

The Reliance Adjustment

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Contact:

Spencer Decorby, Secretary

East Arm Property Owner's Association

P.O. Box 2542, Yellowknife, NWT, X1A 2P8

sdecorby@gmail.com

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The Reliance Adjustment

A land management proposal with a focus on the area in and around Reliance, NWT, in the context of the proposed Thaidene Nene National (“Park Reserve”) & Territorial Park (“NWT Protected Areas Strategy”) designations for the greater surrounding area.

This proposal was developed by members of the East Arm Property Owners Association (“EAPOA”). It is now supported by numerous other stakeholder groups, associations and chambers.

The notion of creating a National Park in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake has been under discussion for 45 years. Recently, on July 14, 2015, GNWT convened a stakeholder meeting, and on July 29th Parks Canada announced its proposed boundary for the Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve (“Park Reserve”) and initiated consultation on the boundary. Unfortunately, this most recent boundary proposed for the National Park Reserve now includes personal and commercial land and property interests of members of the Association.

The Association requests that Reliance and its surrounding area, as described in Schedule E to this document and referred to as the Reliance Administrative Area be excluded from the proposed National Park Reserve and that it be maintained as commissioners land that will be administered by the Government of the Northwest Territories as territorial crown /Commissioners lands. Further, the Association requests that the Reliance Administrative Area be administered and managed in a neutral manner that recognizes & respects the prior occupation and use of the area in a variety of aspects by all interest-holders & stake-holders.

To effect this status the Association is seeking a small adjustment to the proposed Park Reserve boundary (the “**Reliance Adjustment**”) that would exclude the Reliance Administrative Area from being included in any national or territorial park or park reserve.

The description of the Reliance Adjustment and the rationale for making it are set out below.

1. What is the significance of Reliance and its surrounding area?

Although generally in the same region and adjacent to each other, the area referred to as ‘Reliance’ is NOT in the immediate vicinity of the areas of historical importance held sacred to the First Nations. Roughly 20 kilometres separate the special & spiritual place for the Dene & Metis known as “Old” Fort Reliance, from Reliance. This is an important distinction for the people involved: the two places have very different histories and have importance to two distinct populations that have co-existed for approximately 100 years. Because of the remoteness of the area, historical documents often refer to the activities and facilities at Reliance, as taking place at Ft. Reliance. This occurred in official documentation (see http://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/pet_199_e_28935.html) as well as those that were ‘less official’. Note the photographs in Appendix A that were taken of facilities at Reliance that are labelled ‘Ft. Reliance’.

Ft. Reliance includes the mouth of the Lockhart River, the First Nations gathering site and the traditional Dene route to the barren ground. There are many Dene elders buried in the area and remains of an old Dene village as well as officially recognized sites of importance such as the Fort Reliance National Historic Site of Canada (remains of George Back's Chimneys) or the spiritual site of *Our Lady of the Falls* on the Lockhart River. Ft. Reliance is a special and spiritual place for the LKDFN Dene and should be protected according to their wishes.

Reliance on the other hand has historically been the place of private, commercial, government activities in the area and has several permanent structures which are used to this day. For over one hundred years it has served as the key logistical staging ground for travel to the barren grounds and any government activity in the region. The settlement of Reliance hosts a sheltered deep-water port unique to the area for barge transportation allowing staging of supplies that has been in use as far back as when the Hudson's Bay Company barged goods from Ft. Resolution to Reliance even prior to the establishment of a trading post in Reliance by the Dominion Explorers Company in 1910. Reliance is still in use as a staging ground for goods transported by aircraft and barge that are used for activity in the east arm of Great Slave Lake that include local use, tourism, forest fire monitoring, wildlife counts, land inspections, search & rescue, meteorological activity and many other administrative purposes.

Reliance is a registered unmonitored aerodrome – designation YFL (under the name Fort Reliance as well as Reliance on the aeronautical map in Schedule B). Reliance offers shelter for parking aircraft that is unparalleled elsewhere in the region, as well as options for taking-off & landing in several directions that are sheltered from the huge swells on McLeod Bay. There is also a vital refuelling area facilitated by the deep-water barge landing access that makes Reliance an inter-modal hub as the point of access to the eastern reaches of the Territories for aircraft.

Reliance has been considered a settlement that has been excluded from park boundaries in the past (see Schedule C – a 1979 letter from NWT Member of Parliament, Dave Nickerson, to the then Minister of Parks Canada requesting exclusion of Reliance from the park reserve boundary that was under consideration at that time, and the subsequent Parks Canada documents circa 1985 in Schedule D - showing Reliance and surrounding area as having been excluded from the proposed park). It was and continues to be a fuel cache that to this day, has been a self-policing invaluable resource to Dene, Metis and non-Dene alike for trapping, hunting, exploration and for all forms of transport in the region. Important historical dates include:

- ~1910 – Dominion Explorers Company built a trading post and expediting point in what is referred to locally as Police Bay.
- 1927 - the RCMP established a detachment, and lent their name to the bay, across from the fuel cache. The detachment was established mainly to police, protect and monitor the newly created Thelon Game Sanctuary. The detachment was closed in 1960 as aircraft patrol utilizing the fuel cache, became more efficient.

- ~ 1935 - Gus D'Aoust built and operated a trading post on the west side of Police Bay across from the RCMP detachment. He operated this until approximately 1972.
- 1944 - the Royal Canadian Core of Signals built a station for communications on property adjacent to the RCMP detachment. Over the years this evolved into a MOT weather station which operated until 1990. The site is currently a Government of Canada property which is undergoing an environmental clean-up. The site still contains an AES automated weather station in use today.
- 1964 - the Finlayson family acquired the closed RCMP detachment and turned the site into a fishing lodge which opened in 1965. The Finlayson family is still operating Trophy Lodge on this site under a lease.
- 1964 – Logs from the old Dominion Explorers trading post were salvaged and repurposed to build new structures in Reliance which still stand to this day. Of these, one cabin was built by Red Noyes (a Metis trapper whom Noyes Lake was named) and several of the Meteorologists from the nearby MOT Weather Station that is currently owned and maintained by Ray Decorby.
- 1974 - title was issued to a property at the end of Police Bay which is currently owned by Roger Catling who, along with his family, lives on the property and uses it as his base for hunting and trapping.
- 1980 - a lease was granted to a property on Charlton Bay in the Reliance area that was outside of the former proposed boundary. It was acquired by Spencer Decorby who uses the site year round as a personal and hunting and fishing camp (lease designation).
- 2016 – the Arctic Institute of North America, which was created by an act of parliament in 1945, sends a formal expression of interest to the Government of the NWT for the establishment of a new scientific research station at the site of the abandoned MOT base Reliance. Similar to their station at Kluane Lake in the Yukon, the base would have to be outside the park boundaries. See schedule G herein.

2. What are the changes being sought by the Reliance Adjustment?

With the Reliance Adjustment, a neutral area is proposed that would allow Reliance to continue to serve NWT as a strategic logistical access point from which a wide variety of activities will be able to continue. This can be accomplished by excluding the area outlined in Schedule E from the National Park Reserve. In doing so, many site-specific interests would be addressed and a variety of valuable activities would be able to continue. The boundary for 'Reliance Administrative Area' would start on the east side of Charlton Bay extending from a point just north of Glacier Creek, extending in a south-westerly direction for approximately 18 kilometers just past the southern end of Meridian Lake then north for approximately 13 kilometers to the Territorial / Federal Consultation Boundary line, north-easterly along that Boundary line then south-easterly above Fairchild Point to the northeast corner just above Glacier

Creek (see maps in schedule E). The Reliance Administrative Area includes numerous aircraft and marine landing sites, a fuel cache used by ENR as well as commercial and private interests, a fishing lodge, a homestead (titled), a weather station, a private hunting and fishing camp, and cabins. Due to its location at the Eastern extremity of Great Slave Lake, Reliance is a vital staging area for accessing lands to the north and east, as far away as Nunavut, making it a valuable Public resource. Allowing Reliance to retain these functions with this minor boundary Adjustment of approximately 130 km² would bring continued benefit to government, industry and individuals alike (See Schedule J).

