

## OFFICE OF THE GRAND CHIEF

## **DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS**

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Sent via email

February 16, 2017

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board PO Box 2130 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6 Chuck Hubert

RE: Canadian Zinc Corporation's Proposed All Season Road

Dear Mr. Hubert,

In 2014, Canadian Zinc Corporation (CZN) began the process of filing for an Environmental Assessment for the proposed All-Season Access Road. Dehcho First Nations has been involved in the review of CZN's proposed All-season Access Road from the beginning of the review process. DFN reviewed and commented on the Terms of Reference, reviewed the Developers Assessment Report, filed Information requests and attended and asked questions at the Technical sessions. We have been and will continue to participate in this process because it allows us an opportunity to examine the environmental effects of the proposed road before it is built. The next phase of the process is for parties to submit technical reports that outline their position on the project.

In past development projects in the Dehcho, DFN has raised concerns regarding potential adverse environmental effects, proposed mitigate measures to adverse environmental impacts and reviewed any follow-up programs proposed by the proponent. Our position within the Environmental Assessment process has been guided by the principle that the potential benefits from development must be balanced against the potential impacts to the environment. DFN has consistently maintained the position that we expect a high environmental standard across our traditional territory.

DFN wants to ensure that the proposed Prairie Creek All-season access road maintains an environmental standard that at a minimum is met by other similar all-season access roads in the

Northwest Territories. We are looking for an evidence-based approach to this project and we are appreciative of the information provided by the proponent and other parties to this project.

Herb Norwegian

Grand Chief

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