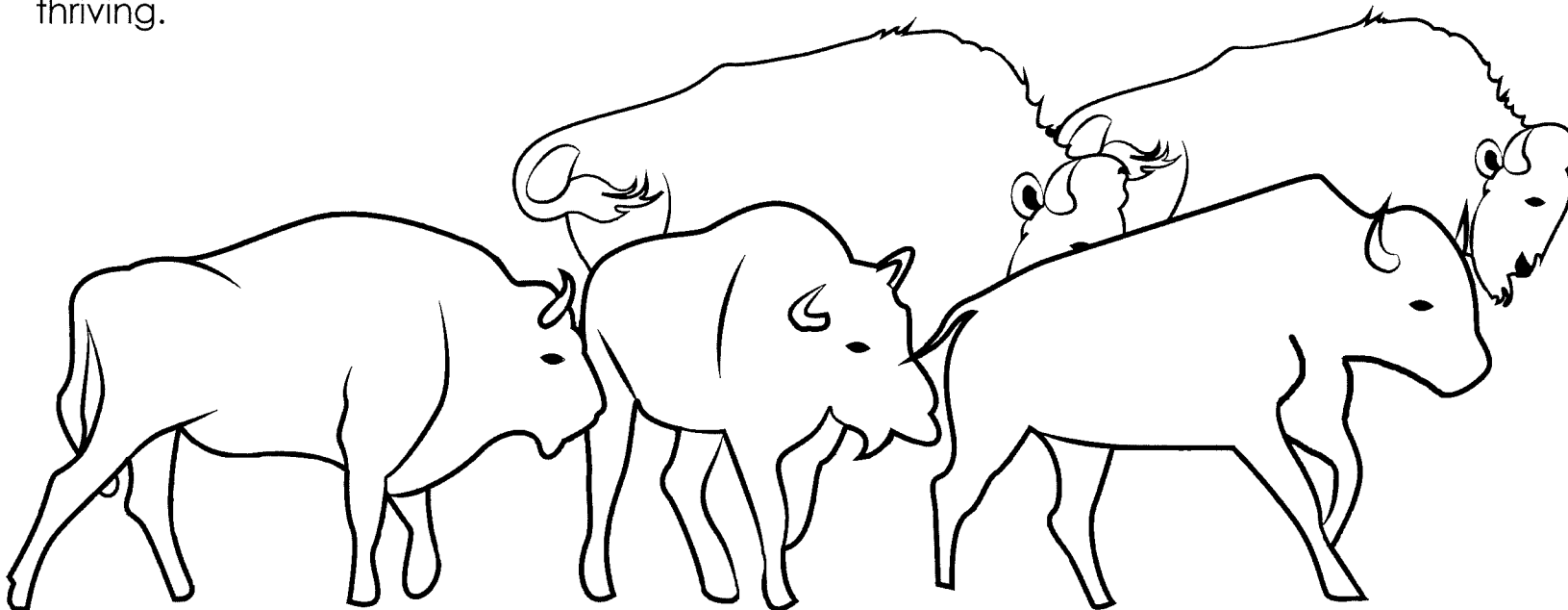


North Slave Region

*Behchoko – Dettah – Gameti – Lutselk'e – N'Dilo – Wekweeti
– Whati – Yellowknife*

The area between the Northwest Territories' two biggest lakes, Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake, makes up the North Slave Region. It is the traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Tłı̨chǫ, and Akaitcho, and is now also home to a diverse number of other ethnic groups. There are some all-weather roads connecting communities in this region, but a network of ice roads are far more extensive and provide easier winter access.

The North Slave is home to a number of mines, and the eight communities in the region play an active role in the mine through staffing, consultation, and environmental impact monitoring. The capital, Yellowknife, is a vibrant city with businesses, the arts, and tourism contributing to the diversity of the community. Part of this diversity includes a strong connection with traditional ways of life, and in addition to harvesting, fishing, and traditional crafting, educational and cultural preservation initiatives are thriving.





Behchokò

Mbehcho's place

On the shores of the North Arm of Great Slave Lake, the communities of Rae and Edzo (Rae-Edzo) were officially renamed Behchoko in 2005. Behchoko is the largest Dene community in Canada and one of four Tłı̨chǫ communities in the Northwest Territories.

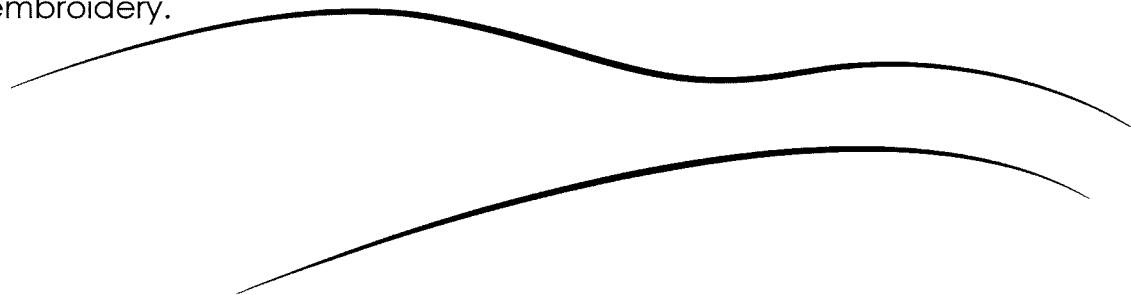
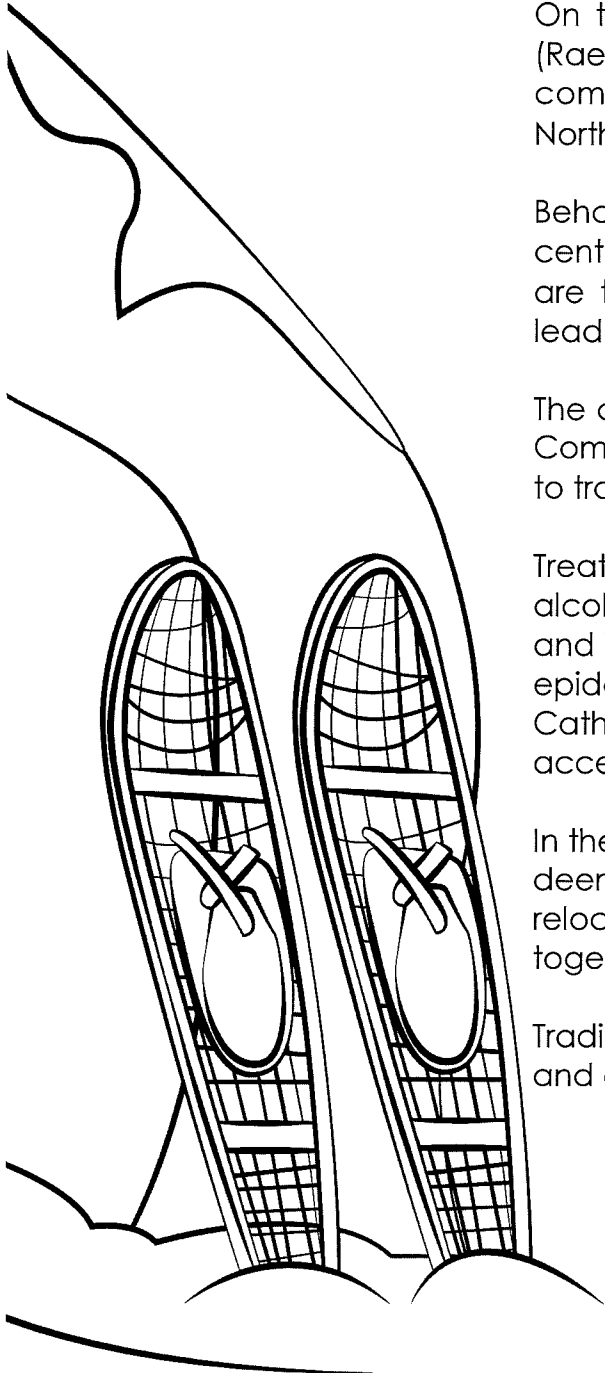
Behchoko is within traditional Tłı̨chǫ Dene territory, who have inhabited the area for centuries. There is a history of discord between the Tłı̨chǫ and the Yellowknives Dene, who are traditional users of nearby lands, but peace was made by the 1830s by community leaders.

The community of Rae was originally named for Dr. John Rae, who opened a Hudson's Bay Company post at Old Fort Rae on Marion Lake in 1852. Tłı̨chǫ people began to use this site to trade, and a settlement developed.

Treaty 11 was accepted by Chief Monfwi in 1921 on behalf of the people of Fort Rae. Later, alcohol and diseases contributed to a disastrous loss of life in the area; measles, tuberculosis, and influenza devastated Fort Rae, but the strong and resilient community survived the epidemics. Over the next decades, permanent residences were constructed, the Roman Catholic mission established a hospital, electricity was introduced to the community, and access to the Mackenzie Highway was constructed.

In the 1950s, the community of Edzo was formed as a new settlement when the government deemed Rae unsuitable for continued expansion. However, many families decided against relocating to Edzo, so the two communities remained separate despite being administered together by the government.

Traditional activities include hunting caribou and other game, fishing, trapping, beadwork and embroidery.





Dettah / T'è?ehda *burnt point*



Ndilq *end of the island*

Dettah (also written as Detah) is one of two communities of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and is part of the Akaitcho Territory Government. Dettah is close to the City of Yellowknife, and is connected to the capital during winter months by an ice road. The name "Dettah" means 'burnt point' in the Tłı̨chǫ language, referring to a traditional fishing camp formerly used by Dene people. Dettah was used as a seasonal camp for people until the City of Yellowknife was established as a centre for mining gold. Traditional activities are still widely practiced, with residents regularly fishing, making dry fish, and tanning moose hides.

N'Dilo is the other Yellowknives Dene First Nation community, located adjacent to the City of Yellowknife on Latham Island. Like Dettah, it is part of the Akaitcho Territory Government. N'Dilo is a strong cultural community, and often hosts events to celebrate and share Dene customs, traditions, and art.

Dene people have hunted and trapped in the area of Dettah and N'Dilo for centuries. Historically, Yellowknives Dene have lived around Great Slave Lake and the Yellowknife River, using rivers to travel and trade. Early European explorers have documented meeting Yellowknives Dene who helped them navigate the challenging tundra. In the 1800 and 1900s, it is said that the Yellowknives were the most powerful group in the area.



Gameti / Gahm̀̀ti

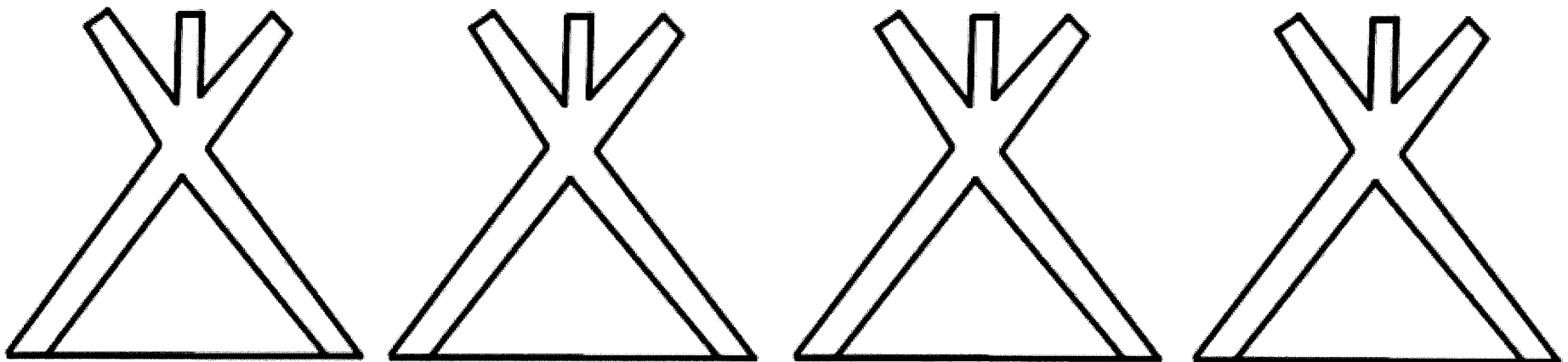
rabbit net place

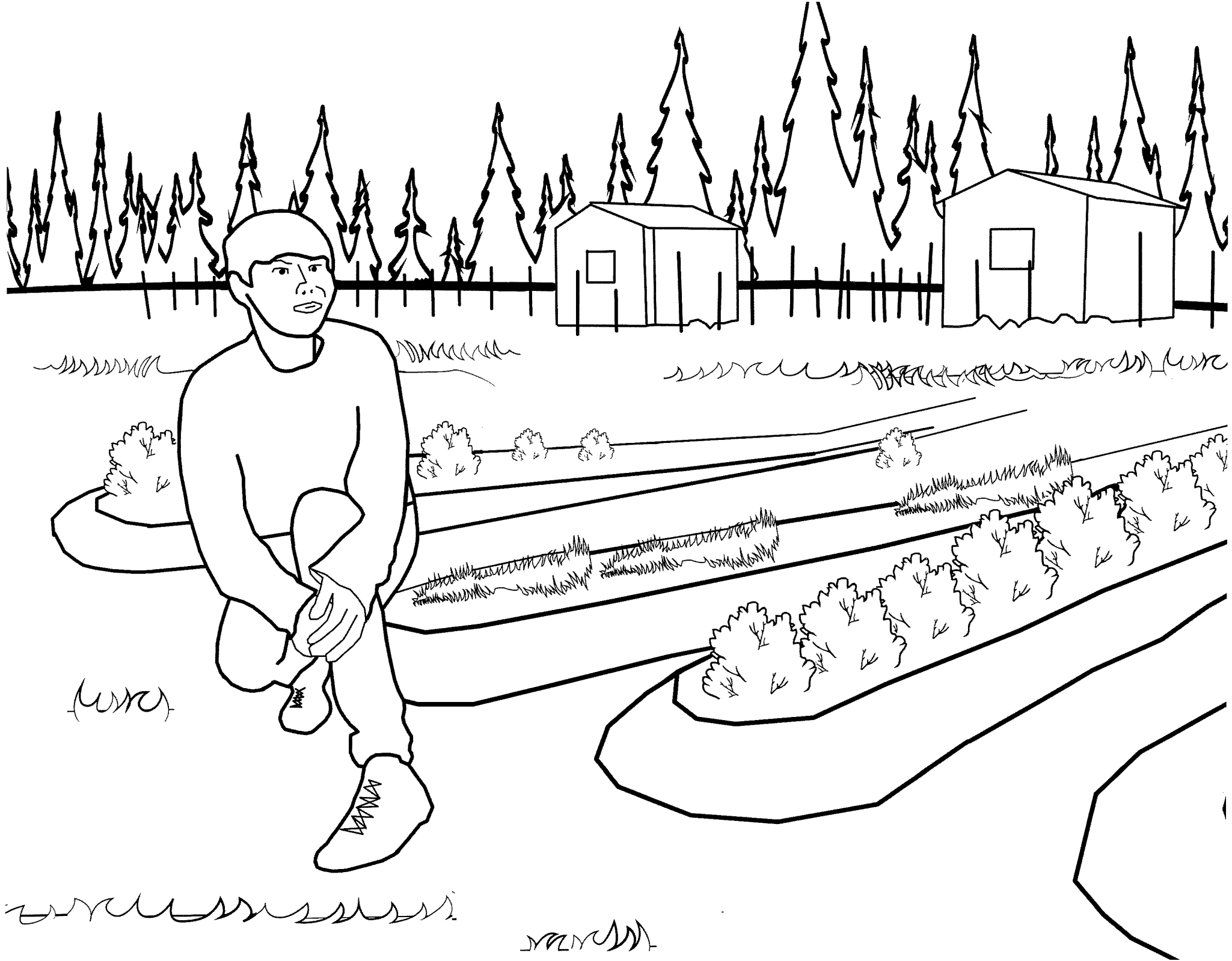
Halfway between Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake lies Gameti, a community originating as an outpost hunting camp for many Tłı̄chǫ́ and Sahtu Dene who lived in the area. Gameti is one of four Tłı̄chǫ́ communities which form the Tłı̄chǫ́ Government. In the 1960s, Dene elders established Gameti and it has since grown to include an airstrip, community hall, school, store, RCMP detachment, health centre, and more. In 2005, Gameti was renamed from being previously called Rae Lakes.

Green Thumbs in Gameti

