



Community Engagement Plan

Gordon Lake Group Remediation Project



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

July 2016



Table of Contents

1.0	Project Description	3
2.0	Area History	3
2.1	Historical Land Use	3
2.2	Mining History	3
3.0	Engagement Objectives	3
4.0	Project Background	4
5.0	Engagement History	4
6.0	Engagement Approach	5
7.0	Engagement of Third Party Users	5
8.0	Project Schedule	6
9.0	Budget and Resources	6
10.0	Feedback and Evaluation	6
	Annex A: Site Location	8
	Annex B: Forward Engagement Plan	9
	Annex C: Engagement Log – Permit Applications	10



GORDON LAKE GROUP REMEDIATION PROJECT

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, West Bay, 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/ice road or by float plane.

All sites are located within a 20 km radius of each other in the asserted Akaitcho Dene territory, also referred to as Chief Drygeese territory by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. The site is also included in the Mōwhi Gogha De Nīitlèè boundary and the traditional lands identified by the North Slave Metis Alliance and the NWT Métis Nation. Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) is identified as the primary stakeholders and will thus be the main focus of the community engagement initiative.

2.0 Area History

2.1 Historical Land Use

The Homiiti (Gordon Lake) area has historically and continues to be used by aboriginal groups and local communities for activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and collection of various plants. There are numerous culturally significant places located in and around Homiiti and the area has been used extensively by the Yellowknives Dene as a travel route, and for hunting and fishing. The Tlicho and others have also used the site historically.

2.2 Mining History

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

3.0 Engagement Objectives

The objectives of the GLG Engagement Plan are to:

- Increase community understanding of the GLG Remediation Project
- Increase community awareness and aboriginal participation in remedial planning and monitoring processes



- Facilitate the exchange of scientific information and traditional knowledge regarding the Gordon Lake Group Project
- Engage with other site users or interested parties to ensure site activities do not conflict with current and planned future land uses

4.0 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.

5.0 Engagement History

Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) is identified as the primary Aboriginal stakeholder group through INAC's Governance and Partnership office (*in consideration of site proximity and existing Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and Interim Measures Agreements*). Community Engagement began in 2013 with the YKDFN holding a Traditional Knowledge (TK) workshop and completing an initial Homìtì (Gordon Lake) Traditional Knowledge Research Report. A TK workshop was held in 2014. Public update meetings were held 2015 in N'dilo and Fort Resolution and then in 2016 in Behchokq. Extensive engagement with the YKDFN also occurred in 2015 with a site tour and an updated TK report. An Options Analysis Workshop was held in 2015 with the YKDFN and the results were used to finalize the Remedial Action Plan/Risk Management Plan (RAP/RMP).

Written mine remediation updates and information about upcoming site activities have also been provided to the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN), the North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA), the Tłı̨chq Government, as well as 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.

Project updates were also presented during semi-annual meetings to the Waste Sites Management Committee (WSMC), whose membership includes all signatories to the Devolution Agreement.

Other interested parties have also had a chance to provide input through the application review process for several Aurora Research Institute Research Licence applications as well as an Archeological Permit application through the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. No comments or concerns were received from this process other than support from the YKDFN.

Please refer to the attached Engagement Log Excerpt for a record of engagement activities related to the Land Use Permit and Water Licence applications to date.

6.0 Engagement Approach

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 Yellowknives Dene First Nation wanted to be actively engaged throughout the project. Face to face meetings and community public meetings have been held and will continue through the major milestones of the project. Other aboriginal organizations, such as the Tlicho, the North Slave Metis Alliance and the Northwest Territories Métis Nation have been provided with written notification of planned activities.

To facilitate effective information exchange with the YKDFN, the following techniques will be utilized:

- i) "Round-table" meetings will provide a forum for equal and open discussions on project information; translator will be provided
- ii) Documents, discussions and information from meeting minutes, recordings and pictures taken will be shared with all recipients
- iii) Project Management Team (PMT) will inform and involve the YKDFN throughout all phases of the project planning, execution and monitoring.

