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Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3

May 17, 2017

Attention: Kierney Leach  
Regulatory Officer  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
P. O. Box 2130, YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P6

**Re: Gordon Lake Group Remediation Project - #MV2016X0021, #MV2016L8-0006  
Engagement Plan**

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Dear Ms. Leach,

On December 19, 2016 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) – Contaminants and Remediation Division (CARD) received a Type “A” Land Use Permit (LUP) #MV2016X0021 for the Gordon Lake Group (GLG) Remediation Project. Subsequently INAC-CARD received a Type “B” Water Licence (WL) for the GLG Remediation Project # MV2016L8-0006 on February 16, 2017.

The attached Engagement Plan is intended to satisfy Condition Part B, item 12 of the WL as well as Condition #75 of the LUP. INAC-CARD respectfully submits this plan to the Board for review.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these updated plans please do not hesitate to contact Project Officer Jessica Wilson (email: [jessica.wilson@aandc.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.wilson@aandc.gc.ca) ph: 867-669-2744) or myself (email: [alison.heslep@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca](mailto:alison.heslep@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca) ph: 867 669-2769).

Sincerely,

Alison Heslep  
Project Manager, Contaminants and Remediation Division  
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

cc: Carey Ogilvie, Senior Manager INAC-CARD

# Community Engagement Plan

## Gordon Lake Group Remediation Project



**Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)  
Contaminants and Remediation Division (CARD)**

**May 2017**

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## GORDON LAKE GROUP REMEDIATION PROJECT

## **REMEDIATION PHASE ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

### **1.0 Project Description**

The Gordon Lake Group (GLG) remediation project is comprised of nine unrelated abandoned mine and mineral exploration sites around the Gordon Lake area, located approximately 110 km northeast of Yellowknife, NT. The nine sites are: Camlaren Mine, Burnt Island, WestBay, Goodrock Mine, Kidney Pond, Treacy Mine, Storm Property, Try Me and Murray Lake. The Joint Venture winter road to the diamond mines goes through this area, so it is accessible via winter road or by float plane.

All sites are located within a 20 km radius of each other in the asserted Akaitcho Dene First Nations territory, with the nearest Akaitcho Dene First Nation being the Yellowknives Dene. The site is also within the boundary of the Môwhi Gogha De Nîtlèè (as defined by the Tłjchq Agreement). The area is asserted as a traditional use area for Métis people of the Great Slave Lake area, who are represented by the Northwest Territory Métis Nation. The North Slave Métis Alliance also asserts that it represents the same Métis rights in the area, but this remains unresolved with Canada.

### **2.0 Project Background**

Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) have been conducted on all nine mines and exploration sites, with a Phase III completed on the following sites; Camlaren Mine, Burnt Island, WestBay, Goodrock Mine, Kidney Pond and Treacy Mine. A comprehensive Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) were completed in 2013/14 with updates in 2014/15. This update included the Traditional Knowledge (TK) Research completed by YKDFN in March 2014 and expanded upon in 2015/16. Following the Options Analysis Workout with YKDFN, the Remediation/Risk Management Plan (RAP/RMP) for the GLG was finalized in March 2016.

The primary environmental concerns within the GLG area include soil contamination from tailings, acid rock drainage (ARD) and physical hazards such as open mine shafts, pits, trenches, etc. The main concern from a human health perspective is the accessibility of the site as the Joint Venture winter road passes many of these sites, each year. There are also other interested groups nearby such as Sandy Point Lodge, a Recreation Lease holder and mineral rights holders. Guests from Sandy Point Lodge would occasionally visit these properties, as well as people pursuing recreational and traditional wilderness practices, and thus the risk of exposure to the aforementioned environmental concerns.

### **3.0 Area History**

#### **3.1 Land Use**

The Homiitì (Gordon Lake) area has been and continues to be used by Indigenous people for activities, primarily hunting, fishing, trapping, and plant harvesting. There are numerous culturally significant places located in and around Homiitì and the area has been used extensively as a travel route to other traditional areas. Following the establishment of the City of Yellowknife, other residents began accessing the area for recreational use.

### **3.2 Mining History**

Exploration and mining operations began in the GLG area in the early 1940's and continued sporadically until the late 1980's.

## **4.0 Engagement Objectives**

The objectives of the GLG Engagement Plan are to:

- Increase community understanding and awareness of the GLG Remediation Project;
- Facilitate community awareness and input on site remediation and monitoring processes;
- Facilitate the exchange of technical information and traditional knowledge regarding the GLG Project;
- Provide project updates and communication channels for stakeholder feedback and concerns;
- Engage with other site users or interested parties to ensure site activities do not conflict with current and planned future land uses.

## **5.0 Engagement History**

Community Engagement for the planning phase of the project began in 2013 with the YKDFN holding a Traditional Knowledge (TK) workshop and completing an initial Homiitì (Gordon Lake) Traditional Knowledge Research Report. A TK workshop was held in 2014. Public update meetings on INAC-CARD projects, including GLG, were held 2015 in N'dilo and Fort Resolution and then in 2016 in Behchokq. Extensive engagement with the YKDFN occurred in 2015 with a site tour, updated TK report and a Remedial Options Analysis Workshop, the results of which were used to finalize the Remedial Action Plan/Risk Management Plan (RAP/RMP).

Written project updates and information about upcoming site activities have been provided to the NWTMN, the NSMA, the Tłı̄chq̄ Government, the mineral rights holders, recreational lease holders and Sandy Point Lodge.

Meetings and/or site visit engagement has also been completed with the Prince of Wales Heritage Museum staff and the NWT Mine Heritage Society (see Annex B). As well, project updates are presented during semi-annual meetings to the Waste Sites Management Committee (WSMC), whose membership includes Tłı̄chq̄ Government, NWTMN and Deninu K'ue First Nation (Fort Resolution).

In addition to engagement efforts completed through the planning phase of the project, INAC-CARD have carefully considered all comments submitted to the Board through its licencing process, and recognizes the Board's process as a fundamental means for the Crown to consult on potential impacts of the remediation project with respect to established and asserted Section 35 rights.

A previous engagement plan has been created for the planning phase of the GLG project. The current engagement plan describes the approach and activities planned for the remediation phase of the project, and a third plan will be created for the subsequent monitoring phase in 2019/20.

Please refer to the attached Engagement Log Excerpt for a record of engagement activities related to the GLG Project to date.

## **6.0 Forward Engagement**

The area of the project is within the YKDFN asserted Drygeese Territory. It is also within the Akaitcho Dene First Nations Primary Use Area as set out in an overlap agreement between the Tlicho First Nation and the Akaitcho Dene First Nations. The site is also within the boundary of the Mòwhì Gogha De Nìitlèè (as defined by the Tłjchq Agreement). The area is asserted as a traditional use area for Métis people of the Great Slave Lake area, who are represented by the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN). The North Slave Métis Alliance also asserts that it represents the same Métis rights in the area, but this remains unresolved with Canada. During the remediation phase of the project, INAC-CARD will continue to engage with the following indigenous stakeholder groups:

- Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN)
- North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN)
- Tłjchq Government

The GLG project is not especially large in terms of impact but challenging in terms of logistical complexity with the number of sites involved. From the initial engagement on the project, it was clear the YKDFN want to be actively engaged throughout the project. Face to face meetings, site tours and community public meetings have been held and will continue to be offered to the YKDFN through the remediation phase of the project. The update meetings are an opportunity to inform the communities of the remediation progress, employment/contract opportunities, and training opportunities. Written updates will be provided to all identified indigenous stakeholder groups regarding project progress, upcoming licencing or permitting changes, and project closure.

The Tłıchq Government and NWTMN may be engaged through project updates during community meetings, formal letters and, where requested, site tours. Additionally, the involvement of the Tłıchq Government, NWTMN and Deninu K'ue First Nation with the Waste Site Management Committee (WSMC) established under the Devolution Agreement is a valuable form of engagement for the GLG Project. Engagement on the GLG Project with these indigenous government organizations will continue on a bi-annual basis via the WSMC throughout the remediation phase of the project.

The NSMA will continue to receive project updates through public meetings and/or written communications. In addition, recently the NSMA have expressed their want to be included in annual project update meetings and site tours. To accommodate this request, INAC-CARD has included these activities within the engagement plan for the remediation phase of the project.