In 2014, the Community Government of Gameti constructed the largest community garden in the Northwest Territories, with a total area of 21,600 square feet. Community members running this garden are working to learn about the benefits of a sustainable and environmentally responsible approach to growing food. The community has become very proud of the garden, and residents have expanded this learning opportunity to include how to preserve food, growing medicinal plants, and introducing youth to the organic food growing process.

The volunteer-run garden produces hundreds of kilograms of fresh, local, organic food each season for the community, allowing residents to enjoy healthy options. The community hopes to eventually expand the operation to include a greenhouse, so that vegetables can grow for more of the year.





Łutsek'e / Łútsèk'é

place of the łútsèl, a type of small fish

Formerly known as Snowdrift, Lutselk'e is a Designated Authority Community on the south shore of the east arm of Great Slave Lake. The name Snowdrift originated with the nearby mouth of the Snowdrift River.

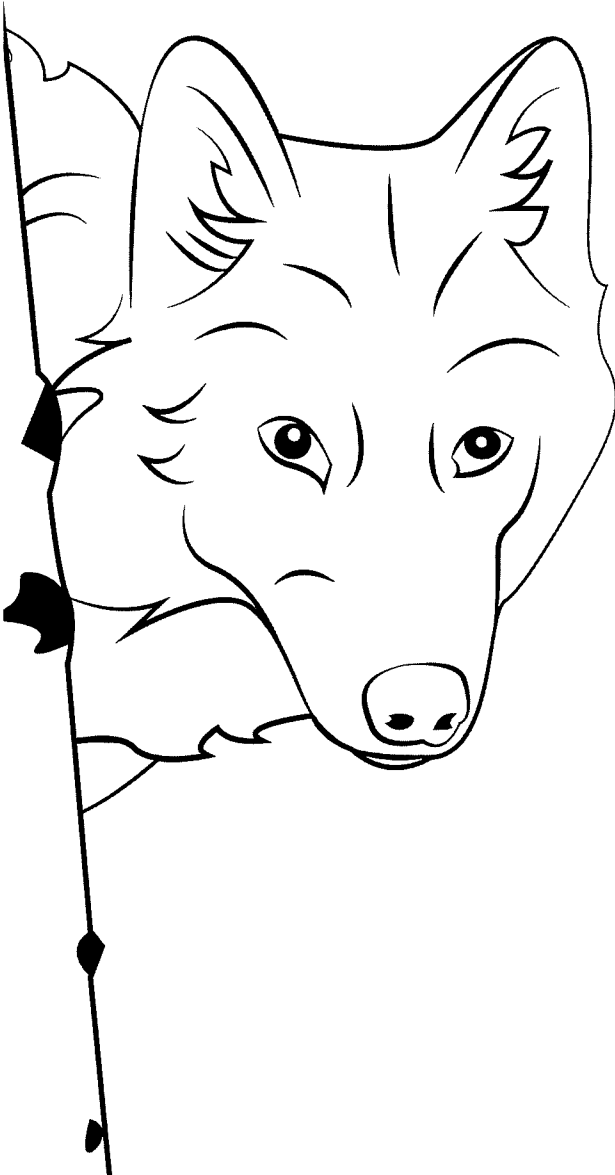
In 1925, the Hudson's Bay Company established a post at the site in an effort to compete with free traders who were reaching the area. Once the post was built, many families who had been land users in the area for generations decided to shift their focus to this new trading post. Additionally, increased provision of government services at the site meant that it was a more attractive place to settle. Permanent residences were built or moved to the present site starting in 1954, the same time the Roman Catholic church was also relocated. A school followed in 1960, an RCMP detachment, and a health centre.

The Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, part of the Akaitcho Territory Government, are responsible for representing and administering the community.

Thaidene Nene

Thaidene Nene, "Land of the Ancestors", is an area adjacent to the community of Lutselk'e. It is considered sacred territory by the Denesoline people, and is the traditional land of people who have resided there for generations.

The Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and partners are fostering ecological integrity, cultural continuity, and economic stability by protecting this area. A balance of life and the promotion of the traditional special relationship with the land is key to the success of this initiative. Securing this land and water, ensuring its proper stewardship, and valuing the beauty and nature is undertaken with the sacred, ethical, and practical foundations taught by ancestral inhabitants of the area.

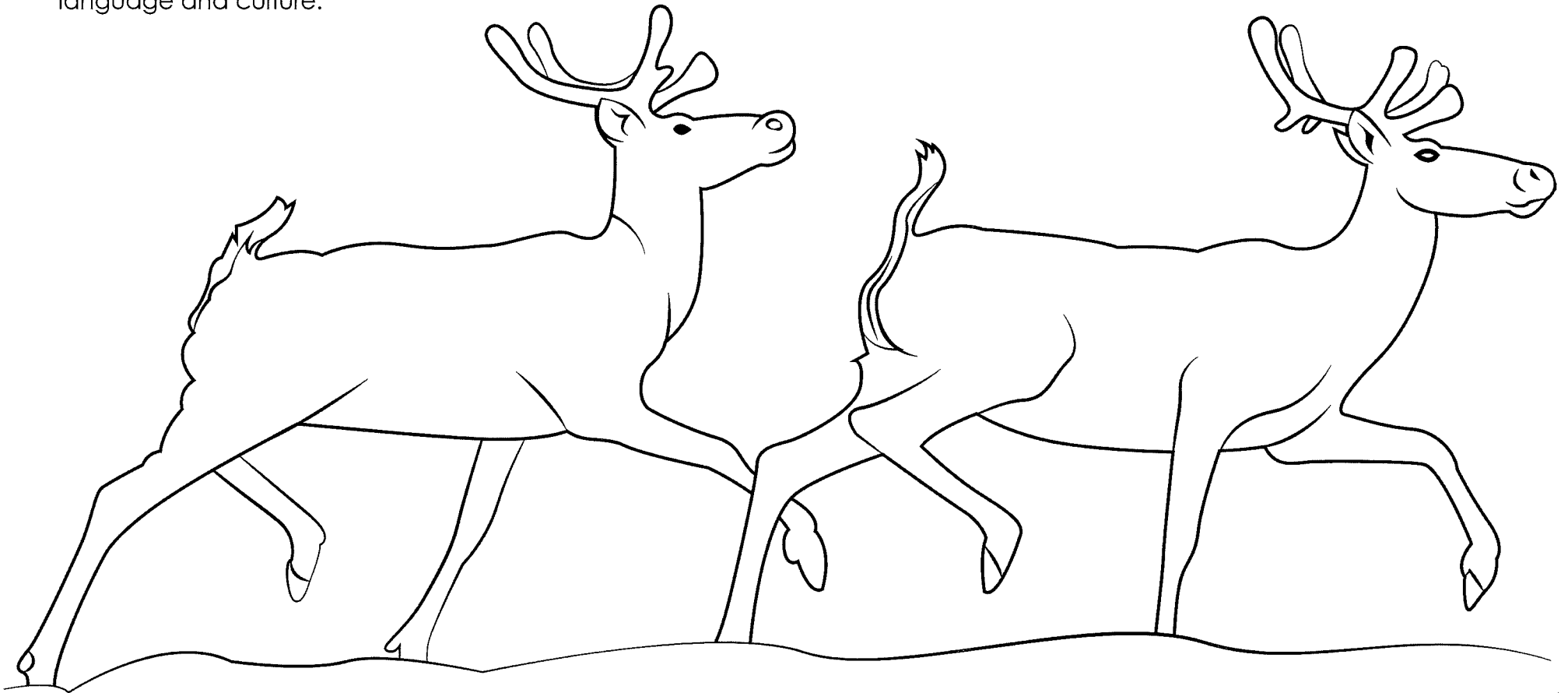




Wekweèti *rock lake*

Once known as Snare Lake, Wekweeti is a Tłı̨chǫ̨ community founded in 1960 by Tłı̨chǫ̨ elder and former chief Alexis Arrowmaker. Arrowmaker brought several families to the site from Behchoko, seeking a more traditional way of life. The site is within the traditional territory of the Tłı̨chǫ̨ First Nation, and while wage economy activities exist in the community, traditional lifestyles also abound. Caribou, moose, black bear, and wolf are a few examples of the animals that locals hunt and trap, as well as bountiful fish resources like pike and lake trout.

Before settling in the community, the Tłı̨chǫ̨ moved seasonally to hunt and fish according to animal patterns. Navigating waters in birch canoes, harvesting animals, and passing skills through generations is all part of the history of Wekweeti. While greater European interaction, an increased importance on a wage economy, and exposure to other lifestyles has impacted the Tłı̨chǫ̨, there is a strong push towards revitalizing the traditional culture and the teachings of generations past. Many in the community seek to find a balance between a newer way of life and the preservation of traditional language and culture.



