

## Yellowknives Dene First Nation Box 2514, Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2P8

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May 16, 2003

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MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

Todd Burlingame

Chair: Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50th Avenue)

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Fax: (867) 766-7074

Sherry Sian
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre, (5102-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue)
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Fax: (867) 766-7074

Re: Consolidated Goldwin Ventures Inc. MVEIRB Letter Dated May 8, 2003

Dear Mr. Burlingame and Ms. Sian,

We have received and considered your letter dated May 8, 2003 and we are requesting that you maintain the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) on your fax and email distribution lists as a directly affected party in this environmental assessment proceeding.

As the Review Board appreciates, Drybones Bay and its surrounding area are of inestimable value to the Treaty 8 First Nation signatories, and to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in particular. Therefore, the YKDFN will be asking that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) exercise the precautionary principle respecting its fiduciary obligations as the very act of having the YKDFN community in a position of having to justify the spiritual and cultural significance of its spiritual and cultural places is an infringement of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

The YKDFN accepts without prejudice that the Review Board has the legal authority under Part V of the MVRMA to establish the Scope of the Development In determining the Scope of the Assessment; however, that MVRMA ss.117 (2)(e) burdens the Responsible Ministers with an authority and responsibility equal to that of the Review Board in determining the Scope of the Assessment. The YKDFN believe this obligates the Government of Canada to begin its evidentiary process respecting its fiduciary

obligations. The YKDFN would be more than willing to assist the Responsible Ministers and the Review Board in their Scope of the Assessment efforts.

The YKDFN also offers to prepare a professional EIS suitable for the consideration of the Board, the Responsible Ministers and the Federal Minister conditional upon the company accepting the offer.

Sincerely,

Chief Richard Edjericon

Dettah, NT

Chief Darrell Beaulieu

Ndilo, NT

C.c. Yellowknives Dene First Nation Legal Counsel, Edmonton, Alberta

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MVEIRB Board Members: Mr. Charlie Snowshoe, Ms. Bertha Rabesca, Mr. John Stevenson, Mr. Danny Bayha, Mr. Frank Pope and Mr. Gordon Wray

Mr. Bob Overvold, Regional Director General, INAC, Yellowknife