



# Yellowknives Dene First Nation

P.O. Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Richard Edjericon  
 Chair, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
 Box 938  
 Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
 X1A 2N7  
 Fax: (867) 766-7074

Dear Mr. Edjericon:


## Re: CGV & Debogorski EA Hearings

The Drybones Bay area is a special place to the YKDFN. Culturally, this area is without parallel and the highest level of protection is needed. The people's use of this area has been significantly impacted by the level of development and the subsequent effects that arise out of those impacts and we have seen our Treaty Rights considerably degraded over the last decades. Six times we have asked the Review Board to help protect this area but we are still facing the same impacts and this will continue unless real measures and mitigations are in place.

Once again we are asking the Review Board to help the people of YKDFN – if this project proceeds, it will be the first of yet *another* wave of development in this area. These projects are not done in isolation and they are not simply 'grassroots exploration programs'. The end result must be considered - they all seek to develop a mine – a mine in the heart of our land that would be catastrophic for the cultural identity of our people. The former Chiefs of the YKDFN are asking you ensure that this land can continue support the people who have lived here for generations.

There is no other area that we can move to - Drybones Bay is unique and irreplaceable. This area cannot be avoided – it is fundamental to the identity and well being of our First Nation. Mining companies do not own this land. They do not feed their families or teach their children on this land. The customs and traditions of our people are passed on here. Please help us ensure that the land that our people rely on is healthy and capable of supporting our people – a future not compatible with more development.

Sincerely,

  
 Chief Edward Sangris  
 Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)

  
 Chief Ted Tsetta  
 Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Ndilo)



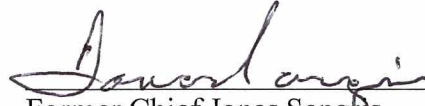
Former Chief Fred Sangris  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Ndilo)



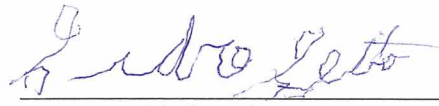
Former Chief Peter Liske  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)



Former Chief Darrell Beaulieu  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Ndilo)



Former Chief Jonas Sangis  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)



Former Chief Isadore Tsetta  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)

Copy: Steve Ellis, Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office, Lutsel K'e NT, 1-888-714-3209  
Todd Slack, YKDFN – Land and Environment, Yellowknife, NT (867) 766-3497