

## *Nahanni Butte Dene Band*

GENERAL DELIVERY, NAHANNI BUTTE, NT, X0E 0N0

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July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Trish Merrithew-Mercredi  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Bellanca Building  
4914-50<sup>th</sup> Street  
Box 1500  
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2R3

*Fax to: 867-669-2703*

Dear Ms. Merrithew-Mercredi,

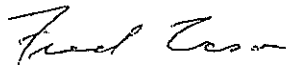
As you are aware, the Nahanni Butte Dene Band (NBDB) is concerned about the potential impacts of the Prairie Creek Mine on the environment and on the traditional rights and interests of NBDB and its members. As you are also aware, the most recent set of four (4) land and water use applications by Canadian Zinc Corporation, if approved, will allow the mine to go into full production. For these reasons, consistent with Article 12 of the Dehcho Settlement Agreement, the Nahanni Butte Dene Band is hereby requesting that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) send the current permit applications for environmental assessment (EA).

Furthermore, given that NBDB views the four permit applications as interconnected (ie. required components of the overall production process), NBDB acknowledges that a single EA process encompassing all four permits would be appropriate and efficient.

The Nahanni Butte Dene Band has initiated, with the support of INAC, a traditional knowledge (TK) assessment of the Prairie Creek Mine operation and will be bringing TK information forward to inform the EA process. NBDB has also applied for Resources Pressures funding so that it can engage an EA / regulatory specialist to assist with its participation in the EA process.

Please consider this letter as a formal request by the Nahanni Butte Dene Band for INAC to refer the current CZC permit applications to EA. Mahsi.

Yours truly,



Chief Fred Tesou

On behalf of the Nahanni Butte Dene Band

cc. Laura Pitkanen, Dehcho First Nations (via email)  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (Fax 867-873-6610)  
Krystal Thompson, INAC, Yellowknife (Fax 867-669-2701)