



**PRAIRIE CREEK MINE**

**ENGAGEMENT PLAN**



**March 2021**

## Preamble

This *Engagement Plan* is intended to address activities at the Prairie Creek Mine site.

The following formal distribution of this plan has been made:

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

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Norzinc - Vancouver Office

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## **PRAIRIE CREEK MINE** **ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

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### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Canadian Zinc (CZN) maintains an on-going and frequent dialogue with Indigenous groups in the western Dehcho. CZN maintains an office in Fort Simpson, staffed by Greg Nyuli, Manager of Northern Development.

CZN has made a number of commitments and plans regarding engagement and the exchange of technical and socio-economic information during mine development and operations. These commitments and plans are related to oversight and agreements concluded with local Bands and the GNWT.

During EA08090-002, CZN committed to operate technical and socio-economic advisory committees to facilitate communications and engagement with local communities and a discussion of issues. A draft terms of reference (TOR) for a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was provided. CZN also proposed to operate a Socio-economic Advisory Committee (SAC) with a similar TOR, but for different subject matter.

CZN has Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA) with the Naha Dehe Dene Band (NDDB) and the Liidlii Kue First Nation (LKFN) for mine site operations, and is in discussions with the Acho Dene Koe First Nation (ADKFN) regarding future commitments.

## **2.0 PRE-OPERATIONS PERIOD**

### **2.1 General**

The pre-operations period is important for engagement because Indigenous groups wish to take advantage of the business and job opportunities, and benefits, that will flow from mine construction and operations. It is also important because most of the monitoring and management plans that will guide operations are also being developed during this time.

CZN has had a regional presence in Fort Simpson for over a decade. Wilbert Antoine was Manager of Northern Development from 2008, with Greg Nyuli taking over in 2020.

At this pre-operations stage, CZN will continue engagement with local aboriginal groups on many fronts, as follows:

- The implementation committee's for the IBA's with NDDDB and LKFN have been formed and initial meetings between the Bands and CZN have been held. These will continue;
- Senior CZN management is currently in discussions with ADKFN representatives regarding future commitments;
- Senior CZN management is currently calling or meeting with (currently via video) the Band leaders of NDDDB and LKFN roughly monthly to discuss project progress, and CZN management is also in contact with DFN leadership;
- CZN management is currently meeting (currently via video) with representatives for NDDDB, LKFN and ADK to discuss regulatory matters, project progress and future requirements; and,
- Greg Nyuli will continue with his regular informal and formal meetings (at least monthly) with LKFN, DFN and the Fort Simpson Metis in Fort Simpson, and his informal meetings with the Chiefs and Band members of neighbouring communities during their visits into Fort Simpson, during which he will provide updates on all issues relating to CZN.

The review of draft monitoring and management plans is a formal process that will be overseen by the MVLWB. Indigenous groups and CZN will participate in this process. Engagement requirements associated with this process will be addressed during the course of the engagements described above, although as required by the MVLWB's process, formal review comments and responses are made via the On-line Review System (ORS) managed by the MVLWB. The ORS and other formal process steps are where technical issues relating to regulatory matters are discussed in a public forum, followed by MVLWB decisions and rulings.

### **2.2 Regulatory Engagement**

CZN periodically has a need to renew or modify permits. We will provide information on such applications to local Indigenous groups initially in the form of letters to Band leadership, with copies to designated Band representatives. We will then seek to contact Band leadership to

answer any questions on the applications, and if possible, address any concerns raised. Any concerns not addressed will be deferred to the MVLWB's formal review process.

Certain Bands have technical representatives that Band leadership prefers CZN to engage with on technical matters. This is the case for the NDDB, LKFN and ADKFN. CZN is happy to engage with the designated technical representatives, but we will still inform Band leadership about future applications first to ensure leadership is informed. Thereafter we will engage with the designated representatives. This engagement will seek to address concerns and find common ground, but this engagement will not take the place of the MVLWB's formal review process and decision-making. We believe CZN's approach is consistent with the MVLWB's *Engagement Guidelines for Applicants and Holders of Water Licences and Land Use Permits*.

### **2.3 NorZinc Regional Committee**

NorZinc, on behalf of CZN, has formed a regional committee of Indigenous groups and government departments to promote training, employment opportunities and business associated with the future Prairie Creek Mine development. Meetings are held roughly quarterly, and include the Mine Training Society and Aurora Institute.

