

Mackenzie Valley
Review Board



Annual Report 2016-2017



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MISSION STATEMENT

We conduct fair, effective, timely, and evidence-based environmental impact assessment processes that consider:

- a) the protection of the environment from the significant adverse impacts of proposed developments;
- b) the protection of the social, cultural, and economic well-being of residents and communities in the Mackenzie Valley; and
- c) the importance of conservation to the well-being and way of life of the Aboriginal peoples of the Mackenzie Valley.

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It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Review Board's Annual Report. Over this fiscal year, the Board continued some important ongoing efforts to achieve the goals set out in its Strategic Plan (2015-2017), including:

- conducting effective, timely environmental assessment for a complement of projects;
- improving its environmental assessment process and engagement with participants in the Mackenzie Valley; and,
- improving engagement with the broader northern regulatory regime in the territory and across the northern territories.

Additionally this year, the Review Board has contributed to the review of environmental assessment process south of the 60th parallel.

In this fiscal year, the Minister of Lands for the Government of the Northwest Territories has accepted the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment for the **Ekati Jay Project** along with its recommendations. The Review Board completed the environmental assessment of the Jay Project six weeks ahead of the legislated time allowed. For the Canadian Zinc's **Prairie Creek All-Season Road Project**, technical reports have been submitted by parties and public hearings will occur in Fort Simpson and Nahanni Butte in

April, 2017. The developers of **Selwyn Chihong Ltd.'s Howard's Pass Access Road** and the GNWT-Department of Transportation's **Mackenzie Valley Highway** are preparing their respective Developer's Assessment Reports. The **Tyhee NWT Corporation's Yellowknife Gold Project** environmental assessment remains suspended.

Besides advancing the process for the projects in environmental assessment, the Board has been busy with organizational and process improvements. We hired new staff and created new EA policy. Through the NWT Board Forum, we led a number of training and outreach initiatives, such as a new online Administrative Law course. The Review Board also partnered with the Land and Water Boards and the territorial government to host *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) regional workshops in the Deh Cho and Sahtu regions.

We thank the outgoing Board members for their commitment and efforts, and we look forward to working with the incoming Board members. Finally we would like to thank the Review Board's staff for their dedication.

Together, we remain committed to implementing our mandate and role in the integrated resource management system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JoAnne Deneron'.

JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson

About the Review Board

The Review Board is an administrative tribunal board that was established through the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* that resulted from the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Board membership

The Review Board consists of nine members appointed by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The chairperson is typically appointed on the nomination of the Review Board; whereas the eight regular board members are appointed in equal numbers from nominees submitted by government (federal and territorial) and Aboriginal land claimant organizations. As a result, the Review Board is a co-management board with an equal number of members from Aboriginal land claimant organizations and from both levels of government.

There were some changes to the composition of the Board this fiscal year. Mr. Kirby Marshall (Yellowknife), completed his appointment term on March 31, 2017. He was a territorial nominee appointed on April 1, 2014. Mr. David Krutko (Fort McPherson) was appointed to the Board on February 16, 2017. He is a Gwich'in nominee.

Mr. Joe Handley (Yellowknife), was nominated by the territorial government and appointed by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada on June 2, 2016. Ms. A. Sunny Munroe (Yellowknife) was reappointed to the Review Board on January 11, 2017. She is a federal nominee. Ms. Munroe was a board member previously from September, 2012 to September, 2015.

Mr. John Curran (Yellowknife) resigned for personal reasons on April 14, 2016 during his second term with the Board. His first term with the Board was July, 2012 to July, 2015. He was a fed-

eral nominee.

As of March 31, 2017, there are 2 vacant positions on the Review Board: one territorial nominated position; and one federal nominated position. The Review Board continues to work with INAC to ensure the Review Board vacancies do not give rise to quorum issues, which could delay Board business. As of March 31 2017 five of the Board members are Aboriginal, and two are long-time northerners.

The members are:

JoAnne Deneron, Chairperson
 Yvonne Doolittle (Sahtu nominee)
 Joe Handley (Territorial nominee)
 David Krutko (Gwich'in nominee)
 Sunny Munroe (Federal nominee)
 Bertha Norwegian (Dehcho nominee)
 James Wah-Shee (Tl'cho nominee)

Review Board Staff

In 2016-17, there were a few staffing changes at the Review Board office. Two new environmental assessment officers were hired; Robyn Paddison was hired in August, and Catherine Fairbairn was hired in September, 2016.

Alan Ehrlich, Manager of Environmental Assessment, has taken a sabbatical year and will be returning September, 2017. Chuck Hubert, senior environmental assessment officer is now in the role of Acting Manager of Environmental Assessment.

Kate Mansfield, Environmental Assessment Officer, returned from maternity leave in February of 2017.

Simon Toogood, Environmental Assessment Officer, has taken a sabbatical year and will return in April, 2017.

