



February 6, 2015

Minister David Ramsay
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
Yellowknife NT

Dear Mr. Ramsay,

Re: Mining industry advisory board representation

I write in regard to GNWT's recent announcement regarding the establishment of a new Northwest Territories' Mining Industry Advisory Board. Ecology North is supportive of the initiative. A board that provides "advice to government to ensure mining regulation is in place that encourages economic growth while maintaining high regulatory, environmental and social standards" has the potential to be a stimulus for increasing the creativity, cooperation and transparency of NWT's mining industry.

However, the Boards efficacy will depend on the depth and breadth of expertise of its appointed members. To achieve such diverse and ambitious objectives, the Board will need to include membership that has NWT experience across a breadth of fields, such as environmental regulation, poverty reduction, and Aboriginal affairs. Unfortunately, it appears to be the intention that the Board's membership will consist entirely of appointees with "direct experience in the NWT minerals industry", which unfortunately may represent limited perspectives. If this is the case we suggest that the stated goals of the board would be difficult to achieve, and the appointments would likely perpetuate mistrust between industry, Aboriginal, environmental and community organizations while missing a unique opportunity to build bridges.

I hope that we can meet to discuss how the Mining Industry Advisory Board can best be established so as to achieve its laudable goal of high regulatory, environmental and social standards. Myself and the Board of Directors at Ecology North would be happy to work with you to this end.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Scott".

Craig Scott,
Executive Director
Ecology North
867-873-8897
craig@ecologynorth.ca

cc. NWT MLAs