



## Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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March 12, 2012

Alan Ehrlich  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
X1A 2N7  
Fax: 867-766-7074

Dear Mr. Ehrlich:

### **Re: Request to Delay Technical Reports and Public Hearings**

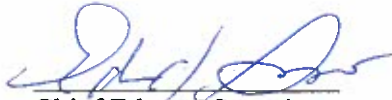
As you are aware, the continued involvement of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in the remainder of the environmental assessment process, and for the on-going life of the Giant Mine Remediation project, is critical. Giant Mine is situated on the traditional territory of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) and, for almost 80 years, the YKDFN have suffered the consequences of gold mining in this area. This legacy of direct impacts will continue into the foreseeable future as the federal and territorial governments propose long-term remediation, monitoring and management actions.

For these reasons, the YKDFN established, in February, 2012, the Giant Mine Advisory Committee to provide a forum where the YKDFN can begin to address community concerns related to the historical impacts of Giant Mine, the remediation and the environmental assessment (EA) process. The Giant Mine Advisory Committee (GMAC) represents YKDFN community members of N'dilo, Dettah, Enodah (Trout Rock), and Yellowknife. The main goal of the committee is to ensure effective YKDFN community participation and representation in all future aspects of the proposed mine remediation through providing valuable contributions to the remainder of the Giant Mine EA, regulatory permitting, remediation and monitoring planning.

Recognizing the challenges that the GMAC face, given the vast amount of information that needs to be reviewed and discussed, and the late establishment of this committee, we kindly request that both the Technical Reports and Public Hearings be delayed. The committee is currently in the process of scheduling community workshop meetings, reviewing over 30 years of historical background material, and considering over four years of EA documents. As such, the committee is of the opinion that in order for meaningful community participation in the EA process to occur, the committee needs more time. We would like to suggest that the Technical

Reports due date be delayed to mid-July, 2012 and the public hearings to follow shortly thereafter. The YKDFN hope that the Board will be in agreement with our request, and we look forward to your response. If you have any further questions please contact Terri Bugg, Community Liaison and Technical Advisor at (867) 766-7654 or [tbugg@ykdene.com](mailto:tbugg@ykdene.com)

Sincerely,



Chief Edward Sangris  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)



Chief Ted Tsetta  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (N'Dilo)