Review Board Members 2016-2017



John Curran



Yvonne Doolittle



Joe Handley



David Krutko



JoAnne Deneron
Chairperson



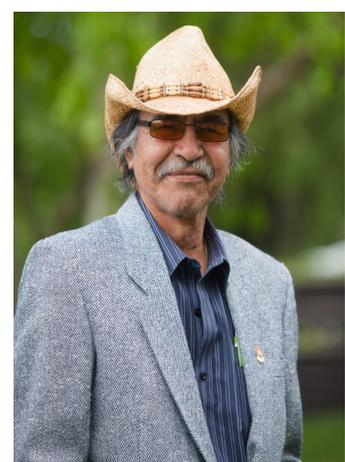
Sunny Munroe



Kirby Marshall

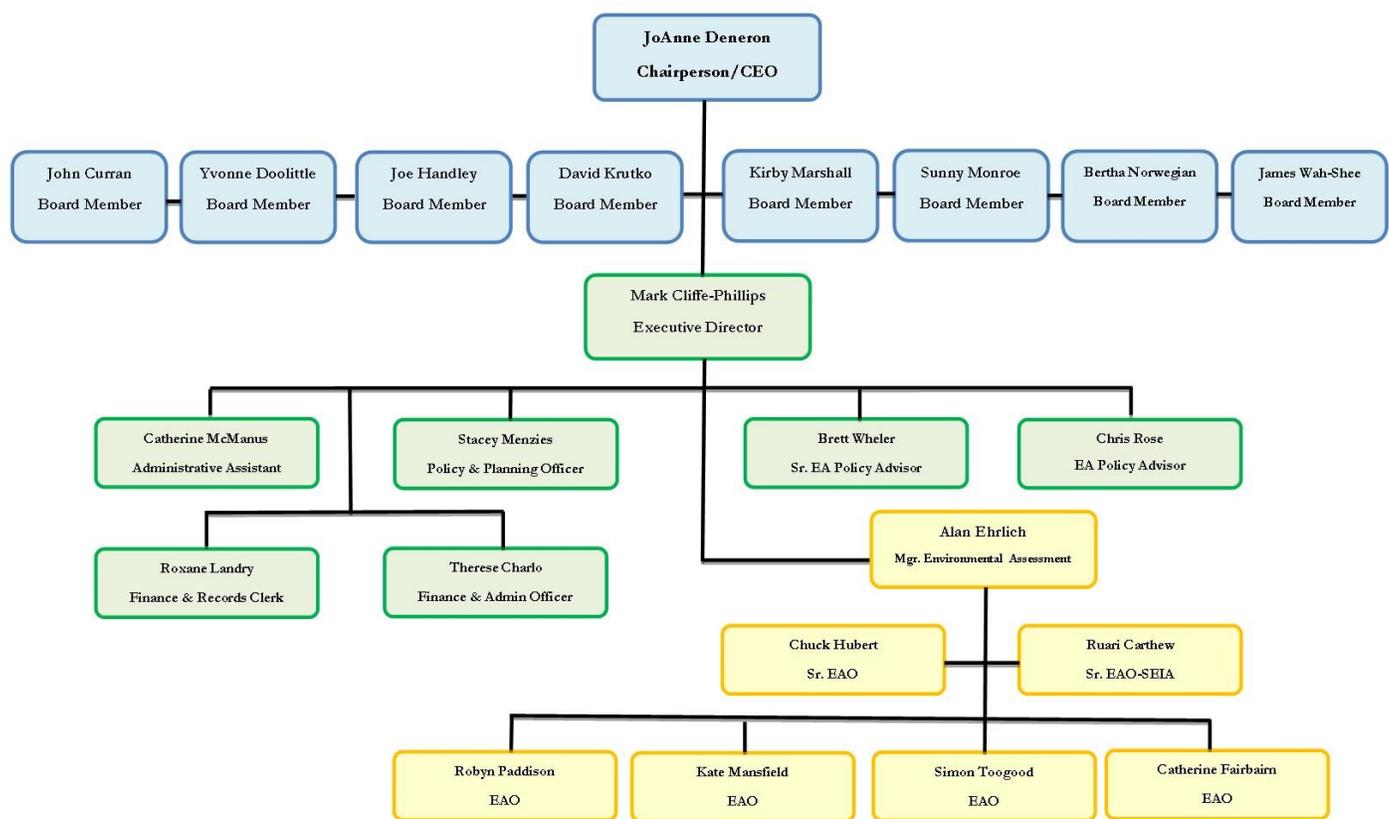


Bertha Norwegian



James Wah-Shee

Organizational Chart



Review Board Staff 2016-2017



Back row, L-R: Chuck Hubert, Chris Rose, Brett Wheler, Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Catherine Fairbairn.
Front Row, L-R: Therese Charlo, Stacey Menzies, Catherine McManus, Ruari Carthew, Robyn Paddison and Roxane Landry.



L-R: returning staff Kate Mansfield, new staff Robyn Paddison and Catherine Fairbairn.

Environmental Assessment

There are three stages in the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley.

1. Preliminary screening

All proposed developments requiring a license, permit, or other authorization are subject to preliminary screening. Preliminary screening is the initial examination of a proposal for potential environmental impacts and the potential to cause public concern. It is the first, and often last stage in the environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Preliminary screenings are usually conducted by a land and water board (e.g. the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board) or by another regulatory authority. Preliminary screening is a cursory review of a proposed development to determine if it *might* have significant adverse impacts on the environment, or *might* cause public concern. If either of these is found to be the case, the application is referred to environmental assessment. If not, the application can proceed to permitting and licensing.

2. Environmental assessment

Only a small number—less than 5%—of proposed developments go through environmental assessment. Environmental assessment is a more thorough study of a proposal to decide if it is *likely* to have significant adverse impact on the environment, or *likely* to be a cause of public concern. Upon completion of an environmental assessment, the Review Board issues a Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision to the Minister of Lands (GNWT)¹ that includes the following:

- a) a recommendation that the project may proceed to regulatory permitting and licensing²; or
- b) a recommendation that the project may proceed to regulatory permitting and licensing subject to the imposition of mitigation measures; or
- c) a recommendation that the project be rejected without further review.

Alternately in the case of a) or b) above, the Review Board may decide based on the evidence presented during the assessment, to order an environmental impact review.

3. Environmental impact review

If the Review Board or Minister determines that a more comprehensive examination of a proposed development is needed, an environmental impact review is ordered following the environmental assessment. Environmental Impact Reviews are conducted by an independent panel. The panel may consist of both Review Board members and non-Review Board members, all appointed by the Review Board. An environmental impact review provides a more rigorous study of the issues raised during the environmental assessment.

