

## Giant Mine: Communicating with Future Generations Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2015

3-4pm

ENR Boardroom, Basement of Scotia Center

### Draft Minutes

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

3:00-4:00pm

#### 1. Introductions and review of Agenda.

It was discussed that the purpose of these meetings is to discuss key messages that must be communicated about Giant Mine into the future, drawing on the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) backgrounder *Communicating Danger*, local and Dene knowledge and ideas. The minutes from these meetings will inform a framework for communicating with future generations that can be presented for feedback at the public workshop.

It was emphasized that this meeting will be short and on-schedule and is the first of a series. We are not expecting to solve anything very quickly. There is appetite for monthly meetings, so the topics we don't cover can be talked about next time. Feel free to email Rosanna or the group with any thoughts or ideas that come up between meetings.

#### 2. Lessons from Indigenous knowledge/Level 1 Messaging: the discussion flowed between the topics:

- Reference to earlier lesson from Randy about stories being connected to anomalies on land, therefore remediating the site to look just like

surroundings may hinder the retelling of important stories about Giant (not a huge issue, since thermosyphons, etc., will be visible for a long time). Emphasizes the importance of being on the land as stories, lessons are triggered by what you see.

- Reference to a YKDFN parallel process, with separate work being done about how Dene knowledge and oral tradition would have good ideas about how to communicate danger over generations (i.e. communicating knowledge of thin ice, don't hunt moose near the airport, etc).
- Ideas from the film trailer about creating a new story about a monster underground
- Holding ceremony annually about the site (perhaps building off of the solstice healing festival Johanne organized Spring 2014)
- Getting people, especially youth, on the land in an orchestrated way so that they learn, e.g., school fieldtrips (and so that it doesn't become an alluring, "forbidden" place). Reference to the curriculum developed about Giant.
- The tension between preventing access and allowing access – what has the least potential for harm and the best potential for transmitting knowledge? A big discussion for WIPP (concern that if people regularly go there, it becomes an acceptable, "safe" place to hang out).
- Discussion of an app or making a game as a way to connect with youth
- Concern that, while everything is digital now and that is the way to connect with you, it changes so fast. Do we try and stay ahead of the curve? Or focus on historic technologies that are slower to change?

Action Item: John Sandlos to reach out to Kimberly Tallbear who has done work in USA about indigenous knowledge in dealing with contaminated sites about sharing her thoughts, possibly as a guest speaker and resource person for the workshop.

- Discussion about the thermosyphons. They will be a lasting monument on the land. People will see them and make meaning about them – how to use this to communicate important messages?
  - o Paint them different colours? Concern about people shooting at them. Big fences (any barriers only last about 100 years).

- Some discussion of scenarios in 100 years. Two scenarios came up: the site is isolated or it's a residential neighbourhood with certain no-go zones (which is the scenario being worked towards now).
- The YKDFN will be around – not sure about everyone else. Therefore, focus on a Dene audience. The messaging needs to tie-into Dene spirituality. Perhaps increasing the size and scope of the Solstice gathering at Yellowknife River.
- Request for a map that indicates where the thermosyphons will be. **Erika was going to provide this for the next meeting**. Other questions: how will they be clustered? How tall are they? Where in relation to projected re-development areas? How often do they get replaced? Will there be fencing? Signs? How often will they need to be monitored and replaced?
- Focus on thermosyphons because they will be an obvious “monument”
- In the context of re-use of the site, some discussion of a walking trail with signs, perhaps used ceremonially to commemorate Giant. A map will be helpful to visualize these areas (and the thermosyphons).
- How to transform Giant into a place of learning and wisdom? What messages need to be shared – including the injustices?
- Discussion of the public dock and the big rock there, which provides an overview of the site – perhaps using that place as a ceremonial meeting ground to discuss, share knowledge, remember, commemorate the site.
- Discussion (anecdote) of building an on-going monument that requires everyone's participation over time – i.e. laying down a rock each year.
- Suggestion to make the site dangerous, but not deadly.

#### Business Items:

#### Workshop:

- The workshop would be funded by the Toxic Legacies Project, held in September (rather than June – June seemed too rushed. John and Arn may come visit instead). A separate meeting is warranted devoted entirely to the

workshop (RN will follow-up about this in a few months). It would likely include some work with Elders first (around language? With Goyatiko?), involve an expert speaker (maybe Danny Gaudet from Deline? Or Kimberly Tallbear?) who would also make a public presentation, possibly in the evening.

- The workshop would be larger than the CFG working group, and it would be a chance to review the work of the CFG (a framework will be developed from the minutes from CFG meetings).
- It could involve a public event that includes creative brainstorming on this topic. There may also be other ways to engage the public including a blog on the Toxic Legacies Project and through school visits or projects like the one that Arn did with his geography students.
- The workshop will be written up as a report to inform the perpetual care plan.

#### Terms of Reference:

- A few edits requested (namely more detail on the workshop and responsibilities around it and the addition of NSMA as a member)
- A revised draft will be re-circulated for approval next meeting
- The 2-Pager backgrounder needs new images (RN to follow-up with JS and JB)

#### Minutes

- Discussion about minutes – the member present agreed they can be posted to the Toxic Legacies website once approved, to show the on-going work, and provide an option for comments.

#### Next meeting:

- We'll aim for monthly. Thank you Erika for the videoconferencing. RN will follow-up with a Doodle.