21.	I would love to visit the park in the summer, and hopefully this area will be protected so that I can plan a trip in the future!

#	Response
22.	<p>My family travels the East Arm every summer fishing and camping. We travel by powerboat and camp along McLeod Bay up to the Lockhart River, we also camp in Christie Bay on Fortress Island and in Wildbread bay. We seldom see another boat which is one of the reasons we go there.</p> <p>In the winter I also hunt in the Artillery Lake area. There is a MuskoX draw to the area which the park will eliminate. People lucky enough to get a tag travel by snowmobile. So far I have been on two hunts to the area and was hoping for many more.</p> <p>Additional fees and restrictions on power boats will chase away a large portion of the local tourism that already exists. The proposed park will eliminate more tourists than it attracts.</p>
23.	Visited Wildbread Bay and Magic Finger last summer in my power boat for some sightseeing. Stayed in the are for the day.
24.	Summer time for fishing and enjoying the beautiful scenery.
25.	The East Arm of Great Slave Lake is a place we fish at annually and is a family tradition. We now have two generations that head to the East Arm in summer to enjoy the clean air, quiet place etc.
26.	I travel by boat to the East Arm of Great Slave Lake with my family to camp in the summer. In the winter, I travel to East Arm of Great Slave Lake by snowmobile to hunt.
27.	Camping - year round besides freeze up and thawing.
28.	Test
29.	sport fisherman between end of June to early September
30.	by boat and airplane. Camping and fishing for a month every year.
31.	We travel by boat to Charlton Bay and Tochatwi Bay on a yearly basis.Usually arriving late June to late July. We fish for Grayling and Lake Trout daily and explore the area we visit.
32.	I use the entire area for hunting and fishing year round.
33.	I have not had the opportunity to visit yet. However, the proposed Park has brought significant awareness to the area which has increased my knowledge and interest in visiting.
34.	I do not currently use the area however am an avid hiker and camper using current Parks Canada facilities throughout the May to October timeframe.
35.	I have operated guided canoe trips in the Barren Lands since 1975. I was the first canoeing guide in the NWT and in what is now Nunavut, and I operated the first ecotourism business to be established in both political jurisdictions. I am licenced for the Thelon River and its tributaries so I am licenced for the Hanbury River and for Whitefish Lake which are inside the present proposed boundaries of Thaidene Nene. I am also licenced for Eileen River. Part of the Eileen River system is included within the boundaries of Thaidene Nene. I operate a 12 day guided canoe trip on the Eileen River every year during late August-early September.
36.	I do not currently use the area however I hope to travel there when I retire.
37.	I dont use it! But since when, in a NATIONAL Park system, should that be any criteria for comment or weighting of comment? I trust this is just another misguided question, and trust that it is not

#	Response
	indicative of another "locals know best" or "locals deserve preferential treatment" attitude and decision making.
38.	I live in British Columbia, so don't actually use this area. However I am particularly interested in the protection of the special natural values of all of the northern reaches of our wonderful country, while providing opportunities for local people to be able to use the land in a sustainable way..
39.	I have not as yet visited Thaidene, but hopefully will in my life time and or my children and grandchildren will benefit from that beautiful natural landscape as tourists or who know as an educational or employment opportunity.
40.	I have never visited the NWT but would consider doing so if this reserve were established. I am interested in seeing the wilderness and experiencing the culture of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation.
41.	I travelled to ThaiDene Nene in July of 2016 for 5 days with my daughter. We stayed in Lutsel K'e for a few nights. When we went camping, we were based at the mouth of Snowdrift River at one of the Dene elders' camps where they invited us to stay with them, and from there we travelled daily by boat, including all around Stark Lake, and we also travelled around McLean Bay.
42.	Just knowing that the area is protected for future generations and wildlife. Family been to Johannesburg, South Africa and visited de Beers gold mine.
43.	I have never been there.
44.	N/A
45.	N/A

[Q2] What beneficial aspects do you see and / or concerns do you have with how a national park reserve might affect your use of the Thaidene Nënë area?

#	Response
1.	xx
2.	A national park reserve could help to protect this beautiful area. Magic Finger in Wildbread Bay, for example, boasts towering cliffs, caves, a sheltered anchorage, and island camping. Magic Finger has been discovered. When we visited in 2009, the island was already showing signs of over-use. An outhouse, rules about cutting firewood, and a good clean-up would help preserve special places such as this. National park status could also help make the East Arm more accessible. When we visited, the cost of a float plane was very, very high. More visitors might lead to more affordable access options, e.g., water taxis, scheduled flights.
3.	I see the protection of this area from industrial development an opportunity to visit and enjoy this area into the future. The fact that this national park reserve is supported by the local community will also ensure its long term future.

