



News Release

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Lawsuit by a former MVEIRB Employee

YELLOWKNIFE

It has recently been reported in the media that a former employee of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has filed a lawsuit alleging that she was wrongfully dismissed from her position with the Board. It was also reported that the former employee, in her Statement of Claim, has alleged that there were a number of inappropriate expenditures made by the Board during her tenure with the Board. This lawsuit is currently before the Court and is following due process; however, it will be some time before it is concluded and the truth of the allegations tested. For obvious reasons, the Board is unable to comment on the specifics of the lawsuit while it is before the Court, but in the interests of transparency, would like to provide some clarification on the process surrounding the reimbursement of Board expenditures.

The Board currently and during the time in question has had comprehensive finance, honouraria, and travel expense policies in place to ensure all Board expenditures are appropriate and approved for payment with proper internal oversight. The expenditures referenced in this action were all reviewed, assessed and processed in accordance with those policies.

Further, the expenditures of the Review Board are subject to an independent financial audit annually. The audited financial statements of the Review Board have been consistently unqualified audits since the Board was established in 1998. In addition, any management observations or recommendations made by the auditors in any year have been acted upon immediately and are reflected in any subsequent updates to the Board's financial policies.

It is the Board's hope that this statement will help to allay concerns in the absence of more specific information regarding this lawsuit. The Board will continue to participate fully in the lawsuit until its conclusion and look forward to the outcome and completion of this process.

About the Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board was established by the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA) in 1998 as an independent administrative tribunal responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley, Northwest Territories. As a co-management board, aboriginal land claim organizations nominate half of the board members, and the federal and territorial governments nominate the other half of the board members. The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development appoints all the members to the Review Board.

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