

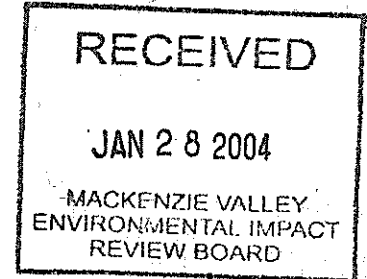


Yellowknives Dene First Nation
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January 27, 2004

Sherry Sian
Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Box 938, 200 Scotia Center,
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2N7
Fax: (867) 766-7074



Dear Ms. Sian,

RE: Snowfield Development Corporation (Snowfield) Environmental Assessment Submission of:

- 1.) **Transcribed meeting minutes from the April 2, 2003 Meeting in Dettah.**
- 2.) **A statement of Concern Regarding the Introduction of Archaeology Evidence by Snowfield by an Individual Not qualified to Submit Expert Archaeological Evidence Opinions.**
- 3.) **Concern about Snowfields intention to Undertake An Archaeological Independence of the Archaeological Work Initiated and Continuing by the YKDFN.**

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) is submitting to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) public registry for the Snowfield environmental assessment transcribed meeting minutes of the public meeting held in Dettah on April 2, 2003.

The YKDFN Land and Environment Committee (L&EC) is concerned about any potential confusion caused by Snowfield's archaeological evidence submission. The YKDFN concur with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) that Snowfield's archaeological submission by one of its employees does not constitute expert opinion or evidence. The YKDFN submits that the Review Board should not consider Snowfield's archaeological submission as an expert or informed opinion. The reason the YKDFN is concerned about Snowfield's archaeological submission is that the L&EC has gone to significant effort and expense (about three-quarters of our annual Land and Environment budget) to retain appropriate experts in order to provide the Review Board appropriate evidence. It would be very discouraging and unfair to have our efforts diminished by giving more weight to Snowfield's archaeological submission than is due.

The YKDFN is also concerned about Snowfield's assertion that it will undertake an independent archaeological research program in the summer of 2004, to which the YKDFN can participate. Snowfield's offer to the YKDFN and it's proposed research program are unreasonable when the Review Board considers that the YKDFN started an archaeological and Traditional Knowledge program in 2003. We have established a TK/Western science research program, and are committed to furthering the work started in 2003.

It seems to the YKDFN that Snowfield is more interested in controlling the archaeological research program than participating in our ongoing work in good faith. The YKDFN now, again, offer Snowfield the opportunity of participating in the YKDFN's ongoing archaeological and Traditional Knowledge work at Drybones Bay. If Snowfield does not take up on our offer and continues to want to control the archaeological work program the YKDFN can only conclude their intentions and willingness to work cooperatively with the Yellowknives Dene is less than genuine and artificial.

Sincerely,



Chief Peter Liske / Dettah

Chief Darrell Beaulieu - Ndilo

c.c. Yellowknives Dene First Nation Legal Counsel, Edmonton, Alta.
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