

NWT Board Forum

November 21, 2007

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, P.C., M.P.
Minister, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
MINISTER'S OFFICE
10 Wellington St. North Tower
Hull, P.Q., K1A 0H4

Dear Minister Strahl:

Re: Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative

On behalf of the Board members of the Northwest Territories (NWT) Board Forum, we would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with us while you were in Yellowknife on November 10th. Your interest in the success of the northern resource management boards was obvious and much appreciated.

Board Forum members also appreciated your expressed desire to collaborate with the Boards to provide the predictability, effectiveness and efficiency desired by all stakeholders. In particular, NWT Board Forum members welcomed your announcement of a new initiative to improve the overall northern regulatory environment and the associated appointment of Neil McCrank as your Special Representative to advance this initiative. The NWT Board Forum members have been working together for some time to identify common challenges and opportunities to improve our efficiency and effectiveness. As such, your announcement and appointment of Mr. McCrank are both timely and welcome.

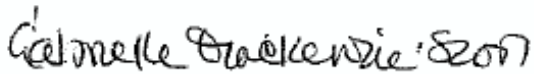
We know already that Board Forum members have a number of recommendations and suggestions to offer to Mr. McCrank. A letter will be sent to Mr. McCrank shortly offering our preliminary comments. We will be providing him with more detailed information and advice in due course.

We noted your suggestion that a mechanism similar to the planned Major Projects Office for southern Canada may also have application in northern Canada. Certainly extra effort will be required to coordinate and manage the regulatory process as it applies to the larger and more complex developments that will inevitably be proposed in the north. This may be a role that the NWT Board Forum can undertake respecting the intent of

respective land claim agreements and legislated requirements. Board Forum Chairs will provide detailed comments to Mr. McCrank on this specific proposal as well.

In closing, we wish to reiterate that the “Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative” is timely. The NWT Board Forum members look forward to collaborating with you and the other partners to the northern regulatory system in this regard.

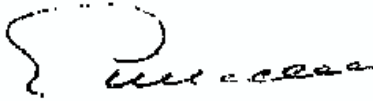
Sincerely,



Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott, Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board



Willard Hagen, Interim Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board



Larry Wallace, Chair
Sahtu Land and Water Board



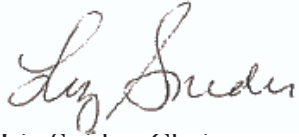
Violet Camsell-Blondin, Chair
Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board



Bob Simpson, Chairperson
Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board



Frank Pokiak, Chair
Inuvialuit Game Council



Liz Snider, Chair
Environmental Impact Review Board for the
Inuvialuit Settlement Region



Gaeton Caron, Chair
National Energy Board



Walter Bayha, Chair
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board



Alphonse Nitsiza, Chair
Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board



Robert Charlie, Chair
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

CC: Hon. Floyd Roland, Premier
Government of the Northwest Territories

Nellie Cournoyea, Chair
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Fred Carmichael, President
Gwich'in Tribal Corporation

Mr. Larry Torangeau, President
Sahtu Secretariat Inc.

George Mackenzie, Grand Chief
Tlicho Government

Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, RDG
INAC, NWT Region

Gordon Wray, Chair
NWT Water Board

Fred McFarland, Chair
Environmental Impact Screening Committee

Judith Wright-Bird, Chairperson
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board