

In response to a question from Review Board member John Curran on the membership and background of Alternatives North on September 11, 2012, we provide the following information.

Background on Alternatives North

Alternatives North (AN) was established 20 years ago and functions as a social justice coalition and non-profit society, based in Yellowknife and operating in the Northwest Territories. Within our ranks are representatives of churches, labour unions, environmental organizations, women and family advocates, seniors and anti-poverty groups. Alternatives North is an active volunteer organization with a well established history of its ability to constructively engage with other stakeholders and interests on issues. We have a proven track record of securing resources for research and bringing together people to work through issues and concerns.

We have no paid staff or office. Our participation in this Environmental Assessment was supported through the extensive volunteer efforts of our members and participant and special funding provided by the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the Western Mining Action Network, and the Abandoned Mines Program through Memorial University. We also acknowledge in-kind support by some of our contractors and experts who graciously reduced their rates in the interest of public service.

Information on Alternatives North's interest in the Giant Mine is found in our Technical Report:

http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA0809-001_Alternatives_North_Giant_Mine_EA_Technical_Report.PDF

Membership and Representation

We are in our annual renewal cycle right now so we certainly expect more renewals in the near future. The following are currently members:

Union of Northern Workers
Yellowknife United Church
24 individual members

We have worked with and had the following organizations as members:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith
Northern Territories Federation of Labour
Ecology North
NWT Literacy Council
YWCA Yellowknife
Centre for Northern Families
NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities
Public Service Alliance of Canada North

Alternatives North itself is affiliated with or involved in a number of national coalitions and organizations including:

MiningWatch Canada
National Anti-Poverty Organizations
Canadian Health Care Coalition
Western Mining Action Network
Canadian Council on Social Development
Canadian Peace Alliance

Alternatives North Involvement in the Giant Mine Environmental Assessment

- Kevin O'Reilly has been a party since the beginning of the Environmental Assessment;
- Alternatives North (AN) filed a 'Request for Party Status' with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board on December 6, 2010 and selected Mr. O'Reilly to represent AN on this file;
- Review Board grants party status to AN on December 21, 2010.
- AN (and before AN was a party, Kevin O'Reilly) has made over 75 submissions to the Review Board public registry. Our participation has included the following:
 - Two Rounds of Information requests to the Developers on environmental and socioeconomic matters, including water quality predictions, ice thinning, tailing cover design, access to information, perpetual care planning, independent oversight and other topics;
 - Filing of evidence on perpetual care, long-term funding, independent oversight and other matters;
 - Informal requests for information and procedural clarifications;
 - Participation in the Technical Sessions held in October 2011 and the technical meeting held in June 2012;
 - Co-sponsorship and organization of two workshop with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (September 2011 on Perpetual Care at Dettah and March 2012 on Oversight at Yellowknife);
 - Participation in two working groups (Environmental Management and Oversight) established as a result of our raising issues and suggesting a constructive dialogue; and
 - Organization of public events on the Giant Mine regarding perpetual care and oversight.
- AN filed a Technical Report and presentation for the public hearing.
- All of the submissions from AN have met the Review Board's requirements and deadlines

Kevin O'Reilly's personal involvement in Giant Mine issues goes back over 20 years. He has worked for the federal, territorial and Aboriginal governments on northern environmental and regulatory matters with extensive experience in mine closure and remediation. Mr. O'Reilly served on Yellowknife City Council 1997-2006, including the difficult period when the Giant Mine went into receivership.

Mr. O'Reilly received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Government of the Northwest Territories on July 1, 2012. The citation for this award specifically referenced his leadership on the remediation of the Giant Mine (<http://www.executive.gov.nt.ca/offices/protocol/NWTJubileeMedalRecipients/index.html>).

Further details on Mr. O'Reilly background and experience was filed with Review Board and are available at:

http://www.reviewboard.ca/upload/project_document/EA0809-001_Alternatives_North_Expert_CVs.PDF