



July 14, 2005.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
5102-50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2N7

Attention: Vern Christensen  
Executive Director

Re: Canadian Zinc Phase 3 Drilling - Environmental Assessment #EAQ405-002

Dear Mr. Christensen:

We refer to the letter dated May 31, 2005 from Patrick Duxbury, Environmental Assessment Officer of the MVEIRB which listed the Government Departments, Agencies, First Nations and others that will be a Party to this Environmental Assessment Process.

We are writing to question and challenge the appropriateness of the inclusion of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) as a proper "party" to this EA.

Although CPAWS has been recognized as a party to, and has actively participated in, prior Canadian Zinc (CZN) Environmental Assessments, CZN is of the opinion that the recent activities of CPAWS has exceeded the bounds of acceptable conduct and brought into question the bona fides of its participation in CZN's Environmental Assessment or Land Use Permit process.

Specifically, for some time now, CPAWS has engaged in a campaign attempting to have the Nahanni National Park Reserve expanded to include the entire Nahanni watershed, and as part of that objective to "Stop the Prairie Creek mine". Previously, this conduct was limited to representations to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, and to Governments, accompanied with some publicity.

Recently, this campaign has escalated, particularly following the decision of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories which ruled that the Company's application for a winter road permit was exempt from environmental assessment pursuant to the MVRMA. CPAWS participated in that Court case as an Intervenor. However, following the Judgment of the Court, CPAWS issued a press release dated May 10, 2005 under the heading "*Court Decides No Environment Assessment required for Nahanni Winter Road but Fight Not Over Yet*".

In May 2005, CPAWS organized a public meeting in Ottawa and recruited Justin Trudeau to give extensive interviews to the media. This "Stop the mine campaign" is supported by literature which contains the alarmist statement "*If this mine goes ahead, this world renowned park will be damaged forever*".

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CPAWS has also launched a letter writing campaign in which it urges its members/supporters to write to the Prime Minister of Canada and other Government Ministers in an effort to stop the Prairie Creek mine. CPAWS has drafted and circulated widely a pro forma template specimen letter addressed to the Prime Minister which contains numerous inaccuracies, exaggerations and incorrect statements. We enclose a copy of that specimen letter together with a copy of a letter dated June 30, 2005 from CZN to the Prime Minister.

Further, CPAWS has collaborated with an organization "Mining Watch Canada", a federally registered non profit society, to publicize an extremely damaging and alarmist paper on the Prairie Creek mine entitled "*A Disaster Waiting to Happen: the Prairie Creek Mine*". This paper, dated February 27, 2004, although extensive and apparently well written, is full of misstatements and inaccuracies. "Mining Watch Canada" shares infrastructure and services with CPAWS in a central Ottawa office location. The paper itself on page one states that it has been reviewed and edited by Greg Yeoman, CPAWS-NWT. Greg Yeoman, Conservation Director Northwest Territories Chapter of CPAWS has also sworn Affidavits which have been filed in both the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories and the Federal Court in two CZN Judicial Reviews setting out and supporting CPAWS' position. Mr. Yeoman was also the principal author of the previous CPAWS submissions made to the MVEIRB in prior CZN environmental assessments.

The Prairie Creek mine is not located within the Nahanni National Park Reserve or in the area designated by Parks Canada for proposed expansion of the Park. Expansion of the Nahanni National Park to include the entire South Nahanni River watershed is not the current objective of Parks Canada and accordingly, the objectives of CPAWS are not in accordance with the current policy of the Government of Canada.

While CZN cannot stop, and does not seek to stop, CPAWS making submissions to MVEIRB, we do now formally object to them being given formal "party" status, and we submit they should not be entitled to make information requests. Further, we suggest that the submissions from CPAWS re CZN's Prairie Creek project should be evaluated for legitimacy in the context of CPAWS stated objective to "stop the mine", rather than any sincere objective to protect the environment by mitigating measures, and in our opinion, they should not be given any weight or any serious consideration.

While CPAWS may argue that its participation in the Environmental Assessment provides a different perspective than other parties, we submit its contribution will not be useful and will not be designed to help or facilitate the EA process but rather to seek to use the Environmental Assessment process to further its efforts to "stop the mine".

We await your consideration and decision on this matter.

Yours truly

**CANADIAN ZINC CORPORATION**

John F. Kearney  
Chairman

cc: Bob Wooley, Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

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