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[www.wlwb.ca](http://www.wlwb.ca)

November 21, 2022

**RE: Upcoming Ekati Type A Water Licence Renewal**

Dear Parties to the Ekati Distribution List,

The Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (WLWB) recognizes that the integrated co-management system set forth by the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) and modern Land Claim and Self Government Agreements relies on the input of individuals and organizations. The WLWB also recognizes that the federal government's Northern Participant Funding Program<sup>1</sup> does not currently include the licensing and permitting processes carried out in the Mackenzie Valley despite ongoing advocacy by the Land and Water Boards.

The WLWB is in a position where it currently has the means to provide support to individuals and organizations to attend the Technical Session and the Public Hearing for the upcoming renewal of the Ekati Type A Water Licence through the provision of flights and accommodations. While the WLWB recognizes this effort will not fully provide for the means to ensure meaningful participation, it does work towards closing the gap for those organizations who require support in the interim during two of the most important steps in the Boards' process. The Board doesn't anticipate this provision of support to become common practice as Land Claims are finalized and the NPPF is expanded, however recognizes the critical nature of the upcoming renewal proceeding.

Any organizations wishing to obtain support should email [Pat Knutson](mailto:Pat.Knutson@wlwb.ca) with the relevant details. For any questions regarding this initiative, please call Ryan Fequet at 867-765-4589.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mason Mantla".

Mason Mantla  
Chair, Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board

<sup>1</sup> Northern Participant Funding <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1545150205116/1547478360408>