Behchokò, Northwest Territories
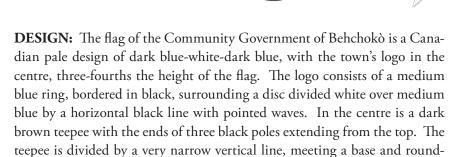
Population Rank: Canada. . . . 1,367
Territory. . . . 5

Proportions: 1:2 (usage)
Adopted: Unknown,
modified 1985

DESIGN: The flag of the Community Government of Behchokò is a Canadian pale design of dark blue-white-dark blue, with the town's logo in the centre, three-fourths the height of the flag. The logo consists of a medium blue ring, bordered in black, surrounding a disc divided white over medium blue by a horizontal black line with pointed waves. In the centre is a dark brown teepee with the ends of three black poles extending from the top. The teepee is divided by a very narrow vertical line, meeting a base and round-topped door, all in black.

SYMBOLISM: Behchokò was originally two villages—Rae, named for John Rae, who established a Hudson's Bay Company post in 1852 at Old Fort Rae, and Edzo, named for Chief Edzo, who was a Tlicho leader who made peace in 1823 with Akaitcho, the Yellowknife Dene leader. In 1971 the two villages amalgamated and became the community of Rae-Edzo, and in 2005 the community's name was changed to Behchokò, which means "Mbehcho's place". Rae is about 15 km from the village of Edzo on a rocky peninsula on the southeast shore of Marion Lake. Edzo is on the east shore of the West Channel which flows between Marion Lake and the North Arm of Great

Slave Lake, the fourth largest lake in Canada, and eleventh largest in the world. The town receives economic benefit, such as fishing, from the lakes. The Tlicho people also have strong beliefs in water spirits, probably due to their close geographical proximity to these bodies of water, which are represented on the logo by the wavy blue base. The teepee represents the native Tlicho, formerly known as the Dogrib, a once-nomadic people whose hunting lifestyle centred on the caribou hunt. In the summer they would live in temporary teepees covered with bark, spruce boughs, or caribou hide. The Canadian pale design is a reference to Behchokò as a Canadian municipality and echoes the territorial flag. The blue wavy line on the seal represents the entire Great Slave Lake.

HOW SELECTED: All such NWT/Nunavut civic flags were designed in 1985 for the Northwest Territories Exhibition Hall at Vancouver's Expo '86, at the initiative of heraldry enthusiast Michael Moore, then a deputy minister at the NWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA). The side-bar colours of these Canadian pale designs vary from dark blue, to green, to brown, and to bright red.

DESIGNER: Unknown. Rob Butler, graphic artist at Inkit Graphics in Yellowknife, NWT, adapted the design from the earlier flag.

FORMER FLAG: A previous flag, also in a Canadian pale design of blue-white-blue, bears the pre-name-change version of the seal. It has a yellow ring inscribed **INCORPORATED HAMLET OF** above and — **RAE – EDZO** — below, all in black sans-serif letters.

JC