



# Valley Talk

**February  
2008  
Vol. 4 No. 2**

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.

## A Lifetime Dedicated



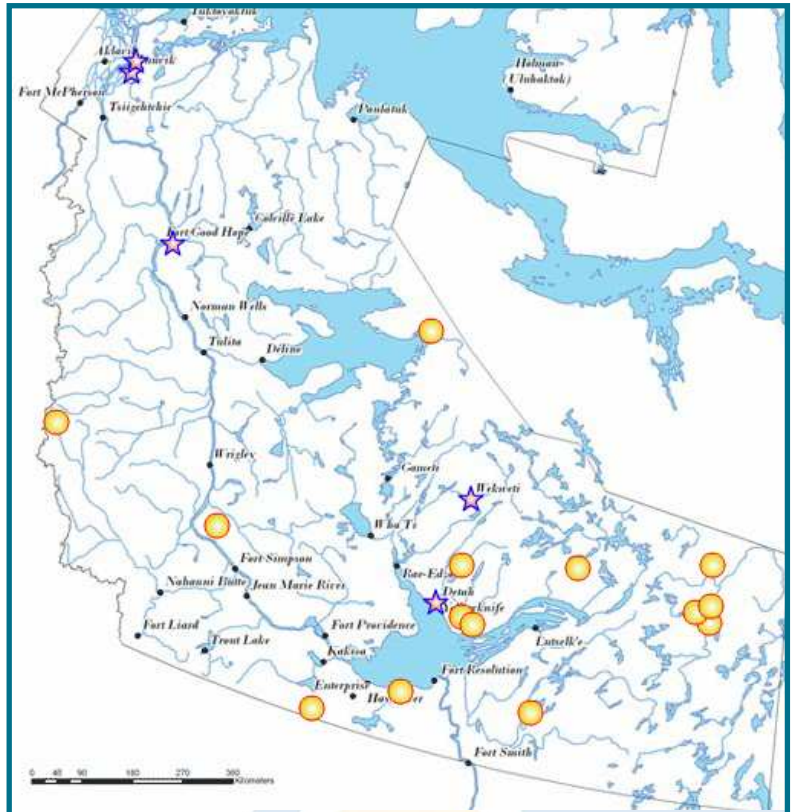
The Review Board's longest serving board member, Charlie Snowshoe, was recently awarded the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Western and Northern Canada Affiliate's Lifetime Achievement Award. The association commended Mr. Snowshoe's commitment and dedication to environmental impact assessment in the north. Congratulations Charlie!

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- "This is what we do: Technical Reviews



Alistair MacDonald, Environmental Assessment Office at the Review Board, braves Yellowknife's chilly -46°C temperatures one morning for a photo-op in the ice fog.



 Proposed development in environmental assessment or environmental impact review

Want more info?

Visit [mveirb.nt.ca](http://mveirb.nt.ca) and click our **Interactive Map**

## Active Environmental Assessments

### ▶ Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project

Dezé Energy Corporation Ltd. EA0708-007

Status: *Issues scoping; Drafting Terms of Reference*

This proposed development adds 36 megawatts of power generating capacity to the Taltson Twin Gorges Plant and includes a 690 kilometre transmission line to the diamond mines. A public issues scoping session in Lutselk'e has been scheduled for February 12th, 2008.

### ▶ Hunter Bay Mineral Exploration

Hunter Bay Minerals Inc. EA0708-006

Status: *Waiting for developer's response to request for additional information*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program in the McTavish arm of Great Bear Lake. The Review Board is waiting for the developer's response to the Review Board's request for additional information about the proposed development.

### Bayswater Uranium Corporation's Mineral Exploration Programs

Status: *Draft workplans out for comment*

The following two mineral exploration programs are being proposed in the Dubawnt River Watershed of the Thelon River Drainage Basin. The deadline for comments on the draft workplans for the environmental assessments of these proposed developments is February 8th, 2008.