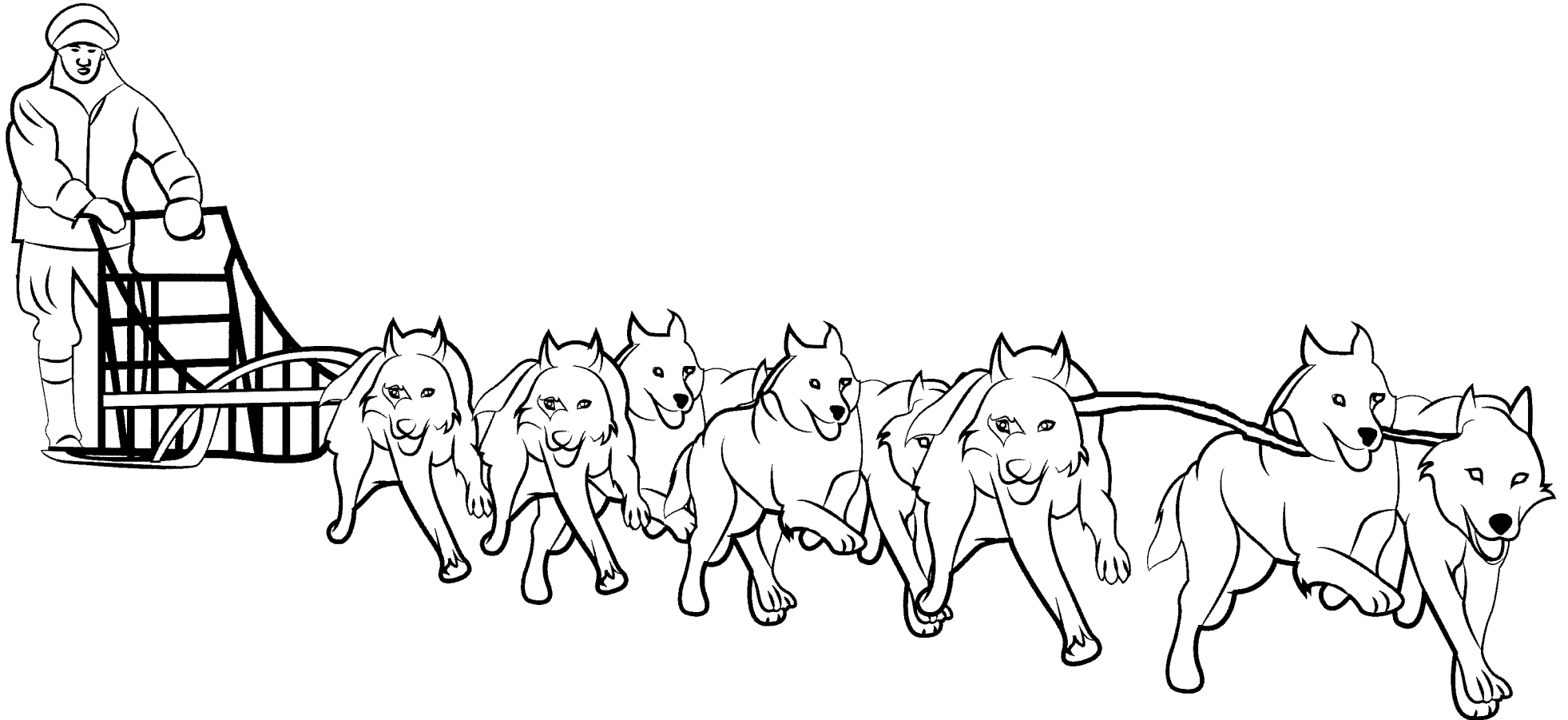


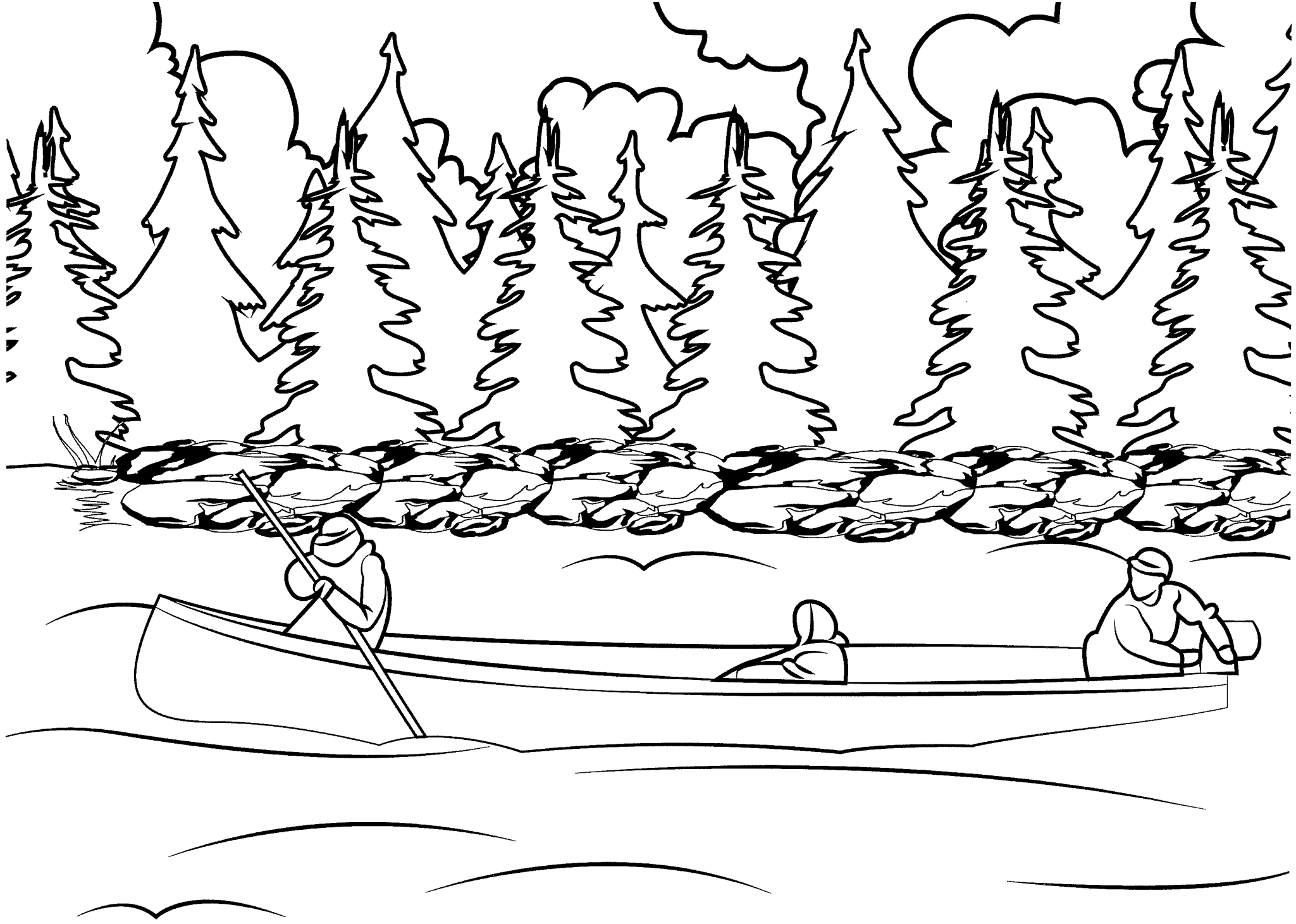
Whatì *marten lake*

Surrounded by forest on a flat lowland is Whatì, a Tłı̨ch̨ community formerly known as Lac La Martre (Marten Lake). As can be expected, Whatì is home to spectacular fishing for grayling, pike, lake trout, and whitefish. It is a longstanding traditional hunting ground for Tłı̨ch̨ people, and when the North West Company established a trading post at the site in 1793, many began to populate a community. After a period of lessened activity after 1817, the trading post was revitalized in the 1920s.