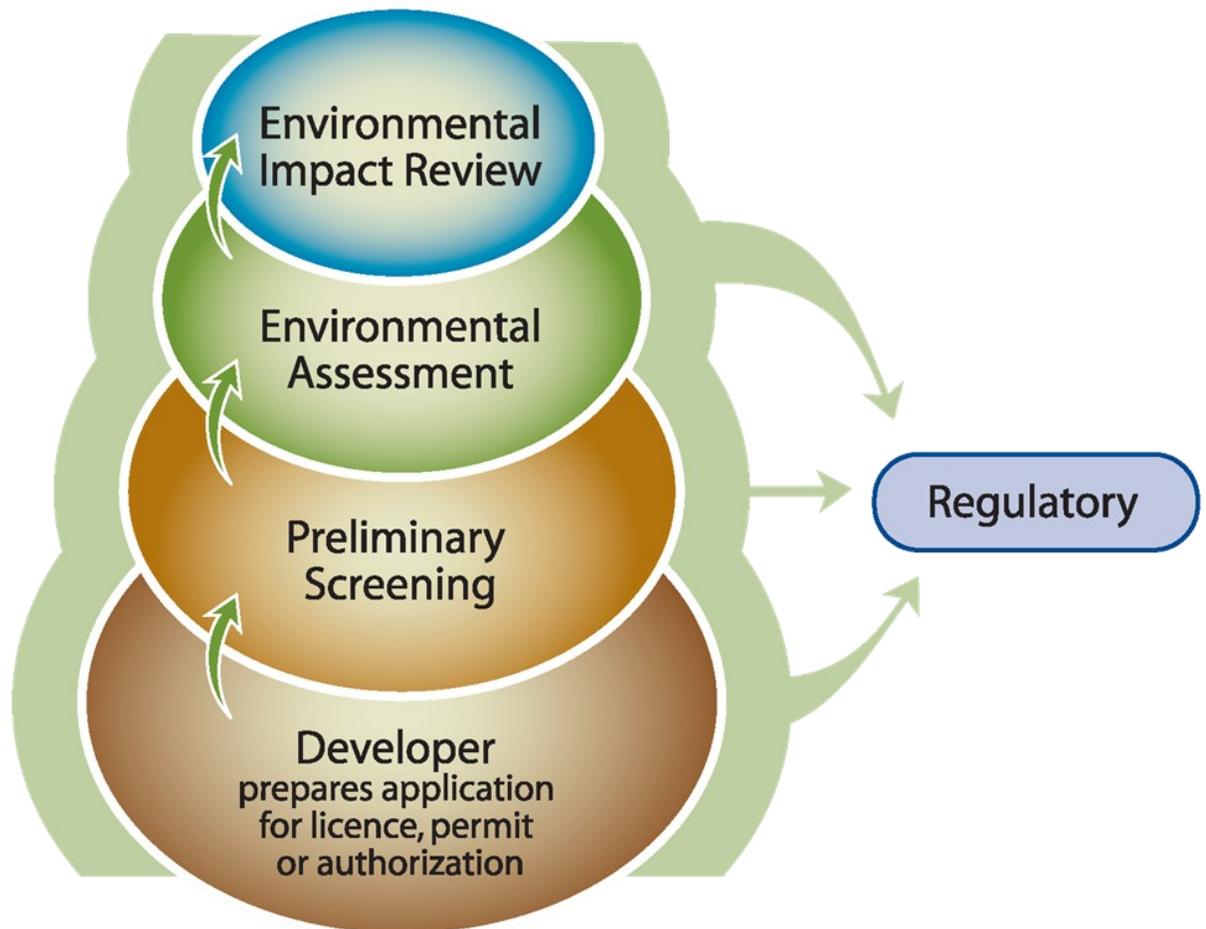
Upon completion of the environmental impact review, the panel will issue a report to the Minister of Lands (GNWT)³ recommending whether the proposal for the development should be approved, with or without mitigative or remedial measures or a follow-up program, or rejected.

¹ For projects partly or wholly on Federal (Crown) land or Tlicho lands, or for which an authorization is needed from a designated regulatory agency (e.g. NEB), the Review Board's report is sent to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, the Tlicho Government, and the designated regulatory authority, respectively.

² Alternately, the report may be made to the federal Minister, a designated regulatory agency (e.g. NEB), or Tlicho Government, as the case may be.

³ Alternately, the report may be made to the federal Minister, a designated regulatory agency (e.g. NEB), or Tlicho Government, as the case may be.

Environmental Impact Assessment Overview



Preliminary Screenings

The Review Board was notified of approximately 30 preliminary screenings in the 2016-17 operating year. Reports came predominantly from the Land and Water Board of the Mackenzie Valley. This number does not include developments that were exempt from preliminary screening, including some extensions and amendments of existing permits and licenses. The type of projects that underwent preliminary screenings varied from quarry, mineral exploration, remediation, tourism and infrastructure.

Environmental Assessments Summary

Environmental Assessment	Referred	Status at April 1, 2016	Status at March 31, 2017	Notes
Thcho All-Season Road GNWT Infrastructure EA1617-01	July 27, 2016		Developer preparing response to Terms of Reference and Adequacy Statement Response April 13, 2017.	
Howard's Pass Access Road Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd. EA1516-01	June 10, 2015	Terms of Reference issued March 17, 2016	Selwyn Chihong preparing its Developer's Assessment Report.	
Prairie Creek All-Season Road Canadian Zinc Corporation (Can Zinc) EA1415-01	May 22, 2014	CanZinc preparing responses to DAR adequacy items from the Review Board and responses to parties' information requests.	Technical reports submitted by parties March 10, 2017.	Public hearings scheduled for April, 2017.
Jay Project Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation EA1314-01	November 21, 2013	GNWT Lands consulting Aboriginal groups on Review Board's Report of EA recommendation to approve the Jay Project subject to the implementation of measures.	GNWT Lands accepts the Review Board's recommendation with measures on May 19, 2016.	Project proceeds to the licensing and monitoring phase.
Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Norman Wells) GNWT Infrastructure EA1213-02	February 8, 2013	Review Board issues revised Terms of Reference February 13, 2015.	GNWT preparing its Developer's Assessment Report.	Revised scope of development proposes construction and operation of an all-weather highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells.
Yellowknife Gold Project Tyhee NWT Corporation EA0809-003	August 27, 2008	EA suspended.	EA suspended.	Review Board issues letter dated July 25, 2013 suspending EA until developer provides requested information.

Environmental assessments active in 2016-2017

The following environmental assessment status updates are provided for the reporting period from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

EA1617-01:Ticho All-season Road, Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=958

The Ticho All-season Road project (TASR) consists of the construction and operation of a 94km all season road from Highway 3 at km 196 west of Behchoko north to the existing all season road near Whati. The road is a two lane all season gravel road with a 60m wide right of way. Road construction plans have not been finalized, but construction may be year round and is expected to take two to four years to complete. The operation phase will continue indefinitely and there is no closure and reclamation phase. The TASR was referred to environmental assessment by the Review Board on July 27, 2016. In its Reason for Decision, the rationale for referral is as follows:

- changes to access-new all-season access to the community of Whati;
- changes causing stresses on existing social services-related to increased drug and alcohol addiction, and increased crime;
- impacts on caribou– increased harvesting pressure, increased predation resulting from new access, increased road-induced mortality, and barrier effects to caribou– linear impediments, dust, noise, reduced air quality;
- uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

In August, the Review Board hosted a community scoping meeting in Whati in order to better understand the community's issues with the proposed all-season road. A technical session on scoping the issues was held in Yellowknife. Based on the issues

scoping meetings and information in the Project Description Report, the Review Board prepared a draft Terms of Reference and draft Adequacy Statement for public review.

