August 5, 2025

Chief Allan Adam
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
P.O. BOX 366
FORT CHIPEWYAN AB T0P 1B0
aadam@acfn.com

VIA EMAIL

Dear Chief Adam:

Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of Pine Point Mining Limited's Proposal to Develop a Zinc and Lead Mine – (MVEIRB File EA2021-01)

On February 5, 2021, the then Government on Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Minister of Lands (now Environment and Climate Change) initiated a joint Aboriginal consultation process in conjunction with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the Environmental Assessment (EA) of **Pine Point Mining Limited's (PPML) Proposal to Develop a Zinc and Lead Mine** (the Project), which was initiated by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) on February 4, 2021. In the letter (enclosed), Minister Jay Macdonald delegated to me the responsibility for keeping Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations informed of the status, outcomes, and consultation process associated with the EA of the proposed Project and the responsibility for coordinating the GNWT's Aboriginal[1] consultation process, including coordination with Canada.

As the proposed Project may have the potential to adversely impact the asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, the purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the ongoing steps of the EA process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate Aboriginal consultation with Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT responsible ministers on the EA of the Project. The decision, made at the end of the EA, will be in response to the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA);

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[1] The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to demonstrating respect to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and recognizes the shift in preferred terminology from "Aboriginal" to Indigenous. The use of the term "Aboriginal Peoples" or "Aboriginal rights" is defined in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and is used in this context, and throughout this document, as a reference to legally defined Aboriginal rights.

3. Advise you that the GNWT is relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the GNWT's duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate; and
4. Request that you identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on this Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future Aboriginal consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. I would appreciate it if you could forward this information to me by September 5, 2025.

Background on the Project

PPML is proposing to develop a zinc and lead mine near the old Pine Point Mine site (approximately 53 kilometers east of Hay River and 42 kilometers southwest of Fort Resolution). The Project is the latest development in Pine Point's long history of projects dating back to the 1960s. Construction will take approximately 1.5 years with a mine life of 10 to 15 years. Open pit and underground mining methods will be used. Once mining is finished, closure and reclamation will take place.

On February 2, 2021, PPML submitted an EA Initiation Package to the Review Board. On February 4, 2021, the Review Board initiated the EA for the Project under sub-section 126(3) of the MVRMA and issued a Notice of EA formally initiating the EA process.

Information on the EA, including the Review Board's workplan and how to subscribe to public registry updates, is available on the Review Board's website at: Pine Point Mine Project - EA2021-01.

Our approach to consultation with Aboriginal Peoples

Both the GNWT and the Government of Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government responsible ministers on the Review Board's Report of EA. The Government of Canada will also be sending you a letter regarding this EA. The GNWT works closely with Canada throughout the EA and decision processes and will coordinate the processes where possible.

The Review Board's EA process is robust and inclusive of all potentially impacted Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The GNWT will rely on the Review Board's EA process, to the extent possible, to assist in fulfilling our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the EA of the Project.

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How to participate in the Environmental Assessment Process?

As the GNWT relies on the Review Board's process, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the EA, understand how the Project could adversely affect your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially mitigated by the Review Board.

When identifying an adverse impact on your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

a. The specific asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights that may potentially be adversely impacted,
b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
c. How the potential adverse impacts could best be mitigated.

The Review Board strongly encourages developers to engage and collaborate with local communities and Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations throughout the EA process. The GNWT also encourages the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation to participate in any engagement efforts by PPML, as the developer is generally best placed to address concerns related to project design and implementation.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's EA process or received by the GNWT during the decision phase of the EA process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT's responsible ministers.

Next Steps

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of EA and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT will send you another letter. At that time, we will request to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any mitigation measures and the developer's commitments, appropriately accommodates any potential adverse impact (s) from the Project on your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights.

Your views will inform the responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights that have not been appropriately accommodated, the applicable responsible minister(s) within the GNWT will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is adequate.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale
Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management
Environment and Climate Change

c. Distribution List

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