Whatì lies on the path of migratory birds, so spring and fall are bountiful hunting times for duck and geese as they gather near the community to feed. Nearby Whatì Falls is an attractive destination for tourists,

Traditional activities, language, and culture are important to the community. The majority of community members fluently speak Tłı̨ch̨, and customs related to harvesting and crafts like beading are passed down generationally.





Yellowknife / Sòmbak'è

money place

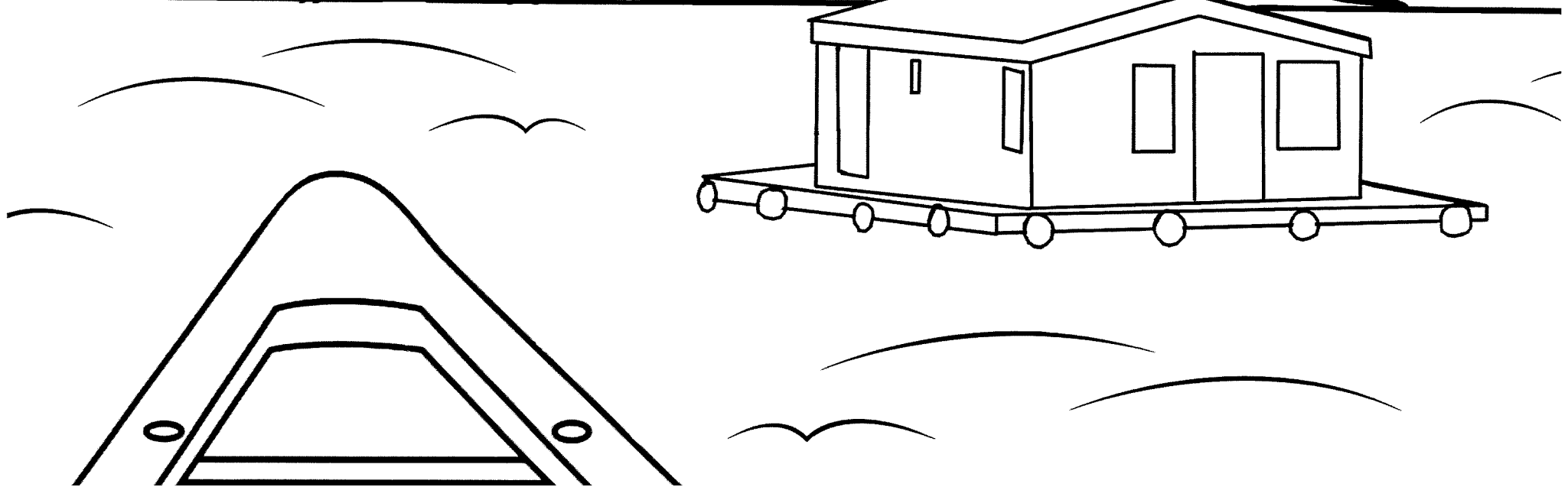


The capital and largest community of the Northwest Territories is Yellowknife, located on the west shore of Yellowknife Bay. The city became the capital in 1967, and is named for the Yellowknives Dene who have been in the area for many generations. The Yellowknives Dene were known as such because of the colour of the tools they made and traded, which were crafted from copper deposits.

As in many other communities, the Hudson's Bay Company was a founding influence in the community. In 1771, Hudson's Bay Company officer Samuel Hearne recorded having travelled to Great Slave Lake. In 1789, a trading post called Fort Providence was established near Yellowknife Bay and was operational for several decades. The discovery of gold at Yellowknife Bay in 1896 was a changing point in the city's history, though no mad rush took place to stake claims and this resource was not fully explored until 1934.

Yellowknife exploded by 1936, with companies developing mine shafts and beginning commercial gold production in 1938. Soon after, government administration was established and, although the community experienced the same shifts in production as many resource-centred settlements, the town expanded, a hydroelectric power station was built, and in 1953 Yellowknife became a Municipal District and was later designated capital of the Northwest Territories.

Once gold production declined, Yellowknife was a government-centred city until the discovery of diamonds in 1991. Today, Yellowknife is the centre of government administration, hosts a number of mining and exploration officers, and supports a thriving community.



South Slave Region

*Enterprise – Fort Providence – Fort Resolution – Fort Smith
Hay River – Kakisa - K'atl'odeeche First Nation*

South of Great Slave Lake lies the South Slave Region, sharing a southern border with Alberta and Saskatchewan, and bordering Nunavut to the east. Most of the seven communities in the region are well-connected by roads, and there is accessible air travel between the communities and beyond.

Because of its proximity to southern borders and ease of transit, the South Slave is a popular destination for tourists who come to marvel at the natural wonders in the region. A selection of waterfalls await, with plentiful wildlife and lush forested areas. Also because of its location, this region was among the first to be visited by Europeans exploring the fur trade.

Traditional crafts are popular in the South Slave, including beadwork, tufting, weaving and sewing, and making clothing using traditional materials and techniques.