In addition to project update meetings and site tours, the GLG project will be seeking feedback and support from indigenous stakeholder groups regarding upcoming long term monitoring objectives and methodology. This feedback and support will primarily be sought from the Lands Management Offices and/or Wildlife and Environment Committees of Indigenous stakeholder groups.

INAC-CARD will engage with the Lands and Environment Management Offices of Indigenous governments and organizations throughout the remediation phase of the project. With mandates for land management within their respective areas, a Wildlife Environment Committee (WEC) and/or Land Protection Office (LPO) have a responsibility to communicate land use activities to its community members and leadership and other interested parties. The WEC and/or LPO members will share information and concerns related to the GLG sites and report outcomes back to their leadership and members.

Upon request and at the convenience of groups involved in specific engagement activities, INAC-CARD may hold events jointly with other projects within its mandate. This is intended to ease "meeting overload" for participants and will be organized with the participation of the groups involved.

## **7.0 Other Engagement**

In addition to Indigenous governments and organizations, INAC-CARD has identified other land users in the area, including private and commercial lodge owners, recreational users and mineral claim holders. As these parties may have overlapping interests with Indigenous governments and organizations or may be Indigenous persons, engagement activities with them have been included in this plan.

Land users in the area, such as mineral claim/lease holders, cabin owners and Sandy Point Lodge, will receive project updates through public meetings and/or written communications for critical information. Written communications will be used to provide information to users, but also to request feedback and provide contact information for where that feedback may be

provided. All feedback received from stakeholders will be responded to through direct contact with relevant parties by phone, email or letter.

Engagement with other parties and dispute resolution may also occur through the regulatory review process under the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

INAC-CARD will also continue to work with the Northwest Territories Geological Survey (NTGS) to accommodate their request to preserve useable drill core located at the Gordon Lake sites proposed for remediation.

Other stakeholders such as government departments and non-government organizations will receive project information via written updates as required.

## 8.0 Engagement Schedule

In addition to the activities listed in Table 1.0, other meetings, updates or site tours may be planned as needed. If a group or individual requests more frequent or more detailed information to be provided on a certain topic, INAC-CARD would make all reasonable efforts to ensure their request was accommodated.

**Table 1.0**

<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Group(s)</b>	<b>Milestone</b>
June 2017	Community Update Meeting	Public	Remediation kick-off
June 2017	Project update via letter(s) and/or meeting(s)	YKDFN, NSMA, NWTMN, Tłjchq Government, cabin owners, mineral lease holders, commercial lodge	Remediation kick-off
Summer 2017	Site blessing(s)/tour(s)	YKDFN, NSMA	Remediation kick-off
February 2017-18	Project update via letter(s) and/or community meeting(s)	YKDFN, NSMA, NWTMN, Tłjchq Government, cabin owners, mineral lease holders, commercial lodge	Completion of year 1 of remediation
February 2018-19	Project update via letter(s) and/or community meeting(s)	YKDFN, NSMA, NWTMN, Tłjchq Government, cabin owners,	Completion of year 2 of remediation



		mineral lease holders, commercial lodge	
Summer 2019-20	Closing celebration/site tour (s)	YKDFN, NSMA	Transition from remediation to short term (5 year) monitoring phase.
Fall 2019-20	Project update via letter(s) and/or community meeting(s)	YKDFN, NSMA, NWTMN, Tłı̨chǫ Government, cabin owners, mineral lease holders, commercial lodge	Remediation Completion/ Monitoring Phase Kick-Off
2020 – 2025	Short Term Monitoring Phase		

## 9.0 Budget and Resources

INAC-CARD will provide funding for engagement through a Contribution Funding Agreement (CFA). This funding may include transportation (i.e., mileage) from participants' communities, private or commercial accommodations and meals (should attendance more than 1 day be required) as per the Treasury Board Guidelines, including any facilities costs, and translation services as needed. Honoraria or Traditional Knowledge Elders Resources Funding will be provided to participants, based on parameters set out in individual CFAs or applicable Treasury Board guidance. Meetings will be held at mutually agreed upon dates and locations.

Consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis to INAC-CARD providing more resources, either through funding or training, to build capacity in communities. Increased capacity will assist communities in providing effective input to the remediation process.



## References

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (INAC). 2011. *Aboriginal Consultation and Accommodation: Updated Guidelines for Federal Officials to Fulfill the Duty to Consult*. Government of Canada.

