



# Acho Dene Koe First Nation

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August 20, 2020

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VIA EMAIL

Re: **[Canadian Zinc Corporation – Prairie Creek Mine – Type A Mining and Milling  
Renewal Applications (MV2020D0007 and MV2020L2-003)]**

Acho Dene Koe First Nation (ADKFN) writes to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) with regards to the Public Hearing scheduled for Canadian Zinc Corporation's (Can Zinc) Type A Mining and Milling authorization renewals (MV2020D0007 and MV2020L2-003).

On July 13-14, 2020 ADKFN participated in a technical workshop with the MVLWB, Can Zinc and other interested parties with respect to the authorizations currently under review. We appreciate the opportunity to better understand and seek to address concerns and issues ADKFN has raised on these applications. We recognize the level of effort and planning it takes to organize and coordinate a technical workshop and are grateful for the opportunity to identify concerns regarding potential impacts to ADKFN's rights and interests.

We understand that Can Zinc does not intend to undertake work under these authorizations because new permits will be submitted when the mine expansion plans are completed (anticipated early 2021). Further, we have been assured that no work will occur under these authorizations given Can Zinc's commitment to submit new permit and license applications that will be informed by the forthcoming feasibility study. As a result, ADKFN does not view the time and costs associated with a public hearing as warranted at this time and will not be intervening in the public hearing process. However, ADKFN requests that the following comments be duly considered by the Board in its review of the proposed authorizations:

- Although Can Zinc and MVLWB state that no work will occur under these authorizations, the permit and license technically authorize work. ADKFN does not support any work occurring under the permit and license as-is based on impacts to ADKFN's Treaty and Aboriginal rights and interests.
- If any work were to be conducted under this permit, ADKFN's concerns and comments as outlined in our submission to the MVLWB on June 11, 2020 and reiterated at the technical workshop on July 13-14, 2020 would need to be sufficiently addressed. Further, ADKFN seriously questions the utility and validity of issuing permits and licenses when no work is intended to occur.
- Can Zinc has applied for a 3-year Water Licence and a 5-year Land Use Permit. Our understanding is Can Zinc plans to submit new applications based on the upcoming feasibility study in the next 6-8 months. Since new applications are contemplated in the near term, ADKFN recommends a shortened license and permit term be considered.

Overall, ADKFN is very concerned by Can Zinc's engagement efforts to date and how Can Zinc has characterized impacts of their ongoing and proposed activities on ADKFN's Treaty and Aboriginal rights and interests.

In submissions to the MVLWB, Can Zinc routinely points to ongoing strategic negotiations and discussions with ADKFN. However, Can Zinc has not reached out to ADKFN's Lands and Resources Office (Lands Office) to identify and address technical concerns despite ADKFN referring Can Zinc to the Lands Office in correspondence.

Further, Can Zinc on several files has highlighted that ADKFN did not raise technical issues when the permits were previously consulted on. From ADKFN's perspective, previous consultation on existing permits and licenses serve as a good starting place for what concerns may exist, but that should not mean that new issues and/or impacts cannot be identified. There are new learnings, knowledge and insights based on experience that may need to be considered and brought forward for discussion.

Lastly, Can Zinc in writing and verbally at the technical workshop, made comments with respect to impacts to ADKFN being scoped to impacts associated with the transportation route. This narrow view of impacts to ADKFN is unacceptable. From ADKFN's perspective there will be potential direct and indirect impacts to ADKFN's rights and interests because of this project, in addition to the transportation route. Potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat, water quality and human health can and will be felt outside of the project footprint area and in ADKFN territory.

If you have any questions concerning our response I would ask that you email our Lands Manager, Meghan Buckham at [lands@adkfirstnation.ca](mailto:lands@adkfirstnation.ca).

We thank you again for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

**ACHO DENE KOE FIRST NATION**

Signed on behalf of Chief Eugene (Gene) Hope

*Boyd Clark*

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Boyd Clark

Advisor/Acting Band Manager

Cc. Chief Eugene Hope  
Hana Boye, Legal (Donovan & Co)  
Doug McArthur, Advisor (McArthur West Consulting)  
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