

# Historic mining and modern mining

Making mine planning work for communities  
from feasibility stage through to closure:  
Reflections on the Tlicho experience in the north, NWT

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Tlicho Ndek'awoo



Tlicho Government

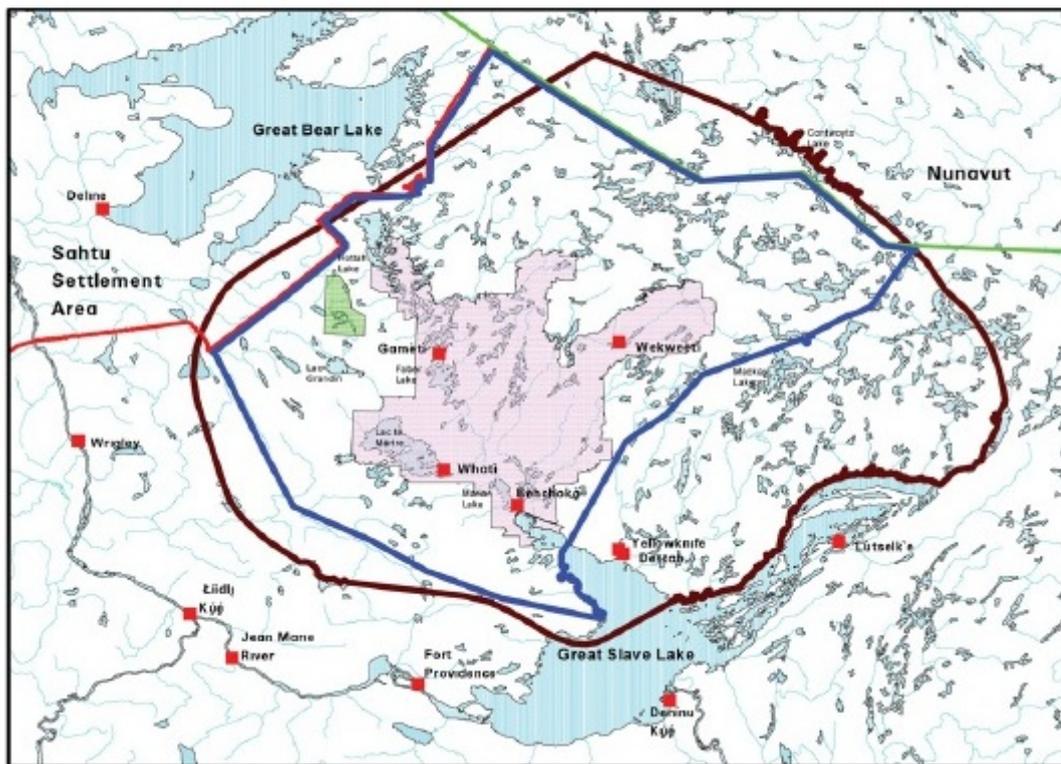
# Presentation overview

- Introduction
  - The historic context of modern mining
- Pre-feasibility
- Environmental Assessment
- Operation
- Closure

# Tlìchò Government



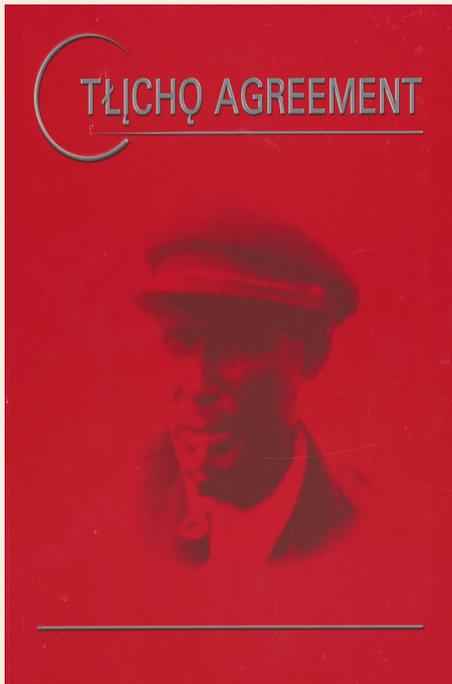
## MÒWHÌ GOGHA DÈ NÌTLÈÈ, WEK'ÈZHÌI, TLÌCHÒ LANDS AND EZÒDZÌTÌ



### Legend

-  Mòwhì Gogha Dè Nìtlèè boundary
-  Wek'èzhìi boundary
-  Nunavut boundary
-  Sahtu Settlement Area boundary
-  Tlìchò Lands
-  Ezòdzìtì

# Tlicho Lands



*It was Chief Monfwi's wish to live in the area due to good fishing, good water and was in the middle of various routes to other important areas for the Tâichô .  
(Zemie Daniels, October 11, 2012).*

*When Monfwi, before he accepted the treaty, he drew a boundary. No other Chief has ever built a foundation like that, like the way that Chief Monfwi had done. He drew a boundary, but still now we are restricted – restricted to hunt caribou.  
(Philip Dryneck, October 11, 2012)*

# Kwe Beh Working Group



- Established in 2010 to manage relationships to the mining and exploration companies
- Reports directly to the Chief Executive Council who provide direction
- Chief Executive Council are the delegated authority for decision making for the Tłı̨chǫ Assembly

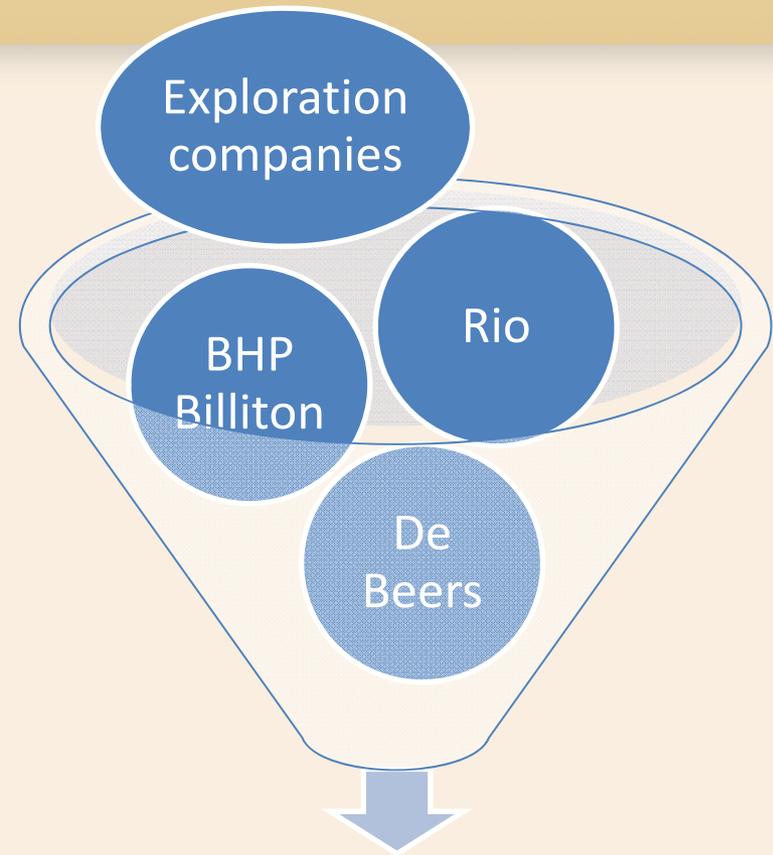
# The context for modern mining



- Historic mining created large alienation zones in the Tlicho region.
- Concerns about similar alienation occurring
- The Tlicho cannot risk suffering the loss of another area of ancestral lands in this critical cultural area.
- Current mines are seen from the lens of the past.

# Reconciliation through FPIC

- Right to self-determination.
  - strength and resilience is tied to the ability to control life and lands.
- Mining offers the option for people to control their lands, but the choices are very rarely seen, and information is scarce.



Choices about land and life

# Pre-feasibility choices

- Seasonal plans
- Technology
- Decision points
- Locations and closest communities
- Encourage hiring of locals
- Moving to exploration agreements

*“Our people are not going to pay for your project. You need to pay for us to understand what you are proposing.”*

# Feasibility

- Alternatives assessment
  - Presentation of the alternatives related to the nation's values, not valuing the economic option only
    - e.g. Bathurst caribou herd
- Decision points and filing
- The right to say no at this phase, or earlier.



