

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et  
du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral  
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits



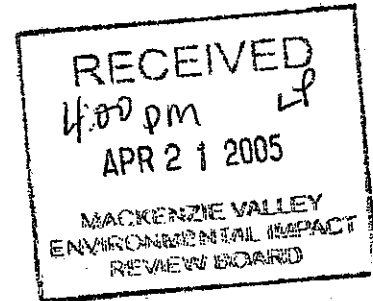
Minister of Indian Affairs and  
Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor  
for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

EA 0405-002

APR 13 2005

Concerned Band Members  
Nahanni Butte Band  
General Delivery  
NAHANNI BUTTE NT X0E 0N0



Dear Band Members:

Thank you for your letter of August 31, 2004, which was also addressed to my colleague, the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Minister of State (Northern Development), in which you comment on the proposed expansion of the Nahanni National Park Reserve. I regret the delay in responding.

I recognize the importance of your concerns regarding the withdrawal of lands for park expansion. I would also like to assure you that officials with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada are continuing to work closely with affected Deh Cho First Nations and other partners to ensure that economic development proceeds in the Deh Cho territory within a sound environmental management framework.

Moreover, as a result of the *Deh Cho Interim Measures Agreement*, signed in May 2001, decisions regarding the management of lands and resources in the Deh Cho territory are made in consultation with the Deh Cho First Nations. With respect to mining and other possible developments in the Nahanni Butte region, I am confident that these decisions will reflect community concerns, as well as ensure the ecological integrity of this important region.

I have taken the liberty of providing the federal Minister responsible for national ... park expansion, the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment, with a copy of your letter for his consideration. Alternatively, you may wish to discuss your concerns with your local Parks Canada official at (867) 695-3151.

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Again, thank you for writing. I appreciate your taking the time to raise this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
ORIGINAL SIGNÉ PAR

The Honourable Andy Scott, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, PC, MP  
The Honourable Stéphane Dion, PC, MP  
Mr. Todd Burlingame  
Ms. Heidi Weibe