



*The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's mission is to conduct quality environmental impact assessments that protect the environment and the social, economic, and cultural well being of the residents of the Mackenzie Valley and all Canadians.*

## Discussion Paper on Public Concern Released

The Review Board recently released a discussion paper aimed at further defining what the concept of “public concern” means, especially as it applies to environmental assessments and reviews. “Public concern” is a trigger for a higher level of scrutiny of a proposed development project, and since the test during an assessment or review process is much more stringent than at the screening stage, the Board felt both the term and the process by which it is determined needed to be clearly defined.

The paper is called “A Framework for Determining Whether a Proposed Development is Likely to be the Cause of Significant Public Concern.” (continued on page 4)

## Danny Bayha re-appointed to Review Board

The Review Board is very pleased to announce that Danny Bayha has been appointed to a fourth consecutive term to the Mackenzie Valley Review Board. Nominated by the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. and first appointed in 2000, Mr. Bayha is the Board’s longest serving member and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his Board duties, gained from his years of service.



Mr. Bayha is active in his community of Déline, where he is the assistant fire chief. He has served on band council and the Déline education council. A Red Seal Journeyman heavy duty mechanic, he also holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Calgary.

Welcome Back, Danny!



Proposed development in environmental assessment or environmental impact review.  
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## Ongoing environmental assessments

### ► NICO Project

Fortune Minerals Ltd. EA0809-004

**Status: Final Terms of Reference and Work Plan**

This proposed open pit and underground cobalt-gold-bismuth mine is located approximately 50 km NNE of Whati. The Review Board issued the final Work Plan and Terms of Reference on November 30, 2009. Both can be found on our website at [www.reviewboard.ca](http://www.reviewboard.ca).

### ► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp. EA0809-003

**Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report**

A proposed open pit gold mine, this project is located 88 kilometres north of Yellowknife, near the former Discovery mine site. The Review Board is waiting for Tyhee's Developer's Assessment Report, expected January 2010.

### ► Prairie Creek Mine

Canadian Zinc Corporation EA0809-002

**Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report**

The developer proposes an underground lead-zinc mine located in the Mackenzie Mountains within the South Nahanni River watershed, and in proximity to the Nahanni National Park Reserve. The Review Board is waiting for Canadian Zinc's Developer's Assessment Report, expected December 2009.



### ► Giant Mine Remediation Project

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada EA0809-001

**Status: Waiting for Developer's Assessment Report**

This is a proposed development to reclaim the Giant Mine site, located within the City of Yellowknife. The development includes the future disposition of 237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide currently stored underground. The Review Board is waiting for INAC's Developer's Assessment Report, expected February 2010.

### ► Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007

**Status: Technical sessions completed**

An expansion proposal to add 36 megawatts of power generating capacity to the Taltson Twin Gorges Plant, the project includes a 690-kilometre transmission line to the diamond mines. The Review Board will hold public hearings in Yellowknife, January 14-15, 2010.



*Above - Community Hall at Wekweeti. Review Board staff held scoping sessions here, Nov. 2-3, 2009.*

*Left - Arriving for the scoping session at Wekweeti, November 2 -3, 2009.*



## Ongoing environmental impact reviews



### ▶ Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine

De Beers Canada Inc. EIR0607-001

**Status:** *Waiting for Environmental Impact Statement; Terms of Reference were issued in October 2007*

The Review Board established the independent Gahcho Kue Review Panel to review this proposed diamond mine near Kennady Lake. De Beers has informed the Panel that it will complete the feasibility study in August 2010 and will file its Environmental Impact Statement sometime in the fourth quarter of 2010.



### ▶ Mackenzie Gas Project

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR0405-001

**Status:** *The Joint Review Panel is drafting its Report of Environmental Impact Review*

The Review Board, the federal Minister of Environment and the Inuvialuit Game Council jointly established the Joint Review Panel to independently review this proposed gas pipeline. The Joint Review Panel has said it expects to release its report by the end of December, 2009. Visit [www.ngps.nt.ca](http://www.ngps.nt.ca) for more information.

## Completed. Waiting ministerial approval

### ▶ Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006

**Status:** *Completed. Waiting for a ministerial decision*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. On February 6, 2008, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

### ▶ Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

**Status:** *Completed. Waiting for a ministerial decision*

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. On November 30, 2007, the Review Board recommended the federal and responsible ministers allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its *Report of Environmental Assessment*.

## NWT Board Forum identifies research priorities

The NWT Board Forum, made up of the co-management boards set up under the MVRMA, has identified some knowledge gaps in the information available to northern boards in a publication called "Consolidated Research Priorities", available at [nwtboardforum.com](http://nwtboardforum.com).

The Review Board's Vern Christensen spoke at the Northern Government Policy Research Conference in Yellowknife, Nov. 3 - 5. The NWT Board Forum's priorities, he said, are to identify

the knowledge gaps, such as development impacts on caribou, the Mackenzie River watershed and traditional lifestyles, and to communicate them to the researcher community and northern research funders such as various levels of governments, industry and foundations. The best quality research is key, he said, to ensuring the best possible information is available to the northern boards to make the best possible assessment and regulatory decisions.



## ***This is what we do: translator workshops***



As part of our continuing series of interpreter and translator workshops held this year, I have been to Fort McPherson, Deline, Fort Good and Dettah, and am planning to go to Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson and Behchoko. This year, the workshops are

focused on terms used in cultural impact assessments.

I find it very interesting to see the way words are interpreted and understood in Dene or in English. In some cases, English words don't have direct Dene translations, such as "culture" which is interpreted as "our way of life" - "gonàowo" in the Tlicho language.

Elders were invited to verify translated words to and to see if they had a better suggestion. For example, at the Deline workshop, "value", which has many meanings in English, such as worth, important, useful, meaning, respect and cherish is now interpreted as "benégôdi," thanks to Charlie Nyellie.

Translators are very important during the environmental assessment process because they are the only link between the Review Board and the people who don't speak English. Workshops help translators learn about the concepts behind the words. They have expressed amazement at the complexity of cultural impact assessment terms. Each workshop has been small, but they have also been very productive and rewarding. It has been a pleasure not only to learn a bit of Dene, but also to work with such amazing people. Masi.

For more information please contact me at [jsimpson@reviewboard.ca](mailto:jsimpson@reviewboard.ca) or call me on our Toll Free number at 1-866-912-3472.

## ***"Public Concern" discussion paper***

continued from page 1. The discussion paper outlines the current process used during environmental assessments in the Mackenzie Valley, and explores ways to determining whether a proposed development is likely to be cause of significant public concern.

Under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, a preliminary screener must refer a project to the Review Board for assessment if it determines that a development "might be a cause of public concern." The Review Board is required to order a full environmental review if it determines that the project is likely to the "cause of significant public concern." Because of the higher level of scrutiny either decision will cause, determining the likelihood of significant public concern is as important as determining the likelihood of significant adverse impact on the environment.

The discussion paper looks at five main areas: definitions, currently available guidance, present Review Board practice, possible public concern guidance documents and next steps. The Review Board may decide to develop a guidance document on this subject after receiving input from aboriginal communities, government, industry, and the public at large. The paper is on our website at [www.reviewboard.ca](http://www.reviewboard.ca).

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