Government of Canada. 2004. *Policy Direction to the MVLWB Regarding the Akaitcho Territory Dene First Nations*.

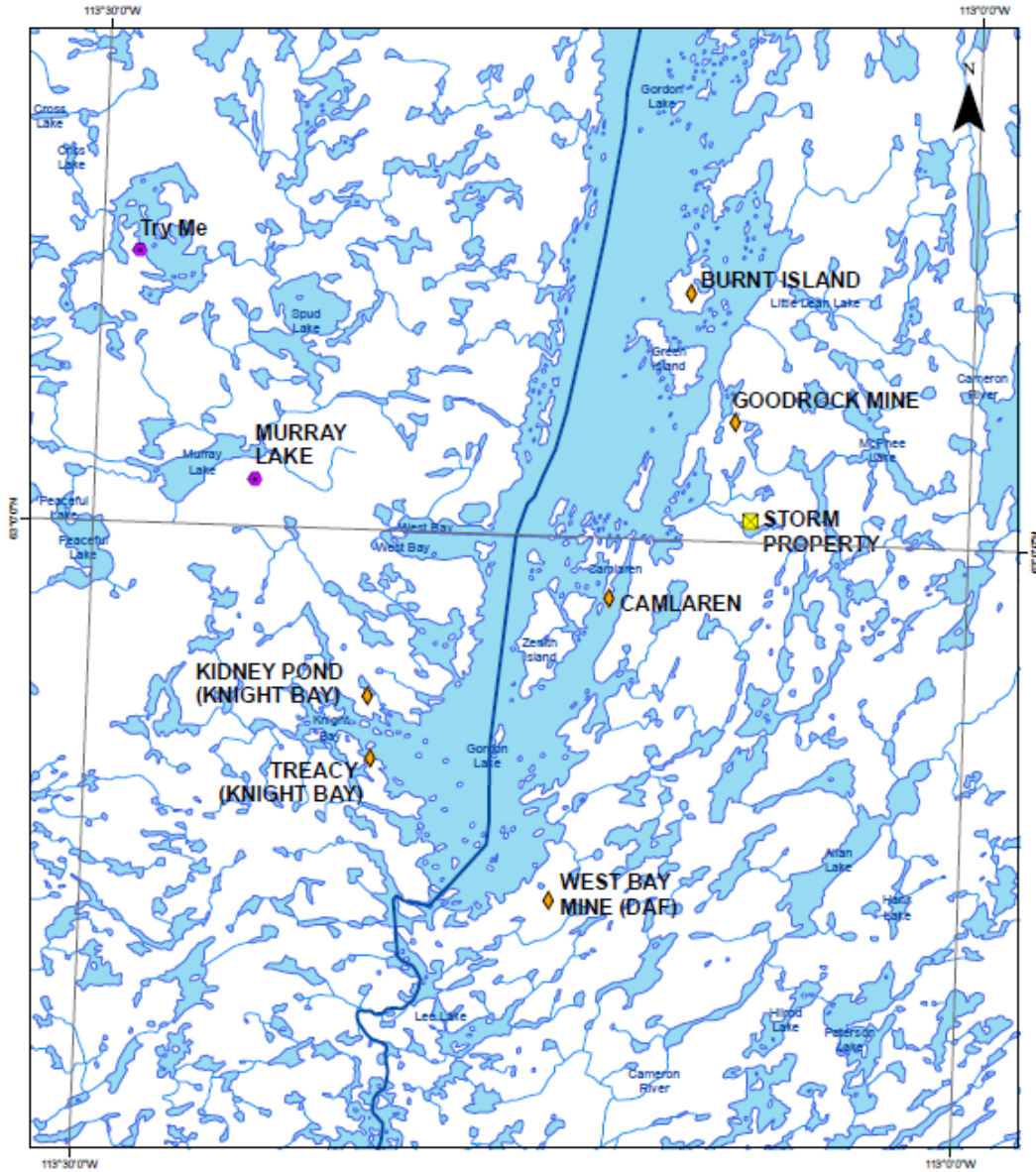
Government of Canada. 2005. *Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement Among the Tłı̨chǫ and the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada*.

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. 2013. *Engagement guidelines for Applicants and Holders of Water Licences and Land Use Permits*.

*North Slave Metis Alliance. Community Engagement Policy.*



### Annex A: Site Location





**Annex B: Engagement Log Excerpt (May 2015-present)**

<b>Engagement Log Excerpt</b>							
<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendees/ Addressee</b>	<b>Engagement Type</b>	<b>Issue(s) raised by stakeholder</b>	<b>Recommendation from Stakeholder</b>	<b>Proponent Response</b>	<b>Information materials provided to stakeholder (Y/N)</b>	<b>Written correspondence, meeting notes, and or minutes (Y/N)</b>
27-Jan-15	All signatories to the NWT Devolution Agreement (including NWTMN, Tlicho Government and Deninu Kue First Nation)	Waste Sites Management Committee (WSMC) bi-annual meeting	None	None	n/a	Y	Y-minutes
12-March-15	YKDFN	Project Update Meeting	Request for further involvement in project	Request for site tour and archaeology study	Able to accommodate requests	Y	Y-minutes
27-May-15	All signatories to the NWT Devolution Agreement (including NWTMN, Tlicho Government and Deninu Kue First Nation)	Waste Sites Management Committee (WSMC) bi-annual meeting	None	None	n/a	Y	Y-minutes
5-Aug-15	YKDFN	Site Visit/TK Work	None	None	n/a	Y	Y-report
18-Nov-15	All signatories to the NWT Devolution Agreement (including NWTMN, Tlicho Government and Deninu Kue First Nation)	Waste Sites Management Committee (WSMC) bi-annual meeting	None	None	n/a	Y	Y-minutes



2/3-Feb-16	YKDFN	RAP Workout	None	None	n/a	Y	Y-minutes
7-March-16	Tlicho	Project update – all CARD projects including Gordon	None	None	n/a	Y	Y-minutes
7-June-16	All signatories to the NWT Devolution Agreement (including NWTMN, Tlicho Government and Deninu Kue First Nation)	Waste Sites Management Committee (WSMC) bi-annual meeting	None	None	n/a	Y	Y-minutes
10-June-16	Bill Enge: NSMA	Written notification - Project Update and Notification of upcoming permit applications	none	none	n/a	Y	Y - letter
10-June-16	Garry Bailey: NTMN	Written notification - Project Update and Notification of upcoming permit applications	none	none	n/a	Y	Y - letter
10-June-16	Benjamin Burton, Jonathan Armes, Steven Williams, Walt Humphries: mineral lease and/or mineral claim holders	Written notification - Project Update and Notification of upcoming permit applications	none	none	n/a	Y	Y - letter
27-June-16	Edward Sangris and Ernest Betsina: (YKDFN)	Written notification - Project Update and Notification of upcoming permit applications	none	none	n/a	Y	Y - letter



5-July-16	Duncan Cooke: Sandy Point Lodge	Written notification - Project Update and Notification of upcoming permit applications	none	none	n/a	Y	Y - letter
5-July-16	Joe McBryan: Recreational Lease Holder	Written notification - Project Update and Notification of upcoming permit applications	none	none	n/a	Y	Y - letter
28-July-16	Laura Duncan: Tlich Government	Written notification - Project Update and Notification of upcoming permit applications	none	none	n/a	Y	Y - letter
29-July-16	Michael Cheeks: YKDFN	Written notification - Project Update and Notification of upcoming permit applications	none	none	n/a	Y	Y - letter
12-Aug-16	Laura Duncan: Tlich Government	Written notification – Project posted on Buyandsell.ca	none	none	n/a	Y	Y - letter
15-Aug-16	Michael Cheeks: YKDFN	Written notification – Project posted on Buyandsell.ca	none	none	n/a	Y	Y-letter
23-Feb-17	NSMA	Brief Project Update in conjunction with BMR Update Meeting	Request for information on Gordon Lakes Project	NSMA asked for an update on the Gordon Lakes Project in conjunction with a BMR update meeting  NSMA asked for joint update meetings with BMR and Gordon Lakes and to be included on site tours	Brief Gordon Lakes update was provided as part of BMR Update Meeting as per request  INAC-CARD will accommodate requests	Y	Y-meeting minutes



Indigenous and  
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones  
et du Nord Canada