



Tłjchq Government and Explor Reach Agreement on Mineral Claims

Behchokò, November 16, 2022 - The Tłjchq Government and Explor Silica (Explor) have arrived at a significant agreement to safeguard an important part of Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njłtłèè.

Both parties have agreed that Explor will relinquish four of its mineral claims in the Dìnàgà Wek'èhodì Candidate Protected Area. This means that Explor will not develop the four relinquished claims, which include the K'ichıı (Whitebeach Point) area, an area of significant cultural importance and ecological value for the Tłjchq. Instead, these areas will be set aside as part of the Dìnàgà Wek'èhodì Candidate Protected Area.

When Husky first came to the Tłjchq Government in 2014 with a proposal to develop silica mining claims in Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njłtłèè, Tłjchq citizens expressed grave concerns relating to the potential development of the four claims within the Dìnàgà Wek'èhodì Candidate Protected Area. The Tłjchq Government heard its citizens' concerns and after Explor signed a Mining Option agreement with Husky in 2016, the Tłjchq Government advised Explor that the four claims would need to be relinquished before the Tłjchq Government could consider evaluating the potential development of any of Explor's other mineral claims in Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njłtłèè.

The Tłjchq Government and Explor will now begin evaluating the potential development of Explor's other mineral claims in Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njłtłèè. Both Explor and the Tłjchq Government appreciate that it is difficult to fully understand how potential development could affect the land, water, wildlife and Tłjchq rights and culture without the involvement of Tłjchq Citizens, and are eager to hear from Citizens on this important matter.

Quotes:

"By relinquishing the four claims around Whitebeach Point (K'ichıı), Explor has shown its willingness to work with the Tłjchq Government in a good and respectful way that acknowledges the longstanding wishes of Tłjchq Elders and Leadership. Tłjchq Government and Explor are pleased to celebrate this important agreement as an example of what can be achieved when companies come with open minds, respect for Tłjchq rights and values, and willingness to work together in true partnership. This gives us the foundation to begin exploring the next steps for a successful future together."

- Tłjchq Government, Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty

“Explor has always understood that a partnership with the Tłıchǫ people is essential to moving the project forward. In 2020, Explor was able to acquire Husky’s interest, giving Explor 100% ownership of the mining claims and leases, which in turn allowed us to negotiate this groundbreaking agreement directly with the Tłıchǫ Government. We are thrilled to be working closely with the Tłıchǫ Government to move forward with the development of this world-class and strategically important resource.”

- Explor President, Allan Châtenay

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Grace Mackenzie,
Tłıchǫ Government, Mines Liaison Coordinator
grace.mackenzie@tlichoc.ca.

Mr. Allan Châtenay,
Explor, President
explor@explor.net