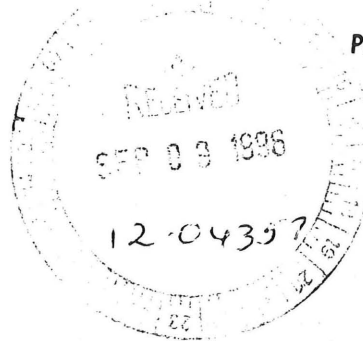
**DENE NATION**

DENENDEH NATIONAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 2338
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
X1A 2P7Phone: 873-4081
Fax: 920-2254

August 29, 1996

Hon. Don Morin,
Premier of the Northwest Territories,
Legislative Assembly,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Dear Premier Morin,

Re: 26th Dene National Assembly Motion #96/97-005(6)

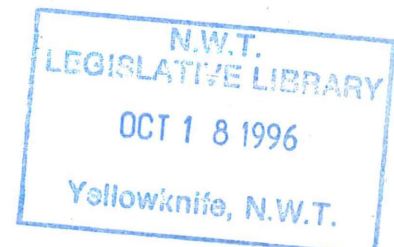
Please find enclosed a copy of the motion titled "**Negotiation of Treaty 8 Benefit Agreements With BHP**" passed at the 26th Dene National Assembly, held August 12-19, 1996 in Deninu K'ue, Denendeh. We trust you will find the motion to be self-explanatory.

We would like to bring to your attention the importance to extend the 60-day negotiation process to better allow our Dene communities to negotiate these agreements. **It is essential that adequate funding be allocated to the Dene to negotiate agreements that are fair and effective.** We strongly feel that this period of time is grossly inadequate to effectively negotiate such agreements.

The proposed BHP Diamonds project would set a precedent for future development in the North. **It is crucial that the process occur in a timely manner and that all people involved are satisfied.**

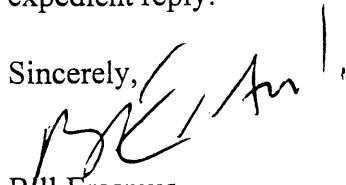
As you know, the majority of the Assembly concentrated on discussions of BHP and the impacts that such a mine will have to our land and people. We expect that you and your staff seriously consider this motion to continue progress in these negotiations.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please contact myself at (403) 873-4081.



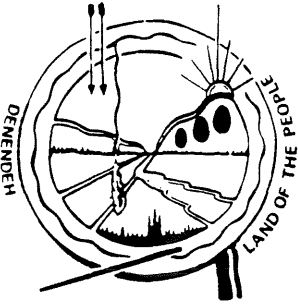
Thank you for your time and consideration. As time is of the essence, we look forward to your expedient reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Erasmus', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Bill Erasmus
Dene National Chief

cc: Denendeh Chiefs
All Members of Legislative Assembly



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MOTION #96/97-005(6)

26TH DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
DENINU K'UE, DENENDEH
AUGUST 12-19, 1996

RE: NEGOTIATION OF TREATY 8 BENEFIT AGREEMENTS WITH BHP

WHEREAS Federal officials have announced that the BHP diamond mine will receive its major licences if progress is achieved in the negotiation of benefits agreements with the affected aboriginal communities of Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Lutsel k'e and Deninu K'ue; and

WHEREAS the territorial Legislative Assembly and Executive have indicated that it will assist in the expedient negotiation of benefit agreements with aboriginal communities; and

WHEREAS the affected Dene communities have identified the issue of resource revenue sharing including royalties, interests, percentages and compensation, as a necessary component of a benefits agreement; and

WHEREAS 60 days has been allocated within which to achieve progress in the negotiation of benefits agreements;

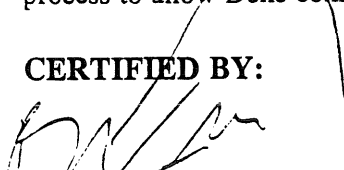
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 26th Dene National Assembly asserts that the territorial Legislative Assembly and Executive and Federal Government demonstrate their already-stated support for negotiation of benefits agreements by developing policies that insist on the inclusion of resource revenue sharing in the agreements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federal government and Legislative Assembly and Executive provide the adequate financial resources, as determined by the Dene First Nations that are prepared to enter into the development of a substantive and meaningful benefits agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this agreement will provide equitable participation of the Dene First Nations in the resource development of our traditional lands in an environmentally responsible manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Federal Government extend the 60-day negotiation process to allow Dene communities adequate time to negotiate their benefits agreements.

CERTIFIED BY:


Bill Erasmus
Dene National Chief