

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

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October 07, 2016

Clayton Balsillie
Director of Aboriginal Consultation and Aboriginal Relations
Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations
Government of the Northwest Territories
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Via Email

Dear Mr. Balsillie:

Re: Preliminary Assessment of North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) members' Aboriginal rights as Métis for the Department of Transportation's Proposed "Tlicho All-Season Road" and the Department of Lands' Draft "Recreational Land Management Framework"

We write to follow-up on our letter to you dated August 10, 2016, requesting a meeting to discuss the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) assessment of the preliminary strength of claim and content of NSMA members' Aboriginal rights as Metis. We have not yet had a response from you.

We wish to set up a meeting, in the near future, because two different GNWT departments - the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Lands (DOL) - have both told us they will not be providing NSMA with a preliminary strength of claim assessment, for the purpose of informing their respective consultations (regarding the above-noted projects), because they understand that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (DAAIR) will be providing the NSMA with the GNWT's preliminary strength of claim assessment.

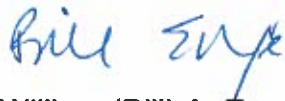
With respect to the above, DOT in a letter dated July 27, 2016, told NSMA that DAAIR would do the preliminary strength of claim assessment to inform its consultation on the Proposed Tlicho All Season Road, and DOL in a letter dated October 04, 2016, told NSMA that DAAIR would be doing the preliminary strength of claim assessment to inform its consultation on the draft "Recreational Land Management Framework".

NSMA is ready, willing and keen to meet with you – and any other representatives from DOT, DOL and/or the GNWT – so that we may have a meaningful discussion regarding the GNWT's information and views of NSMA members' Aboriginal rights as Métis.

Please note: in order for the the GNWT to be consistent with its common law duty to consult as well as its obligation to deal fairly with the NSMA, the GNWT cannot assert a project's impact will be mitigated without first discussing the nature and extent of the Aboriginal rights that will be impacted - in this case NSMA members' Aboriginal rights as Metis. In the case of the aforementioned projects, the GNWT has – to date – failed to discuss the nature and extent of NSMA members' Aboriginal rights as Metis and, for this reason, NSMA must take the position that the GNWT's duty to consult respecting these projects has not yet been fulfilled.

We are available to meet (the afternoons preferably) with you on the following dates:
October 19, 20, 21, 2016.

Yours truly,



William (Bill) A. Enge
President

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cc: **Mr. Michael Conway**, Regional Superintendent, North Slave Region, DOT
Email: michael_Conway@gov.nt.ca
Mr. Russell Neudorf, Deputy Minister, DOT
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Mr. Ryan Fequet, Executive Director, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board
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