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Name - Nom

Trish Merrithew-Mercredi

Position title - Titre du poste

Regional Director General

Directorate - Direction

INAC

Branch - Direction générale

Executive

Room - Pièce

Facsimile no. - N° de télécopieur

(867) 669-2703

Telephone no. - N° de téléphone

(867) 669-2507

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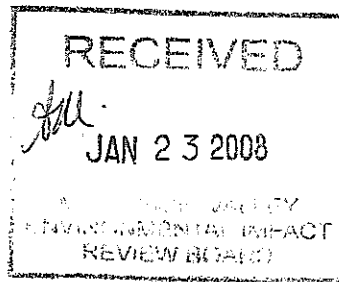
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cc: Neil McCrank 819 953-0335





Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada
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Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada
www.ainc.gc.ca

Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

January 22, 2007

Mr. Willard Hagen
Chair, Gwich'in Land and Water Board and Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Mr. Larry Wallace
Chair, Sabtu Land and Water Board

Ms. Violet Camsell-Blondin
Chair, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board

Ms. Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott
Chair, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Thank you for your letter of December 11, 2007 regarding the Relationship Building Workshop held in October 2007.

In your letter, you raise concern regarding the enforcement of measures from environmental assessment reports and the terms and conditions of land use permits and water licenses. Department officials are well aware of these issues and they continue to be given priority within the Department for potential improvement.

Given the shared responsibilities of the northern regulatory system, the Workshop was arranged to bring together regulators to discuss issues such as these, as a group in an effort to identify potential improvements and possible solutions. As you know, the draft report summarizing the two day workshop, developed by Terriplan Consultants was sent to all participants on December 7, 2007. The report included a section on 'Priority Areas and Action Items' for future attention and action by the Board Forum Working Group, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and other government regulators. The Workshop was an excellent opportunity for partners to come together and develop an action plan for how we can collectively move forward and work together on these issues. As noted in the report, there is much to be done and this Workshop is likely the first of many to come to address common areas of concern.

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I agree that Neil McCrank's appointment as Special Representative to address Northern Regulatory Improvement is timely. I encourage you to speak with Mr. McCrank and identify opportunities and actions which could benefit our co-management regulatory system.

I look forward to our continued work to improve the regulatory system in the Northwest Territories.

Sincerely,



Trish Merrithew-Mercredi
Regional Director General
Northwest Territories

c.c.: Mr. Neil McCrank, Special Representative

cc: Vern Christensen