

Goal 5

Support opportunities that strengthen Indigenous prosperity and well-being

Thaidene Nënë has created prosperity for countless generations of Indigenous peoples. Over the past 150 years, the western economy has created new industries and sources of wealth, but Indigenous peoples of the area have been excluded from those benefits. As a protected area, Thaidene Nënë offers a new economy with a host of opportunities. A key priority is the prosperity of members of signatory Indigenous governments.

The establishment and impact and benefit agreements prioritize training and employment for members of signatory Indigenous governments (Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Deninu Kųę First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, as applicable). The jobs and business opportunities available to members are focused on the conservation and tourism economy, including jobs with the Partners, as well as business opportunities including guiding, outfitting, catering, and hospitality.¹

There have been positive employment gains made since Thaidene Nënë was established in 2019, including multiple jobs created in protected area operations, and a few local business operators now provide licensed tourism services to visitors.

Future policy will aim to reduce barriers to employment for members of signatory Indigenous governments, and support Indigenous businesses, while maintaining the cultural continuity and ecological integrity of Thaidene Nënë, promoting consistency and fairness, and ensuring safe and quality visitor experiences.

Objectives	Targets/Indicators
5.1 Business opportunities are created that support Thaidene Nënë and benefit signatory Indigenous governments and their members.	<p>5.1.1 A commercial activity licensing policy and land occupancy policy are developed. These policies promote Indigenous businesses operating in Thaidene Nënë.</p> <p>5.1.2 Non-Indigenous applicants for business licences in the National Park Reserve demonstrate how their proposed activities will support and benefit Indigenous communities.</p> <p>5.1.3 Business opportunities within the Territorial Protected Area look to support and benefit Indigenous communities where possible (e.g., partnerships, employment, building relationships).</p>

¹ Business opportunities only apply to the National Park Reserve.



Thaidene Nënë badı xá (Working with Thaidene Nënë)
 Thaidene Nënë Relationship Plan,
 the management plan for Thaidene Nënë

Goal 5 (continued)

Support opportunities that strengthen Indigenous prosperity and well-being

Objectives	Targets/Indicators
5.2 Maximize employment opportunities of members from signatory Indigenous governments for all positions within Thaidene Nënë.	5.2.1 Human resource/hiring policies support Indigenous applicants applying for and being successful in attaining and retaining Thaidene Nënë jobs.
	5.2.2 A Thaidene Nënë mentorship/leader-in-training program is developed.
5.3 Infrastructure barriers to local employment are reduced.	5.3.1 Housing units are available to support staffing of Thaidene Nënë operational positions in Łutsël K'é. ²
	5.3.2 An office complex and visitor centre is developed in Łutsël K'é, where staff from Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation, Parks Canada, and Government of Northwest Territories can work together collaboratively.
5.4 Members from signatory Indigenous governments, including youth, have training and education opportunities related to Thaidene Nënë.	5.4.1 Business development, tourism planning, monitoring, and other training opportunities are provided.
	5.4.2 K-12 students learn about Thaidene Nënë through educational programming.
	5.4.3 Scholarship opportunities are available for members of Partner Indigenous governments.

² The plan does not quantify numbers; however, it is important to note that the number of housing units will not equal the number of Thaidene Nene staff employed by Parks Canada, Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation and/or the Government of Northwest Territories.



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