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Dene Nation to hold first-ever Education Summit in March

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Yellowknife, Northwest Territories – February 26, 2020] – The Dene Nation will be holding its first-ever Education Summit March 17th & 18th, 2020 in **K’atl’odeeche First Nation Reserve (Hay River)**.

The Auditor General’s Report on Education recently highlighted the lack of equitable access to education, an issue too familiar to Dene communities. Many schools in the North struggle with basic resources and students are required to upgrade after graduation to meet post-secondary requirements. There is a need for more training, cultural and language-based education and mental health supports to ensure a strong foundation for youth to excel.

The Summit will engage Dene leadership and work to develop a shared vision for Indigenous education in the Northwest Territories. During the session, leadership will engage on discussions around Indigenous governance and Dene jurisdiction of education moving forward and share best practices from across the North. Following the Summit, a visionary document is to be produced and used to guide education planning, processes and programs and ultimately, a collaborative process with the Federal and Territorial Governments.

“We are at a critical time as Dene people. More than ever, we are working towards securing a strong foundation for our youth and future generations as we continue to establish cultural and language based education programs,” said Dene National Chief Norman Yakeleya, “Going forward, this vision will set the stage for our relationship with the territorial government as it relates to Indigenous education.”

All members of the Dene Nation are welcome to observe the Summit and welcome delegates.

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