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December 18, 2006

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Attention Mr. Patrick Duxbury

Dear, Mr. Duxbury,

RE: INFORMATION REQUEST RESPONSES TO

**IR 1.1 SIDON INT'L. RESOURCES CORP. - EXPLORATORY DRILLING AT
DEFEAT LAKE - EA0506-006 [2005] AND**

**IR 1.1 TO 1.7 INCLUSIVE CONSOLIDATED GOLDWIN VENTURES - DRYBONES
BAY EXPLORATORY DRILLING - EA0506-005 [2005]**

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Land and Environment Committee (L&EC) is pleased to respond to the above referenced Information Requests (IRs) issued by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB). We trust that the information adequately responds to the IRs, and conveys the value of the lands and waters likely affected by the proposed developments to the YKDFN. The responses to the IRs are arranged according to the ecological and social knowledge currently available as it provides a more complete and integrated response.

This submission draws upon previously unreleased evidence prepared by the former department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED), now Environment and Natural Resources (E&NR), as well as evidence from three archaeological studies completed since development pressures began at Drybones Bay.

Four environmental assessments have been completed whose scope of assessment, including cumulative impacts, covers most of the areas likely affected by the current

developments undergoing environmental assessment (EA). The four previously completed EAs are:

1. Snowfield Development Corp. - Drybones Bay mineral exploration - EA03-006 [2003]
2. New Shoshoni Ventures - Drybones Bay mineral exploration - EA03-004 [2003]
3. North American General Resources Corp. - Wool Bay exploration drilling - EA03-003 [2003]
4. Consolidated Goldwin Ventures - Drybones Bay Preliminary Exploration - EA03-002 [2003]

The significance of the waters and lands along Great Slave Lake and inland was emphatically communicated throughout these EA proceedings. The YKDFN are therefore seeking an MVEIRB Order to place the public records of the four referenced EAs on the public registries of the Sidon Resources Corporation (Sidon) and the Consolidated Goldwin Ventures (Consolidated) EAs.

Current activities are disturbing animals and affecting YKDFN members from undertaking their traditional pursuits. For example Jimmy Beaulieu and Leo Bettsina cannot trap and hunt around Drybones Bay because the wildlife has been scared off by all the noise. Put simply, land is being alienated from traditional use by development.

If the proposed developments are allowed to proceed the same is expected to occur throughout the lands south of the Ingraham Trail and east of Dettah. These lands are especially valuable because they are close to Dettah and relatively easy and inexpensive to access by trappers and hunters. Defeat Lake, Moose Bay, Moose Lake, Zigzag Lake and the areas covered by the JJ and Cleft Mineral Claims (subject areas) are used extensively by YKDFN members for hunting large and small game and for trapping beaver, mink, muskrat, lynx, and wolves, as well as for fishing. Caribou and moose are also abundant because of the lush vegetation and the lack of any significant wildfires in the area. Hence it remains an important feeding area.

The importance of the entire area likely affected by the proposed developments is magnified by the very poor community caribou hunts that have occurred at MacKay Lake over the past three years. In fact, Mike Francis returned from MacKay Lake with no caribou in 2005 and 2006; and, YKDFN hunting guides report having to travel several kilometres inland to even see any caribou.

Most YKDFN hunters use the subject areas in summer and winter and have cabins or outpost camps that they can access through the various Bays of Great Slave Lake. In the fall, moose hunting is particularly important along the entire Great Slave Lake shoreline and at inland lakes.

All the shoreline lands are used for camping and there is even increasing pressure by non-Dene Yellowknife residents for use of the area because of its vicinity, attractiveness and abundance of wildlife. This abundance was one of the principal reasons YKDFN family groups had semi-permanent camps at the larger and smaller Bays all along the shoreline of Great Slave Lake (GSL), and frequented them annually as part of their yearly hunting and trapping cycles that would see movement from the barrens to the Yellowknife River and downward to the shoreline of Great Slave Lake. Charlie Sangris for example is a frequent user of Jackfish Cove and Archie Liske, Jimmy Beaulieu, Leo Bettsina and Victor Crapeau

have cabins at Drybones Bay. Other cabin sites are not disclosed because YKDFN members do not want their areas disturbed.

