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Yellowknife NT**

### **NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines Endorses Akaitcho Land Withdrawals**

Lou Covello, President of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, Trevor Teed, Vice President for the NWT and Mike Vaydik, General Manager, met with federal land claim negotiators on Friday, December 9, 2005, to clarify the Chamber's position on land claims and the upcoming land withdrawals in the Akaitcho Territory of the Northwest Territories.

Mike Vaydik affirmed the Chamber's long standing support for fair and prompt settlement of land claims. "The Chamber has repeatedly voiced its support for the land claims process and has expressed its desire to work with claimant groups towards early settlement of claims", said Mr. Vaydik.

Trevor Teed referred specifically to the interim land withdrawals that are a normal part of the claims process. He indicated that: "The Chamber fully supports and endorses an Akaitcho Territory land withdrawal or individual Akaitcho community withdrawals, whichever type has the approval of the Akaitcho leadership".

Mr. Covello stated that: "The Chamber looks forward to the interim land withdrawals being put in place as soon as possible so that we will know where prospecting activities will not be allowed and where they will be allowed. Historically, many Akaitcho people have been active participants in the exploration and mining industry. Currently, many residents of Akaitcho communities derive significant income from mining and exploration and we believe that Akaitcho leadership have an interest in maintaining a healthy mining industry on Akaitcho lands in the future."

"The Chamber is prepared to work with the Akaitcho leadership to provide advice on how the industry can be maintained on Akaitcho lands while interim land withdrawals are put in place." stated Mr. Covello. Mr. Teed expressed the Chamber's willingness to provide the Akaitcho team with information on how land selections may affect mining-related activities.

For related information:

[www.miningnorth.com/views&reports](http://www.miningnorth.com/views&reports)

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