# Environmental Assessment



- Choice in research topics and consultants
- Management of core research areas
  - Socio-economic and Traditional Knowledge Studies will be managed and coordinated by the Tl̨cho Government
  - Research capacity is high internally and expectation is to run nation based research

# ... Tlicho Stewardship Values



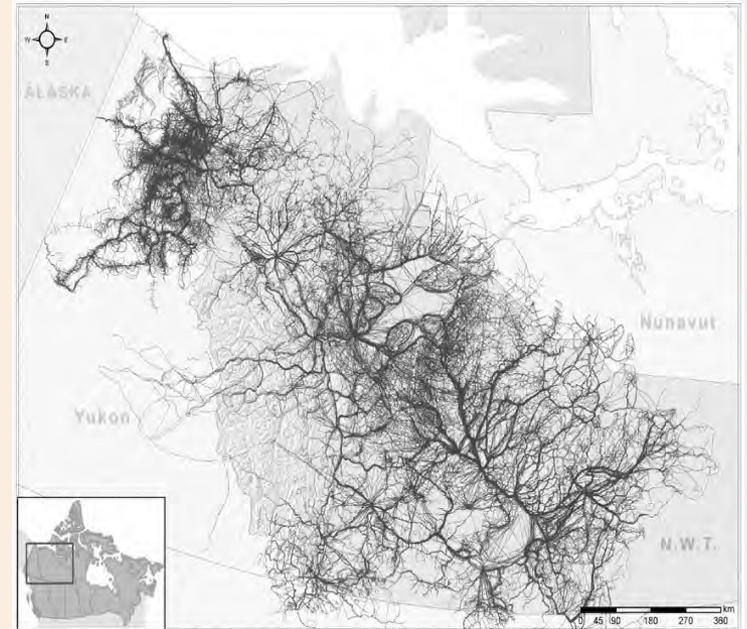
- Traditional trails and transportation corridors are vital, and people drink from the river as they come through the area. The Tlicho Government wishes for there to be continued use of this area, so that people can feel safe to:
  - Drink tea when they travel through
  - Eat the fish in all the areas
  - Eat the animals along the way
  - Eat the berries along the way
  - Harvest the medicines along the way
- **Mining is a temporary land use.**

# Trails and Transportation Corridors

The Project is along the main water transportation corridor, known as the Îdàà trail.

Travelling on trails has been noted as a key method of not only connecting the Tłı̨chǫ communities, but also as an important way of learning and becoming knowledgeable as a Tłı̨chǫ citizen. (Legat, 2012, Andrews et. al, 1998)

The Îdàà trail is described as the “the central or trunk road, linking Great Slave and Great Bear lakes and providing access to a multitude of tributary trails and a land-use area in excess of 250,000 square kilometres” (Andrews, 2011: p. 38).



# Socio-Economic Gaps

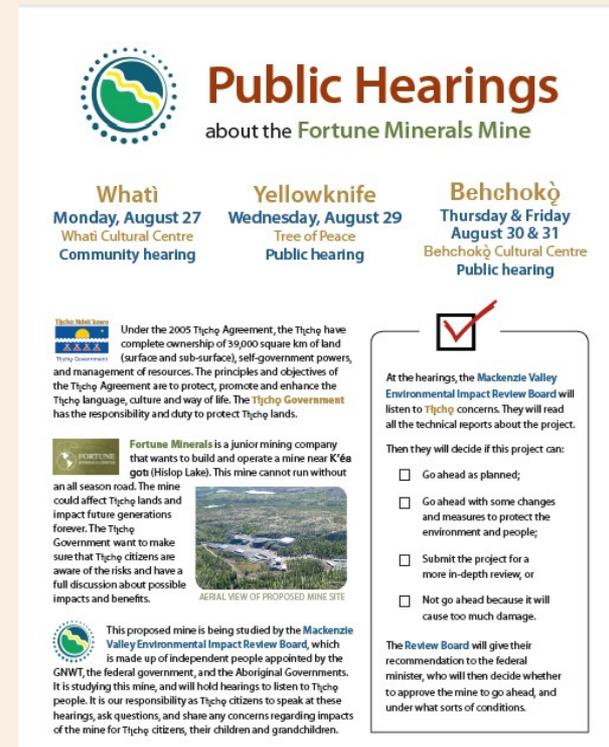
- Taxation
- Associated project components, such as roads
- In-migration measures



