

Giant Mine: Communicating with Future Generations Meeting

Friday, November 28, 2014

2-3:30pm

1st Floor Boardroom Deton Cho Building, N'dilo

Minutes

Natalie Plato, AANDC	Arn Keeling, Memorial University – <i>on phone</i>	Shin Shiga, NSMA - <i>regrets received</i>
Erika Nyssonen, GNWT	Johanne Black, YKDFN	Mary Rose Sundberg, YKDFN - <i>regrets received</i>
France Benoit, Filmmaker	John Sandlos, Memorial University – <i>on phone</i>	Randy Freeman, YKDFN – <i>not present</i>
Rosanna Nicol, Toxic Legacies Project Yellowknife Coordinator	Ryan Silke, NWT Mine Heritage Society	
Jeff Humble, City of Yellowknife	Kevin O'Reilly, Alternatives North	

2:20pm – 3:40pm

1. Introductions.

2. Brief Review of the Toxic Legacies Project (Arn Keeling): It was born out of the Abandoned Mines in Northern Canada project. It's a partnership SSHRC grant with Alternatives North and Goyatiko and Lakehead University. The goal is to engage with indigenous experiences of Giant Mine and 1. Develop public access materials out of that 2. Map and document TK and traditional land use of the area, perhaps useful as an input for the reclamation process 3. Work on communicating with future generations: including the perpetual care and management aspect and the film.
3. Brief Review of the Background Paper (John Sandlos): Based on work done at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) for nuclear waste in New Mexico. There was a lot of thinking done that is potentially helpful to Giant, for example about different signs, symbols and languages to use. Points to think about: 1. Giant will need active maintenance - more about transferring knowledge than communicating danger 2. There is a different time-frame at Giant: no known fixed end-date. 3. Long-term funding: perhaps linking this to perpetual care plan. 4. The important role of oral tradition, especially given the Dene context. How to communicate danger or information over long periods.

Some discussion about possible future land use of Giant. Clarification that this group would not be a decision-making body. It is important that the site is commemorated and developed in a way that doesn't forget what lies underneath.

AANDC and GNWT glad that this work is happening from a community level, pleased to be involved, and sees this venue as useful for knowledge and information sharing.

The idea of a working group was floated and accepted: an informal gathering to share ideas and knowledge. Not a decision-making body. Discussions of meeting monthly, working towards a larger community workshop

There is funding for this workshop from the Toxic Legacies project.

Community Workshop might be in April. It could follow the model of the reports commissioned by Alt North and YKDFN for the Giant EA (by Joan Kuyek and Lois Little) and include a terminology workshop before-hand with the Elders.

It may be invitation-only, involve the youth somehow, involve the public at an evening or "open-house" session that may be interactive, and have a report coming out of that workshop that could be passed over to the Remediation team.

Some discussion about oral histories and how people want to hear the stories of Giant Mine. Reference to the film project, the website, hopes for a commemorative website, discussion of Goyatiko and the archives and interviews there.

Some discussion of a parallel process of the YKDFN. Reference to engaging the youth and Youth Engagement projects in N'dilo and Dettah. Making an app perhaps...

4. Review of Areas of Agreement and Next Steps

Next meeting in early January to discuss Key Messages and Terms of Reference.

Actions:

RN to circulate Kuyek and Little Reports

RN to identify meeting time in January (and a possible regular meeting time)

RN to follow-up regarding a meeting space with video conferencing

RN and Toxic Legacies to draft Terms of Reference for Working Group

RN to follow-up re: meeting with Mary Rose, Johanne, Kevin, France regarding YKDFN parallel process.