



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
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August 12, 2008

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Your file / Votre référence
IG-12AUG08-245

Our file / Notre référence

Mr. Richard Edjericon, Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
P.O. Box 938, 5102 – 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Edjericon:

**Re: EA0809-001 Giant Mine Remediation – Scoping Hearing, Undertaking
No. 3**

During the Scoping Hearing for the Giant Mine Remediation Environmental Assessment on July 22, 2008, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) undertook to provide a written response to the question: 'Would the availability of participant funding be any different if this development went to an environmental impact review rather than an environmental assessment?' This letter is in response to this Undertaking.

The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* does not include provisions that deal with participant funding for either the Environmental Assessment or the Environmental Impact Review processes. INAC does not have an established participant funding program but does provide funding through the Interim Resource Management Assistance (IRMA) program to Aboriginal communities in unsettled land claim areas.

Department officials are currently working on a pan-northern policy approach to participant funding. In the meantime, INAC will continue to use various mechanisms to directly support the capacity of participants in resource management processes. In the NWT, the principle mechanism remains the IRMA Program and if this mechanism is not available or adequate, decisions to provide funding directly to participants will be made on a project-by project basis.

Sincerely,

Trish Merrithew-Mercredi
Regional Director General – NT Region

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