



# Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

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*refer to Z 8961*

Minister Jim Prentice  
Government of Canada  
Department of Indian and Northern Affairs  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0H4  
Fax: (866) 817-3977

May 11, 2007

Dear Mr. Prentice:

## Re: Lands and Resources in Thaydene Nene

It is my hope that this letter finds you in good health and in good spirit. For us in the north, the spring time of the year is a time when our spirits are renewed after a long cold winter and we look forward with energetic hope for forward positive successes in the coming seasons. It is with this positive hope that I am writing you requesting a face to face meeting to discuss an issue that is very important to us both, **LAND**.

We the Dene of Lutsel K'e are currently negotiating the implementation of our Treaty, specifically in the subject areas of Lands, Resources and Governance with Canada and the GNWT. We are doing this in Akaitcho Territory with three other Akaitcho Communities through the NWT Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation. The discussions are ongoing at that level; I am sure you would agree with me that it is moving a little too slow.

The land that I want to discuss with you is situated to the east of our community; known to us as Thaydene Nene. The Thelon River, including the Upper and Lower Thelon, is within Thaydene Nene.

There have been three significant events for us in Lutsel K'e in the past year regarding lands within Thaydene Nene:

1. The MOU signing between myself as Chief of the Lutsel K'e Dene Government and Minister Rona Ambrose as Minister of Environment for the Canadian Government, identifying a tract of land and water for a potential national park;
2. An interim land withdrawal agreement initialed between our negotiating team and your negotiating team. The lands and waters that have been

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identified for a potential national park and those identified for interim protection were to be under the same Order In Council.

3. The third major event for us is the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board refusal to grant a permit to UR Energy to do test drilling in the Screech Lake area of Thaydene Nene. We thank MVEIRB for incorporating our position and concerns in their recommendation to you.

There are three specific subjects that I would like to discuss with you in the hopes of reaching some level of certainty for us both.

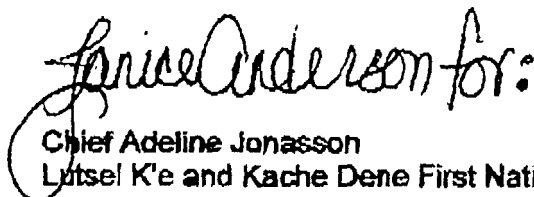
1. The status of the Order In Council that would protect the lands we identified in Thaydene Nene;
2. The recent recommendations of the MVEIRB to you regarding the application of UR Energy, including the recommendation of developing a land use plan for the Thelon Basin;
3. Achieving an understanding that will result in comfort of certainty for both of us as it relates to management of lands and resources in the Thelon Basin of Thaydene Nene.

As you may be aware, there has been tremendous interest in our lands by resource explorers and developers over the past 20 years. We have participated in some of this development. However, the pressure of this level of development on our lands, resources, animals and lives has become too great to continue with any level of support. Don't mistake this for an attitude of anti-development. As recently as last month we signed an agreement with De Beers Canada to allow them to develop a property in our territory.

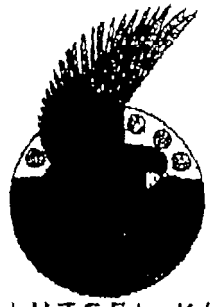
It is with urgency that I request a meeting with you to discuss the above subjects; I will be so bold as to suggest this meeting occurs within the next two weeks.

I want to remind you that Lutsel K'e was the only community in the NWT that voted for your party in the last election. We hope that our trust was not misplaced.

In partnership;

  
Chief Adeline Jonasson  
Lutsel K'e and Kache Dene First Nations

c: Akaitcho Treaty Chiefs  
Joe Handley, Premier, NWT



LUTSEL K'E FIRST NATION  
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TO:	Mingler Prentice	FROM:	Chief Adeline Jonasson
COMPANY:	INAC	DATE:	May 11/07
FAX NUMBER:	(866) 817-3977	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	3
PHONE NUMBER:		RE:	Thaydene Nene

NOTES/COMMENTS:

- URGENT -