3. Rationale & Precedence's for the changes being sought by the Reliance Adjustment

The Reliance Adjustment would be a minor change to the edge of the boundary of the proposed National Park Reserve that would be of long-term benefit to all stakeholders, and would preserve its function as an **Inter-modal Hub which is a Valuable Public Resource serving as a Neutral Staging Area**. It represents 0.03% of the overall land withdrawal, and 0.9% of the proposed National Park component. Consideration of the Reliance Adjustment from a perspective of "Return on Investment" clearly shows how retaining a relatively small area out of the National Park has a huge return for NWT people, businesses, industries & governments alike. In keeping Reliance out of the National Park it can retain the functions that for over 100 years, have made it a valuable public resource for the people, businesses & industries of the NWT, and that by keeping it in the hands, and control of Northerners, it will be able to continue in this service for future generations. Historically it was excluded from prior boundaries proposed for the park, at the request of residents and government representatives for the very same rationale. (See Schedules C & D)

The Reliance Adjustment would be in keeping with similar precedents for park development in the NWT & Nunavut. #1- In the current consultation boundaries proposed for TDN several areas were excluded (outlined in red on the first map in schedule E), most of which were for mineral interests; however the exclusion area around Lutsel k'e was made for the same rationale as being postulated for the Reliance Adjustment – unfettered access and operation of the settlement for the benefit of the Public. #2- Wager Bay in Nunavut was excluded so barges can continue to access the head of the bay where aircraft can stage from there – identical to Reliance's function as a staging area for barges and aircraft. #3- The exclusion area within Nahanni National Park provided further precedence that maintaining logistical access to resources can be integrated successfully in the establishment process for National Parks. #4- Most recently, during the establishment process for [Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve](#) in the NWT, before any of the three proposed boundary options were established, the NWT Government identified the continued & historical importance of **O'Grady Lake as a valuable public resource** for staging, landing aircraft, and accessing the general area. Subsequently O'Grady Lake was not included in any of the boundary options for the park **so that it could continue in its functions serving the public going forward. Reliance should be excluded from the proposed Park as a neutral area for the same rationale clearly established under relevant precedence.** #5- The rationale that excluded Reliance from the proposed Park boundaries in the past has not diminished with the passing of time, and should be in and of itself adequate precedence for continuing to exclude Reliance from the proposed National Park going forward.

The Reliance Adjustment would respect all of the special interests that have been identified by governments and the Dene as being in need of protection. These interests were identified through consultations, including with the Lutsel K'e Dene during land claim negotiations since the 1980s and via a number of studies including: the federal Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA) conducted for the 2007 land withdrawal, the 2009 Parks Canada Assessment of Landscape Values (ecological goods and services) and the 2015 GNWT matrix of protected area designations. Reliance does not contain any of the ecological, cultural, wildlife, mineral, or energy interests identified as being of importance and in need of protection. See schedule F.

What does need protection is the rights and interests of members of the Association. On the one hand, GNWT states in its presentation *Thaidene Nene Consultations on Territorial Conservation Area of Interest* at the Stakeholder Meeting on July 14, 2015, "GNWT has interests in ensuring that: Third party interests and legal rights should be recognized and respected..." (slide 19). Yet on slide 20 that presentation states that existing leases "within proposed territorial park would likely be excised from park". As stated above, the Association is seeking to have Reliance designated as commissioners land that is not restricted by National Park Regulations. It should simply be a Neutral Area where existing interests and functions are recognized & respected, and where only the laws of general application apply.

Retaining open & unfettered access to Reliance and its surrounding area would be in keeping with the fact that it is where people live, make a living, and recreate. The Reliance Adjustment would also serve to protect the rights of members of the Association. It would preserve access to the Reliance Administrative Area for all parties and for key activities such as use of the fuel cache and aerodrome, a marine transportation port, staging for transportation of goods and people, tourism, and government activities (wildlife monitoring, land inspections, forest fire fighting, water management support, search and rescue, environmental clean-up, access to the weather station, park management etc.)

Thank you for your consideration of the change to the proposed boundary for the Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve represented by the Reliance Adjustment that would exclude the Reliance Administrative Area from park designations.

Schedule A

Photos from the Signal Corps of the Signal Station and the trading post at Reliance

VEU - Fort Reliance, NWT.

Position: 62:45N-109:05W. Opened in July 1948 to provide weather information. It was handed over to the Department of Transport on 11 March 1959.



Photo: Courtesy Fred Burwell

RCSigs Station Ft. Reliance, 1948



Photo: courtesy Fred Burwell

Canoe At Ft. Reliance - 1948



Photo: courtesy Fred Burwell

RCSigs Compound Ft. Reliance 1948



Photo: Courtesy Peter Sinclair

Ft. Reliance - 1950
RC Sigs Station on the right. RCMP barracks on the left.
Taken from Mauffley Point, across from the station.



Photo: Courtesy of Peter Sinclair

Ft. Reliance - 1950

On the left is the RC Sigs station and on the right the HBC Post.



RC Sigs Station Fort Reliance, 1956



Photo: Courtesy of Edith Nielsen

RC Sigs Station Ft. Reliance c. 1950

(Our thanks to Dave Kiernan of
Victoria BC for confirmation of the location)



Photo: Courtesy of Fred Burwell

RCSigs Station Ft. Reliance 1957



RCSigs Station Fort Reliance - 1956



Photo: Courtesy Fred Burwell

RCSigs Station Ft. Reliance 1957
Fuel drums



Photo: courtesy Fred Burwell

Ft. Reliance, C. 1952. The man on the left is wearing puttees so he may be a signaller from the station. The one on the right is obviously RCAF and is thought to be Roger Powers. If anyone can confirm this, or offer information to the contrary, please contact us.



Photo: C&E Museum

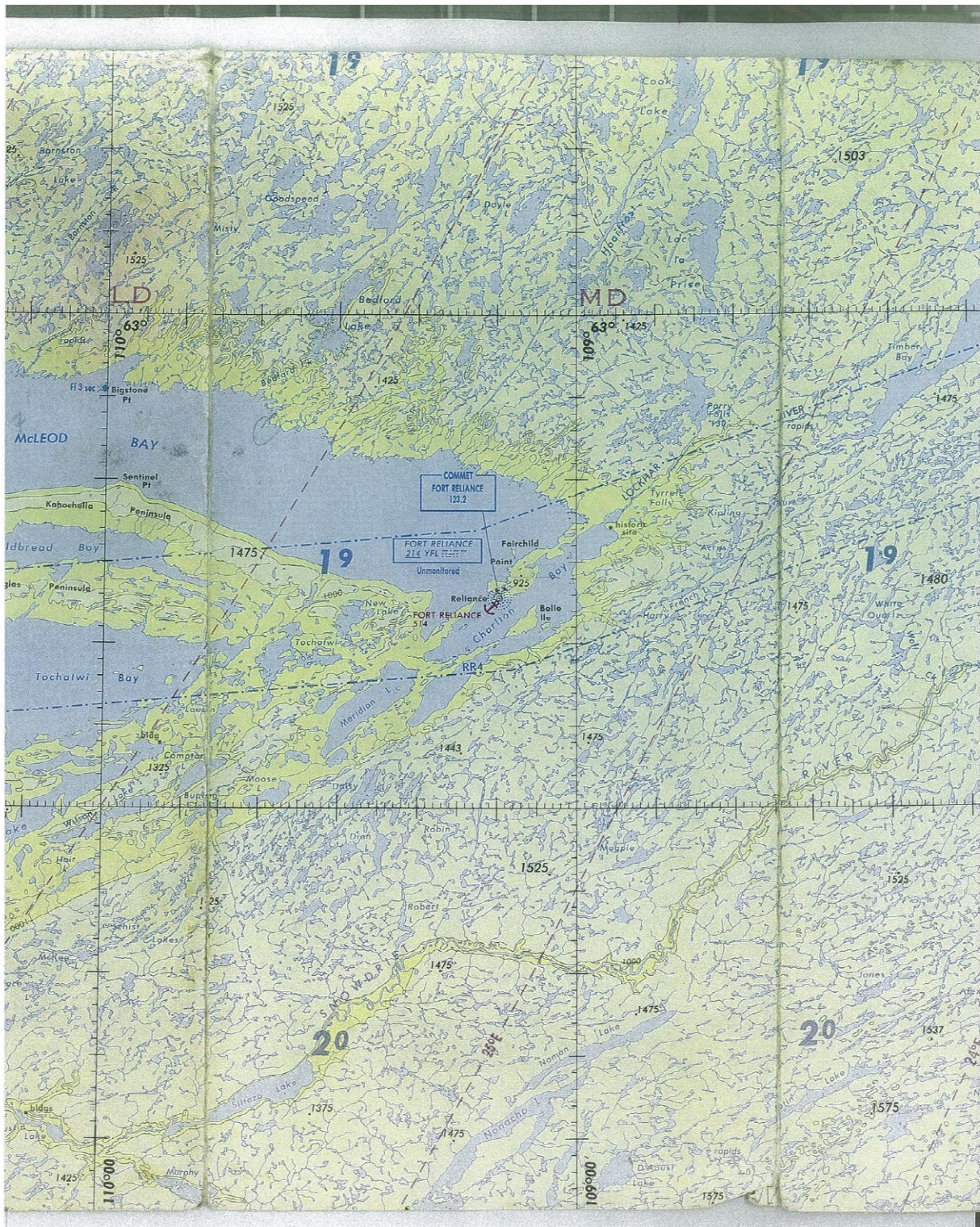
U-101

Ft. Reliance, c. 1956. Unknown corporal with
Kenny Bellefontaine's famous lake trout.
If anyone can identify this man please
get in touch with us.

From: <http://nwtandy.rcsigs.ca/stations/reliance.htm>

Schedule B

Aeronautical Map showing the unmonitored aerodrome at Reliance



Schedule C

1979 letters from NWT MP, Dave Nickerson to Mr. Luebbert and Minister for Parks Canada
Regarding a minor change to the proposed National Park boundary to exclude Reliance



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Box 1778
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
September 17, 1979

Mr. L.M. Luebbert
Fort Reliance, N.W.T.

