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FORT SIMPSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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May 1, 2002

The Honourable Robert D. Nault
M.P., P. C. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Minister NAULT,

Re: MacKenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board File: EA01-002

As the result of a unanimous motion passed at the Chamber's latest meeting, I am writing out of concern for the delay in you granting final approval to the above noted file. In reviewing the MacKenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's, (MVEIRB) findings we note that you must have received their recommendations around the end of January 2002. As of this date, nearly three months later, we are told you have yet to grant final approval to this project.

While it is acknowledged that this permit will only allow Canadian Zinc a small step in its hopes of reactivating its Prairie Creek mine, we feel, in the interest of securing meaningful and responsible resource development, these steps should not be impeded in the manner which they appear. Not only do these delays frustrate industry and the people hoping for jobs, the delays also significantly impact development as proponents miss windows of opportunity to advance their projects. A small three-week delay may very well delay development for a year costing potentially millions of dollars to a region.

Contrary to what you may have been lead to believe, there are many unemployed souls in and around Fort Simpson, that view the mine as a means of gaining meaningful, long-term employment. In an area as economically depressed as Fort Simpson, the potential for the creation of in excess of 200 jobs is certainly a significant project in many people's minds. We view this development as crucial to the well being of our residents and the business community, both of which have been struggling along for too many years. Now, with opportunity knocking, we find it very irresponsible to the people of this region that you have failed to act.

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Furthermore, we do not feel the positions of other government agencies should affect your decision unless you do not trust the wisdom of your own creation, the MVEIRB that has heard from many relevant and irrelevant presenters. We do believe the MVEIRB was designed to listen to and protect the rights of affected individuals that it obviously has as indicated in the review and decision. To now sit on the fence in the face of this decision is simply an abuse of process.

Having met with representatives of Canadian Zinc, we are confident that they will comply with the many recommendations of the MVEIRB to prevent significant adverse environmental impacts at the Prairie Creek mine. We now urge you to grant final approval to this project in hopes that one day this mine will provide the basis for prosperity of this region's populace.

Yours truly,



Duncan Canvin
President

Cc: Ethel Blondin-Andrew, MP Western Arctic Northwest Territories (Fax: (613) 992-7411)
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MacKenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Fax: (867) 873-6610)
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NWT Chamber of Commerce (Fax: (867) 873-4174)
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