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*Alternatives North*

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June 4, 2014

Honourable Michael Miltenberger  
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L8

Honourable Bernard Valcourt  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development  
10 Wellington Street  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H4

Honourable Gail Shea  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
200 Kent Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0E6

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq  
Minister of the Environment  
10, rue Wellington  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

Dear Ministers

**Re: Responsible Ministers' Decision on the Report of Environmental Assessment  
of the Giant Mine Remediation Project (EA0809-001)**

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board released its Report of Environmental Assessment on the Giant Mine Remediation Project on June 20, 2013. As Responsible Ministers, you wrote to the Review Board on December 23, 2013 accepting 17 of the 26 Measures and proposed minor modifications to the remaining 9 Measures. The Review Board carried out its own consultations on the proposed modifications and replied in writing on February 12, 2014.

As the major intervening parties on this Environmental Assessment, we remain firmly in support of the Review Board Report of Environmental Assessment and the Review Board's reply to your proposed modifications. The immediate acceptance of these measures will begin to build some measure of public confidence in what is happening at Giant Mine, allow for a more collaborative remediation, and increase the public faith in our ability to extract resources in a responsible manner.

We are increasingly concerned with the long delay in finalizing this Environmental Assessment that has now dragged on for more than six years. The differences between the proposed modifications to the Measures from the Report of Environmental Assessment and the Review Board response amount to a hundred plus words over a few Measures but consideration has now extended beyond three months. By comparison, the Responsible Ministers approved the Gacho K'ue diamond mine in 95 days.

Part of the rationale for exempting parts of the Giant Mine Remediation Project from the ongoing Environmental Assessment included the emergency nature of some of that work. Your staff have continuously stressed the need to move forward and deal with the site on an urgent basis while avoiding costly delays, yet we are beginning a second season of emergency activities without a decision on the Environmental Assessment. We urge you to accept the Review Board responses to your proposed modifications to the Measures and to immediately bring the Giant Mine Remediation Project Environmental Assessment to a conclusion.

Sincerely,



Chief Edward Sangris  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation



Chief Ernest Betsina  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation



Mayor Mark Heyck  
City of Yellowknife



Kevin O'Reilly  
Alternatives North

- cc. JoAnne Deneron, Chair, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
- Yellowknife Members of the Legislative Assembly
- Dennis Bevington, MP Western Arctic