

NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE

PO Box 2301 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7



June 11th, 2012

Chuck Hubert
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Mackenzie Valley Review Board
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Re: Public hearing dates - Fortune Minerals Limited, NICO Project. EA 0809-004

The North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA) supports the Tlicho Government's request to postpone the public hearing dates for the above noted environmental assessment, but objects to the suggestion that no hearings be held in Yellowknife.

There are two other events planned for the week of October 22-25th which will occupy the attention of the NSMA's staff. One is a technical session for the review of a proposal to renew the water licence of a major diamond mining project. The other is a traditional knowledge workshop for incorporating traditional knowledge into the closure plan for another major diamond mining project. Therefore, we have a strong preference for the week of October 15th.

With respect to the venue, we request that the Board take notice of the extremely limited staff and budget of the NSMA. Travel and accommodation funding for Yellowknife based staff and members to attend the hearings may not be available. We strongly oppose any suggestion that NSMA members are not "relevant" to this public hearing. NSMA members hold constitutionally protected aboriginal rights and titles in the area of this project, and the Tlicho Agreement cannot prejudice those rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sheryl Grieve'.

Sheryl Grieve
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