

Appendix 23-D

*December 22, 2011 Letter from Métis Nation British Columbia
to Yellowhead Mining Inc.*

HARPER CREEK PROJECT

**Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate /
Environmental Impact Statement**

MÉTISBC



NATION

30691 Simpson Road
Abbotsford, BC, V2T 6C7
Tel: 604.557.5851
Fax: 604.557.2024
TF: 1.800.940.1150
www.mnbc.ca

Yellowhead Mining Incorporated
Suite 730 - 800 West Pender Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6C 2V6

Thursday, December 22, 2011

Ms. Charlene Higgins and Mr. Ron Handford,

Thank you for your email response on Wednesday, 14/12/2011 at 9:02 AM to our engagement letter from Minister Trumbley. As mentioned in the letter sent to you on Friday, 09/12/2011 at 1:46 PM by Minister Bob Trumbley, Métis Nation BC (MNBC) is seeking to create a positive working relationship with Yellowhead Mining Inc. Yellowhead Mining Inc is proposing the Harper Creek Mine Project (the Project) in an area of great interest to the Métis in British Columbia. This interest includes the assessment and management of potential impacts on traditional and contemporary land use and potential benefits to Métis who have significant historical and cultural ties to the area. You may be interested to know that your company may be named after a historical Métis figure known as Pierre Bostonais who was one of many Métis actively occupying and trapping this area in the early 1800's. Pierre Bostonais was called Tête Jaune (Yellowhead) by his fellow Métis, a name that was destined to live into the future as the community of Tête Jaune Cache, Yellowhead Pass, Yellowhead Highway and now possibly Yellowhead Mining Inc. The community of Barriere BC, located within close proximity to the proposed Project was a First Nation fishing site that later became a Fur Trading Post. Métis, who were French and Michif speakers likely named Barriere after the stone barriers erected to trap salmon. Little Fort, also within close proximity to the proposed Project was a fur trade era fort as well. Kamloops started its documented history in 1812 when Alexander Ross, a Métis Patriarch, established the first trading fort for the Pacific Fur Company and Métis Joseph LaRoque built a fort for the North West Company. That was the same year that Laroque blazed the trail linking Fort Kamloops to Fort George and Fort St. James in New Caledonia. The history of the area between Kamloops and Tête Jaune is rich with Métis historic figures during the 1800's, but likely none more notorious than that of Jean Baptiste Lolo. Upon retiring from the Hudson Bay Company (HBC) fort in Kamloops, Lolo was given the honourable title of Chief by his long time employer. It is important to note that the term Chief originated with the HBC and meant 'the headman'. Chief Lolo operated his own trade store where he traded with the local First Nations. He was also given the "Christian name" of St. Paul, which was shortened to simply 'Paul' over time. History paints St. Paul as the most famous Canadian Indian Chief of his era, even though his title arose from the HBC and he was in fact a French Cree half-breed (Métis). Significant features in the central interior of BC bear Lolo's name including Paul Lake and Mount Lolo north of Kamloops.

This area continues to support a significant Métis community and active sustenance harvesting by Métis people. MNBC has an active community organization centred in Kamloops that has Métis Citizens residing in Barriere, Valemount, Clearwater and Blue River. More than 2500 Métis have been identified as living in the area from Kamloops north to Tête Jaune Cache (source: 2006 Canada Census).

MNBC understands that the area under application has been previously impacted by forestry and other human activity. However, MNBC also understands that the cumulative effects of all potential impacts are more damaging to the environment, thus having a further impact on land-use activity. In addition, comparing forestry impacts to

Métis Nation British Columbia's vision is to build a proud, self-governing, sustainable Nation in recognition of inherent Rights for our Métis Citizens.

Métis Nation British Columbia's mandate is to develop and enhance opportunities for our Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services through Teamwork, Respect, Dedication, Accountability, Integrity and Professionalism.



MÉTISBC



NATION

30691 Simpson Road
Abbotsford, BC, V2T 6C7
Tel: 604.557.5851
Fax: 604.557.2024
TF: 1.800.940.1150
www.mnbc.ca

large-scale open pit mining and milling operations is assuming the overall impacts are equal when they are not. Forestry tends to enhance harvesting opportunity for target species such as moose and mule deer. Forestry poses a short-term influence that mimics a natural disturbance similar to fire, then the cutblock slowly regenerates increasing forage capacity for ungulates and habitat for other species. The daily human presence is also only over the span of the harvesting period, whereas the Harper Creek mine operation is expected to employ 312 hourly and staff personnel. As quoted "based on industry experience approximately 1,000 jobs will be created to provide support to the Harper Creek project". This includes permanent linear corridors for power lines and 40t capacity trucks, structure development, etc. This would create a significant footprint on the existing landscape that presently consists of aged forestry cutblocks.

As you are likely aware, MNBC is presently engaged and consulting with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) who acknowledge that Métis exert aboriginal rights and interest over the area in question. MNBC understands that development and industry must move forward and do not generally take an obstructionist position towards development. MNBC also strives to forge productive and meaningful partnerships with industry and government. MNBC wishes to have all the information possible when preparing our comments and submissions to assist in the CEAA review of the proposed Project. The appropriate application of pertinent current and historical Métis land-use information for the proposed Project area will help MNBC and Yellowhead Mining Inc assure the constitutionally protected aboriginal rights and land-uses of the Métis are properly examined and respected. Further, where potential impacts are identified, there will be opportunity to plan to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate these impacts.

I hope you understand the importance of the above information, reconsider your response, and assist MNBC on collecting the appropriate information so that we both can meet our objectives in a collective manner.

Gary Ducommun, RP Bio.
Director of Natural Resources and Consultation
Metis Nation British Columbia

Métis Nation British Columbia's vision is to build a proud, self-governing, sustainable Nation in recognition of inherent Rights for our Métis Citizens.

Métis Nation British Columbia's mandate is to develop and enhance opportunities for our Métis communities by implementing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services through Teamwork, Respect, Dedication, Accountability, Integrity and Professionalism.