



October 17, 2008

Dear Mr. MacDonald,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Black Feather - The Wilderness Adventure Company, Black Feather's guides and hundreds of participants who have enjoyed canoe trips on the Nahanni River since we started doing business there in 1976. Black Feather was the first licenced tourism operator on the Nahanni, and since that time, we have had almost four thousand people paddle the river. Black Feather has brought thousands of dollars of sustainable tourism dollars into the DehCho region. The reason that paddlers travel from all over the world to visit the Nahanni is the fact that it is a world class river; its pristine environment, untamed wilderness and great paddling has put it in the top eco-tourism destinations on the globe.

I continue to be very concerned about the environmental impact of the proposed Prairie Creek mine on this wilderness area. The impact of development in the headwaters of a major tributary to a World Heritage Site and National Park is extremely significant. Any disturbance, even minor, can affect water quality, wildlife habitat and the wilderness aspect of the river. Even increased air traffic, to service a proposed mine, has environmental impact.

Due to the fact that the location of this mine is directly adjacent to the National Park and World Heritage Site, the highest possible standard of stringency should be used in its environmental assessment. I am urging that the whole mine operation, all its components, including the access road are scoped into the environmental assessment.

As Canadians, we have a responsibility by law to protect the ecological integrity of our national parks and by international treaty to do all we can to protect World Heritage Sites for future generations of all the people of the world. With this in mind, I strongly encourage the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board to ensure that the most rigorous and highest level of environmental assessment is conducted to protect this National and international treasure.

Respectfully,

Wendy Grater,
Owner & Director,
Black Feather - The Wilderness Adventure Company