The Review Board issued its Terms of Reference and Adequacy Statement on October 28, 2016. At the end of March 2017, the GNWT Department of Infrastructure was preparing its response to the Adequacy Statement and planned to submit it shortly.

EA1415-02:Howard's Pass Access Road – Selwyn Chihong

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=949

The Howard's Pass Access Road (HPAR) project is an expansion and upgrade of the existing 79 km mineral exploration road in the NWT between Cantung and Howard's Pass. The HPAR project begins at km 188 of the Nahanni Range Road, east of the Yukon border near Cantung, and continues north in the NWT to Howard's Pass where it turns west into the Yukon. The majority of the HPAR passes through the Nahanni National Park Reserve and the Naats'ihcho'oh National Park Reserve in the NWT.

Project activities include widening and clearing the HPAR right of way, upgrades to bridges and culverts, extraction of borrow materials and use of the road for a proposed lead-zinc mine site in the Yukon west of Howard's Pass. The scope of development for the HPAR includes use of the road by the Yukon mine throughout its operations phase, to haul lead and zinc concentrates from the mine through the NWT south to markets. In addition, supplies needed to construct and operate the mine throughout its life, including fuel, milling reagents, camp supplies and consumables will be transported north through the NWT along the HPAR to the Yukon mine site.

The HPAR project was referred to the Review Board for environmental assessment by Parks Canada in June, 2015. The Review Board began its re-

view of the developer's proposed Terms of Reference and conducted scoping meetings in NWT and Yukon communities during the summer and fall of 2015.

The Review Board drafted a Terms of Reference in February, 2016 based on information gathered during scoping meetings, information from the developer and from suggestions from parties. Parties submitted comments on the draft Terms of Reference in early winter 2016 and on March 17, 2016, the Review Board issues its Final Terms of Reference for the environmental assessment of the HPAR. Selwyn Chihong is preparing its Developer's Assessment Report.

EA1415-01: Prairie Creek All-Season Road - Canadian Zinc

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=680

Canadian Zinc Corporation (CanZinc) proposes to construct, operate and close an all-season road from the Liard Highway at the Nahanni Butte access road to the Prairie Creek mine. Approximately half of the proposed 180 km road passes through the Nahanni National Park Reserve. The majority of the other half is on GNWT lands with a small

portion passing through lands administered by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

CanZinc responded to outstanding Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) adequacy requirements in April of 2016. The Review Board advised the developer that the response met the requirements of the Board's December, 2015 Reasons for Decision on the DAR adequacy and the project could proceed to the next phase. Information requests from parties were submitted to CanZinc in March of 2016 and CanZinc submitted responses in April and May.

The Review Board hosted an in-person technical session on the proposed all-season road in Yellowknife from June, 13-16. Technical sessions were attended by government regulators, Aboriginal organizations, technical advisors for the Review Board as well as the developer and its technical advisors. Key topics for discussion included:

- an updated project description,
- access control options,
- impacts to wildlife,
- realignment of Sundog Creek,
- hydrology,
- geo-hazards, and



L-R: Community scoping session in Whati for the Tłı̄cho All Season Road.

- accidents and malfunctions including risks.

CanZinc responded to undertakings and unresolved questions, from the June technical sessions. In July, the Review Board hosted technical sessions on cultural impacts in the communities of Nahanni Butte and Fort Simpson. In August, CanZinc conducted additional field work for wildlife and vegetation to address baseline data gaps identified at the June technical sessions. Second round information requests were prepared by parties in August and CanZinc prepared responses to these questions in October.

An independent third party risk assessor prepared its report in November, 2016 and the developer responded in February, 2017. Parties submitted technical reports in March, 2017 and the Review Board

began preparations for public hearings in Nahanni Butte and Fort Simpson in April, 2017.

EA1314-01:Jay Project – Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation

http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=674

The Jay Project is an expansion of the existing Ekati diamond mine and consists of a proposed open pit at Lac du Sauvage. The project was referred to environmental assessment on November 21, 2013. The developer is Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation (Dominion).

The Review Board submitted its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision for the Jay Project to the GNWT Minister of Lands on



Cultural impacts session for the Prairie Creek All-season road in Nahanni Butte, July 2016.

February 1, 2016. The Report recommends approval of the Jay Project subject to the implementation of measures required to mitigate adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.

On March 24, the Review Board staff presented the Board's Report of EA to all parties in order to explain the Board's findings and its Reasons for Decision, with a focus on measures required to reduce impacts that would otherwise be significant. During March 2016 and April 2017, the GNWT and federal government consulted with potentially affected Aboriginal groups, asking whether the projects with conditions proposed in the Report of EA could have potential impacts on asserted or existing Aboriginal rights. Seven Aboriginal groups responded to the territorial and federal governments.

On May 19 2016, the GNWT Minister of Lands agreed to adopt the recommendation of the Review Board that the project be approved subject to the implementation of the measures and the developer's commitments contained in the Report of EA. The

federal and territorial governments advised the Aboriginal organizations of this decision with rationale on the same day. This environmental assessment was completed using 14 months of Review Board time which is within the legislated time limit of 16 months.

EA1213-002: Mackenzie Valley Highway – Government of the Northwest Territories
http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=672

The Mackenzie Valley Highway was referred to environmental assessment in February, 2013. The Government of the Northwest Territories proposes to construct and operate the Mackenzie Valley Highway as an 818 km all-weather road from Wrigley to the Dempster Highway south of Inuvik. The Review Board issued its revised Terms of Reference for the all-season highway from Wrigley to Norman Wells on February 13, 2015. The GNWT is preparing its Developer's Assessment Report.



Technical sessions for the Prairie Creek all-season road in Yellowknife, June 2016.

EA0809-003: Tyhee NWT Corporation– Yellowknife Gold Project (2008)

http://reviewboard.ca/registry/project.php?project_id=71

The Yellowknife Gold Project is a proposed open pit gold mine located 88 km northeast of Yellowknife and is adjacent to the historic Discovery Mine site. In August of 2012, the developer advised the Board that changes to the project description were contemplated and indicated that a revised project description and responses to information requests would be submitted.

In June 2013, the developer advised the Review Board that it required additional time to prepare an updated project description and respond to information requests from parties and the Board. On July 25 2013, the Review Board advised the developer that failure to provide the required information within one month would result in suspension of the EA. The developer responded on August 19, 2013 that it was unable to provide the information as requested. The Yellowknife Gold Project is therefore suspended until further notice.

