

Minister of Intergovernmental
and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade



Ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
et du Nord et du Commerce intérieur

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A6

OCT 05 2018

Dr. Kathleen Racher
Chair
Giant Mine Oversight Board
5014 50th Avenue
PO Box 1602
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Dear Dr. Racher:

I am writing in response to your correspondence of April 17, 2018, addressed to my colleague the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown–Indigenous Relations, and to your submission of the Giant Mine Oversight Board 2017 Annual Report and recommendations. It is an important transparency mechanism in the overall management of the Giant Mine Remediation Project. It is evident that the Oversight Board has been actively engaged in the project, and I understand that the project team has continued to meet regularly with the Oversight Board through the Giant Mine Working Group and other venues.

As the recently appointed Minister of Northern Affairs, I share the Oversight Board's view that the important work to address the risks posed by the Giant Mine must continue, and I am confident that we share a common goal to enable a successful project. At the same time, we must continue with necessary care and maintenance, site stabilization, and urgent works, particularly as the project makes significant progress in developing a robust closure plan and prepares the water licence application to be submitted in January 2019.

Canada shares your opinion that the Giant Mine remediation is an opportunity for significant social and economic benefits. Maximizing Indigenous and northern employment and business opportunities is a key consideration as we plan the project's implementation approach. We welcome your ideas and support at this critical time as the project team continues to work with Indigenous organizations and other stakeholders to enable maximization of Indigenous and local benefits.

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I look forward to getting updates from the Giant Mine project leader, Assistant Deputy Minister Serge Beaudoin of the Northern Affairs Organization, on future discussions that he and his team have with you and the Oversight Board on the advancement of the Giant Mine Remediation Project. I encourage you to reach out regularly to Mr. Beaudoin and the project team to offer your insight and perspective.

Sincerely,



Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Robert McLeod, M.L.A.
Mr. Michael McLeod, M.P.