

Faculty of Arts

Department of History St. John's, NL Canada A1C 5S7 Tel: 709-864-8420 Fax: 709-864-2164 www.mun.ca

August 9, 2012

Alan Ehrlich Manager, Environmental Impact Assessment Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board 200 Scotia Centre Box 938, 5102-50th Ave Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Dear Alan,

Please accept the attached report "Giant Mine: Historical Summary" as a submission to the Giant Mine Remediation Project Environmental Assessment. We are independent scholars who have been conducting research on Giant Mine as part of a broader Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) project, Abandoned Mines in Northern Canada (<u>http://www.abandonedminesnc.com/</u>). The goal of our project is to better understand the social, environmental, and economic impacts of historic and abandoned mines on northern Native communities.

We are submitting this report because we believe that it will provide the EA process with a more complete knowledge of the historical environmental and health impacts of Giant Mine, and a more thorough understand of the mine's impact on the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. One of the key findings of our project is that contemporary community responses to mine remediation are almost inevitably influenced by the historical knowledge and memory of an adjacent mine. As communities imagine what an abandoned mining landscape might become in the future, they often confront the historical changes the mine brought about in the first place. We believe that the historical information contained in this report will contribute to this process, and ultimately a better informed decision on how to proceed with the remediation of the site.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Yours Truly,

John Sandlos Associate Professor Department of History jsandlos@mun.ca 709-864-2429 Arn Keeling Associate Professor Department of Geography <u>akeeling@mun.ca</u> 709-864-8990