Dear Mr. Luebbert:

Thanks for your letter of September 3, 1979. Unfortunately, as you have been advised before by various government officials the land which you seek to lease has been withdrawn from disposal under the Territorial Lands Act by Order in Council 1970-526 in order to establish a National Park Reserve. The only way to change this is by way of another Order in Council (made by the federal cabinet) and I would suggest that you write to the Honourable John Fraser, the Minister responsible to Parks Canada urging him to bring this matter before cabinet.

I have spent some time studying this subject and am astounded that Fort Reliance and all of Fairchild Point have been included in the Reserve. I find that you are by no means alone in wanting land in this area and indeed because of the special location the Government itself will in all probabilities require land here at some time in the future.

Accordingly, I have written to Mr. Fraser requesting that he takes steps to exclude at least the Southwest end of Fairchild Point from the Reserve and I remain hopeful that he will see the wisdom in such a change. A copy of my letter to him is enclosed. If such a change is made then of course you would be in a position to reapply for the land you require.

Yours faithfully,

Dave Nickerson
Dave Nickerson, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

CANADA

Box 1778
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
September 17, 1979

Honourable John Fraser, P.C., M.P.
Minister responsible for Parks Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Fraser:

Under the authority of Order in Council 1970-526 certain lands in the East Arm area of Great Slave Lake were withdrawn from disposal under the Territorial Lands Act in order to establish the East Arm National Park Reserve.

Apart from the larger argument as to whether or not a National Park should be established here bearing in mind the traditional interest of hunters and trappers in the area, the mineral and hydro-electric potential and the fact that the proposed Y-line gas pipeline might, if constructed, need to pass through the area, together with the inability of the government to properly develop existing Parks in the North I wish to bring to your attention a rather minor point concerning the Reserve boundary which could easily be rectified now but might be difficult to do once a National Park had been brought into being.

With reference to the accompanying map you will see that the present boundary puts within the Reserve all of Fairchild Point including the post of Fort Reliance. Fort Reliance is by far and away the most suitable location for a settlement in the area. It is used as a base by hunters and trappers some of whom make their permanent residence there and would most certainly like to acquire title to the land on which their dwellings are situated. In addition there are government installations such as air radio and weather stations together with an RCMP post which I believe is now used as a fishing lodge. There is a natural harbour which is used by the Northern Transportation Company Ltd., a federal crown corporation, and because of the sheltered location several aviation companies use it to cache gas and supplies. If a National park were ever established Fort Reliance would be the logical

place from which outfitters and others with Park oriented interests should operate.

For these reasons it would make eminent sense to make a minor change in the reserve boundary locating it along the Northwest shore of Fairchild Point instead of the Southeast side. This proposed change is outlined in red on the map.

Could you please consider this matter and advise me whether you will be prepared to proceed with the necessary Order in Council to give effect to this required change.

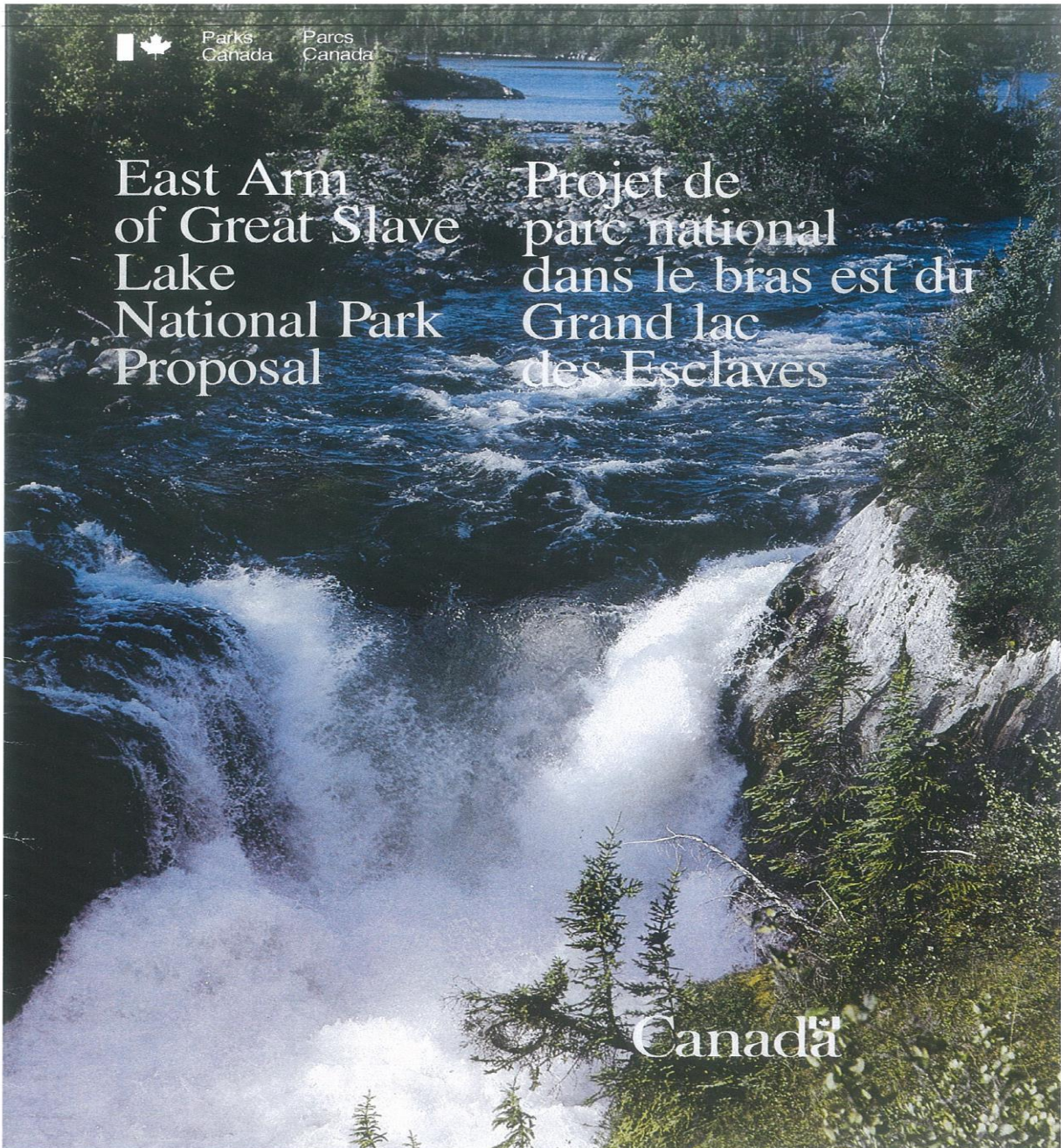
Yours faithfully,

Dave Nickerson.

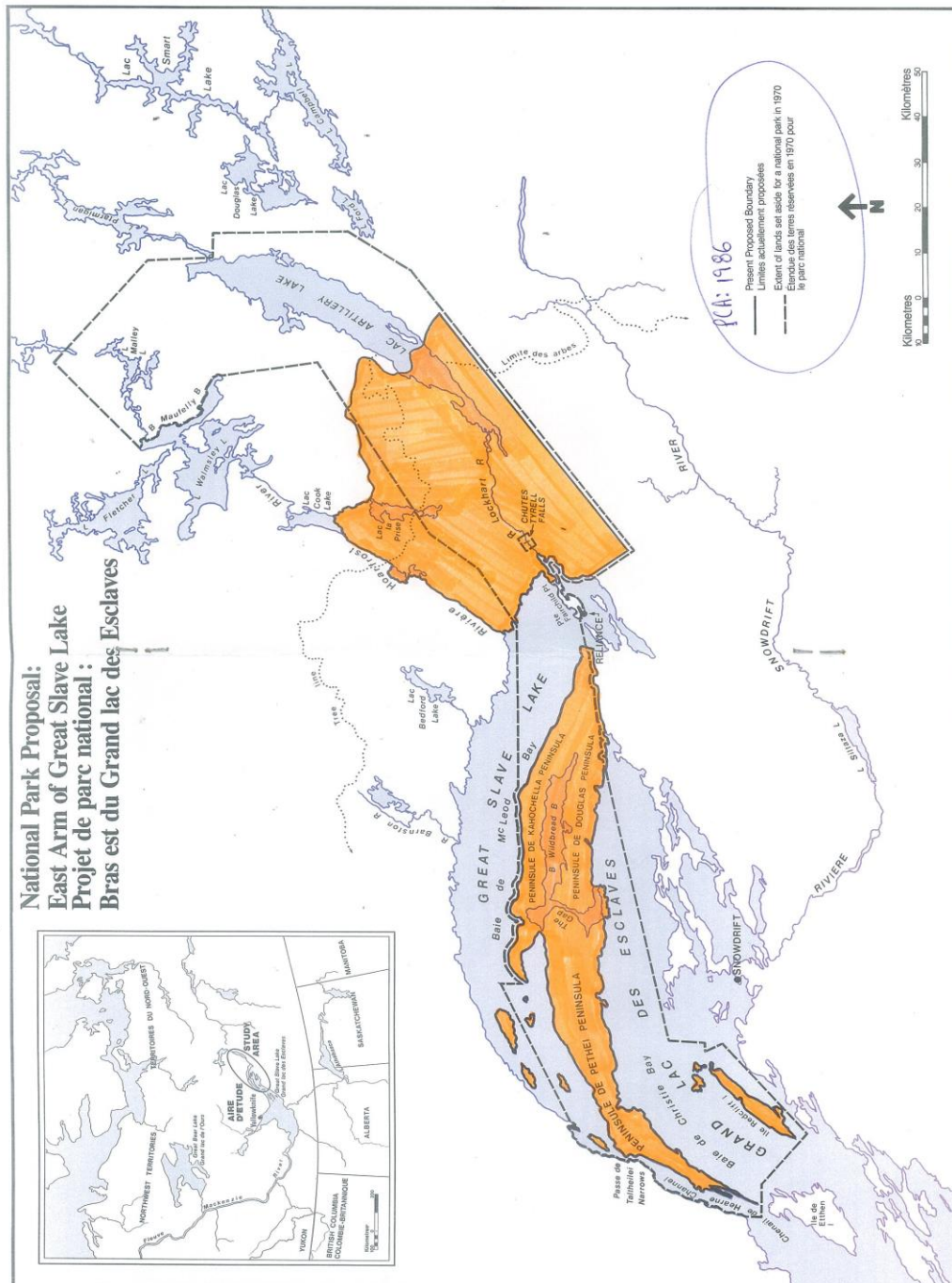
Dave Nickerson, M.P.

