

Fort Providence Métis Council

Postal Box 319
 Fort Providence, N.W.T. XOE- OLO
 Phone: (867) 699-4320 Fax: (867) 699-4319
 E-Mail: pvmets@sslmicro.com Website: www.dehchomackenzilemetis.ca

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MACKENZIE VALLEY
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
 REVIEW BOARD

Local No. 57 - 80C 430

February 13th, 2006

Mr. Martin Haefele
 Environmental Assessment Officer
 Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
 PO Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue
 Yellowknife, N.T.
 X1A-2N7

Dear Mr. Haefele,

**Fort Smith Metis Claims for consultation concerning
 Development Project in the Dehcho Territory – EA0506-007 Paramount SDL 8:**

Reference is made to the pre-hearing conference held on this date and the request for consultation by South Slave Métis groups (operating as the Northwest Territory Metis Nation) based in Fort Smith. We note that the above referenced project is within the Dehcho Territory which is addressed by the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement.

We would like to register our objection to this request for consultation by this group on the following grounds:

- The South Slave Metis are negotiating an administrative contract with the Federal Government. As far as we know, this negotiations process is not rights based and does not have any link to recognized aboriginal land rights in the Northwest Territories. It is not anticipated that this South Slave Metis Administrative Contract (which has yet to be finalized) will formulate any type of treaty under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, therefore the consultation principles of Taku and Haida do not apply to this group in Fort Smith in relation to their claims beyond their immediate area.
- Although they have a long history of meddling in the affairs and development of NWT regions beyond the South Slave, there is no basis for Fort Smith Metis groups to make broad assertions which transcend large geographic areas pertaining to other tribal groups and Indigenous Métis communities in the North Slave and Dehcho regions of the Northwest Territories. We would like to make it clear that any maps referenced as delineating traditional territory of Fort Smith based Metis groups do not supersede established indigenous Métis communities in the Dehcho and North Slave regions with a direct interest related to development in these respective regions.

~ ~ Mackenzie River District Métis - 1921 Treaty 11 Métis Commission - Dehcho First Nations ~ ~

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- Until we have a pan-territorial Métis organization which is united once again with a common purpose or established protocols in place between the regional Métis organizations and communities across the NWT there is simply no legitimate basis for the current claims and jurisdictional assertions being made by the South Slave Metis groups concerning industrial development in other regions of the Northwest Territories. As we have indicated the South Slave Metis *claim* to have a broad territorial interest and mandate in governing Metis Affairs, devolution, resource revenue sharing and Metis aboriginal rights interests which transcend unsettled land claim regions across the Northwest Territories. There is *no basis* for this assertion as the South Slave Metis (operating under the guise of "Northwest Territory Metis Nation") *do not* have a mandate from Métis citizens and communities in the Dehcho, North Slave, Sahtu and Gwich'in regions.

On the above noted grounds, we respectfully submit that the claims for consultation by the South Slave Metis (operating under the semblance of "the Northwest Territory Metis Nation") be limited to proposed developments in their immediate area to the east of the Hay River and south of Great Slave Lake.

Yours truly,

Fort Providence Métis Council


Albert J. Lafferty
President

- c.
Honourable Joe Handley, Premier
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Shirley Maaskant, Paramount Resources Ltd.
Christopher M. Reid, Legal Counsel