### ▶ Crab Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp. EA0708-005

### ▶ E1 Lake Mineral Exploration

Bayswater Uranium Corp. EA0708-004

### Uravan Mineral Inc.'s Mineral Exploration Programs

Status: *Draft workplans out for comment*

The following two mineral exploration programs are being proposed in the upper Thelon River watershed. The deadline for comments on the draft workplans for the environmental assessments of these proposed developments is February 8th, 2008.

### ▶ North Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-003

### ▶ South Boomerang Lake Mineral Exploration

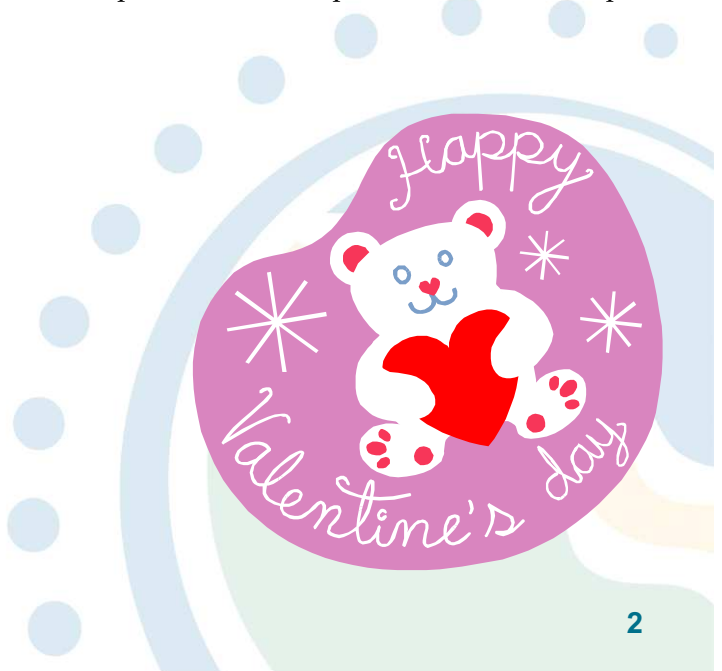
Uravan Minerals Inc. EA0708-002

### ▶ Mineral Exploration at Howard's Pass

Selwyn Resources Ltd. EA0708-001

Status: *Terms of Reference released; waiting for Developer's Assessment Report.*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program on the NWT and Yukon border. The Review Board has released the final Terms of Reference and is now waiting for the developer to complete its Developer's Assessment Report.



## Active Environmental Assessments cont'd

### ► Pine Point Pilot Project

Tamerlane Ventures Inc. EA0607-002  
*Status: Drafting Report of Environmental Assessment*

This is a proposed lead-zinc mine in the South Slave region. The Review Board is carefully considering all the evidence on the public record and is drafting its Report of Environmental Assessment.

### ► Yellowknife Gold Project

Tyhee NWT Corp. EA0506-004  
*Status: Waiting for developer confirmation of a project change; Terms of Reference issued in August 2005*

This is a proposed gold mine located approximately 243 km from Yellowknife. The developer has notified the Review Board of a likely change to the project description. The assessment remains on hold until the developer gives more information to the Review Board.

## Active 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*

This is a proposed diamond mine near Kennady Lake. The developer expects to submit the Environmental Impact Statement in June 2008.

### ► Mackenzie Gas Project

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EIR0405-001  
*Status: Public Hearings complete. The Joint Review Panel is drafting its Report of Environmental Impact Review*

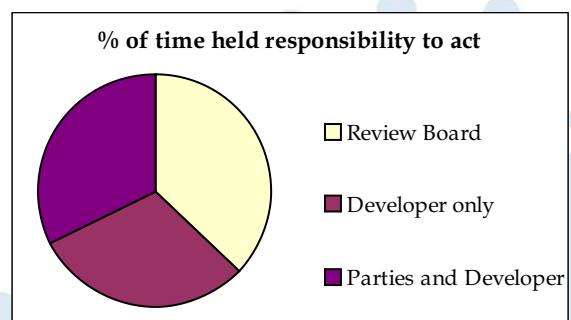
The Review Board, the federal Minister of Environment and the Inuvialuit Game Council jointly established the Joint Review Panel to independently review this proposed gas pipeline. Visit [www.ngps.nt.ca](http://www.ngps.nt.ca) for more information.

## Waiting for Ministerial Approval

### ► Mineral Exploration Program

Sidon International Resources Corp. EA0506-006  
*Status: Report of Environmental Assessment Released*

This is a proposed mineral exploration program at Defeat Lake. On February 6th, 2008, the Review Board recommended that the Minister of INAC allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its Report of Environmental Assessment.



The pie chart above shows the percentage of total time different participants held the responsibility to act or respond during the course of the environmental assessment for Sidon International Resources' proposed mineral exploration program.

## Waiting for Ministerial Approval cont'd

### ► Mineral Exploration Program

Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. EA0506-005

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval. Report of Environmental Assessment submitted in **November 2007**

This is a proposed diamond exploration program in the area of Drybones Bay. On November 30th, 2007, the Review Board recommended that the Minister of INAC allow the proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its Report of Environmental Assessment.

### ► SDL-8 2D Geophysical Program

Paramount Resources Ltd. EA0506-007

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval. Report of Environmental Assessment submitted in **November 2006**

This is a proposed oil and gas geophysical program in the Cameron Hills area. On November 14th 2006, the Review Board recommended that the Minister of INAC allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its Report of Environmental Assessment.

### ► Dehcho Geotechnical Survey

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. EA0304-009

Status: Waiting for Ministerial approval. Report of Environmental Assessment submitted in **February 2005**

This is a proposed oil and gas geotechnical program in the Dehcho region. On February 28th 2005, the Review Board recommended that the Minister of INAC allow this proposed development to proceed to the regulatory phase, subject to the measures the Review Board outlined in its Report of Environmental Assessment. In June 2005, the Minister of INAC initiated the consult-to-modify process. The Review Board continues to wait for feedback from the responsible ministers.



## Welcome back Pat!



Martin Haefe (rear) and Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott (right) are all smiles with Patrick Duxbury (front left) celebrating his return back to the office after taking a few months of paternity leave.

Patrick can be reached at [pduxbury@mveirb.nt.ca](mailto:pduxbury@mveirb.nt.ca) or phone at 867-766-7062.

## 5th Annual EIA Practitioner's Workshop: Close the Loop!

The Review Board will be hosting its 5th Annual EIA Practitioner's Workshop in Yellowknife, NT on February 26th and 27th, 2008. This year's theme for the workshop will be "Close the loop". The workshop will focus on the place of the environmental assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley's integrated resource management system.

Sessions will include:

- Comparing the roles of environmental assessment and the roles of the regulatory system
- Crown consultation in environmental assessment from an aboriginal government's

and the Review Board's perspective

- Evaluation of Review Board measures and regulatory follow-up and monitoring
- Online communication tools for EIA

If you are an EIA practitioner in the Mackenzie Valley communities, government, industry or regulatory system and are interested in attending this year's workshop, please contact:

Martin Haefele

Manager of Environmental Impact Assessment

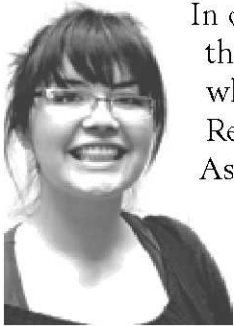
Phone: (867) 766-7053

Toll-free: 1-866-912-3472

Email: [mhaefele@mveirb.nt.ca](mailto:mhaefele@mveirb.nt.ca)

Fax: (867) 766-7074

### ***This is what we do***



In our last newsletter, we discussed the Developer's Assessment Report, which is a response to the Terms of Reference. Once the Developer's Assessment Report is complete, the Review Board does a conformity check to ensure that all the topics in the Terms of Reference are addressed in the

Developer's Assessment Report. After this, the technical review begins.

The technical review stage continues throughout the environmental assessment, even while other stages happen and until final submissions are made. Essentially, a technical review is when parties to the environmental assessment or any hired expert look at the contents of the Developer's Assessment Report and use their expertise in deciding if they agree with the developer's analysis of the issues and potential impacts and the developer's suggested mitigation measures. The reason for a technical review is to have parties submit evidence supplementary to the Developer's Assessment

Report. This helps the Review Board make their final decision and it may identify issues that remain unresolved or unclear.

To ensure that the technical review is done well, the Review Board sometimes hosts technical sessions for parties and people to communicate their views, make suggestions, and present their evidence about the proposed development while the developer and other parties are in the same room. The evidence shared can come from scientific or traditional knowledge experts and from people who may be affected by the project. These sessions are open to the public and the Review Board members are not present.

Technical sessions focus on:

- which parts of the development are predicted to cause impacts
- what kind of impacts will likely be caused
- what valued components will be affected
- how significant the impacts will likely be

## This is what we do cont'd

Although technical sessions are a way to resolve differing views between parties about the proposed development and its potential impacts, the Review Board encourages those with differing views to meet outside of the environmental assessment process to come to some sort of agreement. The Review Boards asks the parties to submit the meeting notes to the public registry so they can be shared online at [mveirb.nt.ca/registry/index.php](http://mveirb.nt.ca/registry/index.php).

Information requests are often issued either before or after technical sessions but this varies depending on the assessment. Sometimes parties are asked to submit technical reports to outline their position and evidence about the technical aspects of the

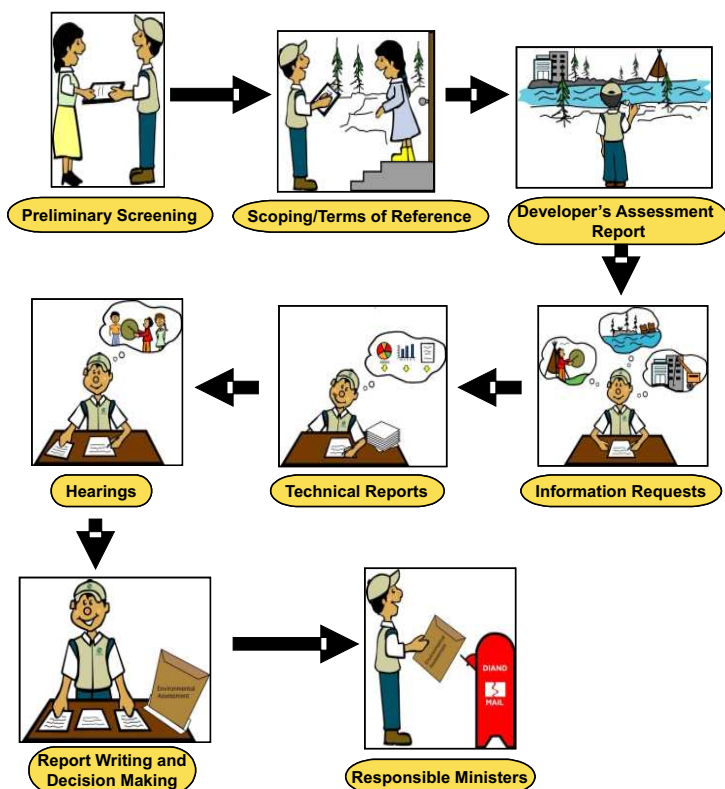
development. The Review Board often requires a non-technical one page summary be included with the report.

Next month, I will discuss information requests, another complex and important step.

- *Jessica Simpson*  
Community Liaison Officer

If you have any questions about the environmental impact assessment process, feel free to call our office at 867-766-7050 or toll free: 1-866-912-3472 if you are in the NWT, NU or Yukon.

## Typical Environmental Assessment Process



Each environmental assessment is unique. Some steps conducted in one assessment may not happen in another. Every environmental assessment has its own work plan, which sets out the steps that will be taken during that particular environmental assessment. The workplan is based on the scope of the issues for the proposed development. Therefore, the workplan may change accordingly as the environmental assessment proceeds.

### Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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