



DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS

BOX 89, FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T., X0E 0N0
TEL: (867) 695-2355/2610 TOLL FREE: 1 (866) 995-3748
FAX: (867) 695-2038
e-mail: dcfn@dehchofirstnations.com



January 29, 2009

Alistair MacDonald
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
5102 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. MacDonald:

I am writing to clarify statements questioning the position of DFN. Firstly, Ecojustice Canada has been retained by the Dehcho First Nations to present DFN's regional position in the Request for Rulings in this Environmental Assessment of the Prairie Creek Mine project. Under the former name of Sierra Legal Defense Fund, Ecojustice Canada has worked closely with DFN for a few years on issues related to protecting the South Nahanni watershed. We wish to clarify that Ecojustice Canada's submissions to the MVEIRB on our behalf, had been requested and authorized by DFN.

Secondly, the DFN regional position has been mandated to DFN through Regional Leadership and Assembly Resolutions. While individuals may have recently expressed different position, the DFN regional position remains firm. The DFN supports the communities and is committed to work with them. DFN has processes such as Leadership Meetings and Annual Assemblies to provide each member communities to have input in any of its directions. The Winter Leadership meeting has been set for Feb 23-27, 2009, scheduled tentatively for Liidlil Kue.

We recognize that proposed resource developments such as the proposed Prairie Creek mine, could bring some short-term economic benefit to the Dehcho region. However, these resource developments could also result in significant long-term environmental harm to our lands, waters, and people. As such, in our view, and our Elders' long-term objective of protecting the South Nahanni watershed, every effort must be made to ensure that the environmental assessment is thorough and fair.

Our firm position during this environmental assessment is not to disrupt the regulatory process however it is to ensure that all environmental considerations are taken into account, should the development proceed. As such, we are advocating for a thorough environmental assessment of the entire Prairie Creek project. Only through a comprehensive and complete environmental assessment can the full impacts of this proposed project be assessed, and appropriate decisions made.

Mahsi Cho



Gerald R. Antoine
Grand Chief

cc. DFN Leadership