

Kátt'odeeche First Nation Traditional Knowledge and Community Impacts Assessment of the Proposed Pine Point Mine Project

Summary Document for the MVEIRB

January 29th, 2026

Description of Document

The confidential document: *Kátt'odeeche First Nation Traditional Knowledge and Community Impacts Assessment of the Proposed Pine Point Mine Project*, provides information based on Kátt'odeeche First Nation (KFN) knowledge relating to the Pine Point Mine Project (the Project) and the potential impact it may have on their traditional land and resource use, culture, and community health and wellbeing. Information shared in the document highlights that within the Project area lies critical wildlife habitat and important traditional land use areas utilized by KFN members for harvesting and subsistence activities.

Information pertaining to community impacts was gathered by means of a community-led survey with KFN members to gain insight into how the Project may influence the economy, employment, and social and community conditions on the Hay River Dene Reserve. Survey results revealed that there is general support among KFN members for the development of the Pine Point Mine Limited Project however they have significant concerns regarding its potential impact on culture, environment, traditional land and resource use, and general community health and wellbeing.

Several recommendations were put forward by KFN members to guide Project planning and development activities and assist in identifying possible effects and acceptable monitoring and mitigation measures. Preservation of the land and culture along with the health and wellbeing of KFN members today and into the future is the community's greatest priority.

Description of Contents

The document is divided into the following sections:

Section 1: Traditional Knowledge Assessment

Section 2: Community Impacts Assessment

Appendix A: PPML Community Impacts Workshop Overview

Section 1: Traditional Knowledge Assessment

1.0 Introduction to the Assessment

Information in this section includes a brief overview of the Project and reason for KFN's involvement: a major portion of the proposed mine site is located within the eastern boundary of KFN's Traditional Territory (Kátt'odeeche Got'ı Ndee). The geographic scope of the assessment is

depicted by a map outlining the boundaries of KFN's Traditional Territory and the Regional Study Area (RSA). The purpose of the assessment and methodology used to develop the report are also included. It is understood that the information shared in the document will be integrated into PPML's Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) as required by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) Environmental Assessment process.

2.0 Introduction to the Kátt'odeeche First Nation

This section includes a brief introduction to the KFN to provide important historical context and background information. Information is shared regarding KFN's:

- Traditional land use area.
- Traditional place names.
- Seasonal land use cycle and traditional resource management.

3.0 Community History

This section outlines the historical events leading to the development of the town of Hay River and the Hay River Dene Reserve and shares information regarding KFN's experiences with past exploration and development activities.

4.0 Identification of Key Components

Key components were identified through information sharing and scoping sessions with PPML and KFN members and a review of available KFN traditional knowledge. They include the most important topics and concerns expressed by KFN members regarding the proposed Project to date and are the focus of the assessment. Key components identified by KFN include:

- Traditional land and resource use;
- Water resources;
- Cultural, spiritual and ceremonial sites;
- Heritage resources and archaeological sites; and
- Other land uses.

5.0 Traditional Land and Resource Use

This section of the document draws on KFN's wisdom and knowledge regarding their historical and current use of land, water, and resources within the Regional Study Area and surrounding Traditional Territory. Concerns expressed by KFN members regarding potential effects of the Pine Point Mine Project on their traditional land and resources along with recommendations that may help address these important issues are also included. Information is shared regarding:

- Traditional trails and travel corridors;
- Wildlife habitat and harvesting areas;
- Large game animals (boreal caribou, moose, black bear, wood bison);
- Small game/furbearing animals;
- Waterfowl and game birds;
- Fish resources and harvesting areas; and
- Plant resources and harvesting areas.

6.0 Water Resources

This section includes a description of the main rivers and creeks within the Regional Study Area and the value these areas hold for KFN members. Information is drawn from KFN's waterbody inventory which is based on oral history and outlines historical and current use, cultural and ecological

values, fish species, and current condition of waterbodies within their primary Traditional Territory. Concerns expressed by KFN members regarding potential effects of the Pine Point Mine Project on the watershed are also documented.

7.0 Cultural, Spiritual and Ceremonial Sites

This section touches Dene belief systems and the spiritual relationship KFN members have with their land. They share the importance of their traditional ceremonies, burial sites, and sacred areas as well as the intimate connection they have to the creation and history of their land. Respect for sacred areas and traditional practices remains fundamental to KFN's culture and survival.

8.0 Heritage Resources and Archaeological Sites

This section provides information regarding heritage resources including traditional settlement areas and cabins and campsites that exist within the Regional Study Area. A summary of historic features and archaeological research conducted in the area is provided as well as a map illustrating the general location of known registered archaeological sites within the RSA. KFN members feel strongly about protecting archaeological and heritage resources within the RSA that may be vulnerable to surface and subsurface alteration from Project activities.

9.0 Other Land Use

Within the western portion of the RSA lie proposed KFN Reserve Lands, the KFN Communal Fishing License Regulations (ACDLR) Zone, as well as land designated for permanent protection – Ejjé Túé Ndáde (Buffalo Lake, River, and Trails). This section provides a map illustrating these land use developments and information regarding KFN's recent work in these areas.

10.0 Land and Resource Use Concerns and Recommendations

This section provides a detailed summary of concerns raised by KFN members regarding Project activities and the potential impact these may have on their traditional land and resources, cultural heritage and archaeological sites and other land uses within the RSA. Main concerns include:

- Boreal caribou habitat loss and fragmentation;
- Increased access and traffic;
- Increased noise;
- Environmental contamination;
- Water contamination;
- Disturbance of heritage and archaeological sites and sacred areas;
- Surface and Subsurface land uses and designations:
 - Impact on proposed permanent conservation protection of Ejjé Túé Ndáde; and
 - Impact on proposed reserve land parcels;
- Long term effects:
 - Permanent alteration of the landscape and destruction of natural habitat.
 - Insufficient remediation;
 - Contamination and loss of animal populations and vegetation in the area;
 - Impact on water quality and fish populations;
 - Impact on community members' ability to harvest and consume traditional resources;
 - Impact on human health including increased disease rates; and
 - Long-term impacts on culture, identity, and ability to protect traditional lifestyles and connection to the land.

Several recommendations were brought forward by KFN members to help address or mitigate their concerns. These include:

- Ensuring KFN’s inherent rights are upheld and respected in all stages of Project development, operations and closure and remediation activities;
- Stringent environmental protection measures be put in place to safeguard the health of the plants, animals, land and water within the RSA and surrounding area; and
- The development and implementation of water protection measures and a comprehensive water monitoring program.

Kátt’odeeche First Nation members remain deeply connected to their traditional lands and waters including those that lie within the RSA. All actions and decisions regarding Project development, operations, closure and remediation must honor and respect KFN’s cultural, ecological, spiritual and historical significance inherent in the area.

Section 2: Community Impacts Assessment

11.0 Survey Overview

In November 2023, the *Kátt’odeeche First Nation Pine Point Mine Project Community Impacts Survey* was developed in a collaborative manner led by KFN’s Lands Department. The survey was created to actively engage and seek input from KFN members relating to the development of the Project and the impact it may have on the community. Survey questions focused on the economy, employment, and social and community conditions on the Hay River Dene Reserve including health and safety, crime, community and family relationships, cultural and land use activities, traditional foods, and water and air quality.

A total of 68 surveys were completed by KFN members over the course of a four-month period. Statistical results were analyzed generally as well as by age and gender and are presented in this section along with qualitative data gained from the interviews with community members.

12.0 Community Impacts Recommendations

This section summarizes key findings from the survey and recommendations put forth by community members on how to reduce negative impacts and maximize potential benefits of the Project. Main recommendations brought forward address the need for:

- Clear communication systems;
- Training and education;
- Family support and health services;
- Drug and alcohol awareness and prevention;
- Drug and alcohol treatment and support services;
- Support for cultural and land use activities;
- Community security measures;
- Community input and involvement;
- Impact benefit agreement; and
- Environmental monitoring and protection.

APPENDIX A: PPML Community Impacts Workshop Overview

On August 26, 2025, KFN's Lands Department conducted a community workshop regarding cultural and community impacts of the proposed Pine Point Mine as a follow up to the Traditional Knowledge and Wellness report completed earlier in the year. The workshop was attended by 27 community members, including Elders, Councillors, and the Chief.

Discussions during the workshop highlighted several key issues, aligning closely with findings from the community survey. Main concerns included environmental impacts, substance use, effects on land-based activities, and the implications for community and family relationships. Actions to mitigate the negative impacts were also discussed and recorded.

Overall, KFN seeks stronger involvement in decision-making, environmental monitoring, and mine engagement. Their vision balances cultural preservation, land protection, community wellness, and fair economic opportunities, ensuring benefits flow directly to KFN while avoiding past mistakes from mining operations.