



Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada

www.inac.gc.ca

www.ainc.gc.ca

P.O. Box 1500  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

*Your file - Votre référence*

January 19, 2010

*Our file - Notre référence*

Chief Edward Sangris  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
Box 2514  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2P8  
Fax: 867.873.5969

Chief Ted Tsetta  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
Box 2514  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

Dear Chiefs Sangris and Tsetta:

**Re: Giant Mine Remediation EA (EA0809-001)**

I am writing to request a special meeting with the Chief and Council of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) during February 2010. The purpose of the meeting would be twofold:

- 1) To discuss and create a plan to identify and incorporate the YKDFN's concerns into the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) for the Giant Mine Remediation environmental assessment process (EA0809-001); and
- 2) To discuss the formation of a plan that would outline how the Giant Mine Remediation Team will continue to consult and engage with the YKDFN throughout the rest of the environmental assessment process, as well as throughout the life of the remediation project.

With respect to the first item, the Giant Mine Remediation Team is currently working on the DAR for the Giant Mine environmental assessment. In order to address the YKDFN's concerns about this project within the DAR, there are a number of questions we would like to pose to you, including those related to any potential adverse impacts on the established and potential Aboriginal or treaty rights of the YKDFN. Our initial proposal would be to hold and fund two community meetings this winter/spring (one in each of your communities) that could include elders, land users and youth to help formulate the YKDFN's response to our questions (which we can provide you with in advance of our teams meeting with you), and another meeting with Chief and Council to finalize this first process. Ideally, this first phase would be completed by February 26, 2010.

At the meeting we are currently requesting with you, the Giant Mine Remediation team would also like to begin discussing the formation of a plan that would facilitate the involvement of the YKDFN throughout the remainder of this environmental assessment process, and for the ongoing life of the Giant Mine Remediation project. Based on our previous discussions with Todd Slack from the YKDFN Land and Environment Department, we understand that the YKDFN has proposed the following initiatives as means of consulting and engaging with your First Nation on an ongoing basis:

1. Regular Chief and Council Executive Briefings;

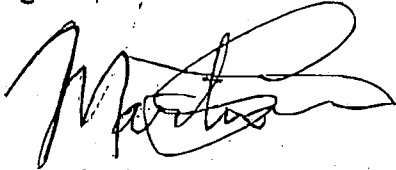
**Canada**

2. An Elders/Youth Committee;
3. Scheduled Community Meetings;
4. An Independent Community Liaison; and
5. Technical Support to assist the YKDFN participation in the Environmental Assessment, Water Licensing and Monitoring.

The Giant Mine Remediation Team is open to discussing these suggestions. In particular, we agree that the Community Liaison position and Elder/Youth Committee would provide valuable contributions to the environmental assessment, remediation planning and monitoring processes. The Giant Mine Remediation Team recognizes that discussing these options at our proposed February meeting would only be a first step toward developing a plan for ongoing consultation and engagement. We anticipate that these discussions to develop a longer term plan would continue after the DAR is submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and we look forward to working with you on these initiatives.

Please let me know as soon as possible as to when the YKDFN Chief and Council may be able to meet with me and my team in this regard. If you have any questions please contact Adrian Paradis, Head of Technical and Environmental Services at (867) 669-2425 or [adrian.paradis@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:adrian.paradis@inac-ainc.gc.ca).

Regards,



Martin Gavin  
Manager, Giant Mine Remediation Project

cc:

Alan Ehrlich, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer, MVEIRB  
Julie Jackson, INAC, Manager, Consultation Support Unit