Schedule D

Parks Canada 1985/86 proposal, boundary map following page excluding Reliance from proposed park.



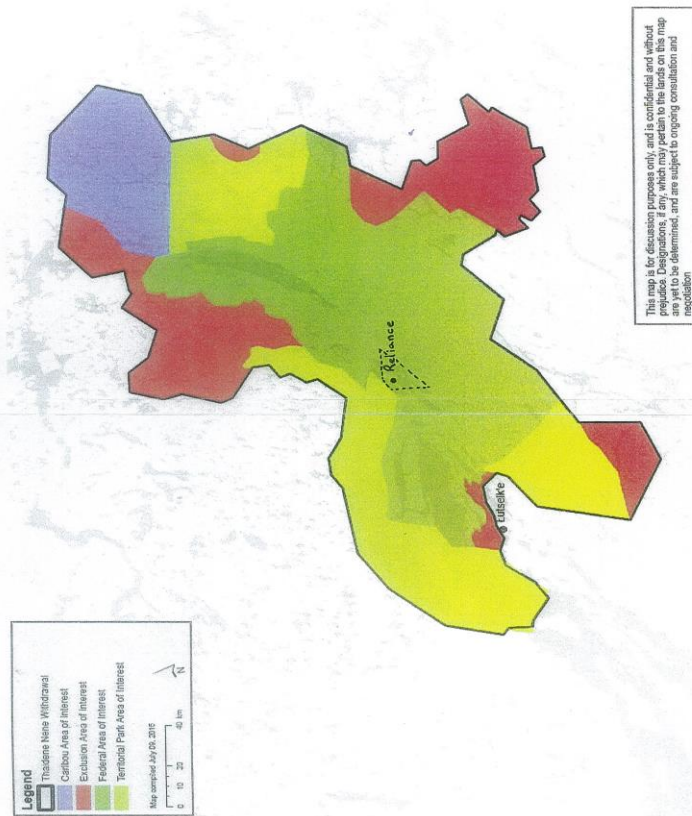
Schedule D – cont'd (excluding Reliance has been done in the previous proposals)



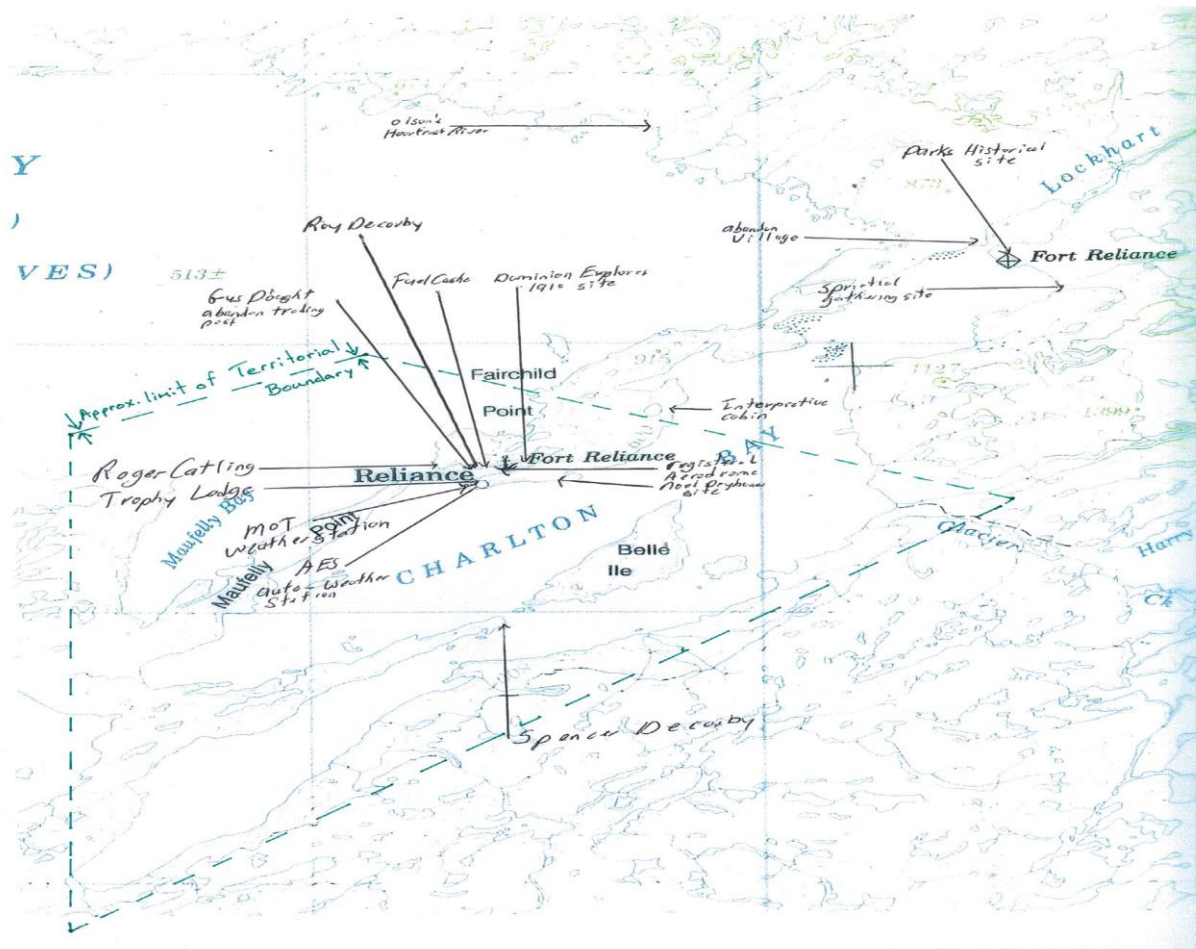
Schedule E

Maps (3) of lands to be excluded for the Reliance Adjustment, as indicated by the dotted line outlining the Reliance Administrative Area, which represents 0.38% of the land withdrawal.

