

Yellowknife Centre MLA Concerned About Giant Mine Remediation Proposals

(YELLOWKNIFE) Monday, September 30, 2013 – Yellowknife Centre MLA Robert Hawkins is calling on Premier Bob McLeod to encourage Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and Environment Canada to provide an incentive for innovative solutions to arsenic contamination at the Giant Mine site.

During the Giant Mine remediation discussion in N'Dilo earlier this week, it was noted that \$1.9 million dollars annually will be required to operate the mine into perpetuity. MLA Hawkins voiced concern that none of the recommended courses of action inspire the innovation necessary to find a permanent solution to this costly dilemma.

To stimulate innovation, MLA Hawkins suggests a lump sum payment of between 10 and 20 million dollars be offered as a reward for designing a permanent solution. “By fostering creative thinking and ingenuity, this could provide the spark that causes people to find a solution to the arsenic problem once and for all”, he said. MLA Hawkins proposes that this reward be offered to national and international parties in order to attract the highest level of innovation possible. “If universities and private companies from around the world were to consider this challenge, the chances of achieving a long-term solution will greatly increase”, says Mr. Hawkins.

MLA Hawkins continues, “solving this problem requires the kind of spirit that has resulted in the greatest of mankind’s achievements. People are motivated by the advancement of science, technology, and the chance to contribute to the betterment of society. The situation at Giant Mine is complex, but this reward would motivate and encourage this type of inspired thinking. Additionally, an original solution would mean unique and great contributions to the field of environmental remediation”. According to MLA Hawkins, providing monetary incentive is a low-risk strategy that, if successful, would yield invaluable results. “If a solution is not found, it does not cost the government anything; however, if a solution is found, the upfront price tag still pales in comparison to the cost of maintaining the mine over the long-term”, he adds.

Mr. Hawkins hopes the Premier will consider his proposal as a viable option and will make efforts to include this suggestion into the Government of the Northwest Territories’ strategy for the remediation of Giant Mine.

For more information, please contact:

Robert Hawkins, MLA for Yellowknife Centre
Legislative Assembly of the NWT
Phone: 867-669-2264
Email: robert_hawkins@gov.nt.