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## ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS REGIONAL OFFICE, NWT

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July 5, 2006

Chair Herb Norwegian  
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee  
Box 199, Fort Providence,  
NT, X0E 0L0

### **RE: Support for the Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan**

Dear Chair Norwegian

As the Regional Chief for the Northwest Territories it is with great pleasure that I send this letter of support for the Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan. As the national representative organization of the First Nations in Canada, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), recognize the Plan as a tremendous achievement for the Dehcho territory.

The Plan clearly identifies where land uses are appropriate and sets terms for development that reflect the values of the residents and communities of the Dehcho territory, having regard to the interests of all Canadians. An approved Plan will increase regulatory certainty and promote sustainable development.

Having reviewed the Plan it is clear the extensive consultation and research captured the unique characteristics of the region and were considered carefully in Plan preparation. The Plan is also consistent with the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement (IMA) and existing legislation.

Considerable progress has been made notably on cumulative effects management guidelines, which will help secure the habitat and future of many Species at Risk including boreal woodland caribou. Timely implementation is essential if the goals of the Plan are to be realized.

I understand Dehcho First Nations gave their unanimous approval to the Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and copies have been forwarded to the Ministers of ENR, GNWT and

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*Assembly of First Nations Regional Office (NWT)*

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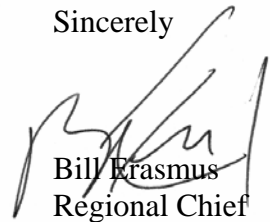
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DIAND, Canada for their approval and consideration, as per S. 10 of the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement.

The Assembly of First Nations congratulates all those involved in the planning process and encourages all parties to work to secure timely approval / consideration and full implementation of the Dehcho Land Use Plan.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Erasmus", is written over the typed name.

Bill Erasmus  
Regional Chief  
Assembly of First Nations

cc: AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine