

## **Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Evidence and Recommendations for EA0708-001: Selwyn Project Mineral Exploration**

### **Background**

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC), a part of the Culture and Heritage Division of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, GNWT, is responsible for managing the public's interest in the protection of archaeological sites in the Northwest Territories. The PWNHC facilitates this process by recommending management measures to land managers during land use permitting processes, engaging in the environmental assessment process, and administering a permitting program that ensures that archaeological work in the NWT is conducted to the highest standards. It is a long-standing policy in the Northwest Territories, and nationally, that developers – rather than the public – are responsible for funding and conducting archaeological investigations related to development projects. The PWNHC recommends project-specific measures to be implemented and funded by development proponents to ensure that their projects do not place sensitive archaeological resources at risk.

### **Analysis**

Based on our review of the Proponent's response to IR0708-001-01 and related information, the PWNHC predicts that the mineral exploration project proposed by Selwyn Resources is not likely to have a significant impact on unrecorded archaeological sites in the Howard's Pass, NT area. The PWNHC does note, however, that if the Selwyn Project advances from exploration to a mining development phase at a future date, archaeological overview and impact assessments will be required to facilitate the management of archaeological sites.

In order to promote the long term management of archaeological sites in their development area, Selwyn Resources has agreed to:

- Meet with the PWNHC to discuss the need for archaeological overview and impact assessments well in advance of project construction if they plan to expand their activities to the mineral development phase at a future date.
- Update their SOP on Heritage Preservation (Developer's Assessment Report: Appendix 1) to reflect Northwest Territories regulations and agencies. The updated SOP will be submitted to the PWNHC for review.

### **Recommendations**

The PWNHC has no outstanding issues with the Selwyn Project.

### **Related Document**

IR0708-001-01

DAR – Appendix 1: Heritage Preservation SOP