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January 30th, 2008

Vern Christensen
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938
Yellowknife NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Christensen

MVEIRB DRAFT REFERENCE BULLETIN: REFERRAL OF PROJECTS ON OWN MOTION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft document titled "*Procedures during the Review Board's consideration of making its own motion to refer a development to environmental assessment - Section 126 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*".

The Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) certainly agrees that wherever possible we should be providing clarity to all of our clients on the processes we manage, not only within our own Boards, but between our respective agencies, and we thank the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) for your hard work on this document.

The WLWB has reviewed the document, and concurs, with the recommendation of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (letter dated January 28, 2008) that a meeting to discuss this process, and other issues relating to environment assessment referrals and preliminary screenings, would provide the best opportunity for us to discuss the document and the issues it creates as we each work to achieve our respective mandates. Such a meeting should include all of the Land and Water Boards, the MVEIRB and other agencies and organizations with section 126(2) referral powers.

We present the following concern to provide some background to our request.

The WLWB notes that a "three day pause period" is common practice between some of the Land and Water Boards and the MVEIRB. We are, however, concerned with the Review Board's proposal to extend this period indefinitely, creating significant uncertainty in the review process, in order for the MVEIRB to consider an application and public reviewer comments that are all available on our public registry well before a preliminary screening decision is made by the WLWB. We also note that the MVEIRB is

provided with copies of our draft Preliminary Screening reports in advance of our Board meetings.

Due to our concern outlined above, and our request for a meeting or workshop to further discuss this and other issues, we request that the MVEIRB not adopt the draft bulletin at this time.

We certainly agree that this, amongst many others, is an issue that requires timely resolution; however we must make sure our decision making is carried out in a manner that is considered, balanced and appropriate to the needs of our respective organizations and the people of the North.

If you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Zabey Nevitt at (867) 669-9590.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. C. Blondin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Violet Camsell-Blondin
Chair

Cc. Chairs and ED's – GLWB, SLWB, MVLWB
Trish Merrithew-Mecredi, INAC
Grand Chief George Mackenzie – Tlicho Government