

**Issues for discussion with James R. Moore, ADM, Northern Affairs  
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  
July 22, 1998**

**Presented By Robert A. Alexie, Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Working Group (MVLWWG)**

1. MVLWWG wants assurance from DIAND that we will have time to complete the requirements of their contribution agreement before Part 4 of the MVRMA is proclaimed. Our work plan is extremely tight. We would not feel comfortable with any proclamation date before mid December, 1998.
2. Funding for MVLWWG is set by contribution at \$500,000. Zero based budgeting on an annualized basis for the WG is \$867,319.00. (Appendix "A") Should proclamation for any reason be delayed beyond March 31, 1999, that figure represents the actual costs of doing business for the implementation team.
3. The MVLWWG anticipates that DIAND will be cooperative in providing access to the information needed to assess workload and staffing requirements as is stipulated in our present contribution agreement. Such information includes but is not limited to:
  - how many licences are issued and where
  - how many people administer these functions
  - how much does this cost in person years and overhead (Appendix "B")
  - how are land and water regulatory processes currently administered
  - how many authorizations will have to be made by the board itself

The results of the assessment of the above information will determine the actual costs of running the MVLWB. Since the Board will initially be doing the work of three regional panels in addition to transboundary water licences, DIAND will not be surprised that the anticipated budget will be multiples of the amount mentioned above.

An additional concern is the fact that people in the communities can presently make application for land use permits at a number of DIAND offices located throughout the unsettled claims area. MVLWWG will have the contingent liability of maintaining an effective presence in these areas in addition to being based in Yellowknife as mandated by the Act until such time as the claims are settled and local land and water boards are established. The transition from the present regime to the new one will be confusing enough without people having to apply for permits at a distance. (Appendix "B")

4. What is happening with respect to appointments to the board from the unsettled regions, the GNWT and the two Federal appointees and what happens if the regions do not want to submit recommendations for nominees?

5. The Sahtu and Gwich'in Boards are funded by Claims Implementation, whereas the MVLWWG is funded by Northern Affairs Program. At the same time, in the short run the MVLWB will have to exercise authority in the unsettled regions, undertaking work that after claims settlement will be funded through Claims Implementation. Can we be assured that appropriate funding will be given, and there are no jurisdiction issues between the MVLWB and the regional panels?
6. The WG is concerned that DIAND must provide special funding for complex permitting such as Diavik. Such a precedent has been set for the Nunavut Water Board and other Nunavut boards. (Appendix "C")
7. The WG is concerned that DIAND identify ongoing, multi-year funding, preferably on a ten year basis. Again, the precedent has been set for Nunavut. (Appendix "D")