Environmental assessments completed and closed in 2016-17.

None

Environmental assessments withdrawn by developer and closed 2016-17.

None

Environmental assessments under further consideration in 2016-17.

None

Environmental Assessment Map 2016-2017

Mackenzie Valley Highway (Wrigley to Norman Wells) (MVHW)
 GNWT Infrastructure
 EA1213-02

Howard's Pass Access Road (HPAR)
 Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd.
 EA1516-01

Tlicho All-season Road (TASR)
 GNWT Infrastructure
 EA1617-01

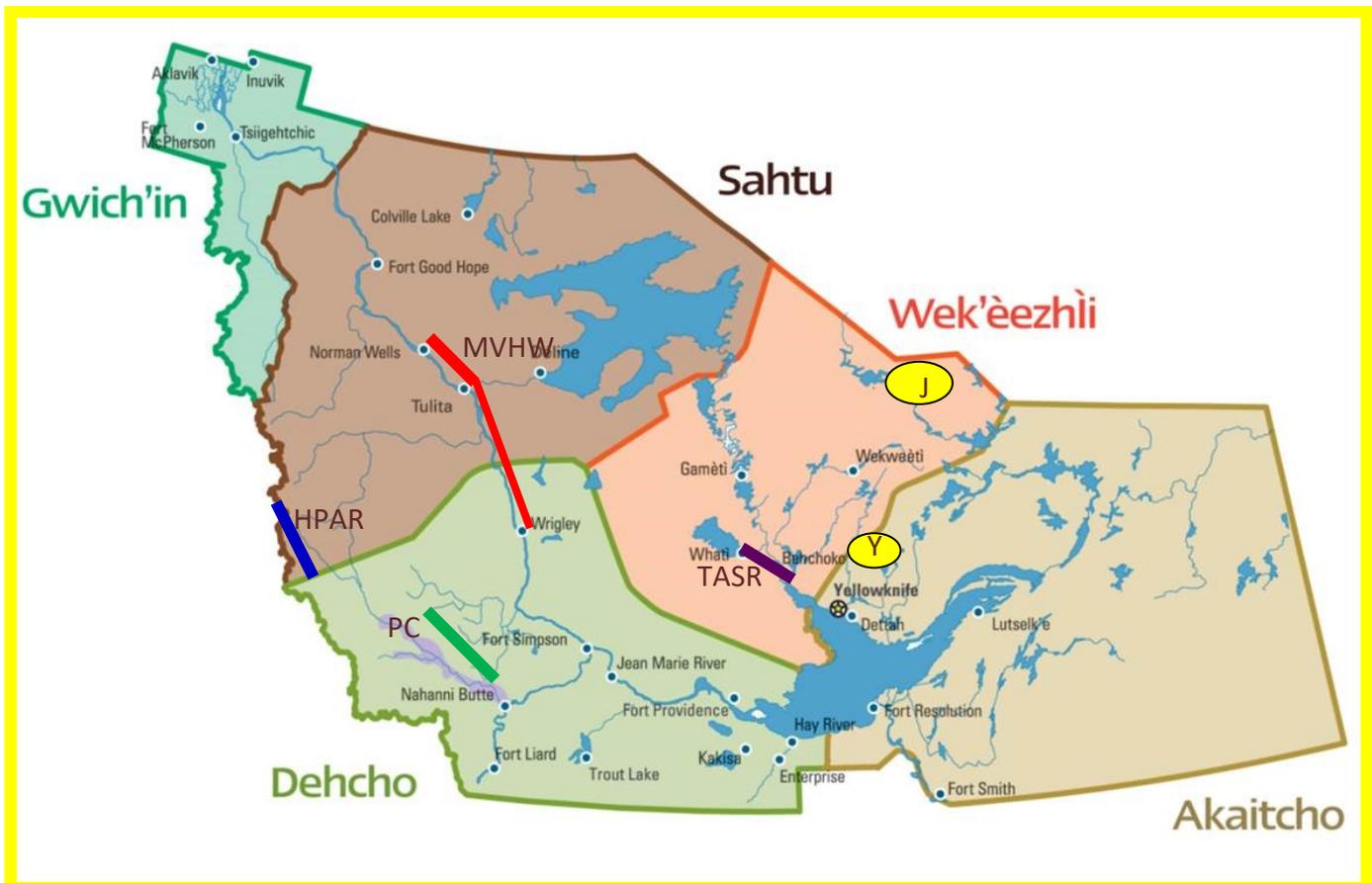
Prairie Creek All-Season Road (PC)
 Canadian Zinc Corporation (Can Zinc)
 EA1415-01



Jay Project
 Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation
 EA1314-01



Yellowknife Gold Project
 Tyhee NWT Corporation
 EA0809-003



Locations are approximate and not to scale.

Review Board Funding 2016-2017

Every year, the Review Board develops a work plan submission for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) which describes the Review Board's plans and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, and identifies the human and financial resources required to carry out those activities. This provides the foundation for the funding agreements that the Review Board reaches with the department.

Fiscal Year	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Core	\$2,596,590	\$2,648,252	\$2,790,727	\$2,731,836	\$2,796,056	\$2,840,516
Supplementary Funding	\$559,103	\$155,000	NA	NA	NA	NA
Deferred Contribution from previous	\$119,564	\$263,410	NA	\$121,536	\$469,942	176,640
Total	\$3,275,257	\$3,066,662	\$2,790,727	\$2,853,372	\$3,265,998	3,017,156

Review Board Strategic Plan 2015-2017

Goal 1

Timely, effective, and evidence-based Environmental Impact Assessment processes

Goal 2

Efficient, innovative, and transparent Board

Goal 3

Parties to our process and residents of the Mackenzie Valley are aware of:

- A) the purpose of the Board, and;
- B) their role in the Environmental Impact Assessment process

Goal 4

Improved collaboration within an integrated resource management system

Review Board Operations

The Review Board continues to work on initiatives to develop and improve policy and guidelines for the environmental assessment process.

The Review Board has worked on the following initiatives this year:

- updating its Rule of Procedures;
- updating its Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines;
- creating an Environmental Assessment initiation guideline;
- worked in partnership with the Land and Water Board to identify options for an Engagement Policy and Guidelines;
- engaged with the Development Certificate working group.

The Review Board has also engaged with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) about

the department's proposals for the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) amendments and administrative monetary penalties regulations.

The Review Board is working to develop an interactive guide to the NWT resource management system and working with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) on readiness for potential transboundary reviews.

