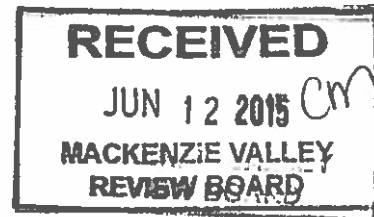




Lands & Environment Office

Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P8

Phone: (867) 766-3496
Fax: (867) 766-3497
Email: ndiloadmin@ykdene.com



Facsimile Transmittal Form

To: *Chuck hubret*

From: *Nuva Mackenzie*

Fax: *2 pages*

Date: *June 12/2015*

Copy: *766-7074*

Number of Pages including cover:

RE: *Whitebeach Point.*

Regards/Message:

PLEASE NOTE: This facsimile contains confidential information intended for the above addressee and for specific purposes. Any other distribution, or copying or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this facsimile in error, please notify Jane Goulet immediately and either destroy the facsimile or return to us by mail without making a copy.

**Summary
Yellowknives Dene First Nation
2015 Comments on Whitebeach Point
May 2015**

Many years ago YKDFN people who lived in Enodah, Ndilo, Dettah, Tadeh cho (Wool Bay), Drybone Bay, Francois Bay, Goulet Bay, Talthielie Narrows went to Whitebeach Point (Eh'dalah), to hunt, fish or trap.

Sometimes when there was/ and there is a shortage or decline in numbers of caribou or wildlife for people's consumption or harvesting of fish for storing and consumption, many YKDFN traveled to Eh'dalah to hunt, fish and trap in this area because it would have much in moose population, To'dzi (woodland caribou), black bear and fish for people to eat.

Yellowknives Dene have concerns over the calving grounds for the woodland caribou and would not want the calving grounds disturbed in any way. The numbers of the woodland caribou is down and they are not be found too readily in any big numbers.

Many a Yellowknives Dene has used the traditional hunting grounds for food and have left the Whitebeach Point/and area undeveloped or undisturbed because they wanted to protect the area for the animals they relied on for food, clothing and future use.

Eh'dalah (Whitebeach Point) is within the traditional territory of YKDFN, the Chief Drygeese Territory.

Currently there are still people who live in Dettah and Ndilo who use this area to hunt, fish and trap. The late Peter Drygeese was trapping in that area in the spring and made his living selling his muskrat, beaver, mink and lynx furs.

Currently there are visitors to the area and the fragile nature including wildlife in the unique area is attracting many more visitors because of the "moving" sand dunes, not found elsewhere in the NWT, is likely to be disturbed beyond repair. People are interested in Whitebeach Point because of the density of wildlife that's attracted because of "no disturbance" by humans. The only disturbance at the area is by black bears, wolves who hunt moose and woodland caribou.

At a public hearing held in Dettah in April 2002, many elders, hunters, trappers and fishermen of Dettah, Ndilo and Behcho Ko, talked about the need to keep on protecting the Whitebeach Point and whole area right down towards Fort Providence because the animals needed protection and the land was not to be developed or any Dene were not to build permanent homes there because it was the home for the wildlife everyone depended on for food.

Many non Dene were opposed to development of this extremely delicate ecological nature and should've been re-zoned to protect the area against excessive use. The area is covered with lichen known as reindeer moss which is easily eroded and damaged and is very slow to regenerate. They love the incredibly scenic and park-like, rich in wildlife and old trees.

Families from Behcho Ko, Dettah and Ndilo frequently use the area for picnics with family due to its pristine environment and any sort of development would infringe on the public's use of the area.

Jonas Noel lives in Ndilo. He was born in Trout Rock and he hunts, fishes, traps and gathers medicinal plants and berries in that area still.

This Whitebeach Point and area is of significance to the Yellowknives Dene and they have ancestors buried in the area and the traditional use of trapping, hunting and fishing rights will not be given up for that area and the impact on the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and interference with traditional sacred hunting site will make many Dene contemplate why the Government wants to interfere with Dene ability to eat the food from Eh'dalah.

Many years ago a group of hunters went to Eh'dalah to hunt moose and a tragic accident occurred when a hunter was shot by mistake. The hunters all got afraid and scared and left the dead hunter at Whitebeach Point. His body was recovered by Philip Crapeau and two helpers and brought back to Dettah for burial.

This hunting accident caused the people to realize and reassure themselves that this place is still a good place to hunt for moose, woodland caribou, bear for its meat and fishing was plenty for consumption. They also practiced safe hunting so no one would get hurt or killed again.

And the hunters made a pact among themselves to keep protecting that area for hunting, fishing and trapping pursuits for the people of the Chief Drygeese Territory.