Traditional knowledge verified by on the land experience confirms an abundance of moose trails that extend down the shoreline of Great Slave Lake from Dettah; however the traditional moose migrations inland and towards the GSL shoreline are being disrupted by development activities. Consequently, the moose are beginning to move northward away from the shoreline of Great Slave Lake making them much more inaccessible.

Traditional knowledge also confirms Defeat Lake as an important area for trapping wolves and lynx. While Moose Bay and Moose Lake are particularly important for the spring muskrat hunt and, as their names suggest, for moose hunting. Zigzag Lake is very good for hunting caribou and the good hunting extends out to Hearne Lake where for example James Sangris, Patty Charlo and many other Yellowknives members hunt.

The subject area is a functioning ecosystem that the YKDFN have relied on for food for as long as people can remember. Now, with poor caribou hunts, dependence on the area for its bountiful harvest has increased in importance. Any impact on the area will affect its wildlife and very directly the well-being of YKDFN.

In addition to the ecological abundance and value of the subject areas likely affected by the proposed developments, there is a cultural web demarcated by grave sites and ongoing cultural activity all along the shoreline of GSL. For example, Sazel Basil is buried on Ruth Island, there's a young man's grave at Wool Bay, a child's grave and a mass grave at Smoky Lake. Pierre Michel's daughter is buried at Victory Lake, and there is another grave northwest of Jackfish Cove by Satli's cabin and Michel Paper's aunt is buried at Moose Bay, and there is a cemetery of ancestors by Cabin Island. Then, there are the Francois Bay, Caribou Island, Narrow Island, Campbell Island and Meander Lake cemeteries. These are just some examples of how the landscape plays such a vital role in the history of the YKDFN. There are many more grave sites and cemeteries, many associated with particular families, some with tragic events. Altogether they form a network of YKDFN history alongside the natural abundance of the area that continues to sustain YKDFN members. The archaeological value of the subject areas was further verified by archaeological work conducted in the summer of 2003 and 2004 reported later in this IRs response.

On April 2nd and 4th of 2003 the YKDFN sponsored a public information session to discuss proposed developments along the shoreline of Great Slave Lake; excerpts from the public session are submitted to communicate the YKDFN's concerns and the value placed throughout the lands and waters south and east of Dettah between the Ingraham Trail and the shoreline of Great Slave Lake.

Statement from an attendee:

- Need to speak out because this is our land.
- We can't let them take over our land.
- Many things were destroyed on our land over the last 50 years since they found gold around where we lived.
- There were many of grave sites around the Wool and Drybones Bay areas and you will destroy the grave sites.
- We can't just sit back as you take over the land. You have to inform Chief and council about what you are doing.

- You have to tell the community. You can't treat us like tied up dogs.
- We need to talk and to respect each other. People lived there before, and you cannot treat us like this.
- You are destroying everything on our land. We cannot drink our water and eat our fish. You only want the money from our land. You have to tell our community what you are doing on our land.

Statement from Mr. Michele Piper, born 1913

- You need to respect our land and we can be happy. Keep us informed what is happening on our land. We need to support each other. We need to work together. I worked for the highways for 26 years, also at the mines and RCMP. We need to help each other. We need to get royalty from what you are doing on our land. We cannot say no to you. It is not good to say no to anybody.
- This is Yellowknives Dene land and there were lots of fish in Great Slave Lake. Once the water gets polluted they will get sick and die. Who will eat the fish? When the lake and water get polluted people will get sick to.
- We were here before the white people. This is our land and our ancestors lived in this area. You have to help us. It is not good to say no, we have to learn to live with each other.
- We can't let what happened at Con and Giant mine happen again. One cannot drink the water around Yellowknife.
- There are not many elders anymore. We have to teach our young people and pass on our knowledge to our young people. There is moose, fish, and graveyards at Drybones Bay. Respect our land out there.

Statement by James Sangris, Yellowknives Dene Member: I have significant concerns about Drybones Bay. We should let the mining companies talk first, and then we can ask questions.

Alfred Baillargeon, Band Councillor: We can't just let them go ahead. It is the place where we go for moose, beaver, and muskrat. It will impact the animals going around there. Maybe we should have a meeting alone on this.

James Sangris: They are going to drill on our lake. I use to go trapping and canoeing with elders where they plan on drilling. If there is mining everything will be different. Maybe we should tell him how people use to live around there in the area. Mining companies say nice things but.....

The elders say that from Dettah down to Drybones Bay and beyond there were tents all the way down. Last year he and Stan were out there, with a D-10 and a Cat and Drill. It is important that Yellowknives Dene get sufficient notice in advance. For us, Drybones Bay and Wool Bay are like our "national parks"; there is moose, muskrat, beaver and lots of animals down there.

As a kid, when I travelled down that way the Elders showed me where all the graves where. That area use to be a village (Drybones Bay). There is an old stove made out of rocks down there to. Today we are suffering in different ways. The white people are hiring people from down South over Aboriginal people from the North. It would be good if the elders spoke out.

Patrick Charlo: The Drybones area is very important for me. On my two weeks off I take my two boys down there. Opening up the area by winter road encourages skidoo travel and that damages traps and disturbs animals. Down there we also hunt for geese in the spring. There is nothing we can do to stop you, but we want to express our concerns.

Fred Sangris (current Dettah Chief, 2006): Mr. Sangris is concerned about potential impact on the Yellowknives Dene land. He noted that local trappers obtained many furs from the area and that other trappers did as well. There is general concern also that the museum does not have 100% knowledge of the historical information of the sites and that the collective knowledge of the community far exceeded the current recorded information at the museum. This was emphasized by the following statements:

- "We can tell you what is there."
- If you disturb a spiritual site you will be approached and removed.
- You have been over there for a while, but this is the first time I have seen you come into the community.
- We have rights and this is our homeland you are operating on.
- We continue to use those trails near Moose Bay and Drybones Bay.
- There are spiritual sites, archaeological sites, and a number of burial sites, old villages. This is an important area. There are archaeological sites off the Wool Bay. You will have a significant impact on the Land.

Former Chief Richard Edjericon: It seems like companies and developers have greater control over land than the people that live here. We spend lots of time and energy trying to protect our land and we need to slow down development until certain things are done. If we do not, what land will be left for our kids? In 50 years the water will be worth more than diamonds

Judy Charlo: I use to trap and hunt at Wool Bay and Drybones Bay area. There are many grave sites in those areas and there are many elders' trails. The previous mining companies never consulted us.

This is our land. We hunt and trap at Drybones Bay and Wool Bay, and that is where I raised all my kids. I have a house there also. They say when the mine is finished it will all be put it back. I don't think so.

Those places are also good fishing places. There is muskrat and moose down there. Wool and Drybones Bays are our trapping places. Those places are our back yard and you want to come into our backyard without consulting.

This will be a big impact on us. Our people have been impacted but they did not get anything from it. We have experience with what has happened to our land with mines. I can see for myself. She said she was concerned about her children and her children's children.

Mary Rose Sundburg, Dettah Councillor. We see so much change and damage to the environment associated with mining. These proposed projects will impact the water of Great Slave Lake. Also, we need to think ahead to our children's children.

We see them bring things on the ice road every day, back and forth, the land is more important than the money. The projects are just too close to the community to consider approving them. The Mackenzie Valley board, the GNWT does not know our land and its

importance to our people, yet they give permission to develop and change it. I absolutely do not agree with what's happening there!

Cathy Sangris: She said that all people care about is money. Ms. Sangris communicated that the proponents needed to secure the Yellowknives Dene permission before undertaking any work. Ms. Sangris added that she was the great granddaughter of Suzie Drygeese, and she would not let these developers walk in. She said "that was my area when I was young. I spent every summer there. That is our homeland."

She emphasized that "you push you way in, you get your permit. You take step after step and just bully your way around." "We in the long run will be paying for your decisions."

Isadore Tsetta: We use to set nets out there in the Wool Bay and Drybones Bay. Doing work on the water will impact the water, maybe doing it inland is better, but not on the lake.

Lisa Enzo from Lutsel K'e: Now you want to go and build a mine in the middle of our prime movement area and a prime moose area. You say you will not pollute the water, but I know you will. You will also want to build roads.

Public Meeting Reconvened on Thursday April 4, 2003 and this is a summary of the general discussion that followed Lawrence Goulet's presentation.

- There are quite a few wolverines in the area. In fact, there have been cut lines made on either side of a trap line. They put in a main line then put off wing lines. Baseline and grid lines basically. They do this to take magnetic readings.
- The site preparation for the drilling will disturb the area and cause habitat damage for the ducks and wild grasses. The wet lands will be impacted, and the drill cuttings are going to be back into the wetlands and impact the muskrat.
- They should come and see us first before they go to the museum. The museum only knows about the larger grave yard sites and has told them there is basically nothing there, or has given them a limited amount of information. Our concern is our hunting, trapping and fishing rights.
- Where will we take our kids out in the spring, summer and fall to hunt moose there? What about if the muskrat habitat is disturbed? What about the ducks? It is close to our community! We do not want our kids to go too far to learn how to hunt. Rocher River is too far away but the Wool and Drybones Bay areas are close to town and are good for teaching purposes for hunting and trapping.

Rachel Ann Crapeau: "this is our back yard" and "we are going to get pushed out, and this is just the beginning" In order to take our kids anywhere we will need to go to White Beach. It is sad to see it come to this point. We should have our leaders fighting, taking control, and saying this is enough. This is our back yard. This is just the first part, and then comes the mine. They only get a few diamonds but and all that is left is lots waste rock. Then there is the dust. They say the dust is not bad, but it is bad. "This is our back yard and it's only the beginning, we will be out of land, and our traditional livelihood will be lost, what will our kids have. There will be nothing left."

Member of YKDFN. The Wool and Drybones Bay areas are really good moose hunting areas, so a moose survey of the areas is needed before anything happens. "Maybe it is important to get a work on surveys now before development proceeds to much further." "A moose, muskrat, beaver, ducks, and wetlands surveys should be done before work advances much further." It is like insurance to make sure nothing bad happens. The mineral activity continues all the way down to François River. There are at least four projects, each with many targets they want to drill and investigate.

"Even the low flying helicopters and planes are doing airborne surveys and they are disturbing the animals. They run long grids using the magnetic search techniques."

The Yellowknives Dene Membership discussed the importance of the lands and waters between Wool Bay and Drybones Bay areas. Their significant value was attributed to the following:

1. Culturally important
2. Spiritually significant (site identified by YKDFN)
3. Grave sites at the bay and along the shoreline
4. Hunting
5. Fishing
6. Historic village at Wool Bay
7. Trapping (Leo A. Bettsina for example)
8. Berry picking
9. Bald eagles (raptors)
10. Camp ground
11. Goose hunting
12. Duck hunting
13. Ecological unique being the largest bays on the shoreline and provide a unique microclimate and unique ecosystem.
14. Very sheltered bay used during lake travel
15. Drybones Bay is a main artery of current and traditional trails
16. Good places for picking medicinal plants
17. The unique habitat makes it excellent for wildlife
18. Trail (Patrick Charlo). The trail to his area starts at Drybones Bay
19. Main park for boats on windy days, (security, shelter and safety)
20. Wool Bay and Drybones Bay are the birth place of many current residents of Dettah and Ndilo
21. Will result in an impact on Treaty rights and their access to the land.

Valued ecosystem components included:

1. raptors,
2. moose,
3. muskrat,
4. fish,
5. beaver,
6. water,
7. wildlife habitat,
8. grasslands.

The membership also noted that moose are already being impacted because of the low flying planes and helicopters.

Impact on forest resources

Members cited that there were impacts to forest resources with all the trees getting knocked down for trails, drilling and ground magnetic surveys.

Sound effects on wildlife

There were questions about how sound impacted wildlife, and how a relatively pristine area could be changed by the year round sound.

Impact on inland streams

Members wondered how the current work programs would impact the main streams flowing into Drybones Bay and what would happen to the lake and the surrounding wetlands if the major arteries into Great Slave Lake from Drybones Bay were impacted.

Cumulative Impacts

Membership expressed serious concern about the cumulative impacts from the exploration activities. "If five companies get permission, then other companies see the door open and move forward with their applications and this will result in cumulative impacts."

Cumulative Impacts of Improved Access

Improved winter road access to the areas will open up new lands, and this is an added impact. Then there are associated impacts. Outfitters will add small camps because there is a winter road. "The open door effect" that will result in increased traffic that results in increased garbage, noise and general nuisances. Impacts that were not there before the ice winter road. If the road cannot be controlled there will be an impact including additional cabin construction. Cabin construction that is unmanaged and uncontrolled. The Snowmobile association is marking trails and opening the land up to more and more people and this is also causing an impact. Trails are being overtaken by other users.

Cumulative Impact Valued Ecosystem Components

Members reiterated that they were very concerned about what might happen to the moose, muskrat, beaver, fish, water and wildlife habitat, beavers, bald eagles (raptors), plants, trees, grasslands, wetlands for the ducks.

The results of the two day public meeting were corroborated by the field report prepared by Mr. Dean Cluff and Raymond Bourget of the North Slave Region of the department of RWED, now E&NR, in July 2003 wherein they confirm the ecological and environmental values communicated by YKDFN members.

The field report prepared in June 2003 notes that the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) initiated a sub-regional cumulative effects assessment for the Wool Bay and Drybones Bay areas of Great Slave Lake, NWT. The YKDFN was concerned about the potential impact of the proposed development and activity in the area, partly because of their socio-cultural and environmental ties there. Consequently, the YKDFN organized an 11-day field program in July 2003 based at Drybones Bay. Land and Environment staff of the YKDFN and elders from Ndilo and Dettah accompanied government and MVEIRB representatives to share and record baseline data for the area. E&NR has no specific wildlife data for the area beyond its Values-at-Risk database and vegetation classification system for forest management. Therefore, E&NR participated in the field exercise at Drybones Bay to visit any wildlife sites of interest identified by the elders

present and record their stated use of the land and general impressions of wildlife in the area. E&NR's objective was to facilitate the compilation of the wildlife and wildlife-related activities of the YKDFN as told to the authors at the field camp. E&NR concluded the following.

Travel routes

The YKDFN have travelled extensively over the study area from south of the Ingraham Trail to Great Slave Lake and bounded by Dettah to the west and by Watta and Campbell Lakes to the east. It was clear from the YKDFN participants that travel continued beyond the extents of the study area but was beyond the scope of this report.

Wildlife areas

A number of wildlife areas were identified where participants saw wildlife or thought they were "good" areas for the species identified. In general, wolverine were observed in winter along the shore and islands of Great Slave Lake and extended a few kilometers in land. Lynx were said to be more abundant in a band from this inland area near shore to the higher elevation areas. Marten were said to be more prevalent in this higher elevation area than the area south to the lake.

Previous sightings of moose, "good" moose areas, and a couple of calving areas were identified on the 1:250,000 NTS maps provided. However, it was noted that in general, moose frequent the higher elevations and sandy areas in the fall and move to the shorelines by spring for calving. Many moose remain in the area during summer to keep cool near the water and avoid insects. Moose then return to the higher elevations in the fall and thus a distinct seasonal migration pattern was identified, albeit small in scale. A similar map of sightings and areas of abundance for furbearers was compiled from participants. These maps are not provided in this IRs response as disclosure of the areas would likely result in increased hunting pressures in the area by non-YKDFN members and depletion of the resource.

Cumulative Archaeological and Heritage Impacts

Members wanted the Prince of Wales Heritage Center (PWHC) notified that its information is incomplete and that they should note that in all communications

Subsequent to the 2003 winter public meeting a summer archaeological field camp was undertaken in July and August, 2003, a preliminary archaeological field inventory and assessment was conducted over a total of two weeks under permit NWT 2003-927 issued to Callum Thomson in the Drybones Bay area and between Wool Bay and Matonabee Bay on the northwest coast of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. The objective of the project was to examine the cumulative effects on local heritage resources of past, present and proposed mineral exploration and gravel extraction around Drybones Bay and Wool Bay. Participants included Callum Thomson, Randy Freeman and Elders and other members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

A total of 69 cultural heritage sites from the prehistoric, historic and contemporary periods were found during the first three phases of fieldwork. All new sites found were photographed and documented, including the acquisition of coordinates by GPS, and each site's extent and significance was estimated. The four sites previously recorded by Tom Andrews in 1993 were also revisited and additional information collected. The Old Fort Providence site was not visited but is the only other site recorded along this coast.

The results of these surveys clearly show that the YKDFN and MVEIRB are justified in their concerns for the integrity of heritage resources in the Drybones Bay area and, to a lesser extent based on less intensive surveys, at Wool Bay and Matonabee Bay. It seems evident that this entire coastline has been occupied by aboriginal peoples for several hundred and most likely several thousand years, and continues to be used by Yellowknives Dene and others for hunting, trapping, fishing, recreation and other pursuits, and today also by mineral and mining interests through staking, exploration sampling and gravel extraction. These objectives may not be compatible in some cases.

The large number of sites found during surveys which were more often directed by information received from the Elders than on intuitive research objectives. surveys by the archaeological team indicates that the density of sites in the area between Wool Bay and Matonabee Bay, and especially at Drybones Bay, can be expected to be higher than the present 69 (including Tom Andrews's original four sites, and Old Fort Providence). The potential for disturbance of some sites by exploration and mining is, therefore, at least moderate. For example, there is already evidence of a cut line passing within metres of a graveyard, other cutlines running through habitation sites, an exploration camp established in the same location as a quartz quarry and habitation site, and a cabin set on terrain where earlier land use activities had taken place. The intensification of exploration activities, the continuation of gravel extraction and the potential for mine development puts additional known sites and as yet unknown sites at risk.

Before any more intensive exploration activities are permitted, more extensive, research-oriented, surveys with full participation in the planning and implementation by members of the YKDFN should be conducted, and all areas likely to be disturbed by exploration and development should be thoroughly assessed. Areas of particular importance for additional investigation include the parts of the coastline and islands between Wool Bay and Matonabee Point that have not yet been surveyed, traplines and other travel routes into the interior, all locations where the postglacial sand beach terrace found in two areas around Drybones Bay occurs, and areas where quartz veins and outcrops are likely to occur.

Each site found should be evaluated for scientific and cultural significance in collaboration with the YKDFN and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the potential for disturbance should be assessed, and the significance of the individual and cumulative effect of disturbance should be weighed. Tentative recommendations for management of each of the 69 sites found was provided. Mitigation options such as avoidance, protection and controlled investigation should also be considered for each site. The cumulative effect of these decisions should be weighed in a broader regional context.

In order to assist these investigations, each proponent wishing to carry out exploration in the Drybones Bay-Wool Bay area must provide clear maps showing exploration and likely mining locations and proposed infrastructure locations so that the suggested archaeological inventories and impact assessments can be more clearly focused.

Of primary importance, however, is the need for the Yellowknives Dene and any other affected group concerned about the effect of development on the region's cultural resources to propose to the MVEIRB and other regulators how they would like to see exploration and development proceed, if at all. For example, would the institution of buffer zones around significant sites such as cemeteries during the exploration period keep those sites safe or does the presence and abundance of these sites preclude development from occurring?

Follow-up Archaeological Survey in the summer of 2004

Subsequent to the 2003 archaeological work, follow-up field work was undertaken in July and August, 2004, a preliminary archaeological field inventory and assessment was conducted over a total of sixteen survey days under permit NWT 2004-955 issued to Callum Thomson in four project areas on the north shore of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. The objective of the project was to expand from the inventory of heritage resources begun in 2003 in the Drybones Bay area to a broader study area between Taltheilei Narrows and the North Arm, and to assess the effects on local heritage resources of past, present and proposed mineral exploration by Snowfield Development Corp. around Drybones Bay. Participants included Callum Thomson, Mike Beauregard of Snowfield Development Corp., and Elders and other members of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

A total of 118 cultural heritage sites from the prehistoric, historic and contemporary periods were found during the four phases of field work. All new sites found were photographed and documented, including the acquisition of coordinates by GPS, and each site's extent and significance was estimated. Several sites previously recorded by William Noble in 1966-1969, Tom Andrews in 1993 and 2002 and others were also revisited and additional information collected.

The results of these surveys clearly show that there is great potential for the discovery of archaeological and other heritage sites in the vicinity of Great Slave Lake, and that this heritage extends back over several millennia. It seems evident that much of the coastline between Taltheilei Narrows on the East Arm and the west side of the North Arm of Great Slave Lake has been occupied by aboriginal peoples for several hundred and most likely several thousand years, and continues to be used by Yellowknives Dene and others for hunting, trapping, fishing, recreation, travel and other pursuits, and today also by mineral exploration, mining, and other commercial interests through staking, exploration sampling and aggregate extraction. While these objectives may not be compatible in some cases, little evidence was found of any disturbance or potential for disturbance of heritage resources in the Snowfield project area, at least at this stage of the project.

In 2004, an additional 43 sites were found in the area between the south side of Drybones Bay and the north side of Matonabee Bay, supporting this conclusion. It is likely, though, that any intensification of exploration activities and the potential for development of mines and mine infrastructure will put known sites and as yet unknown sites at risk, without appropriate research and mitigation.

During the various phases of survey with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, 75 new sites were recorded, including 10 precontact lithic scatter sites on the west side of the North Arm, some of which had evidently been disturbed by sand and gravel excavations. Several additional sites had been affected by construction and use of recreational cabins, and the fishing lodge and an airstrip at Taltheilei Narrows.

The success of these surveys in 2003 and 2004 indicates that, before any intensive exploration activities are permitted in the vicinity of Great Slave Lake, extensive, research-oriented surveys with full participation in the planning and implementation by members of the YKDFN and other interested parties should be conducted, and all areas likely to be disturbed by exploration and development should be thoroughly assessed. Areas of particular importance for additional investigation during the current period of interest by

disturbed by exploration and development should be thoroughly assessed. Areas of particular importance for additional investigation during the current period of interest by mineral exploration companies include the parts of the coastline and islands between Wool Bay and Matonabee Point that have not yet been surveyed, traplines and other travel routes into the interior, and the many peninsulas, islands and bays between Taltheilei Narrows and the North Arm that have not yet been surveyed.

Conclusion

The evidence of the archaeologists and the biologists working with YKDFN confirm the environmental and social value of the subject areas denoted by the IRs issued by the MVEIRB. We trust the information included in this submission satisfactory answers the IRs. As more information comes available through on-going mapping work the YKDFN will provide it to the MVEIRB.

Respectfully,
Land and Environment Committee



Rachel Ann Crapeau
Manager

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