



April 7, 202

Honourable Dan Vandal
Minister of Northern Affairs
Government of Canada
Room 434, Confederation Building
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By Email to: aadnc.ministrean-ministerna.aandc@canada.ca / dan.vandal@canada.ca

Re: Support for the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines' position on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CEWS) Program

We are writing in support of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines as they seek assistance from the Government of Canada this time of unprecedented crisis in our country. COVID-19 has negatively effected the physical and economic health of our nation. Your government has been making substantial efforts to assist Canadians on a broad national scale; however, as you well know, the North is a unique and particularly fragile environment.

The economy of the North is uniquely at risk; we feel that broad actions will not address the North's distinctive challenges. We are confident that with some tweaking, the Federal Government's efforts can better serve northern Canadians.

Det'on Cho Management LP (DCMLP) is the economic arm of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and Tlichon Investment Corporation (TIC) is the economic arm of the Tlichon First Nations. Both organizations exist to develop prosperity for our respective First Nations and to create meaningful employment for our members. Combined, DCMLP and TIC employ over 1200 local NWT residents making us the largest private employer in the Northwest Territories. We not only employ people from our communities but a substantial number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents from across the Territory.

The majority of our revenue comes from the Mining Industry, and consequently, the livelihoods of many Northern Indigenous people are reliant on this industry as well.

While the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program will be a vital tool in helping ensure the continuity of Canadian business, the northern minerals industry faces some unique challenges. Current eligibility requirements, specifically the need to show a drop in corporate revenue of 15%, is problematic for many involved in the northern mining sector.



For our organizations specifically, it will be difficult to forecast a drop in revenue as the current situation around COVID-19 is quite fluid. The viability of operations is largely dependant on decisions made on Federal and Territorial Government levels on a daily, sometimes hourly, basis in response to infection and spread rates.

We find ourselves in a difficult position, stuck between the safe choice of laying off workers or rolling the dice in the hopes that we qualify for subsidies once we close the month. Unfortunately, the wrong decision can bankrupt already vulnerable northern companies like ours and put the livelihoods of our employees in jeopardy.

The NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines has outlined three recommendations that will make CEWS effective in a Northern context:

Recommendation 1

All companies with active mining operations in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut should qualify for CEWS regardless of 15% revenue shortfall requirement.

Recommendation 2:

CEWS should be available to all full-time employees of non-revenue generating exploration and development companies with active exploration programs in Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Recommendation 3:

All Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut based minerals industry service companies, including northern based employees of larger, national service companies, should qualify for CEWS, regardless of 2019 revenues.

With the many sound measures implemented by the Federal and Territorial governments, we are all hopeful that the COVID-19 Pandemic will recede over the next few months and that we will see normalcy return to the Country. As we know, however, vulnerable environments and populations are greatest affected in times of crisis and take the longest to rebound.



We emphatically support the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines' recommendations.

We implore the Federal Government to consider the unique circumstances of Canada's North and help ensure that the companies active in the North's largest private sector industry are provided the supports they need to survive and retain employees during this unprecedented crisis.

With Canada's support, our northern minerals industry, along with indigenous business, will be positioned to contribute to the much-needed resurgence that Canada's economy will require.

Mahsi Cho,

Det'on Cho Management LP

Paul Gruner

Paul Gruner
President and CEO

Tlicho Investment Corporation

Mark Brajer

Mark Brajer
President and CEO

c.c.: Hon. Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources Canada
Hon. Yvonne Jones, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern Affairs
Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister, Finance Canada
Hon. Larry Bagnell, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for CanNor
Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Premier of Nunavut
Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Premier of the Northwest Territories
Hon. Sandy Silver, Premier of Yukon, Minister of Finance
Hon. Ranj Pillai, Yukon Minister of Energy, Mines & Resources
Hon. David Akeeagok, Nunavut Minister of Economic Development & Transportation
Hon. Caroline Wawzonek, NWT Minister of Finance
Hon. George Hickey, Nunavut Minister of Finance
Hon. Katrina Nokleby, NWT Minister of Industry, Tourism & Investment
Hon. Dennis Patterson, Senator for Nunavut
Hon. Pat Duncan, Senator for Yukon
Hon. Margaret Dawn Anderson, Senator for Northwest Territories
Mr. Michael McLeod, Member of Parliament for Northwest Territories
Ms. Mumilaaq Qaqqaq, Member of Parliament for Nunavut
Ms. Cathy McLeod, Northern Critic for Conservative Party of Canada
Ms. Shannon Stubbs, Conservative Shadow Minister for Natural Resources