#	Response
4.	It would increase my likelihood of choosing the area for a vacation.
5.	We will not be able to access the resources on this land.
6.	Want to conserve this area for future generations as an intact ecosystem
7.	The National Park will neither help nor hinder my access to the area.
8.	I think the national park reserve designation will assist the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, with the help of Parks Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories, protect a portion of important caribou habitat, watersheds, and cultural areas. I do not think that the creation of the national park reserve will negatively affect my use of the area. To the contrary, I think the creation of the national park reserve will enhance my use of the area by protecting it from mining or other major projects that would alter the environmental and cultural integrity of the area.
9.	<p>Concerned that it might impact the few homesteaders out there- at Reliance in particular , and the Hoarfrost. They are part of the history of the place, just like the original lodge owners etc in Banff back country parks.</p> <p>In the NWT, you cannot separate the people from the land- the Dene have been part of the land forever, and the white settlers are also very much part of it.</p> <p>I am in favour of no mineral exploration or industrial development of the East Arm and the area around there due to habitat and wildlife concerns in particular.</p>
10.	GGV vcxzx dx mbm fC
11.	It will restrict my tourism hunting business that can bring \$100,000 of local tourism dollars to the economy.
12.	Establishment of the park will prevent my traditional access to the area for hunting, as a lifelong resident of the NWT.
13.	<p>Benefits: Land will be permanently set aside for preservation and recreational use.</p> <p>Concerns: Too many regulations on land use (i.e. where one can camp) will be put in place making the lake too dangerous to use.</p>
14.	nature stays protected from environmentally damagin activites such as large scale logging and mining
15.	I have no concerns but I have already mentioned some of the benefits, primarily protecting this ecologically important region from development, providing a safe haven for caribou herds and protecting this vast and beautiful wilderness from degradation for this generation and many more.
16.	It may not directly affect my use, although knowing it is protected, I would have better sense of satisfaction with my leaders and decision makers.
17.	If I were to take a trip in the area, I see a huge benefit in Parks Canada providing information and background on the region's geography, biology and history. In addition it would be a relief not to encounter abandoned mineral exploration projects.

#	Response
18.	Concerns are that the Aboriginals might blockade the process. Our question is would this be fair to the Thaidene Nene band?
19.	I would really love to visit that area, and more of magnificent Great Slave Lake. Making that area a national park will surely preserve it from the damage and pollution caused by commercial development. I would sincerely hope that the Dene inhabitants will have care and stewardship of their own land.
20.	I see no concerns of this being turned into a national park reserve - from visiting other parks across Canada, and witnessing the move toward inclusive establishment processes, I have faith that Parks Canada will do a great job co-managing this area. The benefits are too long to name them all, but a few: conservation-based economy for Lutsel K'e, promotion of traditional knowledge, increased tourism in the NWT and region, and obviously the protection of a huge land mass that has many ecological and cultural values!
21.	<p>Additional fees and restrictions on power boats will chase away a large portion of the local tourism that already exists. The proposed park will eliminate more tourists than it attracts.</p> <p>Local people will have significantly less control as a park will greatly restrict future use of the area. Tourism opportunities are greater without a park.</p> <p>Of greatest concern is the fact that Parks Canada and CPAWS are selling a false bill of goods. Proponents of the Park are promising economic opportunities and jobs, promises that are at best a dream but some would consider the promises outright lies. National Parks in the NWT typically attract less than a dozen visitors a year.</p>
22.	<p>Concerns with regulated access and hunting/fishing restrictions, as well as potential future economic hurdles.</p> <p>Benefits, unknown as the area currently sees very little activity due to its remoteness, which in turn offers a level of environmental protection</p>
23.	It will add more rules in a territory that's main appeal is lack of southern rules. More of what you cannot do, which is one of the reasons many of us like living here.
24.	I don't need a license to go there now except a fishing license for the NWT. I don't have to get permission to go into the area and don't have any "red tape" to visit what is my back yard. I am concerned that establishment of a park and a goal to make this a tourism economy or conservation economy area will mean that as an NWT resident who lives here, pays taxes here and enjoys it here, I may have to pay more and see more people there.
25.	<p>I see no benefit to converting the East Arm of Great Slave Lake to a national park reserve. It is entirely unnecessary. It is giving false hope to a few individuals who have been convinced that national parks represent economic opportunities. They don't. We are not talking about Banff or Jasper. This is a remote, isolated location. For comparison, Nahanni National Park Reserve attracts 700 to 800 people annually. The recent expansion did nothing to change that number (except for the year in which the park expanded, because of the large number of politicians, dignitaries, media that travelled to the area that year). Park creation does not represent a long-term economic opportunity.</p> <p>Worst of all, though, is the enormous opportunity cost that the territory must bear if the proposed park is established. The driver of the NWT economy is resource development; specifically, mineral resource development. The park will cut out a vast tract of land with great mineral potential, and cuts</p>

#	Response
	<p>off access to lands beyond the park. This is short sighted, and fails to recognize the long-term economic growth prospects of the NWT. Removing this land from the territory's economic future increases the NWT's dependence on the federal government and the Canadian taxpayer to support our Government. In other words, it would reduce our sustainability.</p> <p>The NWT is NOT Canada's parkland. It might come as a surprise to someone from Ottawa that this is a region where people (want to) live, work, raise their family, and contribute to society. Last year, there were over 3,000 people working in the territory's mining industry, and another thousand working to build a new mine. How many people will this Park Reserve employ? How many will be employed full-time, year round? How many will earn in excess of \$100,000 annually? The creation of a Park Reserve jeopardizes the long-term potential of the territory and thus jeopardizes resident's opportunity to live sustainably in the territory. Meanwhile, the Park Reserve will not improve the camping, fishing, and scenery found in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake and won't enhance anyone's experience. So, why do it?</p>
26.	<p>A national park means that I would have to report to the government to be able to access this land while camping which is ridiculous since what benefit would I receive? My family and I camp here regularly and the restrictions that a national park would create would decrease my use.</p>
27.	<p>I do not want to pay to go into a park.</p> <p>I do not want special regulations.</p> <p>I need to carry firearms.</p>
28.	<p>should be left as it is now.</p>
29.	<p>As a national park there will be monitoring as to how people use the land and this can only result in lessening the abuse this area currently renders. Of course I would like to visit the park in the same respectful manner in which my family has for years to come.</p>
30.	<p>I do not want my access restricted or limited. I do not want to be charged fee's. I want the area to be available for responsible development. I do not believe this area should become a park.</p>
31.	<p>Parks Canada brings a significant amount of marketing awareness to an area. However, the area is still relatively remote and therefore most likely not going to be inundated with crowds of people visiting. It does still allow for economic growth opportunities for the members of the Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation.</p>
32.	<p>I see strategic advantage and a clear future vision by recognizing the importance of preserving these areas now rather than later. I see potential low impact tourism for the area creating some employment opportunities on a seasonal basis. I see again the prevention of resource exploitation occurring by preserving these lands now. My only concern is that we are probably not going to proceed with haste in designating this area due to typical government administrative delays. I am also concerned that our present Federal Government may indeed continue their efforts at cancelling anything of value and benefit that the previous government began.</p>
33.	<p>I think it is wonderful that the area within Thaidene Nene will be preserved intact and unscared forever. My only concern is that I want to continue to operate my guided canoe trips in Thaidene Nene after it becomes a park. I operate my trips on a "no trace camping" basis. The only thing we leave behind is our tracks on the sand.</p>