TDN Conservation Areas Consultation Boundaries

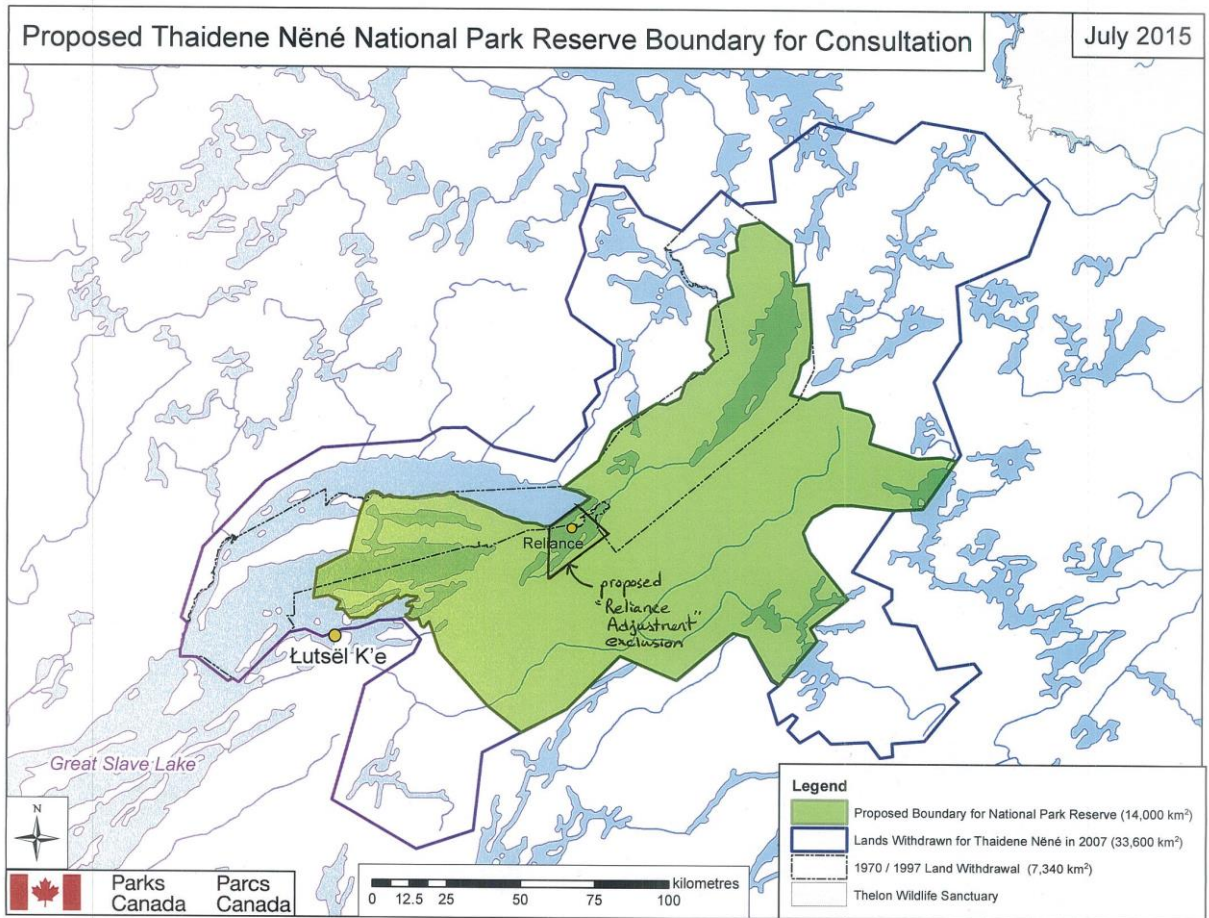


Schedule E - cont'd



Schedule E – cont'd

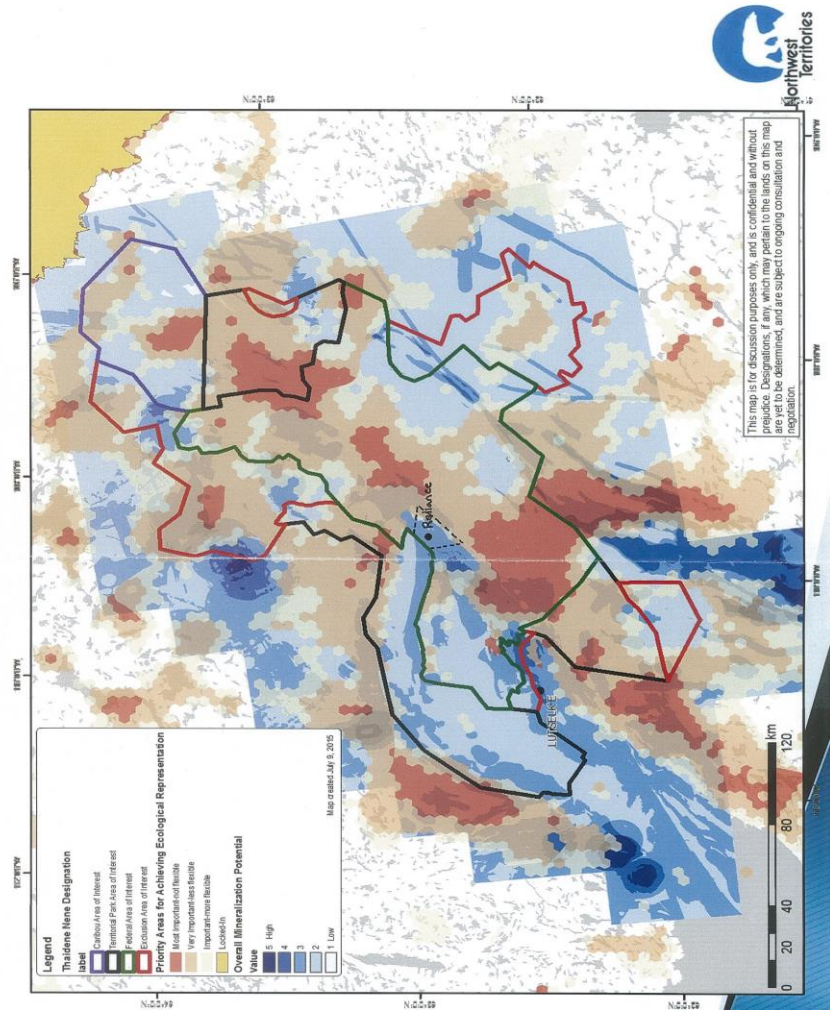
The Reliance Administrative Area represents 0.9% of the Proposed National Park Reserve



Schedule F

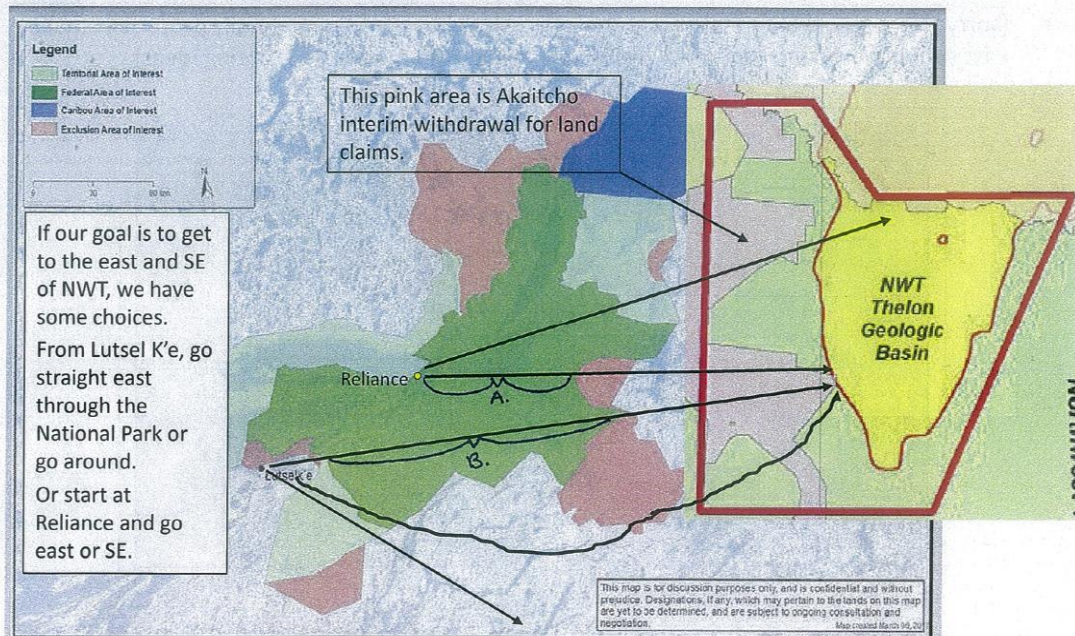
GNWT Map demonstrating the area around Reliance is not of high importance for achieving ecological representation within the park (areas of high importance in this context are highlighted in orange).

TDN Conservation Areas Consultation Boundaries



Schedule G: Chamber of Mines GIS work on potential corridor routing & MERA excerpt

I've tried to position the high mineral potential in the Thelon region on this map to show it as one target for possible future mining development and access. The best way to get there is from Reliance thru the national park, not Lutsel K'e. Lutsel K'e should be asked if they will keep this Thelon area off limits forever too, and that position should be used in discussions on park boundaries, corridors, etc.



Another area to perhaps reach is the SE of NWT. We have some choices. Go from Lutsel K'e through the National Park (they don't want that), or go around it as shown. That's a lot further to SE NWT, or to the Thelon. Or start at Reliance and go east or SE.

4

Note: "A." is half the distance of "B." Therefore departing from Reliance results in a corridor through the National component of TDN that is half as long.

