## NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

## PO Box 2301 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

Treaty 11

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Vern Christensen, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board 200 Scotia Centre. Box 938, 5102-50th Ave Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

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## Re: EA 1011-002 TNR Gold Corp, Moose Property

The North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) wishes to inform the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board (MVEIRB) of it's outstanding concerns with regard to the environmental assessment of TNR Gold Corp's Moose Property exploration project.

- 1. The socio-economic well-being of the North Slave Métis will be negatively affected if resources belonging to them (economic rents and property rights) are expropriated without compensation. (115.b)
- 2. The socio-economic well-being of the North Slave Métis will be negatively affected if the pace of development exceeds the ability of the North Slave Métis to participate in the development. (115.b)
- 3. The cultural well-being of the North Slave Métis will be negatively affected if our history, heritage, culture, and traditions are not adequately represented in archaeological or other heritage and culture studies. (115.b)
- 4. The biophysical environment of the North Slave Métis will be negatively affected if radioactive or otherwise harmful contaminants are released to the environment. (115.a)
- 5. There has been no human rights impact assessment of this project. (115.a) A human rights impact assessment is needed to assess the magnitude, duration and severity (significance) of the impacts this project may be likely to have, including the impacts caused by accidents, malfunctions, and cumulative effects, on the following Aboriginal Rights of the North Slave Métis People;
  - a. The rights of self-government and self-determination.
  - b. The right to secure enjoyment of our own means of subsistence and development,
  - c. The right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising our right to development.
  - d. The right to own, use, develops, and control lands, territories, and resources aw were traditionally owned, occupied, used or otherwise possessed.

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- e. The right to freedom from forced assimilation and destruction of culture (the right to meaningful participation in archaeological and heritage resource assessments).
- f. The right to own, maintain, control, and develop cultural heritage, including traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.
- g. The right to free, prior and informed consent, and the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development and use of our lands,
- h. The right to conserve and protect the environment and productive capacity of our lands and resources.
- i. The right to determine our own identity and membership in accordance with our own traditions.
- j. The right to have access to financial and technical assistance from states for the enjoyment of these rights.
- 6. There is, therefore, inadequate information available to the Board to support a determination that the project is NOT likely to have a significant adverse impact on the Human Rights of the indigenous North Slave Métis People, including their right to cultural, socio-poloitical, economic, and ecological well-being.
- 7. The NSMA has not been provided with adequate resources (information, time, or funding = capacity) required to conduct any human rights impact assessment. Neither Canada, the GNWT, the MVEIRB, or TNR Gold Corp has offered NSMA any assistance.
- 8. The Crown Duty to Consult has therefore not been met with regards to the North Slave Métis.

The NSMA does not unreasonably stand in the way of development, as long as developers do not unreasonably reject our requests for adequate involvement. Before this project is authorized, the NSMA expects a firm and enforceable commitment (ie: An Exploration / Engagement Agreement) from the Developer and/or the Crown to:

- 1. The Review Board should commission a Cumulative Impacts Assessment of air, barge, and ice road traffic on fish, wildlife, vegetation and aboriginal land use and occupation.
- 2. The Board should commission a Human Rights Impact Assessment of the socioeconomic and heritage impacts which would quantify the appropriate rents and compensation owed.
- 3. Involve the NSMA in determining the terms and conditions of the use of transportation routes, on land, or on water, frozen or liquid.
- 4. Involve the NSMA in conducting an heritage resources assessment.
- 5. TNR should host at least three NSMA representatives to a snow free site visit with a mutually agreeable archaeologist, after NSMA reviews and contributes to the pre-field studies.

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- 6. TNR should provide resources for NSMA to conduct Traditional Knowledge interviews with its members, to review archival materials, and to produce relevant data and maps.
- 7. TNR should notify the NSMA of all employment, contracting or provisioning opportunities, with appropriate and relevant details (hours, dates, remuneration, qualifications, and contact person), a month in advance of hiring or contracting.
- 8. TNR should consult with the NSMA to determine whether any camp facilities should be left in place after completion of the land use activity for NSMA member's use.
- 9. TNR should be required to have a properly trained and experienced waste manager on site, to look after incineration, sewerage, and hazardous materials.

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Sincerely,

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