The Review Board and the Land and Water Boards held a Preliminary Screening workshop in September, 2016. Over forty participants attended from organizations/ departments with preliminary screening responsibilities. The focus of the workshop was to share knowledge about the preliminary screening process, discuss challenges with the process and identify constructive steps that could be taken to improve, clarify and standardize preliminary screening processes within and across institutions.

The Review Board, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Boards, GNWT Department of Environ-



Resource Co-management Workshop in Hay River, January 2016.

ment and Natural Resources (ENR) and Department of Lands held a regional Co-management workshop in Hay River in January of 2017. The purpose was to inform participants about processes within the NWT resource co-management system; share knowledge, experience and tailor content and conversations to resource management in areas without settled land claim agreements.

The Review Board, the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB), the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB) and the GNWT Department of Lands, facilitated a Resource Management workshop in Norman Wells in February, 2017. The purpose was to revisit the intent and spirit of the Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim and explore its implementation through the MVRMA. Both workshops were well-received and participants looked forward to having similar engagement in the future.

The Review Board attended the Pan Territorial Board Forum in Whitehorse in October, 12-13. The purpose of this Forum is to meet annually to bring together representatives from each of the assessment and regulatory boards in the North (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) to discuss common challenges and solution as well as opportunities for working together to address these challenges and share solutions.

The Review Board continues to participate in the Northwest Territories Board Forum meetings and training as a way to share organizational developments and engage in problem solving issues that are a commonality between the co-management boards in the NWT. The Review Board attended the annual Board Forum meeting in November. The meeting was hosted by the National Energy Board (NEB) and the Office of the Regulator of Oil and

Gas Operations (OROGO) in Norman Wells.

The Review Board continued to administer the funds provided by INAC to carry out the NWT Board Forum training. For this fiscal year, Review Board staff coordinated the updating and revitalization of the Administrative Law course and development of an online version of the course available to the public via the NWT Board Forum website (www.nwtboardforum.com).

The Review Board staff presented to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources in Ottawa in May. Staff presented on the innovation of decision-making in the environmental assessment process that is unique to Canada's north.

The Review Board staff presented to the expert panel reviewing the Canada Environmental Assessment process in November in Ottawa. The presentation outlined the process of environmental assessment in the Mackenzie Valley. The Review Board staff also presented at the annual Geoscience Forum in November, in Yellowknife on policy updates.



Resource Co-management Workshop in Norman Wells, February 2016.



Above and below: NWT Board Forum training: Administrative Law in Yellowknife, March 2016.



Financial Statements

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Financial Statements

March 31, 2017

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Financial Statements

March 31, 2017

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the Board's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board as at March 31, 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

**Yellowknife, Canada
May 20, 2017**

Chartered Professional Accountants

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31,	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Revenues			
Government of Canada Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada			
- Claims implementation	\$ 2,840,516	\$ 2,840,516	\$ 2,796,056
- Board forum training	150,000	150,000	150,000
Government of Northwest Territories	30,000	30,000	-
Other	-	-	1,508
	3,020,516	3,020,516	2,947,564
Contribution not receivable	-	2,171	4,243
	3,020,516	3,018,345	2,943,321
Expenses			
Amortization	-	32,988	34,811
Training	-	4,415	2,358
Communications	15,314	8,604	9,738
Professional fees	465,000	635,565	801,196
Contract service	-	8,364	30,109
Honoraria	349,000	161,037	261,756
Office and administration	130,500	52,100	63,086
Office salaries	1,563,795	1,479,771	1,617,329
Rent	311,352	295,578	303,397
Travel - Board	126,000	75,069	131,978
Travel - Staff	59,555	93,426	70,891
	3,020,516	2,846,917	3,326,649
Excess of revenues over expenditures before other items	-	171,428	(383,328)
Other items			
Transfer to deferred contributions	-	(197,213)	(176,640)
Transfer from deferred contributions	-	-	591,478
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	-	(25,785)	31,510
Transfer to (from) capital assets	-	25,785	(30,002)
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,508

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	Unrestricted	Investment in capital assets	Total 2017	Total 2016
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,991	\$ 94,637	\$ 96,628	\$ 65,118
Excess of revenues over expenses	-	-	-	1,508
Amortization of capital assets	-	(32,988)	(32,988)	(34,811)
Additions of capital assets	-	7,203	7,203	64,813
Balance, end of year	\$ 1,991	\$ 68,852	\$ 70,843	\$ 96,628

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2017 2016

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 708,491	\$ 505,505
Accounts receivable (note 4)	57,591	45,690
Prepaid expenses	7,020	8,887

773,102

560,082

Capital assets (note 5)

68,852

94,637

\$ 841,954

\$ 654,719

Liabilities

Current

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 198,711	\$ 169,087
Salaries, vacation and severance payable (note 7)	193,266	207,084
Contributions repayable (note 8)	5,280	5,280
Deferred contributions (note 9)	373,854	176,640

771,111

558,091

Fund balances

Unrestricted	1,991	1,991
Investment in capital assets	68,852	94,637

70,843

96,628

\$ 841,954

\$ 654,719

Approved on behalf of the board:

Original Copy Signed

Director

Original Copy Signed

Director

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended March 31,	2017	2016
Cash provided by (used for)		
Operating activities		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,508
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization	32,988	34,811
Transfer to capital assets	(25,785)	30,002
	7,203	66,321
Change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(11,901)	1,591
Prepaid expenses	1,867	31,323
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	29,624	71,347
Salaries, vacation and severance payable	(13,818)	24,364
Deferred contributions	197,214	(414,838)
	210,189	(219,892)
Investing activity		
Purchase of capital assets	(7,203)	(64,813)
Increase (decrease) in cash	202,986	(284,705)
Cash, beginning of year	505,505	790,210
Cash, end of year	\$ 708,491	\$ 505,505

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2017

1. Nature of operations

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the "Board") was established under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* with a mandate to conduct environmental impact assessments in the Mackenzie Valley of the Northwest Territories.

The Board is exempt from income tax under section 149(1)(l) of the *Income Tax Act*.

2. Significant accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Public Sector Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations. The significant policies are detailed as follows:

(a) Revenue recognition

The Board follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and its collection is reasonably assured. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Under Public Sector Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations, funding received for restricted purposes that has not been expended is required to be deferred. The commitments of the Board under the funding agreement have been met; any remaining balance will be applied towards the planning and carrying out of duties and responsibilities assigned to the Board under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements, Implementation Plan, and related Act(s) of Parliament.

(b) Financial instruments

The Board classifies its financial instruments at cost or amortized cost. The Board's accounting policy for financial instruments is as follows:

This category includes cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, salaries, vacation and severance payable, and contributions repayable. They are initially recognized at cost and subsequently carried at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method, less any impairment losses on financial assets.

Transaction costs related to financial instruments in the amortized cost category are added to the carrying value of the instruments.

Write-downs on financial assets in the amortized cost category are recognized when the amount of a loss is known with sufficient precision, and there is no realistic prospect of recovery. Financial assets are then written down to net recoverable value with the write-down being recognized in the statement of operations.

(c) Capital assets

Capital assets are accounted for at cost. Amortization is based on their useful life using the declining balance and straight-line methods and rates:

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2017

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Employee future benefits policy

The Board has a defined contribution plan providing pension and post-employment benefits for its employees. The cost of the defined contribution plan is recognized based on the required contributions by the Board during each period.

Provisions has been made for the Board's liability for employee future benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the statement of financial position date. Accordingly, the Board has provided for obligations related to unused vacation and severance entitlement. The accrued amounts have been classified under accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

(e) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Public Sector Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Future changes to significant accounting policies

Related party disclosures, Section PS 2200

PSAB approved Section PS 2200, Related Party Disclosures. This Section is effective for fiscal periods beginning on or after April 1, 2017. Earlier adoption is permitted. This Section defines related parties and establishes disclosures required for related party transactions. It is expected that reasonable efforts would be made to identify related party transactions. This may involve adopting policies and procedures designed to ensure that these transactions are appropriately identified, measured and disclosed in the financial statements. Not all related party relationships or transactions occurring between related parties are required to be disclosed. Disclosure is generally required when related party transactions have occurred at a value different from that which would have been arrived at if the parties were unrelated. However, not all of these transactions are reportable under this Section. Only those transactions that have or could have a material financial effect on the financial statements are disclosed.

The impact of the transition to this accounting standard has not yet been determined.

Assets, Section PS 3210

PSAB approved Section PS 3210, Assets. This Section is effective for fiscal periods beginning on or after April 1, 2017. Earlier adoption is permitted. This Section provides guidance on how to apply the definition of assets as set out in Section PS 1000, and establishes standards for disclosure of assets except certain specific types of assets, which are dealt with in other Sections.

The impact of the transition to this accounting standard has not yet been determined.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2017

3. Future changes to significant accounting policies (continued)

Contractual Rights, Section PS 3380

PSAB approved Section PS 3380, Contractual Rights. This Section is effective for fiscal periods beginning on or after April 1, 2017. Earlier adoption is permitted. This Section defines and establishes standards for disclosure of rights to economic resources arising from contracts or agreements that will result in both an asset and revenue in the future except certain specific types of contractual rights.

The impact of the transition to this accounting standard has not yet been determined.

Inter-entity Transactions, Section PS 3420

PSAB approved Section PS 3420, Inter-entity Transactions. This Section is effective for fiscal periods beginning on or after April 1, 2017. Earlier adoption is permitted. This Section establishes standards on how to account for and report transactions between public sector entities that comprise a government's reporting entity from both a provider and recipient perspective. This section may be applied in conjunction with Related Party Disclosures, Section PS 2200.

The impact of the transition to this accounting standard has not yet been determined.

4. Accounts receivable

	2017	2016
Trade	\$ 7,748	\$ 2,228
Employee advances	5,005	-
Holdbacks receivable	17,329	10,757
GST - Public Service Bodies rebate	27,509	32,705
	\$ 57,591	\$ 45,690

The holdback receivable is for development of the Yukon/NWT Environmental Assessment transboundary mapping process. Allowance for doubtful accounts at March 31, 2017 is nil (2016 – nil).

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2017

5. Capital assets

				2017	2016
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Furniture and fixtures	20%	\$ 186,424	\$ 136,492	\$ 49,932	\$ 60,532
Leasehold improvements	20%	103,626	98,599	5,027	6,285
Computer equipment	55%	51,345	38,358	12,987	21,859
Computer software	100%	11,923	11,923	-	5,961
Electronic data equipment	30%	1,066	160	906	-
		\$ 354,384	\$ 285,532	\$ 68,852	\$ 94,637

6. Bank indebtedness

A demand operating loan has been authorized to a maximum of \$100,000. It bears interest at CIBC's prime lending rate plus 1.5% per annum and is secured by a general security agreement and an assignment of insurance. Secured by capital assets with a net book value of \$68,852 (2016 - \$94,637).

7. Salaries, vacation and severance payable

	Beginning of year	Used	Accumulated during the year	End of year
Severance payable	\$ 68,760	\$ (3,269)	\$ 16,672	\$ 82,163
Vacation payable	78,161	(66,247)	68,802	80,716
Wages payable	60,163	(60,163)	30,387	30,387
	\$ 207,084	\$ (129,679)	\$ 115,861	\$ 193,266

During the year the Board included in the salaries, wages and benefits expense amounts of \$115,861 (2016 - \$150,237) of current and future employee benefits.

8. Contributions repayable

	2017	2016
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada - Board Forum Training	\$ 5,280	\$ 5,280

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2017

9. Deferred contributions

	2017	2016
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada - Claims Implementation	\$ 373,854	\$ 176,640

10. Financial instruments

The Board is exposed to credit and liquidity risks from its financial instruments. Qualitative and quantitative analysis of the significant risk from the Board's financial instruments by type of risk is provided below:

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Board if a debtor fails to make payments of interest and principal when due. The Board is exposed to this risk relating to its, cash, special purpose funds, trust assets and accounts receivable.

The Board holds its cash with federally regulated chartered banks who are insured by the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation. In the event of default, the Board's cash is insured up to \$100,000.

Accounts receivable are receivable from government agencies. Credit risk related to accounts receivable is mitigated by internal controls as well policies and oversight over arrears for ultimate collection. Management has determined that no accounts receivable required impairment.

The Board's maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the financial assets for a total of \$766,082 (2016 - \$564,452).

(b) Liquidity risk

The Board does have a liquidity risk in the accounts payable and accrued liabilities, salaries, vacation and severance, payable and contributions repayable of \$397,257 (2016 - \$381,451). Liquidity risk is the risk that the Board cannot repay its obligations when they become due to its creditors. The Board reduces its exposure to liquidity risk by ensuring that it documents when authorized payments become due and maintains an adequate line of credit to repay trade creditors.

There have been no significant changes from the previous year in the exposure to risk or policies, procedures, and methods used to measure the risk.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2017

11. Budget amounts

The budget figures presented are unaudited, and are those approved by the Board.

12. Pension plan

The contribution remitted by the Board to the NEBS Pension Plan were as follows:

	2017	2016
Employers' contribution	\$ 40,679	\$ 39,248
Employees' contribution	40,679	39,248
Pension surplus	\$ 81,358	\$ 78,496

Participating employers in the Plan, including the Board are required to make contributions to the plan of 8% (2016 - 8%) of pensionable earnings, and to remit employee contributions of 8% (2016 - 8%). These contributions cover current service costs and a provision for adverse deviation.

The Plan is governed by the *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act* (in force October 1, 2015) (the Act) and a Plan text document maintained by the administrator of the Plan. Both the Act and the Plan text document provide that participating employers are liable for their share of any funding shortfalls in the Plan as determined on a going concern basis, and on Plan windup. The Act and the Plan text document provide any going concern shortfalls, should they arise, are to be paid down over no more than 15 years and that contribution rates may be increased if necessary to do so.

Pursuant to the Act, the Plan is exempt from compliance with the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985 (PBSA) and is not required to be funded on a solvency basis.

As at January 1, 2016, the NEBS Pension Plan had a going concern surplus of \$12,500,000 (2015 - \$2,600,000) and a funded ratio of 109% (2016 - 102%). The Plan serves 2481 employee members and 93 participating employees.

13. Related party transactions

During the year, honoraria and travel expenditures were paid to members of the Board of Directors. These expenditures were in the normal course of the Board's operations and were measured at the exchange amount.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2017

14. Commitments

The Board's total obligation, under an equipment operating lease and a property lease agreement, is as follows:

2018	\$ 314,698
2019	313,071
2020	313,071
2021	182,625
<hr/>	
	\$ 1,123,465
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15. Contingent liabilities

During the 2012 fiscal year, a former employee filed a statement of claim in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories against the Board for constructive dismissal. The likelihood or amount of any liability cannot be reasonably determined and as such a liability has not been accrued in these financial statements.

16. Comparative amounts

The financial statements have been reclassified, where applicable, to conform to the presentation used in the current year.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Schedule of Salaries, Honoraria, Travel Expenses and Other Remuneration

March 31, 2017

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Schedule of Salaries, Honoraria, Travel Expenses and Other Remuneration

For the year ended March 31, 2017

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

We have audited the accompanying Schedule of Salaries, Honoraria, Travel Expenses and Other Remuneration paid by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board as at March 31, 2017 and a summary of significant accounting policies (together "the schedule.")

Management's responsibility for the Schedule

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this schedule in accordance with the Year-end Reporting Handbook for the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Recipient and Flow Through Organizations relevant to preparing such a schedule, and such for internal control as management determines is necessary to enable preparation of schedules that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility to express an opinion on this schedule based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the schedule is free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the schedule. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the schedule in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the schedule.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion

Opinion

In our opinion, this schedule presents fairly, in all material respects, the disbursements of the Board for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board as at March 31, 2017 in accordance with the Year-end Reporting Handbook for the Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Recipient and Flow Through Organizations.

**Yellowknife, Canada
May 31, 2017**

Chartered Professional Accountants

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Schedule of Salaries, Honoraria, Travel Expenses and Other Remuneration

For the year ended March 31, 2017

Position	Months	Salary and Benefits (Inc. IPA and VTA)	Honoraria	Total	Travel Expenses
Elected or Appointed officials					
Chairperson	12	\$ -	\$ 50,650	\$ 50,650	\$ 30,692
Vice Chair	12	-	25,181	25,181	6,256
Board Member	12	-	31,100	31,100	17,936
Board Member	12	-	13,825	13,825	1,923
Board Member	12	-	20,725	20,725	5,011
Board Member	10	-	13,906	13,906	-
Board Member	2	-	3,575	3,575	3,416
Board Member	2	-	2,075	2,075	-
		\$ -	\$ 161,037	\$ 161,037	\$ 65,234
Unelected Senior Officials					
Executive Director	12	\$ 155,368	\$ -	\$ 155,368	\$ 33,790

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Notes to Schedule of Salaries, Honoraria, Travel Expenses and Other Remuneration

March 31, 2017

1. **Basis of Presentation**

The financial information reflects only the salaries, honoraria, travel expenses and other remuneration paid to the senior officials and elected officials. It does not reflect the assets, liabilities or total revenue and expenses of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Schedule of NWT Board Forum Training Revenue and Expenses

March 31, 2017

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

We have audited the accompanying schedule of revenue and expenses for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's Board Forum Training Program as at March 31, 2017 and a summary of significant accounting policies (together "the schedule"). The schedule has been prepared by management based on the funding agreement (No.1617-NT-000070) between the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

Management's responsibility for the Schedule

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this schedule in accordance with the funding agreement regarding the Board Forum Training between the MacKenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, and the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada relevant to preparing such a schedule, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a schedule that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this schedule based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the schedule is free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the schedule. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the schedule.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independent Auditors' Report (continued)

Opinion

In our opinion, the NWT Schedule of Board Forum Training Revenue and Expenses for the year ended March 31, 2017 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the funding arrangement (No.1617-NT-000070).

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the schedule, which describes the basis of accounting. The Schedule is prepared to assist the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board to meet the requirements of the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. As a result, the schedule may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and should not be distributed to parties other than the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board and the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
May 31, 2017**

Chartered Professional Accountants

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Schedule of NWT Board Forum Training Revenue and Expenses

For the year ended March 31,	Budget 2017	Actual 2017
Revenue		
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada - Board Forum Training	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Expenses		
Catering	-	1,141
Legal	-	48,240
Professional fees	135,000	75,154
Supplies	-	1,761
Travel	15,000	21,533
	150,000	147,829
Excess revenue before transfer	-	2,171
Contributions not receivable	-	(2,171)
Excess revenue	\$ -	\$ -

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Notes to Schedule of NWT Board Forum Training Revenue and Expenses

March 31, 2017

1. Basis of Presentation

The financial information reflects only the revenue and expenses under the NWT Board Forum Training agreement (No.1617-NT-000070). It does not reflect the assets, liabilities or total revenue and expenses of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.

2. Budget

The budget figures presented are unadited, and are those approved by the Board.

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