

August 6, 2002

Mr. Vern Christensen, Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938
200 Scotia Centre, (5102 – 50th Avenue)
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Re: Protecting Nahanni National Park Reserve

Dear Mr. Christensen:

As a Canadian who cares deeply about Canada's wild rivers and wilderness areas, I am writing to express my concern about the future of Nahanni National Park. I understand that this World Heritage Site is under threat from mining and oil and gas development within the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem. I also understand that real opportunities exist to expand the protection of this area so that future generations can experience the beauty of this wilderness area.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board has recently issued a report, which finds that the proposed developments at the Prairie Creek Mine upstream from Nahanni National Park will cause significant impacts to water quality. In addition, I understand there are large quantities of cyanide, PCBs and diesel fuel that have been stored at the mine site for 20 years, on the banks of Prairie Creek. The mine site is located in a region that is prone to both flash flooding and earthquake activity. Either of these events could result in contamination of the pristine waters of Prairie Creek, regardless of any precautionary measures taken.

Also, I understand that the ores that Canadian Zinc proposes to extract are heavily contaminated with mercury as well as arsenic and antimony, leading to further risk of water contamination from run-off should the mine be allowed to go ahead.

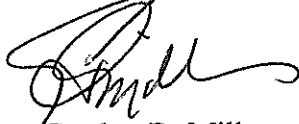
Finally, for the mine to operate, a road has been proposed that runs through the sensitive and world renowned Nahanni karst formations- an area that has been identified by Parks Canada as being of High Conservation Value and part of a planned park expansion.

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The risk to the ecological integrity of the Nahanni region from the Prairie Creek mine is too high for the Government of Canada to allow this project to proceed. Given Canada's international obligations to protect Nahanni as a world Heritage Site this mine must be stopped, and the site cleaned up. I ask you to work hard to ensure that this happens, and ensure that the entire Greater Nahanni Ecosystem is protected from industrial development.

I look forward to your response on this important matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Miller', written over a circular stamp.

Gordon D. Miller
President

Cc: The Right Honourable Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Robert Nault, P.C. M.P.
The Honourable Sheila Copps, P.C. M.P.
Mr. Bob Wooley, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Land
and Water Board