

Ministre des Affaires Indiennes et
du Nord canadien et Interlocuteur fédéral
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits



Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor
for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JAN 25 2007

Mr. Herb Norwegian
Chair
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee
PO Box 199
FORT PROVIDENCE NT X0E 0L0

received
Jan 26/07
RECEIVED
JAN 26 2007
AW (Received fr. DFN)

Dear Mr. Norwegian.

Further to my letter of August 29, 2006, acknowledging receipt of the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee's Final Draft of *Respect for the Land: The Dehcho Land Use Plan*, I have determined that I cannot give the Final Draft Plan favourable consideration at this time due to a number of issues needing to be addressed. My concerns include the following:

- there is an imbalance in zoning in the proposed Final Draft Plan between conservation and economic development;
- some of the Conformity Requirements proposed in the Plan would not contribute to an efficient and clear regulatory regime, and some of the Conformity Requirements do not fit well with the current legislative and policy framework;
- the Special Infrastructure Corridor, as described in the proposed Final Draft Plan, is too restrictive;
- it is premature to propose implementation and management-related actions that may have to be negotiated through the Dehcho Process; and
- the proposed Final Draft Plan limits potential land selection options under the Dehcho Process.

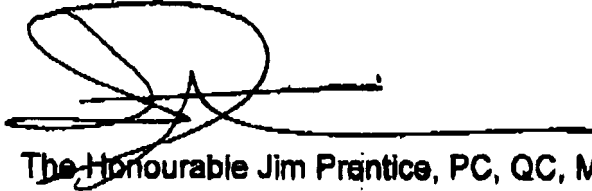
I have noted that some of these issues have been submitted to the Committee previously, however, they have not been addressed to my satisfaction and have not been discussed in the context of the overall Dehcho Process. Given the nature of these issues, they are best addressed through the Dehcho Process negotiations. Therefore, Mr. Tim Christian, Chief Federal Negotiator, has instructions to negotiate an acceptable interim land use plan that can be implemented upon completion of an agreement-in-principle. I expect the details can be worked out by the parties involved in the negotiations.

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Canada

I would like to acknowledge the work done by the Committee in developing the Final Draft Plan. It is apparent that the Committee has done a considerable amount of work in collecting and analyzing data for the development of the Final Draft Plan. I look forward to resolving the issues and moving ahead.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Jim Prantice, PC, QC, MP

- c.c.: Mr. Joseph Handley
The Honourable Michael McLeod, MLA
Mr. Tim Christian
Mr. Tim Lennie
Mr. Adrian Boyd
Mr. Petr Cizek
Mr. Ron Antoine
Grand Chief Herb Norwegian
Chief Harry Deneron
Chief Berna Landry
Chief Alec Sunrise
Chief Stanley Sanguéz
Chief Lloyd Chicot
Chief Keyna Norwegian
Chief Erlo Betsaka
Chief Tim Lennie
Chief David Etchinelle
Acting Chief Dolphus Jumbo
Chief Karen Felker
Ms. Marie Lafferty
Mr. Ernie McLeod
Mr. Albert J. Lafferty