



Dr. Kathy Racher
Chair, Giant Mine Oversight Board
5014-50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P2

May 7, 2018

RE: Observations and Recommendations on the Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP) Labour Resource Study Report and Socio-economic Issues

Thank you for your February 22, 2018 letter sharing the Giant Mine Oversight Board's (GMOB) observations and comments on the Giant Mine Remediation Project Labour Resource Study Report (LRSR) 2017 and management approaches to creating socio-economic opportunities for northerners and local Indigenous people.

The Project Team appreciates the Giant Mine Oversight Board's input and suggestions in this area, as maximizing Northern and Indigenous employment and business opportunities has always been a key objective of the Project. The Project has a good track record through the use of tools such as the Aboriginal Opportunity Considerations (AOC), as procurement evaluation criteria (where bidders must outline and meet targets for how they will maximize local and Indigenous training, employment and contracting) and the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business (PSAB). This procurement approach has successfully worked in previous contracting processes. Of the \$356 million in contracts that were awarded to date for the Project, approximately \$169 million were awarded to Indigenous businesses. More recently the Main Construction Contractor, Parsons Inc., issued five work packages for proponents to bid in April 2018, all with an AOC requirement and two through PSAB.

The Project recognizes the potential impact of the Giant Mine remediation on the Northern economy, particularly as the Project moves closer to implementation of the remediation. As such, the team is working with organizations with programs to promote capacity-building to ensure they can work together to maximize the benefits to Northern and Indigenous groups and businesses.

It is agreed that it is important to identify and engage on specific opportunities, targets and strategies to be adopted by the Project. To this end the Project is developing a Socio-economic Benefits Approach. This approach provides an overarching framework to guide the project's actions to maximize economic opportunities for Northerners and local Indigenous people and address socio-economic impacts.

Engagement activities are funded by Contribution Agreements between the Government of Canada and the communities, to ensure stakeholders have the capacity to participate as needed. In addition, the Giant Mine Remediation Project has been engaged in ongoing dialogue with Indigenous communities to discuss and consider additional measures to support their capacity to engage. Interviews from the Labour Resource Study Report, for example, have helped inform the Project's understanding of remaining capacity gaps.

The Project believes the 2017 Labour Resource Study Report provides the most comprehensive inventory and overview of relevant existing training and capacity building programs offered within the Northwest Territories. Broad sharing and discussion of this information will help interested individuals, communities and businesses to identify opportunities to develop the skills and capacities required for the Project and also for other projects in the Territory.

On behalf of Giant Mine Remediation Project, I would like to thank Giant Mine Oversight Board for your observations and feedback, and look forward to continuing our engagement on the topic of socio-economic benefits over the course of the project.

Sincerely,



Natalie Plato
Deputy Director
Giant Mine Remediation Project
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada