

EA1415-01
September 12, 2017

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett
Minister
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington, North Tower
Gatineau, Québec
K1A 0H4

Via email: minister@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

Dear Minister Bennett,

Re: EA1415-01 Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision for the Prairie Creek All Season Road, Canadian Zinc Corp.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) is pleased to submit the attached *Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision* (Report of EA) for the Prairie Creek All Season Road.

The Review Board recommends, under sub-paragraph 128(1)(b)(ii) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, that the approval of the Prairie Creek All Season Road be made subject to implementation of the measures described in this Report of EA, which are necessary to prevent significant adverse impacts on the environment and people. This recommendation depends on the developer implementing its commitments to mitigate impacts to the environment, including people, as described in the Report of EA.

The measures recommended by the Review Board include requirements for Canadian Zinc Corp to:

- create an Independent Technical Review Panel, to ensure that the road is designed to a standard that is highly protective of people and the environment;
- create a *Traffic Control Mitigation and Management Plan*;
- conduct systematic wildlife monitoring and adaptive management incorporating Traditional Knowledge;
- prepare a *Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan*;
- install stations to collect baseline water flow data, to use when designing water crossings;
- collect detailed baseline information, monitor effects and make an adaptive management framework for the Sundog Creek diversion;



- further engage Traditional Knowledge holders about cultural and heritage resources in the Project area, and conduct an Archaeological Impact Assessment incorporating this Traditional Knowledge;
- conduct a rare plant survey to form the basis of a *Rare Plant Management Plan*;
- conduct permafrost investigations to inform road design and appropriate permafrost mitigations;
- create a *Permafrost Management Plan* with systematic permafrost monitoring and adaptive management; and,
- support independent community monitoring of the Project.

The environmental assessment for the Prairie Creek All Season Road was completed using 13.5 months of Review Board time, in accordance with the timeline amendments to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* of April 1, 2015. This is within the legislated timeline of 16 months for an environmental assessment with a hearing.

If you have any questions regarding this Report of EA please contact our Executive Director, Mark Cliffe-Phillips, at 867-766-7055 or by email at mcliffephillips@reviewboard.ca.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson

