



# **TRANS NORTH HELICOPTERS**

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June 19, 2009

Reg Whiten, Senior Planner  
Peel Watershed Planning Commission  
307 Jarvis Street, Suite 201  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2H3

Dear Mr Whiten:

We are writing you in response to the Peel Watershed Draft Land Use Plan. We had occasion to attend your information session in Whitehorse and came away very concerned for our corporate and business future in the Yukon.

Trans North Helicopters is a Yukon company having provided helicopter charter services throughout the Yukon since 1967. Our bread and butter comes from servicing the mineral exploration industry. We employ some 30 to 35 people with an annual payroll of approximately three million dollars going into the Yukon economy just from payroll.

As a long time Yukon business we are very concerned about the long term viability of the Yukon's environment and economy. We believe the Plan that you have written does not fully respect the value and significance of the mining and mineral exploration industry to that region. We can tell you that in 2007 we generated in excess of \$2 million in business revenue supporting mineral exploration in the Werneke Mountains area north of Mayo.

The draft Land Use Plan, if adopted as is, could set a standard for percentages of protection in the remaining six planning regions covering the entire Yukon. The plan calls for 63.3% of the Peel Watershed to be eventually protected (when existing grandfathered claims expire) with severe restrictions on exploration on most of the remaining 36.7%. This would decrease investment throughout Yukon.

By restricting access to predefined corridors you may have compromised the economics of certain projects. Furthermore, the limited river crossings allowable for access to grandfathered claims may make it impossible or too expensive to access a mine if one is found.

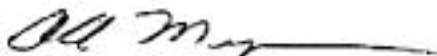
The regulatory and permitting regimes, and environmental screening performed through YESAA, are already in place to ensure responsible development. In essence, the environmental impacts are managed through this process with appropriate mitigative measures.

Expropriation of existing claims is going to needlessly cost governments money at a time of increasing debts. The Commission must clearly establish who will pay compensation costs in the region. For example is it reasonable to expect wilderness tourism guides to pay compensation costs to mineral claimholders in the river corridors?

The economic benefits of a strong mining industry in Yukon are self-evident. It extends into the supply and service sectors, and contributes to Canada and Yukon's tax base. In 2009, it is estimated that mineral exploration and development will reach expenditures of 220 million dollars. This will make mining the #1 private sector industry in the Yukon.

Yours truly,

TRAN NORTH HELICOPTERS



Arden A. Meyer  
General Manager.