#	Response
34.	Protection will ensure that development or over use will not destroy the ecosystem.
35.	I see only immense public, national benefits, particularly if human consumptive / extractive use (trapping, hunting, fishing, excessive tourism invasion) is restricted or prohibited!
36.	With proper consultation and planning that includes the local residents of this vast area it is surely possible to create meaningful opportunities for local economic activity while protecting the special natural values.
37.	benefits are huge for the Dene people, for reconciliation, for their spiritual and cultural ceremonies, for their economic survival and as a tourist for spiritual recharge and enjoyment.
38.	The benefits extend beyond the persons who are lucky enough to visit. It will help to counter climate change and preserve the wildlife living in the area. Protecting wilderness can only be good: I have no concerns about this proposed reserve.
39.	Not sure.
40.	I would be excited to visit this new national park reserve someday.
41.	After having paddled a wild river in the Yukon last year, I may go canoeing and camping in the new park.

[Q3] What special features do you think attract visitors to the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area?

#	Response
1.	yy
2.	Scenery, wilderness, safe paddling area (no whitewater), fishing.
3.	Spectacular landscape features, traditional communities, relatively good access and close proximity to Yellowknife and the road system. Numerous recreational and educational activities both existing and potential.
4.	The paddling opportunities and fishing. I imagine hunting wouldn't be allowed in the park.
5.	Nobody will visit the park until it is cost effective to do so. The only cost effective way to get there would be if the government added an all season road. Only industry could allow an all season road, so alas, nobody will see this area of the country.
6.	unimpaired landscape
7.	The pristine wilderness, fishing, hunting and the Lutsel K'e Dene people and their culture.
8.	I think visitors will be drawn to the national park reserve by the people of Lutsel K'e. Visiting the community will provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about their culture, in particular their understandings of and relationships to the land, water, and animals. I also think visitors will enjoy canoeing and kayaking in the area as well as multi-day hiking in the summer and skidooning in the

#	Response
	winter. It was also a spectacular place to see the northern lights. I think the chance to view animals, such as caribou, will also draw visitors to the area as well as hunt. Finally, visiting the lady of the falls, with the permission of the community of Lutsel K'e, may offer visitors with a profound and powerful experience.
9.	Pristine wilderness. Fishing. The most spectacular scenery to be found on any lake in the weld. Variety of scenery. On McLeod Bay you can travel by kayak for over a week without seeing another soul or a boat.
10.	Bnglo3xf:/":'?: HlxbxHHlxbbcxfcxghcx
11.	Fishing, camping, wilderness pursuits, self propelled travel, nature, wildlife.
12.	wilderness, keeping it simple, leaving it as it is. many parks nowadays are too full of shops, pay parking, long reservations lines. keep it as it is. this is a huge attraction,
13.	Beauty, the perceived pristine environment has a huge appeal to many Canadians and international tourists, as well as outdoor enthusiasts. The summer months would provide a great opportunity for fishing, camping, hiking and more. I think the dramatic landscape and sheer beauty of the environment will attract many people.
14.	Not sure. Perhaps its unique location?
15.	The transition from boreal forest to tundra.
16.	It is great that you can go to the community garden and that people can feel at home there. The wildlife is also amazing!
17.	IF this region remains undeveloped, it encourages a specialized kind of educational tourism that could teach visitors the value of the land, rather than only the value of what lies in or under it. Management of the area by its own Indigenous peoples will be crucial.
18.	Honestly, I figure recreational activities such as fishing and hiking. The scenery is breathtaking from pictures!
19.	Great fishing and hunting is what attracts the bulk of the visitors now. The landscape is beautiful but you don't need to go to the proposed park to see similar beautiful landscape.
20.	Scenery, Geology, Hunting/Fishing, and Remotness
21.	Geology, geography, clean water, beautiful fish, quiet, clean, expansive.
22.	There area is beautiful. The fish are plentiful and large. Nearby is Lady of the Falls and this should not become a tourism attraction. It is a special cultural area and brining tourists to the area to see this would not be respectful to those who have lived there and valued the falls for spiritual purposes.
23.	Most people going to the East Arm of Great Slave Lake are from Yellowknife. Others come from around the territory and from other provinces. A few come from abroad. They go for fishing, camping, scenery, and to get away with family and friends. A few hunt, but the number of hunters travelling