7.0 Engagement of Third Party Users

GLG is excluded from Devolution and therefore remain federal responsibility, both surface and sub-surface. However, some of the potential borrow sources are on GNWT Public Lands and have multiple users. There are also several mineral claim or lease holders in the area who will be engaged prior to any movement of ore/waste rock or closing of mine openings. Other site users such as the Sandy Point Lodge will also be updated for major project milestones.



Additional stakeholders such as other government departments and non-government organizations will be updated as required.

8.0 Project Schedule

Regular meetings will be held with the YKDFN until remediation is complete and then intermittently through the monitoring phase as needed. The following table shows a general project timeline and engagement requirements through the project life cycle.

Target Date	Activity
Summer 2016	Regulatory Process (Land Use Permit, Water Licence, Quarry Permits)
Fall 2016	Post remediation contract
March 2017	Contractor mobilization
Summer 2019	Remediation site tour
March 31 2020	Remediation complete & contractor demobilization
2021 – 2026	Short Term Monitoring Phase as appropriate

9.0 Budget and Resources

INAC-CARD will provide a Contribution Funding Agreement (CFA) for YKDFN participation on the Gordon Lake Group (GLG) Project if deemed to be required. The funding may cover costs for activities such as site visits, community meetings and updates, evaluation meetings, traditional knowledge updates meetings, translations and interpreting expenses, technical reviews, options analysis workout, including hall rentals, hotel expenses, per-diems and mileage, etc. Meetings will be held at a mutually agreed upon locations.

10.0 Feedback and Evaluation

It is important that YKDFN members understand how information shared in meetings is incorporated into the project decision making process. INAC-CARD Project Management will continue to share findings from site assessments, remediation and monitoring and applicable approaches/technologies with the members. Every effort will be made to ensure all reports, evaluation results and feedback is done in plain language.

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*.