CHAPTER 11. POTENTIAL FOR KIMBERLITE-HOSTED DIAMOND OCCURRENCES, THAIDENE NENE MERA STUDY AREA

B.A. Kjarsgaard

Geological Survey of Canada, 601 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E8

INTRODUCTION

There are twenty known kimberlite occurrences in the Thaidene Nene Area of Compilation that lie within the 540–520 Ma (Heaman et al., 2003, 2004) southeast Slave kimberlite field (Figs. 11.1, 11.2). All of the known kimberlite occurrences lie outside the Area of Interest for the proposed Thaidene Nene national park, however, the Faraday, Kelvin, and Hobbes kimberlite pipes are less than 250 m from the border of the study area (Fig. 11.2). Ten of the twenty occurrences are in two kimberlite complexes: within the Gahcho Kué kimberlite cluster, the 5034 body contains the centre lobe, north lobe, south lobe, and east lobe; the MZ Lake kimberlite occurrence consists of six distinct sills. A National Instrument (NI) 43-101 compliant mineral-reserve statement was recently completed (October 15, 2010: <http://www.mountainprovince.com/>) on the Gahcho Kué joint venture (De Beers Canada 51%, Mountain Province Diamonds 49%), i.e., the 5034, Hearne, and Tuzo kimberlite pipes. This study reports probable reserves of 31.3 Mt of kimberlite grading 1.57 carats/tonne, with 49 million contained carats of diamond. Gahcho Kué stone values were recently re-appraised utilizing April 2011 diamond prices. Revised values are 108/carats, 315/carats, and 93/carats for the 5034 Centre/East Lobe, 5034 West Lobe, and Hearne and Tuzo bodies, respectively (May 5, 2011: <http://www.mountainprovince.com/>).

POTENTIAL FOR ADDITIONAL KIMBERLITE PIPES IN THE THAIDENE NENE STUDY AREA

The potential for additional kimberlite bodies in the Thaidene Nene study area can be determined on the basis of a number of different geological factors that are summarized in Kjarsgaard (2007). Kimberlite-hosted diamond deposits are found within ancient Precambrian terrains older than 1.5 Ga (Clifford, 1966: “Clifford’s Rule”). Diamond (i.e. macrodiamonds, as opposed to microdiamonds) requires specific pressure and temperature (P-T) conditions to form and remain stable with respect to graphite. These P-T conditions (typically $P > 4.0$ GPa and $T < 1350^{\circ}\text{C}$) are only present within thick, old lithospheric mantle roots that have

low paleogeothermal gradients. These roots lie under ancient continental nuclei. Modern geochronological studies on Precambrian terrains have led to better temporal understanding of the formation of continental nuclei, which Janse (1984: “Janse’s Rule”) utilized to suggest kimberlite-hosted diamond deposits are in fact found within Archean continental blocks. The age of major producing or past-producing kimberlite-hosted diamond mines worldwide ranges from ca. 1200 Ma to ca. 52 Ma. The age of the Gahcho Kué kimberlite pipes (520–540 Ma), coupled with an underlying thick mantle root and cool paleogeotherm (Kopylova and Caro, 2004) within this part of the Archean Slave Province, are consistent with their diamond tenor.

The Thaidene Nene study area comprises five major tectonic elements: the Archean Slave and Churchill (Rae Domain) cratons, separated by the Paleoproterozoic Taltson and Thelon magmatic-tectonic zones and the younger Paleoproterozoic East Arm Supergroup volcano-sedimentary package (Fig. 11.1). Of significant importance for diamond potential is the tectonic relationship between the Paleoproterozoic Thelon and Taltson magmatic-tectonic zones and the Archean Slave and Churchill (Rae Domain) cratonic blocks. Based on results of a teleseismic transect from the Slave Craton, across the Taltson magmatic-tectonic zone, and into the Churchill (Rae Domain) (Fig. 11.1), Snyder (2013) suggests that the Taltson magmatic-tectonic zone is underlain by Slave lithosphere, and that Slave lithosphere also partly underlies Churchill (Rae Domain) lithosphere. Given that there are three diamond mines in the Slave Craton (Ekati, Diavik, Snap Lake), a fourth, Gahcho Kué, in environmental impact review (August 2, 2011: <http://www.mountainprovince.com/>), and that the MERA study area is predominantly underlain by Slave or Churchill (Rae Domain) lithosphere, suggests that there is potential for diamondiferous kimberlite within a significant portion of the study area. Thus there is a possibility that there is diamond potential in the Taltson magmatic-tectonic zone (and also in the East Arm Supergroup), if these terranes are in fact underlain by Slave lithosphere.

There are also two significant diamond occurrences worldwide that at a first approximation do not follow

Kjarsgaard, B.A., 2013. Potential for kimberlite-hosted diamond occurrences, Thaidene Nene MERA study area, Chapter 11 in Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment for the Proposed Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve in the Area of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories, (eds.) D.F. Wright, E.J. Ambrose, D. Lemkow, and G.F. Bonham-Carter; Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 7196, p. 339-348.

Schedule H

Excerpt from the Arctic Institute of North America's recent expression of interest for establishing a scientific research station at Reliance that is specific to excluding Reliance from Park designation

**CONFIDENTIAL
DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
COLLABORATION IN PROPOSED RESEARCH
STATION
AT RELIANCE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**From: ARCTIC INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, ALBERTA**

**To: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND
EMPLOYMENT**

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

November 17, 2016

**Contact:
Mary Stapleton
Cultural Liaison, AINA
mary@stapleton.ca
403.931.2453**

Reliance. It was built in 1833 by Alexander Roderick McLeod of the Hudson's Bay Company to serve as a base of operations during the Arctic Land Expedition of Captain George Back, R.N. It served as the winter camp for the search for the missing John Ross Expedition. This expedition also explored much of the Thelon, and Great Fish Rivers (now the Back River). Half a century later, a log cabin was built on the site by Buffalo Jones, an American trapper, in 1897. It was later occupied by explorer and author Earnest Thompson Seton. Four stone fireplaces and daub chimneys remain, and accessible by water from present-day Reliance.

The number and frequency of explorers such as Back and McLeod having spent time in the Reliance area has left a legacy of archived journals, recorded data, and general historic information. The benefit of this historic information to present-day scientific research is immense, as it provides researchers with base line information going back so many years, which in turn allows their studies to take a long-view in time when making hypotheses and conclusions.

Issues

The land withdrawal for a park reserve, which was developed over many years by the federal government, is currently subject to regulatory conditions which allow the possibility of creating a joint federal/territorial park. The land is withdrawn until 2017.

As soon as remediation of the former Environment Canada MOT site by the Federal Government is completed, the land can be handed over to the GNWT, per the Devolution agreement. At that time the development of the Research Station could begin if need and desirability have been agreed upon. It would be desirable to save certain existing buildings for re-purposing.

The establishment of an Administrative Area around the settlement of Reliance, by way of exclusion from park designation would be useful to such a research station site. A 'neutral zone' at the strategic location of Reliance, administered by the GNWT, would resolve some site-specific issues, and create conditions similar to the Kluane Lake Station, which is just outside the Kluane Lake National Park. This proximity provides easy access to pristine park wilderness for research, but also allows the Station itself to function outside of those regulatory confines. More generally, it will allow Reliance to remain a logistical hub of activity going forward, providing access to the overall area, and allowing for uses such as the establishment of a scientific research station.

Conclusion

This seems to be a unique opportunity for the Northwest Territories and the scientific community to respond to the growing demand for northern research. We are hopeful that both Governments involved will consider the feasibility to become

**GNWT Standing Committee on Economic Development & Infrastructure letter in support of the
Reliance Adjustment to the GNWT Minister for ENR**



HONOURABLE J. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

On September 13, 2015, the Committee received a submission from Mr. Spencer Decorby, discussing the proposed boundaries for the Thaidene Nëné area of interest, and in particular an item referred to by Mr. Decorby as the Reliance Adjustment.

(in a Natl' park.


Robert Hawkins
Chair

cc: Committee Members
Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources
Committee Staff

Kheenjit Gwitrít T'am'agwah'tí Eenjít Gwitrít Zhan Giljich'eil • Sôba Ts'ehsjí gha Xadô Hehsjike • Saamba Ts'ehk'h'e Eghálarveda Gha Gonidódt'éhke •
Soj'm'bda Hoh... ná Naaw K'e' Dehk'w'ê Dôj'u • Nipavitsimaak'ewak Wyivasyéwak ôok Pimáchowin K'átos kátamín • Tsamba T'a éghálada gha
K'alld Delít'hí • Kat'mayagalat Mamlurúutkhanik Pivalianímurt • Savaaksalúugit Isksaviníg • 6L7L7S 7U6-089 86239-6D0E0 A'E' 07N7N0

Schedule J

Letter from Minister to EAPOA member suggesting a solution is possible.



APR 01 2016

Mr. Ray Decorby
BOX 2542
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2P8

Dear Mr. Decorby:

Thaidene Nënë

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2016 regarding Thaidene Nënë (TDN). I appreciate your comments on the responsibilities that come with the role, and I am looking forward to achieving the goals that the 18th Legislative Assembly has set. Your letter makes several points, and I would like to address each of those in turn.

The letter expresses disappointment in the response I gave in the Legislative Assembly to a Member concerning TDN because my department was perceived to be advancing my predecessor's park proposal. The approach advanced on TDN in the 17th Legislative Assembly, while led by then Minister J. Michael Miltenberger, had the full support of Cabinet. As the lead Minister, and as the mandate of the 18th Assembly directs, I look forward to completing the task and establishing TDN within the life of this Assembly.