#	Response
	that far is small. This is wilderness camping. People that do this sort of thing don't want Big Brother watching over them ... if they did, they would camp in a Territorial Park with designated sites, park officials, etc. The creation of a park does nothing to improve the attractiveness of the area for these people; they are coming already. In fact, I hypothesize that turning the area into a park will lessen its attractiveness amongst locals and result in fewer numbers. This will have the added negative effect of increasing the number of people fishing and camping on the park's western border.
24.	NONE, it's in the middle of no where. How many visitors do you have to Yellowknife? This is not a large tourist attraction. By making this area a national park area it is serving the interest of the local population and effectively alienating all others.
25.	Fishing
26.	should be left as is now.
27.	There is a myriad of vistas with cliffs, wide open water and serenity that you only have to experience once to leave lasting memories and a longing to visit again....there is also the fishing!
28.	Everything from the brilliance of the waters of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake to rivers traversing through the boreal forest into the tundra, the wildlife (barren ground caribou, muskox, wolves, bear,etc.) and most importantly the Dene people and the history of the area and special places.
29.	It's uniqueness as evidenced by its isolation and reduced numbers of tourists.
30.	The Barren Lands are the most remote place left on our planet north of Antarctica. The Barren Lands are the largest wilderness left in the world north of Antarctica and Thaidene Nene contains a few small slivers of that huge wilderness and a few very beautiful parts of it.
31.	The remoteness, the wildlife, the unique natural features, and the watershed.
32.	This question is a little disturbing; it implies that human visitation - as in economic exploitation - is the fundamental consideration for park establishment. It goes without saying there will be "some" human visitation and use of the Park lands, but the "feature" that is of value is "natural" landscapes with "natural" ecological processes and "natural" communities of plants and wildlife.
33.	The lake, landscapes and natural features of this area provide opportunities for local people to develop meaningful businesses that visitors from the south and elsewhere can take part in. These opportunities help visitors understand the realities of life in the north, the need for support for the residents of the north in creating businesses that
34.	clean rivers and water, fresh air, unspoiled natural beauty. Fishing, canoeing, hiking, artists (painting), camping, interest in Native history and way of life.
35.	The exposure to Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation culture is very attractive. These FNs must have very good skills to survive this far north. The remoteness is also very attractive.
36.	River system. Natural beauty.
37.	The relationship between First Nations and Crown (beneficial, co-operative, etc.)
38.	Non-familiar sites to more southern Canadians (most of us). Beautiful boating opportunities. Fantastic co-management with aboriginal locals—learning about their culture.

#	Response
39.	The scenery, the wildlife, the paddling and the local people

[Q4] What do you think are the most important factors in considering establishing the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve such as ecological values, cultural values, recreation opportunities, learning opportunities, business opportunities, employment opportunities, or other?

#	Response
1.	All those factors are important. We see eco-tourism possibilities here: low-impact canoe/kayak trips that provide business/employment opportunities for local residents/First Nations.
2.	If the protected area is large enough and connected enough to sustain ecological integrity for the region all the other factors will fall into place.
3.	All of the above; I think it's most important to give the community of Lutsel K'e the opportunity to develop a sustainable tourism industry, and attract both private and public funding for infrastructure projects that benefit the community.
4.	Ecological, cultural values. Potential tourism opportunities
5.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The desires of the Lutsel K'e people 2. Maintaining cultural and ecological integrity 3. employment opportunities for local people 4. protection for unwanted mining and resource extraction
6.	I think there are multiple factors that need to be considered when establishing Thaidene Nene national park reserve. These include, cultural, ecological, economic, and recreation/tourism. I think a balance can and should be struck between these values based on the discussion between the co-governance actors.
7.	<p>Ecological Values</p> <p>Cultural Values</p> <p>Recreation opportunities</p>
8.	5dt2
9.	Allow non resident alien hunting as this brings lots of dollars in tourism and tourism employment to local guides.
10.	Ecological values are number one. Nothing must compromise these vast lakes of clean clear water. Cultural values and traditional activities are important but not if they are going to compromise wildlife such as dwindling caribou herds or endangered species of any type. Recreation and learning activities should be limited to on-the-land programs.

#	Response
11.	ecological and cultural
12.	I think all of these factors are important and must all be taken into account, however the most crucial is that the indigenous people have a direct participation and influence on any decision making processes.
13.	I suggest recreation factors are not critical in creating a new NP. The principal factors have to be protecting significant areas of our vast geography so they can be pertually enjoyed, even if vicariously and spiritually.
14.	Ecological values must stand above other values. Recreational opportunities will follow from preservation (i.e. visitors won't encounter abandoned mineral-exploration sites and clear-cut forests). Cultural values will be important, especially if Parks Canada has sufficient funding to do archeological and historical research of the area. The park may attract significant numbers of visitors, but likely it will not see enough to support more than limited learning, business and employment opportunities, so these should not be important factors.
15.	Garden from Community is great point of interaction for all.
16.	Business opportunities??? Only minimal tourist facilities, I would certainly hope! Employment as guides, naturalists, and educators for visitors should be firmly in the control of the Dene peoples on the land. Recreation should be carefully handled - NO screaming ATVs or 4WDs - limited access to waterways, history and geography/geology education
17.	I'd say a tie between cultural values and ecological values are the most important. The rest of the factors listed will flow after those two factors are protected and preserved.
18.	I think it is important to call the park what it is and sell it as such. Parks are about preserving areas, remote parks are not about economic opportunities. This proposed park area is larger than some countries but it will never produce what a country produces. Real business and employment opportunities come from industry not remote parks. A mine would typically occupy less than 20 square kilometers and produce hundreds of full time high paying jobs. The park area occupies thousands of square kilometers and produces less than a dozen jobs and most of the jobs will be seasonal low paying jobs.
19.	pristine environment,allowing current uses (boating, fishing, hunting, etc...)
20.	I believe you should think about 7 generations from now, and not compromising their opportunities with inflexible rules welded into place today. Development in the future may be quite compatible with park type protection which cannot occur now under park rules. See answer to next question.
21.	Economics, the environment, recreation, business, these are all important. But establishing a Park in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake does not improve the long-term prospects of any of them. One does not save the environment by limiting future economic opportunities. The economy and the environment can and must be managed together, and not through the exclusion of one or the other.
22.	Business drives the GNWT namly mining. The proposed national park reduces the amount of mineral rich area that companies can explore. It also limits access routes that may be developed to resources in that area. A national park will not increase ecological values since the amount of people vs area is minimal, the recreational values will be decreased due to a larger barrier dealing with the governement politics. Cultural values is non-exisitent as with employment. How many would the

