



## **NAHANNI BUTTE DENE BAND**

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### **Via Electronic Mail**

February 27, 2017

Mr. Mohan Denetto  
Regional Director General, NT Region  
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2R3

### **Re: Prairie Creek All Season Road Project, Canadian Zinc Corporation**

Dear Mr. Denetto,

Thank you for your letter of February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 confirming INAC has full confidence in the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's environmental review process.

Since our telephone conversation on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 where we shared our vision regarding the future of the proposed all-season road and Park Canada's management of the Nahanni National Park Reserve, we've not received any meaningful communication from the Federal Government despite your personal assurance that our concerns would be prioritized.

After nearly six months of enduring what can be defined as an inefficient bureaucratic regulatory process, we wrote to the MVIRB on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to express our frustration and offer suggestions such as ministerial intervention. You can imagine our surprise when we noticed your response posted on the Review Board's website in advance of receiving the letter in the mail. Unfortunately, instead of offering a fast-track solution, we are directed to pursue another long-drawn-out process where our issues will be considered by your department **if** we participate in consultations with First Nations and northerners on amendments to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

Should the Federal Government choose not to intervene in a way that expedites the permitting process of this important economic development project, then we have little choice but to continue the first phase of road construction under a "permit pending" concession that we believe

should apply to all sections of the proposed all-season road located on the Traditional Lands of the Nahanni Butte Dene Band.

We trust you will appreciate the Band considers youth employment a social priority; and since accessing our IAB Lands, clearing fire breaks, and harvesting firewood for our Elders are undertakings linked to Canadian Zinc's all-season road, we are confident all parties will take a proactive approach and expedite the regulatory process.

Mahsi Cho,

  
Chief Peter Marcellais

CC:

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Government of Canada

Hon. Catherine McKenna  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Government of Canada

Mark Cliffe-Philips  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Mathew Spence  
Director General  
Northern Projects Management Office  
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Willard Hagan  
Deputy Minister  
Department of Lands  
Government of the Northwest Territories

Grand Chief Herb Norwegian  
Dehcho First Nation

Alan Taylor  
Chief Operating Officer  
Canadian Zinc Corporation