



## Values and Principles of the Dene Nation

There are many common issues where there is a need to speak with one united Dene voice. These values and principles serve as a foundation for the Dene way.

# Values

### Sharing

The Dene shared in the use of the land and resources of the land, in particular food. The work of maintaining the camp was shared, as was the responsibility for caring for children, and protecting the safety and health of the family.

### Respect

One showed respect for oneself and for others, for leaders and Elders and those with special skills, and for the land and all living things.

### Caring

Caring was shown for all members of the extended family. The widows, orphans, and Elders, unable to provide for themselves, were cared for by their community. Concern was shown for the safety and protection of oneself and others in the home.

### Equality

Equality among all people, and the equality of humans and all other living creatures were recognized.

### Self-respect and Pride

Caring was shown for all members of the extended family. The widows, orphans, and Elders, unable to provide for themselves, were cared for by their community. Concern was shown for the safety and protection of oneself and others in the home.

# Principles

This land was created by “the one who provides for all,” and we came from this land. We recognize our equality with this land and all living creatures.

We recognize and respect the natural laws, which regulate the cycle of seasons, the rhythms of the earth and the ways of the animals.

No one individual has the right to own the land. As the ones who came from this land, we have a collective right to use the land and its resources to ensure our survival as a people. We also have a collective responsibility to protect the land and resources for our children and grandchildren.

We take only what we need from the land. We honour and give thanks to the spirit of the land and that which we take from the land. We do not waste anything that we have taken from the land, but share it with all who are in need.

The survival of the whole group (family, community), is more important than the accumulation of individual wealth or status.