#	Response
	gouvernement hire and what would the do? It would be a waste of money that could be better used in other areas.
23.	Most important...ecological stability and respect for indigenous culture Least important...business opportunities
24.	Recreation and responsible development.
25.	The creation of Thaidene Nene offers a host of economic benefits.A broader sustainable tourism strategy and associated employment opportunities for the community of Lutsel K'e. It will also make a significant contribution towards fulfilling a range of federal and territorial goals and policies. In particular, Thaidene Nene will help the Government of the Northwest Territories achieve the goals of its Tourism Strategy 2015, which aims to increase the value of the tourism industry by \$130 million by the year 2015, in part through an emphasis on growing the Aboriginal tourism sector and associated cultural tourism products and facilities. Thaidene Nene will also contribute to the fulfillment of the Government of Canada's Northern Strategy, which aims to promote both social and economic development, and the protection of environmental heritage. By protecting key ecological and cultural values, pursuing economic opportunities associated with conservation, and providing certainty to industry regarding land use in the region, Thaidene Nene will serve as an excellent example of the Northern Strategy's balanced approach.
26.	Thaidene Nene contains some spectacular parts of Great Slave Lake and a good cross-section of boreal forest and tundra with their respective plant and animal communities. A nice blend straddling the treeline.
27.	All of these listed are so important. They work with each other together. This approach is a healthy, sustainable approach.
28.	Obviously, Paramount consideration has to be protecting ecological values; this should rank head and shoulders above all other considerations. If the ecological integrity of the Park is maintained (recovered?) then the opportunity" for other uses, even though they MUST be highly regulated for impacts on the park, will always exist.
29.	Protection of ecological and cultural values must be paramount in the way that economic opportunities are developed.
30.	environmental(clean air carbon sink, clean water, fish and wildlife). ecological (preserving and supporting the local wildlife and ecosystems). learning opportunities(environmental studies, studies in tourism, marketing, Native studies) employment (tourism)
31.	The most important values are ecological and cultural which in turn can support employment opportunities.
32.	Ecological values/conservation.

#	Response
33.	Granting requisite territorial ownership to First Nations
34.	This is a fantastic opportunity to be an example of how Parks Canada and aboriginal groups can work together and reach honest co-operative goals. I am happy to see that these groups feel adequately involved and I think this relationship should be maintained into the future.
35.	I think you listed all the important factors above, and even in the right order although employment and social aspects are very important.

[Q5] Do you have any other questions, concerns, suggestions or comments regarding the proposed establishment of Thaidene Nënë national park reserve?

#	Response
1.	Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.
2.	I have concerns about the role of the Territorial Government and the now reduced national park reserve boundaries. A territorial role in the overall conservation of a landscape can be a good thing, more partners invested etc but it can also be a weakening of the communities role, i.e. more players reduced role of each. Parks Canada go big and go bold we do not need another miserable compromise as a national park like Nááts'ihch'oh.
3.	I would propose an extension of the park to the north east, to connect to the Thelon wildlife sanctuary. Contiguous corridors are essential in slowing down the mass extinction of species that's happening right in front of our eyes while being ignored by all levels of government.
4.	why wasn't it considered as a marine conservation area since it's mostly a marine environment?
5.	How will industry ensure the cultural and ecological integrity of the park and the surrounding area without exception?
6.	I whole heartily support the creation of Thaidene Nene national park reserve. I think the establishment of the national park reserve will provide ecological, social, and economic benefits to all northerners. National park reserves provide core protection for animals, such as the caribou, to ensure that they continue to persist and help to protect the health of watersheds and the fish that live there. The national park reserve will also protect a core area of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation's traditional territory.
7.	<p>1. I'm concerned that folks won't know how to pronounce the name of the place, further distancing it from the tongues and minds of potential visitors. I appreciate the use of native names for new parks, but if marketing the park is a consideration, it needs to speak to all Canadians, and people beyond our border. "Great Barrier Reef", "Great Sand Dunes", "Glacier", "Thousand Islands", "Pinnacles"... these conjure adventure and imagination. "Thaidene Nene" does not, and fails to identify its location.</p> <p>2. I hope "of Canada" is not appended to the name of the park. We know it's of Canada and in Canada, and this annoying, verbose policy of adding such words to every park unit should cease. Let "National Park" or "National Park Reserve" be the final words. It's much stronger that way.</p>

