



**Tłıchǫ Government**

Box 412, Rae-Edzo, NT X0E 0Y0 • Tel: (867) 392-6381 Fax: (867) 392-6389 [www.tlicho.ca](http://www.tlicho.ca)

Re: NICO Project – EA0809-004 [2009]

Mackenzie Valley Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre  
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2N7

July 6, 2012

Dear Chuck Hubert:

I am writing on behalf of the Tłıchǫ Government to express our concern about the instability surrounding the upcoming public hearing dates for the Fortune Minerals NICO project.

Our letter of June 4, 2012 stated that by choosing late July for your public hearings, the Board has minimized the chances of receiving important Tłıchǫ public input regarding the NICO project.

Now I am informed that changes, even at this late date, are being proposed for the public hearings. We understand there is a last minute logistical problem requiring changes to both the proposed venue and the public hearing schedule. In addition, there have been discussions with various people including the Chief of Whatì to propose date changes. As a result of the proposed changes, I understand that Behchokò - the largest Tłıchǫ community - will lose one full day and the forum for the Tłıchǫ public to hear from the parties and express any concerns they have. The dates for the public hearing session in Whatì have already been changed. The public hearings are now proposed to start in the largest Tłıchǫ community and end in the smaller community.

The proposed changes and the resulting confusion is unacceptable. It is a mere few weeks before these hearings and the venue and community dates are yet to be confirmed. We have told you before how challenging it is to organize such a meeting in the middle of summer when Tłıchǫ people are out on the land or on traditional trips. And now we have this further confusion to add.

At this point, we urge the Board to postpone its public hearings for the week of July 30 and reschedule with adequate consultation of the parties involved, to ensure full Tłıchǵ and public participation at this crucial point in the environmental assessment. There is too much change and confusion out there. I note that one of your requirements is to determine if the project is likely to be a cause of significant public concern. Under section 128 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, the Board is required to make a determination about whether the development is likely in its opinion to be a cause of significant public concern. If you organize and hold your public hearings in this manner, we think that you are failing to discharge your legal duty to organize the process to hear from the Tłıchǵ and general public and hear that public concern, so you can make a determination.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.



Laura Duncan,  
Tłıchǵ Executive Officer