



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JAN 28 2010



Mr. Bob Bromley, MLA
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2L9

Dear Mr. Bromley:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2009, concerning your request for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to reconsider its decision on the funding proposal submitted by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the City of Yellowknife and Mr. Kevin O'Reilly.

As stated in a letter dated November 12, 2009, from Ms. Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Northwest Territories Regional Director General, the Department is required to prepare a Developer's Assessment Report based on the Terms of Reference issued by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. As specified in the Terms of Reference, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and its consultants are already well advanced on identifying a framework for all possible independent monitoring programs. Consequently, the provision of funding for the noted proposal would be a duplication of work already substantially completed. Furthermore, while the Department stated during the scoping hearing for the Giant Mine Remediation Project Environmental Assessment that it would be willing to receive proposals for participant funding, the Department was quite clear that the proposals would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that the Department is supportive of public participation in this as well as all other environmental assessments. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada remains willing to consider proposals for areas of study not already completed by the Department.

Sincerely,

Chuck Strahl