



P.O. Box 360  
Kugluktuk, NU X0B 0E0  
Telephone: (867) 982-3310  
Fax: (867) 982-3311  
www.kitia.ca

October 23, 2015

Kugluktuk  
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Chuck Hubert  
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Bathurst Inlet  
Kingaok  
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Re: Jay Project - KIA Closing Submission

The Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) would like to thank the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) for the opportunity to provide a closing statement regarding the Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation's (DDEC) Jay Project. Throughout this process the KIA has emphasized its concern with effects of the Jay Project on water quality of the Coppermine River, and also presented its position on the project's effects on caribou.

Bay Chimo  
Umingmaktok  
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Echoing our presentation at the Kugluktuk Community Hearing on September 21, 2015, the KIA submitted 111 Information Requests regarding the Jay Project. Largely, the KIA is satisfied with DDEC's responses to the IRs at this time and will monitor the implementation of the commitments and requests at future stages of the Jay Project.

Cambridge Bay  
Ikaluktutiak  
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A product of the Kugluktuk Community Hearing was a commitment from DDEC to establish a long term water quality monitoring program of the Coppermine River near the Hamlet of Kugluktuk in conjunction with the KIA in the form of financial assistance and/or in-kind contributions. The KIA looks forward to developing a water quality monitoring plan with DDEC in future phases of the Jay Project approval process.

Gjoa Haven  
Okhoktok  
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The KIA also acknowledges issues regarding Jay Project effects on caribou population in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Inuit in the Kitikmeot Region have observed in recent history that there is both a decline in caribou herd numbers and a concurrent rise in the number of wolves and caribou predators in the Region. It has been presented that biologists for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) have also observed a rise in the number of caribou predators (Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board Annual General Meeting, 2015). Kitikmeot Inuit possess substantial expertise regarding caribou and caribou predators and would be interested in participating in mutually beneficial programs designed to decrease caribou mortality rates from predation.

Taloyoak  
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Kugaaruk  
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Traditional Knowledge (TK) is an invaluable resource when investigating wildlife behaviours and habitat. The KIA suggests that scientists/researchers, TK holders and active harvesters with knowledge of traditional harvesting areas which are in the vicinity of the Ekati Mine and Jay Project should collaborate to bolster and supplement what is currently accepted scientific knowledge about wildlife in the Jay Project study area. This updated knowledge could then be used to formulate an effective strategy to mitigate impacts of the Jay Project on caribou.

