

August 7, 2013

Honourable Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L8

Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau QC K1A 0H4

Honourable Gail Shea
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
200 Kent Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0E6

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of the Environment
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

Dear Ministers,

**Re: GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT**

As Members of the NWT Legislative Assembly, representing our jurisdictions within the City of Yellowknife and the community of Dettah, and including the site of the Giant Mine and surrounding environs, we are writing to urge you as the Responsible Ministers under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, to move forward comprehensively with the acceptance and implementation of the recommended binding measures and suggestions contained in the Report of Environmental Assessment on the Giant Mine Remediation Project.

The Giant Mine is a terrible environmental legacy in our community. The Report of Environmental Assessment resolves some limitations with the original Remediation Plan and puts into place the tools and steps required to ensure a closure program with flexibility and best practices as its principles. There is also the potential for much



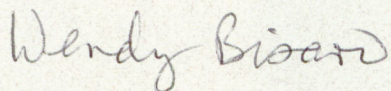
improved involvement from our community. Both of these are positive outcomes of the report.

We acknowledge that within our communities there is still significant concern with the Giant Mine Remediation Project as envisioned by the federal and territorial governments. The five-year Environmental Assessment was a thorough and fair process; the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board listened carefully to the concerns of Yellowknife and Dettah residents, including our Aboriginal citizens. We believe that the Report of Environmental Assessment by the Review Board presents a reasoned and sound path forward to begin to build public accountability and some measure of acceptance of the project by our communities.

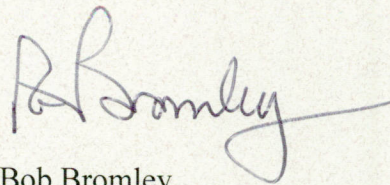
We are aware of the strong support of the City of Yellowknife for the acceptance and implementation of the Report of Environmental Assessment as shown by the unanimous passage of the attached Council Resolution on July 22, 2013 and we agree with the content of the motion.

The time has come to at least stabilize this unfortunate environmental legacy and start a new chapter of best practices for mineral development in the North. We can show that Yellowknife can be an example for the world. While our people have experienced some benefits of responsible mineral development, it is time to begin mitigating the costly and threatening mistakes of the past, with the meaningful involvement of the people who live here. **We call upon you to fully accept the measures and suggestions recommended by the Review Board** pursuant to s. 130(1)(b)(i) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. This will allow for a timely and cooperative beginning to the remediation of Giant Mine.

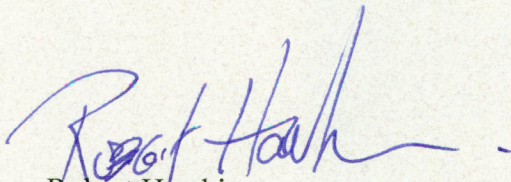
Sincerely,



Wendy Bisaro
MLA Frame Lake



Bob Bromley
MLA Weledeh



Robert Hawkins
MLA Yellowknife Centre

cc. Chief Edward Sangris and Chief Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Bill Enge, President, North Slave Metis Alliance
Mayor Mark Heyck, City of Yellowknife
Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
Review Board
Premier Bob McLeod, Government of the Northwest Territories, MLA Yellowknife
South
Honourable David Ramsay, MLA Kam Lake
Honourable Glen Abernethy, MLA Great Slave

RESOLUTION ON THE GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS Yellowknife City Council voted unanimously on March 18, 2008 to make a mandatory referral of the Giant Mine Remediation Project water licence application for an environmental assessment pursuant to s. 126(2)(d) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*;

WHEREAS the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board issued its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision on the Giant Mine Remediation Project (EA0809-001) on June 20, 2013;

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife participated in good faith in the environmental assessment of the Giant Mine Remediation Project in an attempt to resolve concerns directly related to the Project, including:

- Possible water quality changes;
- Potential ice thinning in Back Bay and related public safety;
- Future land use at the site given the City's lease of the townsite and marina areas;
- Community-based and independent oversight; and
- Ongoing investment into research and development of a more permanent solution for the management of the underground arsenic.

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife continues to believe that there is significant public concern with the Giant Mine Remediation Project and the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts from the Project;

WHEREAS the City of Yellowknife has carefully reviewed the Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision on the Giant Mine Remediation Project;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Yellowknife considers the Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision on the Giant Mine Remediation Project to provide a reasonable path forward provided that all the recommended binding measures are implemented;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Yellowknife calls upon the Responsible Ministers for the Giant Mine Remediation Project (federal Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Environment Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans, and territorial Environment and Natural Resources) to fully accept the measures recommended by the Review Board pursuant to s. 130(1)(b)(i) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mayor of Yellowknife write the Responsible Ministers to convey this motion as soon as possible and work with other interested parties to ensure that the Report of Environmental Assessment and its recommendations are fully implemented;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Yellowknife City Council direct its Administration to continue efforts to resolve other outstanding issues on the Giant Mine that were outside the scope of the environmental assessment including, but not limited to:

- Replacement of the water pipeline from the Yellowknife River to the City pumphouse;
- Payments in lieu of taxes;
- Soil remediation criteria for the Giant Mine townsite;
- Coordinated emergency services planning for the Giant Mine;
- Bonding; and
- Projects Related to Harbour Plan.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON JULY 22, 2013