## **3.0 OPERATIONS PERIOD**

### **3.1 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

During and after the EA, the Parks Canada/CZN/Dehcho Technical Committee met several times. The intent was to meet approximately every 4 months to discuss issues of mutual interest. At times, this frequency was maintained, but at other times the committee met less frequently due to low activity. For operations, the committee will be replaced by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which will:

- Include representation from all of the local Bands;
- Encourage the participation of regulators; and,
- Be open to the public to attend and participate.

#### **3.1.1 Location and Frequency of Meetings**

During mining operations, we propose to hold three meetings each year. A winter meeting (January) could be held in Nahanni Butte. Travel to the community will be possible by road and the seasonal ice bridge over the Liard River. The Mine access road will also be open and in operation, affording an opportunity for TAC meeting attendees to observe activities. Given the meetings' location, the focus will be on issues important to the NDDB, and on the attendance and participation of Nahanni Butte residents, although the residents from other local settlements (e.g. Jean Marie River, Trout Lake, Fort Liard) will be welcome to attend.

A spring meeting could be held in Fort Simpson. This will be the main technical meeting of the year, at which annual management and monitoring reports submitted for the previous year might be discussed. Regulators will be encouraged to attend to provide their views directly to local residents, and to answer questions. Fort Simpson residents would also be encouraged to attend and participate.

A third meeting in late summer might be held at the mine site, affording participants the opportunity of a site visit also.

#### **3.1.2 Committee Composition and Attendance**

CZN will chair the meetings. The chair arrangement is meant as a procedural and administrative function. The chair representatives will also be responsible for meeting arrangements, circulation of agendas and meeting minutes. The meetings will be open to all local Indigenous groups and community members.

We expect Parks Canada to be involved since we believe the TAC should have a regional natural resource management mandate, in addition to being an over-sight body for mine operations. The meetings will also be open to regulatory representatives.

### **3.1.3 Scope of the Committee**

The intention is for the meetings to be an appropriate forum to review operations, consider monitoring data, and decide on any need for adaptive changes. Band members and the public can ask questions and raise concerns. Regulators can do the same, and also be available to answer questions from the Bands and public.

The TAC is not intended to replace established regulatory systems and responsibilities. Rather, it is intended as a forum to discuss results and issues, and consider operational changes. It is also a forum for community members to see environmental management and regulatory processes at work, and to allow individuals to make comments.

The formation of a TAC is partly based on the recognition that there are multiple interests in the region, including CZN's interest in the Mine, Parks Canada's interest in the NNPR, and Indigenous interest in traditional lands. The TAC provides an opportunity for all parties to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest, given that there is a shared management approach to the region's natural resources.

For the most part, Mine staff will be responsible for collecting and reporting monitoring data, and for undertaking studies directly related to the Mine operation. From time to time, members of the TAC may feel that additional monitoring or studies are warranted. At that time, consideration will be given to whether the majority agree, and if they do, responsibilities and cost sharing would be discussed depending on the nature, scope and focus of the work. If the decision is made that an external party (e.g. a consultant) should be hired to undertake the work, the TAC will consider candidates and agree on a selection that is acceptable to all parties.

### **3.1.4 Committee Procedures**

Before each committee meeting, a draft agenda will be circulated for consideration. Reports to be discussed at the meeting will also be circulated prior to the meeting with sufficient time for review.

The draft agenda will include items carried forward or not resolved during previous meetings.

For each meeting, the first item of business will be approval of the agenda and consideration of any additional items. The last item of business will be the date for the next meeting of the committee, and whether any aboriginal group would like additional engagement by CZN prior to the next meeting.

## **3.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

SAC meetings will also be held three times a year, and at the same times and locations as the TAC meetings. This should minimize travel for some participants. The SAC meetings would be held either immediately before or after the TAC meetings, and would have a similar format.



CZN would chair the SAC meetings, which will have a social and economic focus. The GNWT will be encouraged to attend the Fort Simpson SAC meeting, during which the main elements of the CZN-GNWT Socio-economic Agreement would be reviewed. As for the TAC meeting, the winter meeting would focus on Nahanni Butte issues and concerns.

### **3.4 IMPACT BENEFIT AGREEMENTS**

During operations, CZN expects to hold at least annual meetings with the Chief and Council of NDDB and LKFN to review IBA provisions and other matters.

While the contents of the IBA's are confidential, both IBA's have provisions for the appointment of a Band representative to interface with CZN representatives and Band workers, families and businesses on a continuous basis to resolve issues and promote social and economic well-being.

### **3.5 OTHER AGREEMENTS**

As noted, CZN is currently in discussions with ADKFN representatives regarding future commitments. An agreement is expected to be concluded which would likely also be reviewed annually.

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