

# **NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE**

**PO Box 2301 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7**



June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

Vern Christensen,  
Executive Director,  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre.  
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7  
Email: [vchristensen@reviewboard.ca](mailto:vchristensen@reviewboard.ca)

Re: EA 1112-001, Debogorski Diamond Exploration Project

The North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) represents the indigenous North Slave Métis People whose ancestors “used and occupied” the North Slave area of the Northwest Territories (NWT) prior to and since Europeans “established effective control” of the area. This means the indigenous North Slave Métis People possess Canadian constitutionally protected section 35 Aboriginal Rights and Titles to the lands and resources throughout their traditional territory, which includes Drybones Bay. With that in mind, the NSMA takes its representation mandate seriously, and must continue to insist it is “consulted and accommodated,” on any and all forms of activities, planned or underway, by public or private sector organizations, on its traditional lands. This includes the staking of mining claims and exploration for diamonds.

In response to your letter of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, regarding the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) Request for Ruling, the **NSMA supports the YKDFN request** that the above noted project be declared by your board to be ***a “development that is likely, in its opinion, to cause an adverse impact on the environment so significant that it cannot be justified, and recommend that the proposal be rejected without an environmental impact review”*** (128.(1)(d)).

The Drybones Bay area (biophysically), and the North Slave Métis community (socioculturally), have already suffered more damage than can be tolerated. Our graves and heritage sites have been trampled, dug up, burnt and desecrated. Our soil, water, plants, foods and medicines have been contaminated. Our archaeological resources have been stolen, damaged and desecrated. Our fish and wildlife have been tainted and chased away. Our peace and quiet and enjoyment of the aesthetic qualities of the area have been disrupted, and our spiritual and emotional relationship with the area reduced. Our traditional use has been interrupted, obstructed and otherwise interfered with. Our non-renewable resources have been expropriated without compensation, and our property rights have been ignored.

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Previous environmental assessments, as noted in the LKDFN request for ruling, have documented these significant community concerns and likely impacts on the biological and socioculturally environments, and should be reviewed by the Board as part of the assessment of this proposed project. The inability, or reluctance, of responsible authorities to enforce effective mitigation of direct and cumulative impacts should also be considered in light of the regulatory and enforcement gaps and inadequacies in this area. The absence of land use planning, or even a process to begin planning, after this much time has gone by since its first recommendation, should also be considered. Last, but not least, the inadequacy of Crown Consultation regarding the goals and objectives for land and resource management in this area should also be considered.

In the event that the board decides not to reject this project, we ask that an environmental review be conducted so that we will have an opportunity to access funding to participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheryl Grieve". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

Sheryl Grieve  
Environment and Resource Manager  
North Slave Metis Alliance  
Box 2301, Yellowknife. X1A 2P7  
Email: [enviromgr@nsma.net](mailto:enviromgr@nsma.net)