The letter suggests the process was hasty and did not involve enough consultation with stakeholders. We made the considered decision to adopt an expedited, collaborative process to build consent among the parties to TDN negotiations. Given your considerable knowledge of the timelines for other land - related processes in the Northwest Territories (NWT), I am sure you can appreciate why we chose a more nimble process. On the issue of broad and meaningful consultation, I fully support our Chief Negotiator's initiative to engage directly with interest holders in the TDN to allow for meaningful input to address interest holders' specific land-related issues in the area. I am pleased that my officials have worked with you and other interest holders to identify your concerns and seek creative solutions to address those. The maps and related information you provided suggest to me that creative solutions may be possible to address your interests. I would encourage you to continue to work with my officials to resolve your concerns.

.../2

While your letter suggests more time and study is needed to address long-term impacts, our work on TDN is intended to demonstrate that nimble and focused negotiations of this nature result in agreements which create certainty. This is good for business. The proposed conservation areas were adjusted significantly through negotiations to exclude areas of high mineral potential. On the conservation economy, we are working with Aboriginal governments to develop a model that ensures the communities can engage in sustainable tourism initiatives and related ventures that can build a long-term economic base in the area.

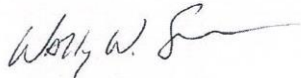
On the point that land claims should be concluded before conservation areas are established, it is a priority of this government to see outstanding land claims settled within the life of this Assembly, but we also see TDN being much better positioned to conclude its business in the shorter term. I strongly believe that the TDN model may help to pave the way for concluding land claims.

Lastly, I agree with your view that control of lands should remain within the NWT. Given that the TDN area has been under consideration for a national park reserve since 1970, that Parks Canada has a significant investment in the area, and that Canada has recently released further statements where the federal government makes clear their intention to exceed, if possible, their target of having 17 percent of Canada set aside into conservation areas, I believe we achieved a significant reduction in the federal footprint.

I want to encourage you to continue to work with my officials to discuss your interests in the TDN area. I understand you are confirming a meeting at the end of the month. Working together, I believe we can arrive at a solution that meets our mutual interests and the interests of others in the TDN area.

R.A.

Sincerely,



Wally Schumann
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

- c. The Honourable Robert R. McLeod, Premier
Mr. Gary Bohnet, Principal Secretary
Mr. Martin Goldney, Deputy Minister
Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Schedule K

Stakeholder letters in support of the Reliance Adjustment.



January 4, 2016

Attn. Spencer Decorby, Secretary, East Arm Property Owners Association

Dear Mr. Decorby,

We are in receipt of the position paper developed by the East Arm Property Owners Association regarding the Reliance Adjustment.

After review, and good discussion at our last director's meeting, our executive has resolved to support the Reliance Adjustment, as proposed, without amendment.

Thank-you for reaching out to our organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Logsdon", is written over a faint, circular watermark of the Northwest Territories Floatplane Association logo.

Hal Logsdon, President
NWT Floatplane Association



Spencer Decorby
Secretary
East Arm Property Owners' Association

January 4th, 2016

Re: Reliance Adjustment

Dear Spencer,

We are writing to express our support for the proposed "Reliance Adjustment" to allow our members continued access to Reliance for refuelling and logistical purposes. Please feel free to contact us if there is anything we can do to help support you in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen Nourse

Executive Director

NATA



January 11, 2016

Mr. Spencer Decorby
Secretary
East Arm Property Owners' Association
Yellowknife, NT

Dear Spencer,

Re: Reliance Adjustment and proposed Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

Further to your request to the Chamber of Mines to support an adjustment of the proposed boundaries of the Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve that would see Reliance excised from the Park, we are pleased to support such a change.

Such an adjustment is consistent with our general desire to see other locations too being protected for transportation and other logistical purposes so that lands in, or beyond the proposed park region are able to be accessed freely for industrial and other future development purposes.

Please feel free to contact us if there is anything we can do to help support you further in this matter.

Sincerely,

NWT & NUNAVUT CHAMBER OF MINES

Tom Hoefler
Executive Director



Mr. S. Decorby
Secretary *property*
East Arm Cabin Owners Association
Yellowknife, NT

May 24 2017

Dear Mr. Decorby,

Re: Reliance Adjustment - Proposed Thaidene Nene National Park

You have requested the NWT Chamber of Commerce to provide a letter of support in relation to an adjustment of the boundary of the proposed Thaidene Nene national Park in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake.

We have reviewed the document "The Reliance Adjustment V4.2017" and concur with the rationale expressed in that document, noting the importance of this location for logistical and transportation purposes and the preservation of access for local communities and northern based industry.

We are pleased to support your proposal for a boundary adjustment.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any additional support in pursuing this matter.

Yours sincerely,

NWT Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Trevor Weaver", written over a horizontal line.

Trevor Weaver
President



#21, 4802 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1C4
Phone: (867) 920-4944
Fax: (867) 920-4640
ExecutiveDirector@YKChamber.com

May 26, 2017

Spencer Decorby
Secretary
East Arm Property Owners' Association

RE: Reliance Adjustment for the proposed Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

Dear Mr. Decorby,

Your document, *Reliance Adjustment V.4*, was presented to the Board of Directors of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce on May 23, 2017 for discussion. We are pleased to support your recommendation that Reliance be excluded from the boundaries of the proposed Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.

Please let us know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Renée Comeau".

Renée Comeau
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Deneen Everett".

Deneen Everett
Executive Director



Schedule L

Section of the National Parks Act giving GNWT authority to determine whether the park proceeds, how big it is, and where the boundaries lie, before they Agree.

GNWT is in control:

Relevant Sections of the Canada Parks Act

- 6. (1) Subject to section 7, the Governor in Council may, by order, for the purpose of establishing or enlarging a park reserve, amend Schedule 2 by adding the name and a description of the reserve, or by altering the description of the reserve, if the Governor in Council is satisfied that the government of the province in which the lands to be included in the reserve are situated has agreed to their use for that purpose.

- **Marginal note:** Reserve lands becoming park

(2) Where a claim referred to in subsection 4(2) is settled, the Governor in Council may, by order,

- (a) amend Schedule 2 by removing the name and description of the park reserve or by altering that description; and
- (b) if the settlement provides that the park reserve or part of it is to become a park or part of one, amend Schedule 1 by adding the name and a description of the park or by altering the description of the park, if the Governor in Council is satisfied that Her Majesty in right of Canada has clear title to or an unencumbered right of ownership in the lands to be included in the park.

read Territory
NWT is now incl. in list of definitions in N.P.A. as a province

- **Marginal note:** Judicial finding as to title

(3) If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that Her Majesty in right of Canada does not have clear title to or an unencumbered right of ownership in lands within a park reserve, the Governor in Council may, by order, amend Schedule 2 by removing the name and description of the reserve or by altering that description.

- **Marginal note:** No reduction of reserve area

(4) Except as provided by subsections (2) and (3), no amendment may be made by the Governor in Council to Schedule 2 for the purpose of removing any portion of a park reserve.

- 2000, c. 32, s. 6;
- 2002, c. 18, s. 31.2.

Marginal note: Amendment to be tabled and referred

- 7. (1) Before an amendment is made to Schedule 1 or 2 for a purpose referred to in subsection 5(1) or 6(1), respectively, the proposed amendment shall be tabled in each House of Parliament, together with a report on the proposed park or park reserve that includes information on consultations undertaken and any agreements reached with respect to its establishment, and an amendment so tabled stands referred to the standing committee of each House that normally considers matters relating to parks or to any other committee that that House may designate for the purposes of this section.

- **Marginal note:** Disapproval by committee

(2) The committee of each House may, within 30 sitting days after the amendment is tabled, report to the House that it disapproves the amendment, in which case a motion to concur in the report shall be put to the House in accordance with its procedures.

- **Marginal note:** Amendment allowed

(3) A proposed amendment to Schedule 1 or 2 may be made if 31 sitting days have elapsed after the tabling of the amendment in both Houses and no motion referred to in subsection (2) has been proposed in either House.

- **Marginal note:** Amendment not allowed

(4) A proposed amendment to Schedule 1 or 2 may not be made if either House passes a motion referred to in subsection (2).

Schedule M

Chronology of events relating to the Reliance Adjustment.

1979 – The settlement of Reliance was proposed for exclusion from the land withdrawal for a new National Park. See attached letters from Hon. Dave Nickerson, MP. A close look at the old boundary lines shows it was just alongside the boundary of the land withdrawal area at the time.

1985 – Parks Canada issues a revised boundary proposal in their literature to exclude the area around Reliance from the proposed park. See attached Parks Canada map (circa 1986) ‘Schedule D’ herein.

2007 – A new, much larger land withdrawal is taken out, and Reliance is no longer excluded from the National park proposal. This expanded withdrawal area was set to expire March 31st, 2014.

2010 – The East Arm Property Owners Association (EAPOA) is formed at an inaugural meeting in Reliance, NWT. It is described as a vehicle for the membership to engage on the proposed park initiative.

2010, May – Parks Canada CEO writes to Spencer Decorby, secretary of EAPOA, committing to consultation on the creation of the park **and its boundaries**.

2014 – The new (2007) land withdrawal is renewed for two additional years the day before devolution in the NWT. Subsequently, the 2007 land withdrawal is divided into areas of interest for a National Park, Territorial Parks, and Territorial areas set aside for mineral development. Reliance is now shown just inside the proposed National Park boundary despite no consultation with EAPOA.

