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## Dear Readers,

NOVEMBER 18, 2002

## Re: PRAIRIE CREEK BLAMED

The Prairie Creek Mine is probably the highest grade untapped base metals resource in Canada today. It contains in excess of \$2.5 billion of zinc lead and copper with silver and gold credits. It has a mine and mill built on the site in 1982, but never operated.

Mill building

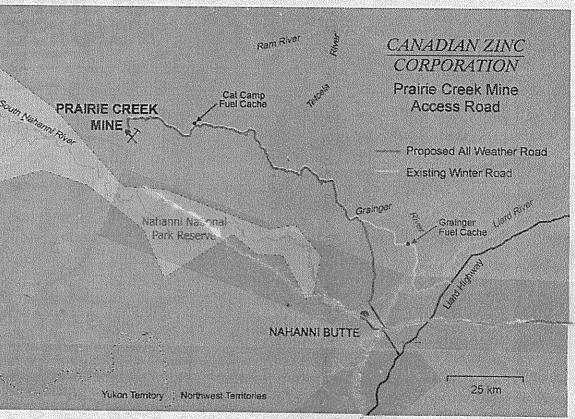
Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN) has been working on the permitting and development of this mine for the last 10 years, having purchased the operation out of bankruptcy. We have spent in excess of \$15 million on the project and the site con-

tains infrastructure and existing development valued at \$100 million in today's money. Over the last three years we have applied for permits to clean up a number of legacies of the original mine development, dating back to 1965 and also to carry out additional advanced exploration.

In July 2000, we applied to Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board for a permit to clean up fuel and other construction

materials from Cat Camp, some 20 miles from the mine up the original mine access road, with a plan to complete this work before the end of the summer season. After some 20 months and intense lobbying by Parks Canada, CPAWS and others, our original application was refused and a modified plan offered by the MVEIRB, which, in the opinion of the Company, was hazardous and significantly increased the risk to the environment. We rejected this plan on safety grounds. (see map)

At the same time we were also looking into recovery of fuel left by the original mine development at the Grainger fuel cache, in co-operation with the Nahanni Butte Dene Band. Before we could complete these plans, Environment Canada declared both sites as potential sources of contamination and subsequently DIAND burned the fuel off at a cost to the taxpayer in excess of \$400,000. Remedial work at the two sites will still be necessary, as will the collection of the other construction materials remaining and the original fuel tanks. Our original permit application still



Conclusions in this report rely on this data and ignore current conditions, or the levels of final site discharges and are considered by Canadian Zinc to be in many cases erroneous or misleading. Data subsequently provided to MVEIRB by CZN as part of the recent information request, and available to DIAND on request, indicates that discharges since 1995 have generally been within the original 1982 water licence, now expired, and have at all times been with the Mines Metals Effluent Regulations currently in force throughout Canada.

Strangely, the report shows that water qualities in Prairie Creek for certain parameters are worse above the mine than they are below the mine discharge point. One other interesting fact thrown up by the report is that the quality of water flowing from Prairie Creek into the South Nahanni River is significantly better than the water flowing over Virginia Falls, as indicated in the latest report from Environment Canada entitled "Protecting the Aquatic Quality of Nahanni National Park Reserve.

remains unresolved.

In early 2001, we completed a Scoping Study, which clearly showed that the mine can be developed and operated successfully and in an environmentally responsible manner, even at today's low metals prices. The mine will take six months to complete once permits are in place and will run for at least 18 years, with significant potential to increase this resource. During this period it will employ at least 175 people directly and generate gross revenues in excess of \$138 million per annum. Much of this will remain in the NWT in the form of wages, taxes, local supplies, transport, contracts, etc. The mine has a Development and Co-operation Agreement with the Nahanni Butte Dene Band, which envisages preferential development of contracting and employment opportunities to the Band and the Deh Cho First Nation.



Signing of Agreement between Tony Millar, then Chairman Canadian Zinc and Chief Leon Konisenta-Nahanni Butte Dene Band.

As part of our attempts to move to full bankable feasibility and final development and upgrading of the mine and access road, we applied in early 2001 to operate a pilot plant totally within the existing mill building and to drive an exploration tunnel to carry out confirmation drilling of the first areas to be mined. These are simple, advanced exploration activities that would

normally take from 42 to 60 days to complete the permitting process.

Again, following intense lobbying by Park's Canada, CPAWS and others, this application was passed to the MVEIRB for review. After 13 months of deliberation, the MVEIRB recommended that the development should go ahead with certain safeguards. This recommendation was passed to Minister Nault in January 2002.

In September 2002, after a number of letters by the Company protesting the delays, Minister Nault, in consultation with other "Responsible Ministries" came back with a single request for more details regarding water treatment for the two proposed developments. MVEIRB then put out an information request and a timetable that expects to see a final decision on these two simple permits by early 2003, some two years after we applied to do the work.

In July of this year, DIAND prepared a report by Roxanne Beavers, entitled "Historical Water Quality of the Prairie Creek Area". The report compiled data from 1982 to-date, and is a useful compendium of water quality data on both Prairie Creek and the South Nahanni River. However, it lacks any data on discharges from the Prairie Creek Mine site since 1995 and in general fails to link water quality levels with activity levels and treatment regimes on the site. In defense of the author, she recognizes and notes the inadequacy of the data.

NWI



Sampling of Vein underground.

Flows from the old 870m portal, highlighted in the DIAND report, are low volume and seasonal, ceasing as the temperature drops and the water freezes. Typically, total discharges of zinc metal from the Prairie Creek Mine site equate to around 25 milligrams per second over the six warmer months, (May to October.) A drugstore zinc tablet contains 60 milligrams and the recommended dosage is one tablet daily. The Nahanni River, as it flows over Virginia Falls, carries 12,500 milligrams per second of zinc or the equivalent of 208 zinc tablets per second, throughout the same six-month period. Metal loading from the mine is so low, that the water quality of Prairie Creek at its mouth contains zinc levels around 5 times LESS than the Nahanni River at Virainia Falls.

The Prairie Creek Mine and mill site is some 32 km upstream from Nahanni National Park Reserve boundary. It is approximately 48 kilometers up stream from the junction of Prairie Creek and the

Nahanni. Our current plans will in no way impact the Park Reserve and will include all necessary treatment of water from the mine and access road, when development is completed. Additionally we have offered to treat the existing mine water discharge as part of the pilot plant and decline development, to ensure that the site meets current acceptable standards for mine water discharge. This work has so far been held up for 20 months pending permitting.

Modern mine development can be environmentally low impact and represents the best way to exploit this extremely valuable deposit and generate value and employment for the NWT and all its residents. Our current proposals for a pilot plant and exploration decline are designed to show that a mine and water treatment plant can be successfully operated on this site, prior to any mine development being contemplated or completed.

Canadian Zinc Corporation is committed to responsible mine development and generation of revenue and at least 175 jobs within the NWT and value added for our shareholders and our partners, the Nahanni Butte Dene Band. We will continue to work on this project in order to bring it into production and look to the permitting regime and the people of the Northwest Territories to help us reach this goal in a timely and realistic manner.

Malcolm JA Swallow President and CEO

For more information on Canadian Zinc and the Prairie Creek Mine please visit our web site at www.canadianzinc.com or call us toll fee at 1-866-688-2001