

Depositing Processed Kimberlite into
Pits and Underground, Diavik Diamond
Mines Inc.

Public Hearings
September 3, 2019

Tłı̨chǫ Ndek'awoo



Tłı̨chǫ Government

Outline



1. Opening Remarks: Approach and summary of community concerns
2. Intervention on key issues by four elders
3. Closing Remarks: Summary of Tłı̨chǫ perspective

Approach/ Methodology



Our submission is informed by Elder knowledge and technical expertise:

1. Elder focus group held on 29-30 May 2019 and follow up discussion on June 28, 2019
2. Past research conducted by the Tłıchǫ on Caribou Migration and Place Names in 1999 and published in 2001 and 2014 (Tłıchǫ Government 2014 a and b).
3. Technical expertise (Tony Pearse) regarding key concepts relating to water quality and clay suspension

Tłıchq concerns



Connecting Lac de Gras to the pits will alter the cultural and traditional use of, and relationship with, Lac de Gras and the surrounding area.

By impacting:

- Wildlife
- Harvesting right, access and connection to area
- Water quality
- Cumulative effects with climate change

“Our forefathers have been using the lands for winter trapping, harvesting, every year they were travelling through there, getting arctic fox, fish”

Wildlife, Tqdzı and Hozı Ekwò



Harvesting rights, access and connection to territory

“There’s a freezer and a bank over there for us”



Photo taken by Petter Jacobsen

Water quality, fish and fish habitat



Lac de Gras



October 2017 elder site visit; Photo taken by Michael Conway

Tłıcho Concerns: Summary



Community concerns:

1. Operational concerns
2. Cumulative effects
3. Wildlife, habitat, and vegetation
4. Use of land
5. Monitoring and follow up

Tłı̄cho Concerns: Summary



Tłı̄chq̄ elders request the following impacts be considered:

- ecosystems and food chains surrounding Lac de Gras
- fish and fish habitat
- use of and trust in water sources
- wildlife and wildlife habitat
- caribou migration patterns
- water fowl
- traditional plants, plant harvesting and berry harvesting
- hunting, fishing, trapping, and harvesting practices
- cumulative effects of climate change

New Shoshoni Decision



- The size of a project does not equate the potential cultural impact
 - “although the proposed development is physically small, the potential cultural impacts are not” (MVRB 2007, 1).

Engaging traditional knowledge

- Elders want to see plans integrating Tłıchq knowledge and knowledge holders to encourage wildlife to return to the area and to protect migration routes, which will in turn protect Tłıchq's future use of the area.