2015, July – GNWT holds stakeholder meetings in Yellowknife on the park. It was there that excluding the area around Reliance from park designation, in order to address numerous site-specific issues, was once again proposed, 35 years later. The Minister for ENR (present) was very receptive to the idea.

2015, July – The East Arm Property Owners Association endorses the proposed adjustment around Reliance.

2015, July – GNWT Minister for ENR instructs their chief negotiator on the file to pursue the proposed adjustment around Reliance.

2015, August – Members of the property owners association, develop further detail on the proposal, dubbing it the Reliance Adjustment, and retain a solicitor to help articulate their position and instruct her to work collaboratively with the GNWT’s chief negotiator.

2015, August – The solicitor for the property owners association sends the formal proposal for the Reliance Adjustment to the GNWT negotiator, as well as the Director for Protected Areas Establishment at Parks Canada.

2015, September – The property owners association writes to the Chair of the GNWT Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, submitting the Reliance Adjustment proposal for the committee’s consideration.

2015, September – the GNWT Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure agrees to support the Reliance Adjustment. The Committee Chair sends a letter to the Minister for ENR to indicate this support on October 8th, 2015.

2016, January – The Northern Air Transport Association, the NWT Floatplane Association, and the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines issue formal communications in support of the Reliance Adjustment (Schedule I herein).

2016, April – The Minister for ENR (Schumann) writes to the EAPOA suggesting a solution is possible.

2016, September - The Arctic Institute of North America approaches the GNWT (Dept. ECE) with an Expression of Interest for establishing a Scientific Research Station at the site of the former MOT Weather Station in Reliance. The document specifically calls for an adjustment to the proposed park boundaries to exclude Reliance & the surrounding area, in order to create a neutral administrative zone for the new station to operate within - just as described herein as the Reliance Adjustment.

2016, November – The EAPOA writes to the new Minister for ENR (McLeod) after recent media quotes him as saying the “negotiations are in the final stages” for TDN. The Minister responds and directs the proponents to work with the new Chief Negotiator for TDN on the Reliance Adjustment.

2017, January and March – The new Chief Negotiator for GNWT meets with members of the East Arm Property Owners Association about the Reliance Adjustment. The Chief Negotiator states that the Land Transfer Agreement (where the Commissioner’s Lands for the National Area of TDN will be transferred back to the Crown) will be signed within a matter of months – after which any adjustments to the boundary of the National area of TDN will no longer be likely as the agreement will contain a legal description of the boundaries for the National Park Reserve.

2017, October – Parks Canada releases their consultation engagement report for the TDN establishment initiative. The report contains a section regarding NWT stakeholder meetings, as well as a section on written submissions. Although members of the EAPOA have formally met with PC on numerous occasions, there is no mention of the EAPOA alongside the other stakeholder groups listed. Also, stakeholder groups supportive of the Reliance Adjustment that were named, contain no mention of their support for the Reliance Adjustment in the summaries. Further, the ‘written submissions’ section of the report contains no mention of, or link to, the Reliance Adjustment proposal despite having formally sent it to the Director of the Establishment Branch of PC 2-1/2 years earlier, with receipt acknowledged at that time.

2017, November 17th – The EAPOA writes to the Director of the Establishment Branch at PC to inquire about having been totally omitted from their consultation engagement report, and to ask a few basic questions about the establishment process. To date, (March 6th, 2018) there has been no response to our letter.

2018, January – The NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines uses GIS mapping to determine the best routing for a corridor from Great Slave Lake to the known geological deposits in the eastern extremity of the NWT (Thelon geological basin). This work is shown in Schedule G herein. The results indicate that departing from Reliance is the shortest route and traverses the least amount of TDN by half the distance as other alternative departure points.

Schedule N

Executive Summary of the Reliance Adjustment

Reliance Adjustment – Executive Summary:

<u>Logistical & Strategic Value:</u>	<u>Socio-Economic Value:</u>	<u>GNWT Signals of Support:</u>	<u>Precedents etc.:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong transportation presence due to ideal conditions - Sheltered location + deep water - eg. NATA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hub for barge and aircraft - Aerodrome Fuel Cache - All aircraft charters and helicopter companies Allows access to the South East NWT Military staging area - eg. Cosmos Wildlife monitoring (caribou/muskox/wolf counting) Search and rescue staging area Forest fire-fighting staging area Land inspections (via aircraft & water) Weather station Staging for mineral resource development activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established fishing lodge Harvesting game (hunting, fishing, trapping) Allows for the establishment of AINA Research Station. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Employment opportunities - LKDFN Expands scientific knowledge which develops better scientific understanding of our Territory Education opportunities Maintains future opportunities and potential for the area Maintains Territorial interest through the governance of the Settlement of Reliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement letter from GNWT Standing Committee on Economic Development to former Minister (Hawkins/Bromley) GNWT Hansard - ENR DM indicating there will be a minor adjustment to the boundary in the Federal area. Letter from former Minister indicating solution is possible Letter from current Minister indicating the adjustment is in keeping with GNWT vision for area Known support for adjustment from at least one sitting Cabinet Minister (Abernethy) Statement from current Minister: "...ensure that all GNWT interests are met by the boundary". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In keeping with previous 1986 Parks Canada proposal, where Reliance area was excluded Same rationale as two other exclusions around Lutsel K'e in current proposal Similar economic rationale to the doughnut-hole in the middle of Nahanni National Park (access to mineral resources) Added value of educational and cultural elements with AINA campus proposal (including employment opportunities for neighbouring FN) Fits into NWT Protected Area Strategy compensation process (alternative to cash settlement) In keeping with GNWT Land Use Sustainability Framework Respects GNWT assessment of culturally significant areas (per GNWT assessment map)

Further current thoughts...

The area outlined by the Reliance Adjustment (RA) has been the historical center of government, commerce and staging for the vast area of the eastern Great Slave Lake. This has been documented since Dominion Explorers located there in about 1919 and probably earlier with seasonal barges by the Hudson's Bay Co. and others to service the fur trade.

There is currently another opportunity for a development within the RA that would provide employment opportunities for the Lutsel K'e Dene, would be non-detrimental to the environment and would fit well with the conservation initiatives being planned for the area.

The Arctic Institute has expressed interest in establishing a campus on the site of the old MOT Weather Station located within the area of the RA. They cannot operate within the areas of National Parks and are very committed to protecting the environment and providing opportunities of local communities. Their campus on the border of Klane National Park in the Yukon provides a center for research without any damage to the land but with opportunities for the local people.

A campus by the Arctic Institute at the old MOT site would be a brown field development and provide the Lutsel K'e Dene with economic opportunities perhaps of similar magnitude to those associated with Thaidene Nene. While the planning for such a campus is in very early stages, there would likely be employment for care-taking, wildlife monitors, historical background consultants and field coordinators, not to mention any jobs during the construction of the campus.

The RA contains the only natural and safe harbor, for both barges and aircraft, in the eastern end of Great Slave Lake, which is why development that occurred did so within the area of the proposed adjustment. Over the years the sort of development has changed along with the rest of the world and there is now the understanding that the Lutsel K'e Dene should be engaged on what type of development could occur over time.

Even if the Arctic Institute does not locate a campus within the RA, the RA should be established to provide a site for future development that would fit with the goals of the Lutsel K'e Dene. Once Thaidene Dene is established, any future opportunities will be lost forever.

Schedule O: Barge Landing & Aircraft at Reliance, NWT









Canada Day at Reliance



Schedule P: Parks Canada CEO Commitment to consult on Boundaries

MAY 21 2010

Mr. Spencer Decorby
chummyp@hotmail.com

Dear Mr. Decorby:

I am replying on behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment, to your letter of April 6 regarding the Framework Agreement with the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation for the proposed East Arm of Great Slave Lake national park reserve.

Minister Prentice signed a Framework Agreement on April 7, 2010, that commits the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation and Parks Canada to negotiating a park establishment agreement. When completed, it will be one measure allowing the Minister to recommend to Parliament the establishment of this national park reserve. Attached is a copy of the Framework Agreement, including a map of the study area. Please note there is no proposed park boundary at this time. Parks Canada is close to concluding a similar agreement with the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.

In 1986, Canada made a commitment to then Chief Felix Lockhart of the Łutsel K'e Dene Council, that a national park would not be established in the area of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake without its support. The Agreement is an expression of the First Nation's new willingness to endorse this conservation initiative.

Now that there is a real prospect of success for the establishment of this proposed national park reserve, Parks Canada will begin broad public consultations later this year that will include stakeholders and interested parties like you, to solicit views regarding the creation of the park and its boundaries. These consultations are required before Parliament can establish a new national park reserve.

I am pleased that you recently acknowledged the possible creation of this national park reserve in your letters to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board of May 10 February 18 and March 5, 2010, posted on the Board's Web site. Your endorsement of the inherent value of this area is a welcome contribution to the public discussion.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Latourelle
Parks Canada
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment