



June 21, 2011

Chuck Hubert  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Review Board  
Suite 200, 5102 50th Avenue,  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2N7  
(Sent electronically)

Dear Mr. Hubert

**RE: Environmental Assessment EA0809-002, Prairie Creek Mine**

I am writing you today in my capacity as President of Dehcho Regional Helicopters LP and to express its support of Canadian Zinc as it progresses through the regulatory review process, specifically EA0809-002 related to its proposed Prairie Creek Mine.

I'm not sure whether you are aware or not, but Dehcho Regional Helicopters is 100% owned and controlled by a partnership between the business arms of Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Fort Simpson Metis Local 52, Nahanni Butte Dene Band, Sambaa K'e First Nation, Jean Marie River First Nation, Pehdzeh Ki First Nation and Liidlii Kue First Nation. Thanks in part to our ongoing relationship with Canadian Zinc, our company has been able to purchase a Eurocopter AStar 350B2, a helicopter well suited to supporting the mining and mineral exploration sectors in our region. The purchase value of this helicopter was in excess of \$2 million USD. All flight operations for our venture are conducted by our joint-venture partner Great Slave Helicopters Ltd.

Every year since our group formed in 2004 we have achieved a modest profit for each of our partners creating wealth for the beneficiaries of the owner communities. Following the payout of a \$50,000 dividend to all partners several years ago, our focus has shifted to a strategy of reinvestment in our venture. In 2010, Dehcho Regional Helicopters was selected as the NWT Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award winner.

Canadian Zinc has been a long-term customer of Dehcho Regional Helicopters and accounts for approximately 12% of our annual gross charter-related revenue. This revenue helps us and our partners to make available annual Dehcho specific scholarships worth up to \$63,000, youth infrastructure grants worth up to \$14,000 and women's wellness funding worth up to \$7,000. Our partnership group also employs six permanent full-time workers at its two primary operating locations: Fort Simpson and Fort Liard, as well as up to 25 seasonal workers during peak periods of activity. Ours represents the largest investment in the aviation industry specifically within the Dehcho Region to date.

In order for our venture to continue to be successful there must be a balanced approach taken with regards to proposed development. Our company obviously respects and supports the protection of

culturally sensitive areas in our region, such as the Horne Plateau. At the same time we also support and encourage development when all appropriate environmental and social measures are in place and there is a net benefit to the Aboriginal community, as will be the case with the Prairie Creek project.

I appreciate your consideration of our position in this matter and wish the Board well as it continues to do its important work around the NWT.

Mahsi Cho,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JoAnne Deneron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a trailing flourish.

Ms. JoAnne Deneron  
President  
Dehcho Regional Helicopters LP