



Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee

February 23, 2006

To: David Livingstone, Director, Renewable Resources and Environment, DIAND, Canada
Philip Gibson, Legal Counsel, DIAND, Canada
Steve Harbicht, Head, Assessment and Monitoring, Environment Canada
James Harvey, Legal Counsel, Environment Canada
Bob Bailey, Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
David Nurse, Legal Counsel, GNWT
Alison de Pelham, Executive Director, Dehcho First Nations
Chris Reid, Legal Counsel, Dehcho First Nations

RE: Meeting on Legal Concerns with Revised Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan

Dear Sir and Madam,

At the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee's Regional Forum held from February 7-9, 2006, DIAND requested a meeting between our legal counsels to discuss legal concerns with the Plan. Environment Canada and the GNWT submitted similar comments with respect to the Plan's mandate and ability to be implemented within existing legislation and regulatory processes.

The Committee has retained Richard Spaulding as our legal counsel to assist us in addressing these comments. We will hold a meeting in Yellowknife at the Scotia Centre, 6th Flr Boardroom (in GNWT offices) on March 6th, 2006 from 9 AM to 5 PM to review the legal concerns raised in the DIAND, Environment Canada and GNWT submissions. Canada's representative Adrian Boyd, the GNWT's Representative Ron D. Antoine, and I will attend on behalf of the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee. We are inviting legal counsel for the three Parties – Canada, GNWT and Dehcho First Nations to participate in these discussions. Each Party may also send one or two people who have been involved in the development of the Dehcho Land Use Plan to assist and advise their legal counsel. We are limiting numbers to keep the meeting workable and focused.

The purpose of the meeting is to review legal concerns raised in written submissions by DIAND, EC and GNWT in January or presented at our Regional Forum in February. We will not be considering any new issues that have not been previously documented. This is an opportunity for you to share additional information about your comments so the Committee can determine how best to address them.

We expect this will be a fairly technical meeting, with legal counsel taking the lead for all Parties. As the legal counsels have not been involved in Plan development, the role of the other participants is to provide context and focus the discussions on the Land Use Plan. It is their role to ensure that legal questions posed are relevant to the Plan. For clarity, this is not a Dehcho Process negotiating session; discussions will be kept focused on the Plan and submitted comments. The Committee will chair the meeting.

Please RSVP a list of your participants to me by March 1st at the latest. If you are unable to travel, we will be able to provide for a teleconference hookup to ensure full representation. We will develop an agenda based on the comments submitted and circulate it prior to the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (867) 699-3164 or hwiebe@dehcholands.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Wiebe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Wiebe, Executive Director
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee