



NAHANNI BUTTE DENE BAND

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Via Electronic Mail

March 20, 2017

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Environment and Climate Change Canada
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Daniel Watson
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada
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Gatineau, Quebec
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Re: Canadian Zinc All-Season Road – Parks Canada Technical Report

Dear Minister and Mr. Watson,

Minister, the Nahanni Butte Dene Band was encouraged by a statement you made at a recent parks conference in Banff, Alta, where you highlighted: "Indigenous traditional knowledge will play a greater role in managing Canada's national parks as well. Our national parks must be respectful of traditional knowledge; especially as we strive towards a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples and continue to work together in a manner based on the recognition of rights, respect and cooperation".

Although the recent technical report submitted by Parks Canada to the Mackenzie Valley Review Board in connection with the environmental assessment of Canadian Zinc's all-season

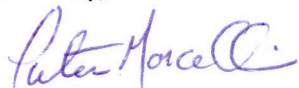
road illustrates that Parks Canada is working with Indigenous groups on park management issues, Parks Canada did not consult us on their report. Furthermore, we disagree with the approach taken by Parks Canada who continue to request an endless number of studies before the issuing of permits can even be considered. Despite numerous requests, we have yet to be provided with a satisfactory explanation as to why the proponent should be burdened with parks-related baseline studies. In addition, we are concerned that since Canadian Zinc already has winter road permits and is only seeking to upgrade the road for all season use, there are unidentified reasons for an environmental assessment process that has taken over three years and become unnecessarily complex.

Mr. Watson, the Band received precious little from the establishment of the park in 1972, and despite promises to the contrary, very little has been forthcoming since park expansion in 2009. Now, your staff is standing in the way of Canadian Zinc's project and our aspirations with excessive study requests and other delay tactics. Parks Canada's demands are unreasonable and not consistent with reports from other government departments.

In our opinion, Parks Canada has overlooked a unique opportunity to build a constructive and "results-oriented" relationship based on mutual respect and cooperation.

We would appreciate if you could instruct your staff at Parks Canada to convene a road development co-management meeting with the Band and Canadian Zinc and come prepared to accommodate our unique circumstances and traditional rights.

Sincerely,



Chief Peter Marcellais