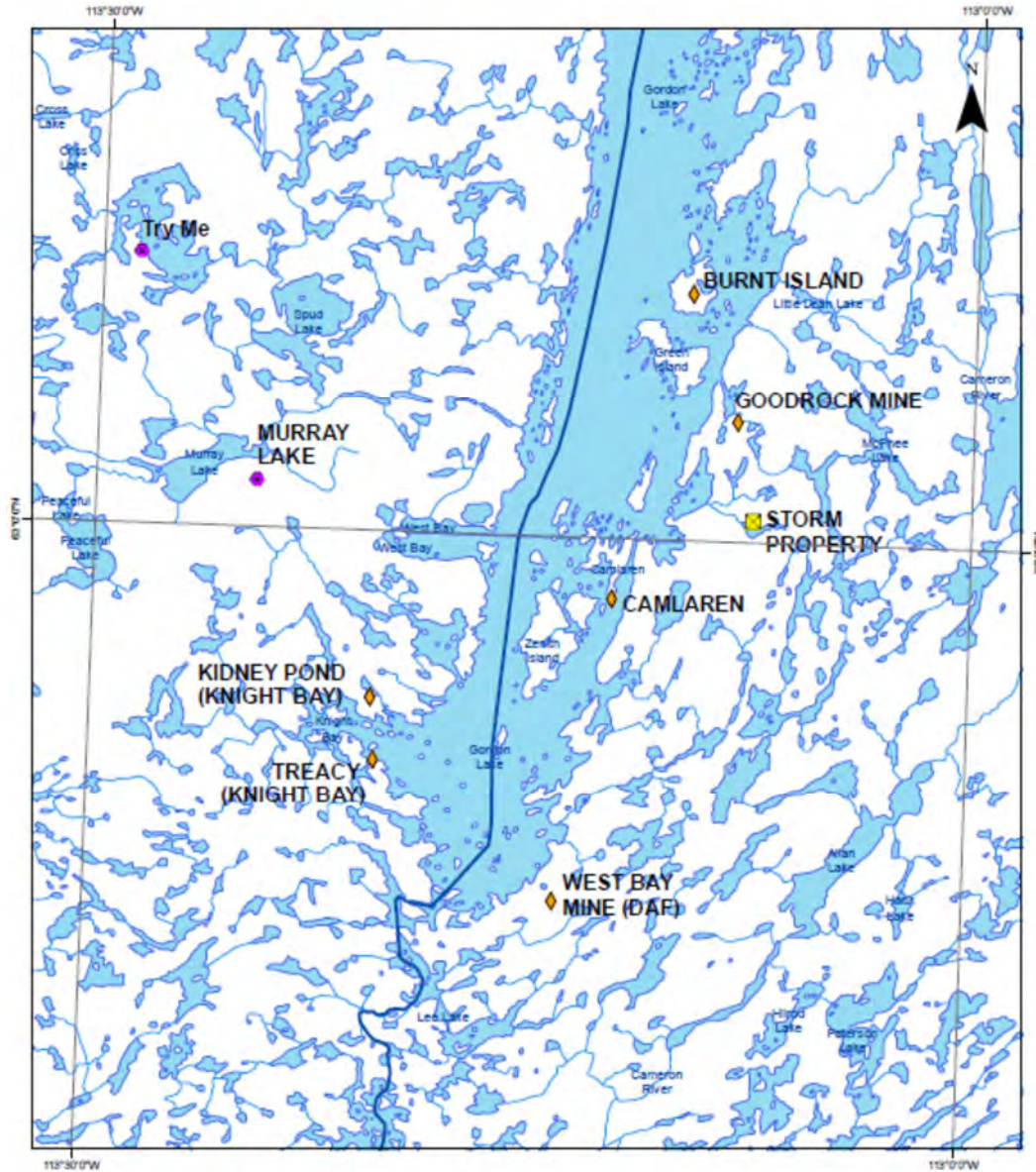


Government of Canada. 2005. *Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement Among the Tjicho and the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada.*

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



Annex A: Site Location





Annex B: Forward Engagement Plan

FORWARD ENGAGEMENT PLAN				GORDON LAKE GROUP REMEDIATION PROJECT			
Current as of July 2016							
Engagement Trigger	Purpose	Engaged Parties	Method of Engagement				
Annual Updates	Update stakeholders on site activities including remedial implementation	Aboriginal Organization stakeholders including: YKDFN; NSMA; NWTMN; Tlicho Additional stakeholders including: mineral rights holders, recreational lease holders, Sandy Point Lodge	written notification				
Annual Updates	Update stakeholders on the site activities including remedial implementation, Aboriginal Opportunities Considerations and training opportunities	YKDFN, Tlicho	written notification and/or meeting				
Licensing and Permitting Updates	Engage with MVLWB on any <u>potential</u> LUP updates (e.g. amendment, modification, extension, renewal, etc.)	MVLWB Aboriginal Organization stakeholders including: YKDFN; NSMA; NWTMN; Tlicho	written notification and/or meeting				
Management Plan Updates	Engage with MVLWB on any <u>potential</u> revision to approved Management Plans	MVLWB	e-mail and/or meeting				
Remediation Contract Award	Provide notification of contract award and/or Introduce stakeholders to the successful contractor and provide event to discuss training and job opportunities during remediation	YKDFN, Tlicho	written notification and/or meeting				
Remediation Completion	Provide awareness that the project has reached its remediation objectives, will be demobilizing from site, and will be entering into the Short Term Monitoring Phase Seek feedback/support on Short Term Monitoring objectives and methodology	MVLWB YKDFN, Tlicho	written notification and/or meeting and/or site tour				
Short Term Monitoring / Project Closure	Communicate Short Term Monitoring results and determine Long Term Monitoring requirements Opportunity to show the final remediated site, and reinforce the support received by the stakeholders	MVLWB YKDFN, Tlicho	written notification and/or meeting and/or site tour				



Annex C: Engagement Log – Permit Applications

Engagement Log Excerpt							
Content limited to engagement specific to Gordon Lake Land Use Permit and Water Licence Applications							
Date	Attendees/ Addressee	Engagement Type	Issue(s) raised by stakeholder	Recommendation from Stakeholder	Proponent Response	Information materials provided to stakeholder (Y/N)	Written correspondence, meeting notes, and or minutes (Y/N)
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: Tlicho 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