



Northwest Territories Chamber of Mines

Box 2818

Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0

Phone 873-5281

RE: MINE SAFETY

Attached are copies of correspondence that addresses the matters raised during our meeting in Yellowknife on Thursday April 9, 1981.

Subject to confirmation that the Territorial Executive Committee can meet with us we would request the presence of all Managers in Yellowknife for two days April 22nd and 23rd.

In addition to a meeting with the Executive Committee we want to get the necessary direction from you on changes to be written into the Ordinance Draft we are preparing.

Please note we have recommended that Mr. Irving and Mr. Maclean also be available for discussions with us.

We will confirm these dates to you by phone.

Yours truly,

T.D. Daniels
General Manager



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George Braden
Minister of Justice and Public Services
Government of the NWT
Yellowknife, NWT

Dear George:

RE: MINE SAFETY SERVICES

On behalf of Industry I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you on April 22nd to discuss Mine Safety in the NWT. As you are aware the Industry places a good deal of emphasis on Operating Mines that are as accident free as is humanly possible and share with you and your Government a vested interest in assuring that the NWT continues to have good mine safety legislation and a professional well organized mine safety service to enforce that legislation.

I am pleased with the manner in which you propose to handle drafting of the new legislation and that the Industry through the Chamber of Mines will have an opportunity to discuss it before it goes to the Assembly.

Effective May 1st we have engaged the services of Mel Brown who will begin work immediately to prepare for me material that will prove most useful in this exercise. I have asked him to include in his recommendations to me information on legislation in jurisdictions all across Canada. I will be pleased to make any of this material or information available to you or members of your staff at any time.

Of particular concern to us at the present time is the growing list of indications that we may soon be faced with a situation wherein the north does not have an effective Mine Safety Inspection Service due to the fact that not all employees of the current service under the jurisdiction of IAND will transfer to the GNWT on your target date of June 1, 1981.

When the Honourable John Munro announced the transfer, the north was blessed with the presence of a reasonably satisfactory

professional organization to carry out the responsibilities of Mine Safety Inspections. Nine months later indications are as follows:

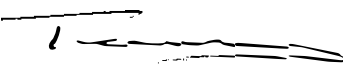
1. Mel Brown - Chief Mining Engineer - refused employment by the GNWT
2. Erland Bengts - being considered for position of Chief Mining Engineer
3. Don Irwin - present indications are that he will refuse to transfer
4. Deric Cormier - Accepted a job in the Yukon
5. Ken Lieshman - requesting transfer to Geology
6. Ed Costello - will accept transfer
7. Dorenn Smith - will not transfer
8. Marilyn Price - resigned

It is our opinion that the strength of this unit will reach a critical level of capability in coming weeks and we seek your assurance that a strong competent service will be maintained.

We believe your government erred when it refused to accept Mr. Brown as Senior Mining Engineer and we do not believe that the candidate you are now considering for the job is the one for it and urge you to consider the recruitment of an engineer from outside the existing mine safety service for this important position.

I want to reiterate our desire to co-operate with your government in anyway we can to recruit a good candidate for this position.

Yours truly,


T.D. Daniels
General Manager



Northwest Territories Chamber of Mines

Box 2818 Yellowknife, N.W.T. X0E 1H0 Phone 873-5281



Hornal
Tellier
Faulkner



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Phone 873-5281

April 13, 1981

John D.C. MacLean
Chairman
Workers' Compensation Board
Box 8888
Yellowknife, NWT

Dear Mr. MacLean:

RE: MINE SAFETY SERVICES AND THE WCB

From time to time there has been suggestions that Mine Safety Services should become the responsibility of the Workers' Compensation Board.

The Chamber of Mines can appreciate many of the arguments advanced in support of this idea, however we do have some grave concerns about such an arrangement should it become a reality. We believe they should enjoy a close working relationship, however each must retain it's own identity and function as separate units.

Perhaps an area where the accident prevention concerns of the WCB can be best accommodated in so far as the mining industry is concerned would be to consider a closer working relationship with the Territorial Mine Accident Prevention Association.

I understand such a relationship exists in the Province of Ontario and is currently being studied as a model for possible use in Alberta.

I am asking for more information on the Ontario model from my colleagues in Ontario and Alberta and would be pleased to share it with you when it is available.

Yours truly,

T.D. Daniels
General Manager



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Phone 873-5281

RE: MINE SAFETY SERVICE IN THE NWT

On behalf of the Chamber I must express my gravest concern for the maintenance and continuation of competent Mine Safety Inspection Services in the NWT. When it was announced by your minister in mid 1980 that Mine Safety Service would be transferred to the Government of the NWT we offered our support to assure in every way that this transfer took place in as smooth and professional manner as possible.

At the time of this announcement the north was fortunate in that it had a competent functioning Mine Safety Service under the direction of your department. Now some nine months later it would appear to us that the north may be without an effective service entirely as a result of the way the take over is being handled by the Government of the NWT.

Details of the current problem are outlined in the attached letter to Mr. George Braden, the bottom line of which is only an extremely small percentage of the present staff can be expected to transfer and the person being considered for Chief Inspector is not of the calibre we believe necessary to do the job properly.

I must further impress upon you the serious nature of the implications for both government and industry should this service be allowed to deteriorate further. Surely the unfortunate experiences of recent accidents in both

Quebec and Alberta are enough to convince us that the maintenance of this service staffed by competent, well trained people is a matter of the highest priority and therefore seek your assurance that this service will not be allowed to deteriorate further before proper action is taken.

Yours truly,

T.D. Daniels
General Manager

K. C. WILSON, P. ENG.
MINING ENGINEER
329-55TH STREET
DELTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

604-943-2819

October 29, 1980

The Northwest Territories Chamber of Mines
P.O. Box 2818
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
JOE LHO

ATTENTION: T.D. Daniels, Manager

Gentlemen:

I refer to the "Debates on Mine Safety" at the Baker Lake Sitting, June, 1980; Mrs. Sorensens statements re: - accidents.

Mrs. Sorensen states that most Provinces have legislation that make it mandatory for miners to work in pairs - presumably she means not alone. I am not aware of such legislation and would appreciate confirmation re:- the Provinces that have such legislation.

From my personal recollection, I can recall several fatalities that resulted when more than one man was present where there would not have been a fatality if the miner had been working alone. For example: some years ago, a miner was operating a two-boom, crawler mounted G.D. jumbo in a stope when he deteriorated a missed hole when drilling: the helper, who was some distance away, was killed, the miner uninjured.

At one time, I asked Louis-George Tanguay, Chief Mining Inspector for Quebec to check the Provincial records to determine if such fatalities were more common than believed. As I recall, his study confirmed that there was only one debatable case, and all other fatalities would not have been prevented by the presence of a second person.

Based on the above, I cannot agree with Mrs. Sorensen findings; if I am correct than her whole argument is not based on fact. The above is a personal opinion only, and does not necessarily reflect the belief of any Company or other groups with which I may be associated.

Any comments which you may care to make, will be welcome.

Yours truly,

K.C. Wilson

K.C. Wilson

Copies to: Sorensen
MacQuarrie
Braden
Butters
Parker
Hornal
Morrison