#	Response
	3. Why not make this a full National Park, instead of a National Park Reserve? We have some reserves in the system which have been sitting there for 30+ years, and are still not full national parks. My fear is that, once this is an NPR, it won't move any further. I say do the hard work of resolving land claims (or whatever stands in the way), and make it a full National Park. And then get to work on the other NPRs, converting them into full park system units. Giving birth to an NPR should only happen as a last resort, when no movement is possible with parties at the table, and protection is desired despite that.
8.	Do not disturb the livelihood of the homesteaders!!!!!!
9.	Mvm
10.	It will have a big effect on my hunting tourism business.
11.	I appreciate the collaborative nature of the establishment of this park reserve. I hope the open communication continues to the conclusion of the process, both with aboriginal governments and the GNWT.
12.	please create it.
13.	Let's see this national park become a reality!
14.	Let's get it done!!
15.	No.
16.	A settlement should be given to the Aboriginal Band if this park moves forward and becomes a National Park.
17.	Go for it! I believe our current Federal Govt. is very amenable to such projects, and also hope the NWT Govt. sees the real longrange value in preserving as much of our natural heritage as possible.
18.	Keep up the good work!
19.	<p>People of the North, I respectfully ask that you reject the current proposal for a huge park on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, reject Thaidene Nene Park. The community of Lusel K'e is a beautiful place to live yet the population is in decline. This park will ensure the decline continues. The East Arm does not need a park to "unlock" its potential, the opportunities already exist and they are endless, making the area a park will lock the potential and ensure the greatest opportunities are ended.</p> <p>Environmental groups such as CPAWS claim that Thaidene Nene Park is necessary to protect this massive area from industrial "threats". Threats such as a single hydro-electric power line, an access road to the north and potential mines. Industry does not and cannot "attack" an area. Since devolution the people of the NWT decide where and how development happens and it will only happen if the people of the NWT benefit from the development.</p> <p>Thaidene Nene is well protected by its remote location, the people Lutsel K'e and everyone else that lives in the NWT. The people of Lutsel K'e and the NWT are perfectly capable of deciding what is best for the land without any help or permission from Parks Canada.</p>
20.	I believe a national park is to restrictive for "uses", considering the remoteness of the proposed park. The area is currently not widely visited by NWT residents or tourists, but it is the NWT residents that

#	Response
	will lose the area for current "uses" so that rich tourists can view a pristine environment at the expense of the current area users.
21.	<p>I believe you should allow the unsettled land claim groups the ability to select lands within the proposed park boundaries.</p> <p>I also believe you should not advance the park until that is done, and until formal land use planning begins. You are putting the cart before the horse by intervening with a land use discussion in the absence of knowing who the landlords are, and what the bigger picture land use planning would paint.</p>
22.	My concerns have been made clear in the answers to your questions. I would like to comment on the bias in the questioning, though. It is not honest consultation if every question attempts to influence respondents' answers. If a mining company were to send out a questionnaire that looked like this one, they would be rightfully criticized (by Parks Canada amongst others) and forced to throw it out. Parks Canada should hold itself to the same standard.
23.	I think this is short sighted and a ridiculous park that serves no larger tourist base. It serves the people of the local community and is directly catering to them. If the government is trying to waste money then just give it away, that i is more effective.
24.	Leave the area as it is.
25.	I do not support the park.
26.	To date there has been a very strong communications plan through which has been channeled through CPAWS, Parks Canada and local media including community engagement opportunities. I don't have any additional questions at this time.
27.	Hope it doesn't take as long to establish Thaidene Nene as most other national parks which seem to take forever.
28.	It should be larger and contain all the lands that were originally purposed.
29.	<p>Yes: Definitely. The Park must be managed by scientifically trained independent staff reporting directly to the people of Canada through the Park Service. It cannot and should not be a home for special interests or cultures or people.</p> <p>And a second Yes: I strongly object to the confidential nature of this process and the refusal to release questionnaire comments to the public; There SHOULD BE a public file of all comments and questionnaire results and submissions!</p>
30.	Sounds like a wonderul area tha i would love to visit some day.
31.	<p>I love it</p> <p>Do it.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
32.	Thank you to all those persons who worked on this reserve for decades. May it come to fruition and protect the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation culture, the environment and wildlife.

#	Response
33.	Whatever the decision, consider wishes and needs of first nations and wilderness protection— especially barrens caribou migration and calving grounds.
34.	Comment: I went to Sept. 12 meeting in Vancouver and was not impressed by the speakers. It seemed to be about airing old grievances and not about a new park.
35.	Severe terminology: hard negotiations/what we went through/our sanity/kicked out/etc.... (Parallel: First Nations and Crown; Percy Schmeisser and Monsanto)
36.	Mining activities adjacent to the park lands that will toxify the crystal-clear water and surrounding environment should be banned within the park's policies. Ecological integrity of the land is crucially important.
37.	Do it soon, with due process NOTES 1) The public session in Calgary on Sep 14 th was excellent – thx parks Canada 2) Although I'm keenly interested in protection of wilderness I had never heard of Thaidene Nene. PC review your public information approach. I.E about the sep 14/2016 meeting. NOTE: that's when I heard the first time about the parks proposal.

[Q6] How have you heard about the proposed Thaidene Nëné national park reserve? (check all that apply)

Response	Percentage	Count
Word of mouth	38.1%	16
Newspaper	38.1%	16
Radio	14.3%	6
Parks Canada newsletter / poster / display	7.1%	3
Parks Canada website	26.2%	11
Parks Canada personnel / meeting	16.7%	7
Another organization (specify):	38.1%	16
Other (specify):	23.8%	10
	Total Responses	42

[Q6] How have you heard about the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Another organization (specify):)

#	Response
1.	CPAWS
2.	
3.	Lutselke Dene First Nation meetings
4.	Various environmental organizations I support
5.	CPAWS-NWT
6.	concerned NWT residents opposed to the park but reluctant to speak up.
7.	Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society
8.	NWT Tourism
9.	CPAWS
10.	Environmental groups
11.	CPAWS website
12.	CPAWS and VWS
13.	CPAWS
14.	CPAWS
15.	CPAWS email list
16.	CPAWS Alberta (by robo call)

[Q6] How have you heard about the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Other (specify):)

#	Response
1.	I remember a news report from the 1970's when the first land withdrawal was put in place.
2.	Various online news sources + social media.
3.	Google search, Wikipedia
4.	I began expressing my concern by letter to Parks Canada in 1983.
5.	Facebook article sharing
6.	Email info from Thaidene area, plus "Up Here" magazine.
7.	Public consultation with the minister

#	Response
8.	A network of people continent wide that fear the loss of undeveloped landscapes to special social, economic and political interests.
9.	Attended presentation @ Vancouver Public Library
10.	VPL poster

[Q7] Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply)

Response	Percentage	Count
Aboriginal resident (indicate community):	0.0%	0
Local non-Aboriginal resident (indicate community):	30.1%	13
Business (indicate type / location):	9.5%	4
Non-governmental organization (indicate type / location):	19.0%	8
Industry (indicate type / location):	2.4%	1
Government (indicate type / department):	0.0%	0
Non-local general public:	57.1%	24
Other (specify):	9.5%	4
	Total Responses	42

Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Aboriginal resident (indicate community):)

#	Response
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Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Local non-Aboriginal resident (indicate community):)

#	Response
1.	
2.	Yellowknife
3.	Yellowknife
4.	Yellowknife
5.	Yellowknife
6.	Yellowknife
7.	Yellowknife
8.	Yellowknife
9.	Yellowknife
10.	yellowknife
11.	Yellowknife
12.	Yellowknife
13.	Yellowknife

Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Business (indicate type / location):)

#	Response
1.	Renewable energy
2.	Wyler a Lake Lodge
3.	Yellowknife
4.	Canoe Arctic Inc, Box 130, Fort Smith, NT, X0E 0P0 (Alex Hall, owner)

Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Non-governmental organization (indicate type / location):)

#	Response
1.	
2.	Pembina Foundation for Environmental Education
3.	School
4.	CPAWS-NWT
5.	Wildlife conservation advocate
6.	CPAWS, CARC, WCWC, WWF and others
7.	CPAWS: wilderness conservation NS chapter but also nationally
8.	CPAWS Alberta

Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Industry (indicate type / location):)

#	Response
1.	Tourism Aylmer Lake

Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Government (indicate type / department):)

#	Response
---	----------

Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Non-local general public:)

#	Response
1.	Avid canoe-trippers
2.	Visiting and spending time in parks and wilderness areas is a priority for me.
3.	
4.	
5.	Because I care about the protection of ecosystems including the upper boreal forest as well as the people and animals that thrive there.
6.	I have a keen interest in national parks and national historic sites.
7.	graduate student
8.	
9.	Canada must preserve these representative areas of all our ecological environments.
10.	
11.	NWT Resident for several years
12.	
13.	Calgary, AB
14.	environmental conservation
15.	Citizen of Canada
16.	Canadian citizen
17.	
18.	
19.	
20.	Vancouver, BC
21.	Vancouver. Interested in environmental conservation.
22.	2 nd generation citizen of Canada
23.	Halifax
24.	Cochrane AB

Which category describes you and why you are interested in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve? (check all that apply) (Other (specify):)

#	Response
1.	frequent visitor by sailboat, no more obnoxious parks helicopters please. I reside iin Canada, did not fill out next page correctly. I am Canadian., my province or territory or aboriginal/non aboriginal should not matter
2.	concerned citizen
3.	Wildlife scientist
4.	Lover of nature and its people

[Q8] Where do you reside?

Response	Percentage	Count
Alberta	17.1%	7
British Columbia	29.3%	12
Manitoba	0.0%	0
New Brunswick	4.9%	2
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.0%	0
Northwest Territories	34.1%	14
Nova Scotia	0.0%	0
Nunavut	0.0%	0
Ontario	9.8%	4
Prince Edward Island	0.0%	0
Quebec	0.0%	0
Saskatchewan	0.0%	0
Yukon	2.4%	1
United States	0.0%	0
International	2.4%	1
Total Responses		41

Appendix C: Analysis of comment form open-text responses

The following tables categorize and analyze the information collected in the open-text response questions from the comment forms produced and collected by Parks Canada.

Q1a: What makes the Thaidene Nëné national park reserve area special to you?

Note: counts and percentages reflect the number of respondents who mentioned a topic, and not a proportion of the total.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Scenery/unique landscape/wildlife	18	39%
Protecting the environment	16	35%
Protecting Indigenous culture/livelihood	11	24%
Activities (e.g. canoeing, camping, hunting, fishing)	9	20%
Previously visited the area	8	17%
Lived/live in NWT	6	13%
Creating sustainable tourism economy	4	9%
Opposed to park - fees/too many regulations on activities	3	7%
Opposed to park - restricting development	2	4%
Opposed to park - restrictions on resident hunters	2	4%
History	2	4%
No motorized vehicles (incl. aircraft and boats)	1	2%
Reconciliation with Indigenous people	1	2%
Representing Canadian Shield in national parks system	1	2%
Opposed to park - conservation is responsibility of GNWT	1	2%
Opposed to park - settle land claims first	1	2%
N/A	1	2%
Existence of park	1	2%

Q1b: Indicate how, where and when you currently use the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area, listing activities, locations, month of year and length of time in the area.

Note: counts and percentages reflect the number of respondents who mentioned a topic, and not a proportion of the total.

