

Ministre des Affaires autochtones
et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development

JUN 17 2014

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly
Giant Mine Co-ordinator
Alternatives North
PO Box 444
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N3

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Thank you for your letter of April 28, 2014, regarding the water and land use inspections at the Giant Mine in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

As part of devolution in the Northwest Territories, responsibility for 90 percent of public lands in the Northwest Territories rests with the Government of the Northwest Territories. Canada retains approximately 10 percent, which includes contaminated sites such as Giant Mine.

I would like to reassure you that the Giant Mine site continues to be inspected as regularly as it was prior to devolution. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada inspections occur under the conditions of the land use permit and the water license. Furthermore, the site management plans require that the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team reports and addresses any issues that require urgent attention. The remediation of the site also involves continued collaboration with the Government of the Northwest Territories. The health and safety of Yellowknife residents remains a priority for our government.

The Government of Canada is committed to fulfilling its inspection obligations on federal lands and will employ two inspectors in the territory.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernard Valcourt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bernard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Michael Miltenberger
Chiefs Edward Sangris and Ernest Betsina, Yellowknives Dene First Nations

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c.c. (cont'd.):

Mr. Bill Enge, President, North Slave Metis Alliance

Mr. Mark Heyck, Mayor, City of Yellowknife

Mr. Dennis Bevington, Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic

Ms. Joanne Deneron, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact review Board

Mr. Willard Hage, Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board