



March 18, 2005

Via Fax: (867) 699-3166/email

Ms. Heidi Wiebe
Executive Director
Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee
General Delivery
Fort Providence, NT X0E 0L0

Dear Ms. Wiebe:

I am pleased to provide you with the results of our review of the Deh Cho Planning Committee's first Working Draft Land Use Map, Terms and Policy Recommendations.

In passing on our views, I first wish to acknowledge the level of effort and commitment by the Committee members and you and your staff in working to develop a balanced approach to land use planning in the Deh Cho Region.

This is no doubt a very challenging endeavor given the seemingly opposing views of the many and different land users, especially as this work is being undertaken within the context of an unresolved Deh Cho Process combined with a group of communities where there is (and understandably so) little understanding of the nature and needs of today's resource industries or of how these industries are now regulated on a day-to-day basis.

As a member of the mining exploration industry we were, for example, quite astonished to see the amount of potentially rich mineral lands excluded from development (Map 6: Mining) and particularly so given the very real and critical (employment and business development) needs of the Deh Cho Communities.

This is further enforced when the "Results of Community Mapping" for Mining (again Map 6: Mining) is viewed, depicting what can only be referred to as a non-confidence vote in the mining industry's ability to conduct its operations in an environmentally sound manner.

While we were quite astonished at first glance, given the very high levels of economic need in the communities, we became more understanding upon further reflection in light of both the mining industry's past reputation and the total lack of knowledge, experience

and understanding that this region (with the exception of the old Pine Point Mine area communities) has had with the mining industry in general and in particular with the highly regulated mining industry that exists today in the north.

With respect to Canadian Zinc Corporation's redevelopment of the Prairie Creek Mining Project, you know the steps we are taking to educate the surrounding communities; namely, community based minesite visitations/tours, the opening of a community liaison office in Fort Simpson and the production of a community information video.

Given what we have learned from your mapping work with the communities, I can assure you that we will seek a solution to the community "knowledge gap" with the rest of our industry at both the Territorial and National levels and with the many government bodies that now regulate this industry.

As a member of the Deh Cho community we feel obliged to do what we can to help all the Deh Cho communities better understand and appreciate how safe this industry is today so they may feel comfortable and confident in taking advantage of the many economic opportunities that "would" result should our industry be allowed to operate over a much wider area of the region.

With respect to the specific feedback you seek, I am pleased to offer the following comments for the Committee's consideration;

1. We believe the "Draft Land Use Zoning" map for Mining (Map 6) viewed in comparison to the "Results of Community Mapping" and the "Potential as per Research", represents a very positive step towards meeting your mandate of striking "...the right balance between conservation, development and utilization of the land, waters and other resources in the Deh Cho Territory."

From both an industry and community needs standpoint we strongly recommend consideration be given to enlarging the areas open to mineral exploration and potential mining. This would provide a far greater chance of success from an mineral exploration standpoint (given how little is known of where economic mineral deposits will be found in the Deh Cho region) and hence a far greater chance of success for the communities in terms of securing badly needed jobs and business opportunities.

We recognize however, that work must be undertaken (as noted above) to ensure communities are aware of and understanding of how mining is conducted today and how it is regulated to ensure a minimum impact upon their lands.

2. Comments on Table 7. Description of Terms

Traditional Land Use, Occupancy and Harvesting – we support

Consultation – we support with modification: Appendix 2 is not entirely clear in terms of when consultation is occurring or what the responsibilities are of the parties involved in consultation. We recommend that a Community, Government and Industry team be established to develop a consensus based definition of consultation.

Traditional Knowledge – we support with modification: we presume the objective is **to document, where applicable, the use of traditional knowledge and scientific information.**

Protection of Significant Cultural and Traditional Use Sites – we support

Protect Plant Gathering Areas – we support with modification: **where it is applicable**

3rd Party Dispositions – we support and thank the committee for recognizing existing interests.

Visual Quality – in principle we support, need for further explanation and discussion.

Access Planning (as amended) – we support and wish to thank the committee for recognizing the company's transportation route.

Water Monitoring/Management, Air Monitoring/Management, Mining Reclamation and Cumulative Impacts Management

These terms are specifically provided for under existing government regulation, which as a company we must adhere to and as such we recommend these matters, to the extent there are differences with the existing regulations that warrant an assessment for change, should be addressed in a more appropriate and technically based forum. As with the Term: Consultation above, perhaps these matters could best be addressed via the creation of a consensus based, Community, Government and Industry working group or team.

Seasonal Restrictions – we accept with modification: as you know our minesite road access when converted to an all season road will cross the Liard River via an ice bridge in winter and a ferry in summer, resulting in an automatic shut down during freeze up and break up. In addition we are committed to working with the surrounding communities to work out a mutually acceptable road management plan which, amongst other matters, would include the development of preventative measures to avoid any adverse affects upon wildlife.

Salvage Logging – we support

Revegetation – we support

Tourism Guidelines – N/A

Digital Post-Operation Mapping – we support

Commercial Fishing – N/A

Use of Guides – we support

Community Infrastructure – N/A

Deh Cho Wide Forest Management – N/A

Community Based Forest Management – N/A

GHL – N/A

Protected Area Candidate Site – N/A

Trout Lake MUZ – N/A

Sport Fishing – N/A

Leave No Trace Principle – N/A

Use of Traditional Materials – N/A

Lake Tourism – N/A

Visitor Quotas – N/A

Mackenzie Pipeline – N/A

3. Comments on “Working Draft Policy Recommendations”

Respect Dene Laws and Principles – we support

Health, Social and Cultural Impacts and Benefits – we support

Capacity Building – we support and will outline what specific actions the company is planning at the Regional Forum.

Development Awareness – we support and will outline what specific actions the company has taken in this regard at the Regional Forum.

Economic Development Strategy – we support

Encourage Secondary Industry – we support and will outline specific actions the company is planning to promote such developments at the Regional Forum.

I hope you find this information useful. Should you have any questions or require any additional information do not hesitate to contact us.

With respect to the Regional Forum in Hay River, I wish to advise that Rita Cli and Dan O'Rourke will be attending on the company's behalf and will make a presentation in support of our submission.

Again I wish to thank your Committee and you and your staff for the work put into this draft plan and we look forward to working with you as this plan development continues to unfold.

Yours truly,

CANADIAN ZINC CORPORATION

"Alan Taylor"

Alan Taylor

Chief Operating Officer / Vice President - Exploration

cc. Deh Cho Leadership