<i>Season</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Summer	18	43%
Winter	7	17%
Spring	3	7%
Fall	3	7%

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Fishing	10	24%
Boating	8	19%
Camping	8	19%
Hunting	6	14%
Exploring/sightseeing	5	12%
Canoeing/kayaking	5	12%
Floatplane/ski plane	4	10%
Hiking	2	5%
Snowmobiling	2	5%
Aurora viewing	1	2%
Cabin	1	2%
Conducting research	1	2%

<i>Duration</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Between 2 weeks and 1 month	7	17%
1 week	2	5%
1 day	1	2%
Several months	1	2%

<i>Location</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Haven't used Thaidene Néné area yet	19	45%
Łutsël K'e and area	5	12%
Wildbread Bay	5	12%
Christie Bay	4	10%
East Arm (non-specific)	4	10%
McLeod Bay	4	10%
Fortress Island	2	5%
Hanbury-Thelon Drainage	2	5%
Artillery Lake	1	2%
Barren Lands (non-specific)	1	2%
Charlton Bay	1	2%
Eileen River	1	2%
Entire area	1	2%
Ethan Island	1	2%
Hanbury River	1	2%
Lockhart River	1	2%
Magic Finger	1	2%
McLean Bay	1	2%
Pike's Portage	1	2%
Quiet Cove	1	2%
Snowdrift River	1	2%

Other comments	Count	Percentage
Environmental protection	2	5%
Support for non-Indigenous hunting	1	2%
Park will eliminate muskox hunting	1	2%
Worried about fees	1	2%
Worried that question about use shows a "locals know best" attitude toward park establishment	1	2%

Q2: What beneficial aspects do you see and/or concerns do you have with how a national park reserve might affect your use of the Thaidene Nënë area?

Note: counts and percentages reflect the number of respondents who mentioned a topic, and not a proportion of the total.

Benefits	Count	Percentage
Environmental protection	19	49%
Support of local community/economic potential	6	15%
Increased tourism/interest in visiting	6	15%
Protection of culture/cultural areas	3	8%
Creates more accessibility (lower transportation costs)	1	3%
Recreation	1	3%
More available interpretive information	1	3%
Conservation economy	1	3%
Promotion of traditional knowledge	1	3%

<i>Concerns</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Regulations on land use/access & fees (decreased visitation)	7	18%
Impact on hunting (outfitted or residential)	3	8%
Economic opportunities will not pan out	3	8%
Restricted access to minerals/other resources	2	5%
Impact on homesteaders	1	3%
Indigenous groups other than ŁKDFN may try to stop process	1	3%
Impact on ability to carry firearms	1	3%
General opposition (no details)	1	3%
Impact on tourism operators	1	3%
Park establishment process will take too long	1	3%

<i>Other</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
No benefits or concerns/don't know	2	5%

Q3: What special features do you think attract visitors to the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve area?

Note: counts and percentages reflect the number of respondents who mentioned a topic, and not a proportion of the total.

Feature	Count	Percentage
Scenery/landscape/water/wilderness	24	65%
Fishing	15	41%
Communities/people/culture	10	27%
Paddling	6	16%
Wildlife	6	16%
Hunting	5	14%
Remoteness	5	14%
Camping	4	11%
Hiking	4	11%
Recreational/educational activities (general)	3	8%
Lady of the Falls	2	5%
Access/proximity to Yellowknife	1	3%
Art	1	3%
Aurora viewing	1	3%
Boating	1	3%
Economic opportunities	1	3%
Location	1	3%
Need an all-season road	1	3%
None	1	3%
Snowmobiling	1	3%

Other comments	Count	Percentage
Regulation will decrease visitation	1	3%
Establishing a park serves locals only	1	3%
General opposition to park	1	3%
Question implies human visitation is primary driver of establishing a park	1	3%

Q4: What do you think are the most important factors in considering establishing the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve such as ecological values, cultural values, recreation opportunities, learning opportunities, business opportunities, employment opportunities, or other?

Note: counts and percentages reflect the number of respondents who mentioned a topic, and not a proportion of the total.

Factor	Count	Percentage
Ecological values (general)	25	74%
Cultural values (general)	18	53%
Business/employment opportunities (general)	15	44%
Recreation opportunities (general)	12	35%
Learning opportunities (general)	8	24%
Tourism opportunities	6	18%
Indigenous desires/participation	4	12%
Opposed to limiting economic activities because of a park	4	12%
Community garden	1	3%
Hunting (incl. non-resident)	1	3%

Q5: Do you have any other questions, concerns, suggestions or comments regarding the proposed establishment of Thaidene Nēné national park reserve?

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Support (general)	18	51%
Opposition (general)	7	20%
Criticism of consultation process (in whole or in part)	3	9%
Importance of environmental protection	3	9%
Importance of cultural preservation	2	6%
Settle land claims before establishing park	2	6%
Allow land claim groups to select lands within boundaries	1	3%
Concern about role of territorial protected areas instead of all national park	1	3%
Connect to Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary	1	3%
Consultation comments should be made public	1	3%
Criticism of questionnaire	1	3%
Disagree with name	1	3%
Ensuring cultural and ecological integrity of surrounding area	1	3%
Good meeting	1	3%
Good communication to date	1	3%
Poor communication	1	3%
Hope establishment timeline doesn't take too long	1	3%
Impact on hunting business	1	3%
Not disturbing livelihood of homesteaders	1	3%
Park boundary should include entire study area.	1	3%
Park will limit opportunities for Łutsël K'e and the NWT	1	3%
Park establishment will create a barrier to use of the area	1	3%
Park should be managed by Parks Canada, not special interests	1	3%
Park will only serve locals, not tourists	1	3%
Providing settlement to Indigenous groups	1	3%
Should be protected as marine conservation area	1	3%
Support - provides ecological and cultural protection	1	3%
Support collaborative nature of establishment	1	3%
Terminology	1	3%

Appendix D: Analysis of email and letter themes

The table laid out in the following pages categorizes input from emails and letters received by Parks Canada. Responses were categorized based on themes.

Email and letter analysis totals per category are found at the end of the table.

10-page PDF to be inserted in PDF version of report

Appendix E: Parks Canada presentations

Parks Canada has made the slides from the following presentations available on its website:

- NWT Public meetings: Hay River (Apr. 20, 2016) and Yellowknife (Jun. 9, 2016)
- Non-NWT public meetings: Vancouver (Sept. 12, 2016), Calgary (Sept. 14, 2016) and Ottawa (Sept. 21, 2016)

