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Chief Herb Norwegian  
Chairperson  
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee  
PO BOX 199  
FORT PROVIDENCE NT X0E 0L0

Dear Chief Norwegian:

**Submission of the Final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to acknowledge receipt of the June 13, 2006, transmittal letter, *Respect for the Land: The Dehcho Land Use Plan* (Final Draft Plan - May 2006), and the associated Background Report.

Thank you and congratulations to all members of the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee and staff for completing a huge and complex task. The GNWT recognizes the challenges faced in reconciling many competing interests to prepare a Final Draft Plan. The information and perspectives contained in the documents, and the values, goals and objectives identified by the people in the Dehcho communities will be useful to the GNWT as it engages in initiatives relevant to the region.

The GNWT is now in a position to fully consider the Final Draft Plan for approval. GNWT officials will complete a comprehensive analysis bearing in mind the interests expressed by the Dehcho First Nations as well as other public interests. The GNWT will carefully consider how the approach taken in the plan supports the overall Mackenzie Valley resource management regime.

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Once GNWT officials have completed the Final Draft Plan, we will be able to meet with members of the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee to discuss any outstanding issues. I anticipate that such a meeting can take place this fall.

Thank you again for your significant efforts in this work.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Miltenberger  
Minister

c Honourable Jim Prentice  
Minister, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Honourable Joseph L. Handley  
Premier

Honourable Michael McLeod  
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs

Honourable Brendan Bell  
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

Honourable Paul DeLorey  
MLA, Hay River North

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen  
MLA, Hay River South

Mr. Kevin Menicoche  
MLA, Nahendeh