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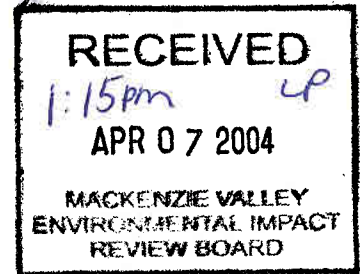
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"Representing Northern Business Since 1973"

April 7, 2004

Mr. Todd Burlingame
Chair, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200, 5102 – 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S8

By Fax to 766 7074, 2 pages



Dear Mr. Burlingame :

During the week of March 22 to 26, 2004 the NWT Chamber of Commerce Executive visited the communities of Fort Simpson, Hay River, Norman Wells and Inuvik. We were in these communities as part of our annual "Community Tour" to meet with not only the Mayors and Councils, but the members of the regional Chambers of Commerce face-to-face. We have found that these face-to-face meetings allow more impromptu and in-depth discussion about community and Territorial issues.

One of the main discussion points raised in the communities was the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. Those we spoke with brought up the issues of :

- a) how do local businesses (big or small) prepare to take advantage of the opportunities that the proposed pipeline can bring - who do they talk to?
- b) the location of the Pipeline Readiness Office, the Northern Gas Pipeline Secretariat, the Mackenzie Valley Development Planning division and the Resource Development Task Team members, and
- c) confusion and lack of clarity as to the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies including:
 - a. Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board,
 - b. Pipeline Readiness Office – DIAND, NWT Region
 - c. Northern Gas Project Secretariat

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- d. Government of the NWT:
- i. Mackenzie Valley Development Planning division
 - ii. Resource Development Task Team

It is my understanding that these various groups have been invited to speak at our Annual General Meeting, May 11-13 in Hay River. We are structuring a moderated panel discussion with the appropriate representatives. Hopefully this venue will offer the opportunity for meaningful discussion between the business community and these various agencies.

We look forward to hearing from you on these concerns, and to fostering a better understanding of the opportunities that could be available for Northern business.

Sincerely,,

NWT Chamber of Commerce



Allen Stanzell
Executive Director

cc Mr. Ricki Hurst
Manager, Pipeline Readiness Office – DIAND, NWT Region

Mr. Brian Chambers
Executive Director, Northern Gas Project Secretariat

Ms. Celina Stroeder
Assistant Deputy Minister, GNWT RWED Mackenzie Valley
Development Planning

Co-ordinator
GNWT MACA Resource Development Task Team