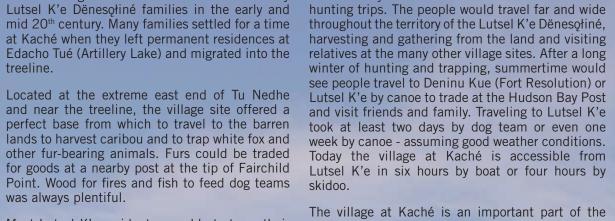
Dene Settlement at Kaché

The old village site at Kaché was home for many would always share meat from their successful

perfect base from which to travel to the barren lands to harvest caribou and to trap white fox and other fur-bearing animals. Furs could be traded for goods at a nearby post at the tip of Fairchild Point. Wood for fires and fish to feed dog teams was always plentiful.

Most Lutsel K'e residents are able to trace their ancestry to grandparents who used to live in the village at Kaché. Ancestral log homes of the and Casaway families remain at the village site, the guidance of the interspersed with evidence of how life was lived in Ni hat'ni Dene. those days – dog pens and houses, meat caches, and bone pits.

Life could certainly be hard in the days when the people lived at Kaché, but it was always full of adventure. Strong hunters were well in return



The village at Kaché is an important part of the heritage of the Lutsel K'e Dënesqliné, and the cultural resources present at this location must be preserved and respected. Please visit only with the permission Nitah, Marlowe, Catholique, Drybones, Lockhart, of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and under



Ni hat'ni Dene

To preserve the integrity of our homeland that is so fundamental to our cultural identity, the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation is working on establishing a protected area called Thaidene Nene, or "Land of the Ancestors". The Ni hat'ni Dene are the stewards and hosts of Thaidene Nene. They are responsible for maintaining the integrity of cultural sites and natural beauty, hosting visitors and transmitting cultural and scientific knowledge to younger generations. For further information and arranging tours with the Ni hat'ni Dene please contact the LKDFN or Gloria Enzoe (gloriaenzoe@hotmail.com).

Desnethche "the mouth of the river"

Deshun Bedézé (Lockhart River) is the sacred river of the Lutsel K'e Dënesqliné, which empties out into Tu Nedhe at Kaché after a long journey through the barren lands. At a majestic waterfall a ways upriver of Kaché sits Ts'ankui Thedá the "Old Lady of the Falls". For centuries this has been a great spiritual place for the people. Legends tell of an old Dënesqliné woman who sat in the waterfall, promising to help those in need as long as she is respected and protected for all time. Ts'ankui Thedá has helped those who are hungry or sick ever since.

Every year at the beginning of August, the Lutsel K'e Gathering at the long sand beach near the mouth of the river, which is called Desnethche. It is a special time for families and friends to reconnect with the land and celebrate traditions. People in need have the opportunity to visit Ts'ankui Thedá and pray for guidance and healing.

All these places must be treated with the utmost respect. Visitors are welcome to visit with the permission of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation and in the company of the Ni hat'ni Dene. Please appreciate that Ts'ankui Thedá should only be visited by those in need, and proper protocols must be followed when accessing the site





the river comes in". This part of the Lutsel K'e Dënesoliné raditional territory, well known for its crystal clear waters and spectacular scenery, is steeped in a rich cultural heritage as the traditional home to many families and the gateway to the barren lands. In this very special place, take time to explore the Creator's work and the history of the

and south-facing exposure, there can be groves of spruce with

Many large mammals thrive in the area, including moose, caribou,

muskoxen, bear, wolf, lynx and beaver. Overhead one can see bald

eagle and peregrine falcon. Thankfully, the deep and cold water

in this area minimizes the amount of mosquitoes that thrive in

The landscape at Kaché contains many landmarks used for

navigation for the Lutsel K'e Dënesqliné. Every point of land, hill,

and island has been used to guide the people on their way through

this region. To this very day, some of the residents of Lutsel K'e

still know the land like the back of their hand, and never need a

summertime, while providing the perfect habitat for the highly coveted lake trout and whitefish!

thick trunks and rare wildflowers beneath!

It's all about the elements

At first glance, one can see the clear waters lapping against rugged birch, willow, alder, and poplar are the dominant trees and shrubs, rocks, rising up into hills covered by evergreens whose crowns while underfoot there are berries, moss and lichen. Most of these seem to touch the endless sky. But a closer inspection reveals that grow small. However, in certain areas with abundant water supply

This beautiful landscape is the result of billions of years of geological activity and sculpting processes, with the Wisconsin glaciation leaving behind marks that reveal the story of its long history. The granite shoreline that is exposed today includes some of the oldest rocks in the world, formed up to 2.7 billion years ago! They were smoothed and polished by glacial ice, when massive ice sheets were moving over this area about 20 000 years ago, scouring the landscape. Other rocks were ground down to small particles and transported in glacial melt water, visible today on the white sandy beaches and shorelines of red shale and gravel. Once the last ice sheets disappeared and the deep waters of Tu Nedhe (Great Slave Lake) remained, flora and fauna began to establish themselves.

The harsh climate and rocky ground have limited the soil development and vegetation growth in the region. Spruce, pine,



is found Frequent forest fires play an Did you know that you can Hak'ós Tué Ts'ën Tł'azí commonly at Kaché in the important role in the life cycle tell a rock's age by the size of (Charlton Bay) is usually ice summer months. Their diet of the boreal forest. In fact the lichen growing on it? The free from about mid June until consists mainly of fish, and some trees like the jack pine elegant orange lichen is one mid October, which, besides its they soar on thermal currents. need fire in order to release of those species that can be depth, doesn't give the water Therefore they prefer to build seeds from their cones. their nests in large trees but sometimes place them on cliffs too. Try to use your eagle eye and you might even see a big



map to know their way.



used for so called lichenometry. much time to heat up in the Another one, the green map summer. The temperature will lichen, for example, only grows reach its peak in August, with 0.02-0.5mm a year so that a maximum of about 17°C. And one with 10cm in diameter is the photosynthesis rate is so therefore about 1000 years old slight that it is possible to look

Kaché Hakëth - Pike's Portage

In order to journey from the forests of Kaché to the barren lands to the east, one more than likely must travel the chain of trampled paths and small lakes between Charlton Harbor and Edacho Tué. Called Kaché Hakëth, or Pike's Portage by more recent European explorers, this important route has been used by the Lutsel K'e Dënesoliné for many generations as the primary route across the tree line. The barren lands, especially around Edacho Tué, is an important place to harvest the caribou upon which the Lutsel K'e Dënesoliné have always depended for subsistence and cultural identity.

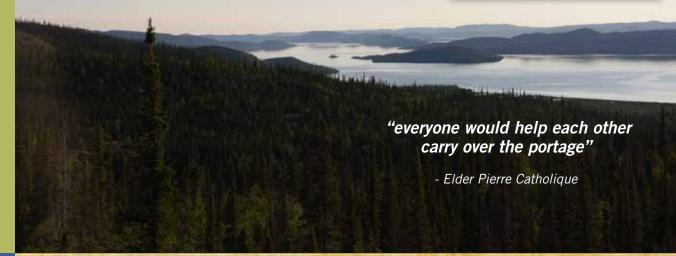
The portage route totals approximately 38 km, with the many small lakes connected by seven portage trails. The first portage trail between Charlton Harbor and Kehora Tué (Harry Lake), called Kaché Kará, is by far the most challenging. With a length of 5 km and an elevation gain of about 200 m, this first part of the portage passes a diverse landscape of raised beaches, high cliffs, and stunning lookouts. It makes an attractive hike. However, hidden in the foliage just off the trail are many signs of the Dënesofiné, including old campsites, cool watering holes surrounded by moss, and the graves of those who perished along the way. Please respect these places.

In the summer, the ancestors would travel Kaché Hakëth in teams, working together and making many trips back and forth on each portage trail to carry a season's worth of food and supplies out into the barren lands. This was backbreaking work. Even the dogs would help with the hauling, carrying supplies on their backs in caribouhide bags, or pulling small packs on miniature "travois". In the winter, the well-worn trail would make smooth sledding for a dogteam and musher. Today, Kaché Hakëth is primarily travelled in the winter by Lutsel K'e Dënesoliné riding snowmachines, travelling out towards Edacho Tué to harvest caribou and muskoxen. In the summer, the occasional canoeist is brave enough to make the trek.





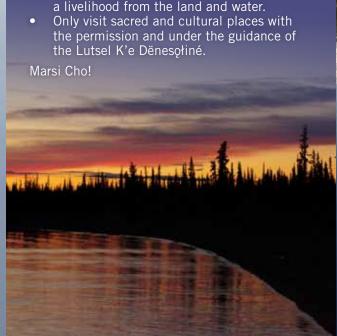




Respecting the Land the Dene Way

In order to ensure that the land continues to provide for future generations, the Lutsel K'e Dënesoliné practice with it a respectful relationship. We invite all to demonstrate their respect for our beautiful territory by following our traditions and laws:

- Pay the land and water with tobacco or spruce boughs before setting out on a
- Pay back the land or water for anything that has been taken.
- Never take from the land what is not • At every meal, feed the fire with some of
- Do not play with animals for sport. Never waste meat and usable parts of an
- animal (e.g. hides). Do not throw garbage on the land or in the water. Burn it or pack it out.
- Put out your fire before leaving camp.
- Do not disturb other people's camps and tools, even if it looks like it hasn't been
- Respect the Dene right to harvest and make a livelihood from the land and water.





Etthen - caribou

The caribou have always played a central role in the livelihood and culture of the Lutsel K'e Dënesoliné. Caribou is the key to survival and the foundation of the Dënesqiiné way of life. Our traditional territory is also the home of the caribou: on the boundary between the boreal forest and the barren land. The caribou spend more time along and around the tree line than anywhere else, feeding on the readily available lichens that make up their primary diet. In the springtime, the caribou cross the still-frozen lakes making their way northeast to the calving grounds in the tundra. In the fall, the caribou return with their calves in great herds numbering into the tens of thousands, streaming across the landscape along centuries old migration paths towards their wintering grounds around Tu Nedhe.

Our ancestors followed the annual migrations of the caribou, living a very nomadic lifestyle with entire Candles families moving from camp to camp. The caribou did not just provide the main food for the people; it was also used for many other things including clothing, shelter, toys, and tools. Almost all parts of the caribou were used. This intimate relationship with the caribou has fostered a profound respect amongst the Lutsel K'e Dënesçliné for this special animal. The youngest child is told the legends of the caribou, and is taught how to respect the animal a

"The caribou, I remember as I was told when I was a voung girl, they feed us, cloth us, guide us, and for this reason we respect them with every breath we take as Dene."

Clothing, moccasins, tents, teepees, sleds, thongs for snowshoes, drums, dog harnesses

Snowshoes, thread for sewing

Scraping tools, needles, knifes, hunting equipment, sticks for hand games

Tongue for example is regarded as very delicious, brain or marrow used for tanning hides





