

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

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October 30, 2009.

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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
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Re: Draft Workplan for EA0809-004, Fortune Minerals' NICO Project

The North Slave Métis Alliance has the following comments with regards to the above mentioned draft workplan:

4.2 – scoping phase. Names of communities. The NSMA takes issue with the designation of Wati, Wekweeti, Gameti, and Bechoko as Tlicho communities. These settlements were founded and populated by Métis during the 18th century, and have only in the past decades become predominantly populated by Tlicho Dene as a result of the discriminatory policies and practices of Canada, under the Indian Act, which subsidized housing, education, governance, and health infrastructure for Indians to the disadvantage of Métis. When referring to geographic locations as communities, please take care not to use a placename which incorrectly implies either ownership or exclusive occupation. The Métis continue to occupy these places, which they settled many generations ago, and continue to hold Aboriginal Title to these lands which is a Constitutionally protected right under section 35 of the Constitution of Canada. Neither the Government of Canada, the Government of the NWT, or the Tlicho Government, has any right to change the names of our communities without our consent. The same comments are equally applicable to the naming or re-naming of any NWT region.

4.2 – Scoping Phase. Design of Scoping Sessions. The NSMA takes issue with the comment that the scoping sessions were designed to “**make sure** potentially-affected groups..... were fully aware of the nature of the proposed development...” In order to “make sure” that the NSMA was fully aware of the nature of the proposed development the MVEIRB would have had to provide capacity assistance to the NSMA to review the voluminous documents, and to attend the scoping sessions. In addition, the MVEIRB would have had to consult with the NSMA to ensure the scheduling of the sessions accommodated the NSMA’s schedule. Neither the capacity funding nor the consultation or accommodation occurred. The NSMA is a directly-affected party to this environmental assessment, as both landowner and resource owner, yet is not fully aware of the nature of the proposed development. Without the provision of adequate funding and time to review the information, this full awareness is not likely to occur at all. If the words “make sure” were replaced with the word “assist” then the sentence would be factual.

6. Conformity review: Estimated Schedule. The NSMA intends to contribute information for the socioeconomic and cultural portions of the baseline conditions, impact predictions, and mitigations required sections of the Developers Assessment Report (DAR). We recognize that Fortune intends to submit the bulk of the DAR in July, but recognize the incorporation of our information into the

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sections where it belongs will not likely be ready then. We will be more certain to have the information available for the Board's review prior to their assessment of conformity, tentatively scheduled for August, 2010. It is important to us that our information is provided to reviewers, in particular to the Responsible Authorities (particularly INAC, ITI, ECE), prior to the initiation of the information request stage.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sheryl Grieve". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheryl" and last name "Grieve" clearly distinguishable.

Sheryl Grieve
Manager, Environment, Lands and Resources
Email: enviromgr@nsma.net