

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Cory Vanthuyne <[cvanthuyne@yellowknife.ca](mailto:cvanthuyne@yellowknife.ca)>

**Date:** September 17, 2015 at 11:55:58 AM MDT

**To:** Mark Cliffe-Phillips <[mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca](mailto:mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca)>

**Cc:** "<[executivedirector@miningnorth.com](mailto:executivedirector@miningnorth.com)>" <[executivedirector@miningnorth.com](mailto:executivedirector@miningnorth.com)>, Mark Heyck <[mheyck@yellowknife.ca](mailto:mheyck@yellowknife.ca)>, "<[coryv@theedge.ca](mailto:coryv@theedge.ca)>" <[coryv@theedge.ca](mailto:coryv@theedge.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: City or individual presentation at Ekati Jay Hearings? Small window to do so.

Hello Mark

Sorry I was not able to attend in person to speak but please see my comments on Ekati Jay Hearings for the record below.

Thank you Chair and respective Board Members for hosting your hearings on this very important project in Yellowknife and allowing stakeholders the opportunity to express their opinions, concerns and support. I note that I am writing as one City Councillor and not on behalf of City Council or the City of Yellowknife.

I am going to write to the broader context of the economic opportunities and benefits that mining (and exploration) holds for the NWT and in particular Yellowknife. The points that I wish to touch on are the following:

- 1) Mining is an important part of our heritage...this city was founded on the discovery of gold!
- 2) The mining industry is the North's economic driver today and we want mining to continue to be our economic strength tomorrow.
- 3) We must work collectively to overcome challenges to create great mining opportunities.
- 4) I support responsible new mining opportunities, why, because simply put, our residents will benefit and our businesses will benefit. Projects like these help grow and sustain our economy.

Mining in the NWT has created nearly \$40 billion since 1932. Including past and present the NWT has had over 30 producing mines contribute to our economy and our infrastructure. Mining has helped us build highways, ice roads, electrical hydro plants (two of which serve Yellowknife today), our only railway, and extensive microwave communications infrastructure. Because mining is a large capital investment industry it has the ability to make contributions toward infrastructure development that provide lasting benefits to all northerners. In addition, mining has provided many enhancements to life in our northern remote communities such as recreational facilities, scholarships, apprenticeship and technical training programs, and most notably millions of dollars in support of local charities, arts and culture, events and many worthy causes.

The mining industry by far exceeds all other northern private sector industries through direct and indirect contributions. In the NWT mining directly contributes to roughly 30% of the GDP and with its indirect contributions such as transportation, construction and real estate, the contribution is closer to 50% of the GDP.

Now is the time for action. The NWT's share of total Canadian mineral exploration has been in decline for some time now. Action is required to turn this around. Uncertainty has contributed to investment decline in the NWT and I believe we need to take corrective and responsible steps to turn this around.

There are certainly some challenges such as, regulatory complexity, higher development costs, lack of infrastructure...and unfortunately they all lead to negative perceptions. Overcoming those perceptions and challenges starts with visible support for what makes sense for the North. Without responsible mining projects we simply miss out on the socio-economic benefits and ultimately we remain fragile and unsustainable as a northern society unable to plan for our children's future.

Although we have made positive and encouraging advancements over the last half generation or so, we need continued positive support from all the communities and respective levels of government to continue in that direction and support further mining development in order to support population growth and replace closing mines.

Thank you Chair and Board for your consideration.

Regards,

Cory Vanthuyne

Councillor

City of Yellowknife

[cvanthuyne@yellowknife.ca](mailto:cvanthuyne@yellowknife.ca)

867-445-1192