

North Slave Métis Alliance

North Slave Métis community concerns
regarding the proposed Gahcho Kué Project

Thursday, December 6, 2012 – Yellowknife, NT



INTRODUCTION

- ∞ **Presentation is based on:**
 - ∞ Focus group interview with North Slave Métis community members and elders
 - ∞ NSMA Technical Report (On registry: Oct 22, 2012)
 - ∞ NSMA reply to the *Technical Report Response* from the Developer (on registry: Nov 13, 2012)
- ∞ **Presentation will focus on 4 salient aspects of the Project**
 - ∞ Traditional land use and knowledge, and the Project's cultural, socioeconomic, and in-migration impacts

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE



- ∞ **NSMA signed TK agreement November 2, 2012**
 - ∞ NSMA provided the Developer with an interim report (Nov 19, 2012)
 - ∞ The Developer is on the record regarding the future incorporation of the NSMA TK study post-hearing:

“De Beers is committed to doing so and remains committed to providing opportunities over the life of the Project for the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge”

(De Beers Technical Report Responses, 2012)



TK CONT.

Concerns:

- ∞ However, details of the future incorporation of Métis traditional knowledge is not binding and is ultimately at the will of the Developer
- ∞ In addition, the Developer is non-committal with regard to hiring a senior-level Traditional Knowledge specialist

*De Beers is considering the employment of a senior level
Traditional Knowledge position*

(De Beers, Wildlife Monitoring Plan, 2012)

CULTURAL IMPACTS

- ∞ **NSMA members believe that the Project may negatively impact Métis culture**
 - ∞ Members have asked for equal respect with regard to other Aboriginal groups
 - ∞ Members request that the Developer create a Métis display (similar to other Aboriginal groups)
 - ∞ Display to include Métis cultural items and historical facts regarding Métis in the Great Slave region



Examples of NWT Métis clothing in the PWNHC collection

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS



- ∞ **Members believe that the Project may negatively impact North Slave Métis people**

“Newfound wealth with the Métis has led to negative social effects in the past, such as substance abuse, gambling, marital issues, and family violence”
(NSMA member, 2012)

- ∞ NSMA recommended in their Technical Report that the Developer partner or assist a local substance abuse or sexual health clinic (e.g., Betty House & BHP Billiton - \$700,000+ to date)

- ∞ **The Developer responded:**

“The establishment and funding of local addictions clinics is the role and responsibility of government.”

(De Beers Technical Report Responses, 2012)



IN-MIGRATION IMPACTS

- ∞ **The Developer has not provided credible evidence that the Project will not create in-migration.**
- ∞ **NSMA members believe that in-migration will negatively impact regional services and infrastructure**
 - ∞ Members worry about the potential strain on traditional harvesting
 - ∞ e.g., increased fishing and harvesting along the Ingraham Trail
 - ∞ Members are concerned about infrastructure and services
 - ∞ e.g., strain on affordable housing or finding a family doctor



LESSONS FROM SNAP LAKE

- ∞ There is concern over the experience with the Snap Lake Project, where it is felt that commitments made in the EA process were not effectively monitored or followed through
- ∞ NSMA members want to be assured that there will be effective monitoring of project impacts: not only environmental, but also socio-economic and cultural impacts
- ∞ We need to build on the lessons learned, to ensure that commitments made are followed through, to minimize impacts and maximize benefits of the project



CONCLUSION

The North Slave Métis continue to support the Gahcho Kué Project, however, the member's need reassurance from the Developer:

1. The North Slave Métis community must be included, and traditional knowledge must be taken into account, in the ongoing project monitoring process
2. Acknowledge Métis history through cultural display
3. Discuss with NSMA mitigation measures for in-migration impacts (over harvesting, strain on services)
4. Financially assist local services (e.g., addictions treatment centre)