

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

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Re: MV2008L2-003 and MV2008D0018

The North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) has received four three inch thick binders of information from Tyhee containing their amended application for mining and milling of the Yellowknife Gold Project near Giaque Lake, as well as notification from the Board.

There appears to be about 5,000 printed pages (600 Megabytes of digital data) in the package. At an average reading speed of five minutes per page, we would need about 420 hours (more than ten work-weeks) just to read the application, let alone do any research, analysis or consultation with regards to it. Our current staff cannot handle such an additional work load, and so we would likely have pay a consultant \$75/hour, adding up to over \$30,000, just to have someone read the application package for us.

The previous application for this project, which has now been withdrawn in favour of the current application, was for an underground, and presumably less environmentally damaging mining project, but was nevertheless referred to Environmental Assessment. The applicant recognises that environmental assessment of this new project proposal will be required, and has requested a prompt referral to environmental assessment.

Without taking the time to conduct a review of the application submitted, we presume that all our concerns related to the previous application are still applicable, as well as potentially others. We had significant concerns about the health and abundance of fish, wildlife, birds, and plants, as well as significant concerns about the quality, quantity and rate of flow of the waters, as well as navigation. We had concerns about disruption of our historic and contemporary transportation routes, as well as concerns about interference with our use and occupancy of the lands and harvesting of resources. We had serious concerns about non-renewable resource depletion, and the equitable distribution of the benefits and costs of development of those resources, especially in light of the disputed ownership and property rights to the lands and resources. As the holders of Aboriginal Rights and Titles and Treaty Rights to the lands which are the subject of this application, we are entitled to be involved in the management of the renewable and non-renewable resources, including the setting of royalty rates and determination of how to allocate resource revenues. We are entitled to a seat on the Land and Water Board as well as the Environmental Review Board, and any other resource co-management board that might be established.

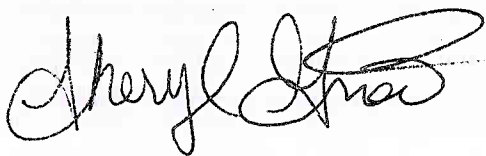
We have raised significant concerns about the protection of our heritage resources, including not only archaeological sites, but also the aesthetic, historic, and cultural values inherent in the landscape. With respect to archaeological resources, specifically, we are particularly concerned that any research conducted be conducted by an Archaeologist who is familiar with, and sensitive to, Metis history in this region, and knowledgeable about the types of artefacts that may be indicative of Metis presence. In fact, the old Discovery mine site itself has significant heritage value to our community. The Yellowknife River is of particular importance, as is the route taken by Franklin when so many Metis sacrificed their lives, to ensure his survival and the success of his mission, as well as to uphold their word of honour.

The North Slave Metis community drinks the water from the Yellowknife River, eats the fish that live in the river, traps the furbearers all along the river and the lakes in the project area, and uses the river as a transportation route. Our members occupy the entire region, and use it all for both domestic and commercial reasons. The NSMA community holds communal water rights similar to riparian rights throughout the area, and is entitled to adequate compensation for any interference with those rights under the NWT Waters Act. Each and every member of the NSMA, individually, and as a member of the community, qualifies under section 14(4)b as an "existing water user".

It would most certainly be a serious concern to the North Slave Metis community if this application did not receive a thorough environmental assessment, or review. As we have stated on the public record many times, a thorough environmental assessment must incorporate Metis traditional knowledge, and must provide adequate information, time and resources for us to prepare and present our views. Since the views expressed by the North Slave Metis Alliance represent a consensus of the North Slave Metis community, sufficient resources must be made available in order to complete a proper consensus building process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours truly,



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