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November 5, 1993

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Ingraham Trail Land Use Plan Management Committee
Indian Affairs & Northern Development Canada
and
Government of the Northwest Territories

Re.: Yellowknives Dene First Nations

Dear Management Committee Members

Because of persistent misrepresentations of Dene lands and Dene land use by this committee and the consultants working for you, we wish to clarify our involvement in your planning study. We will not participate as active members of your committee. We feel that our views are not reflected in the discussions and materials you have produced.

We may send a representative to future meetings as an observer only. This level of involvement, of course, would be greater than in your earlier studies in 1978 and 1985, when our views were not requested at all.

The lands you are studying for planning is Dene land, used by our Wuledeh ancestors for generations. Our urban lands study for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples outlines our recommendations for settling our concerns about jurisdiction -- that is, legal authority and legal responsibility -- over our ancestral lands. We are entering Treaty Entitlement negotiations in order to determine the extent of ownership and jurisdiction over our ancestral lands. We have circulated copies of Yellowknives Band Council Resolutions 93-462 and 93-464, alerting all parties with an interest in land of these vital facts.

Until ownership and jurisdiction over our ancestral lands has been clarified, we feel that planning should continue to be done according to Dene principles of land use.

Sincerely yours

Chief Jonas Sangris

Chief Darrell Beaulieu

N.W.T.
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