Táichô Chiefs in Community Hearing

# Choices with information

*Yes, there will be benefits, but the way of life would be altered forever, and the adjustments would even be greater: the best socio-economic plans would not be able to address this. (John B. Zoe, August 27, 2012)*



 **Public Hearings**  
about the Fortune Minerals Mine

**Whati**  
Monday, August 27  
Whati Cultural Centre  
Community hearing

**Yellowknife**  
Wednesday, August 29  
Tree of Peace  
Public hearing

**Behchokò**  
Thursday & Friday  
August 30 & 31  
Behchokò Cultural Centre  
Public hearing

 Under the 2005 Tł̥chq̇ Agreement, the Tł̥chq̇ have complete ownership of 39,000 square km of land (surface and sub-surface), self-government powers, and management of resources. The principles and objectives of the Tł̥chq̇ Agreement are to protect, promote and enhance the Tł̥chq̇ language, culture and way of life. The **Tł̥chq̇ Government** has the responsibility and duty to protect Tł̥chq̇ lands.

 Fortune Minerals is a junior mining company that wants to build and operate a mine near K'Éa got (Hislop Lake). This mine cannot run without an all season road. The mine could affect Tł̥chq̇ lands and impact future generations forever. The Tł̥chq̇ Government want to make sure that Tł̥chq̇ citizens are aware of the risks and have a full discussion about possible impacts and benefits.



AREAL VIEW OF PROPOSED MINE SITE

 This proposed mine is being studied by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, which is made up of independent people appointed by the GNWT, the federal government, and the Aboriginal Governments. It is studying this mine, and will hold hearings to listen to Tł̥chq̇ people. It is our responsibility as Tł̥chq̇ citizens to speak at these hearings, ask questions, and share any concerns regarding impacts of the mine for Tł̥chq̇ citizens, their children and grandchildren.

 At the hearings, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board will listen to Tł̥chq̇ concerns. They will read all the technical reports about the project.

Then they will decide if this project can:

- Go ahead as planned;
- Go ahead with some changes and measures to protect the environment and people;
- Submit the project for a more in-depth review, or
- Not go ahead because it will cause too much damage.

The Review Board will give their recommendation to the federal minister, who will then decide whether to approve the mine to go ahead, and under what sorts of conditions.

# Education and information in EA



# EA: Choices on project components

- New technologies
  - Co-disposal and wetlands treatment (and alternatives assessment)
  - Risks of new technologies
    - Case studies for comparison in similar climates and conditions
  - Cover options to reduce infiltration (e.g., till or geomembrane)

# What is needed for these choices?

- Funding
- Capacity
- Time
- Engagement

# *Choices: build confidence and use through mine life and in future.*



- Cover at closure to essentially eliminate long-term seepage.
- Financial assurance for the collection and mechanical treatment of seepage until such time that the testing confirms the success of wetlands.
- Expert peer review
- Local environmental monitors
- Ongoing TK research to maintain the stories, histories, and place names of the Tâichô people.
- Culture camp in the mine area

# UBC & Britannia and Mine Tour for Tâichô Staff, Assembly and Elders



# Operation

- Changes to project plans (e.g., A21)
- Surprises (e.g., spills)
- Policies and approaches to employment, training and advancement (e.g., Listening Post)
- New technologies (e.g., new massive capital investments or power transmission decisions)
- Selling

# Roles: Listening Post

- Listening Post
  - Is to address concerns brought about employment from all mines in the region in the region
  - Example of dismissals or concerns with employment are a few examples
  - Provide assistance to Tâichô individual and give guidance on their options and rights
  - May intervene to support general principles

# Closure

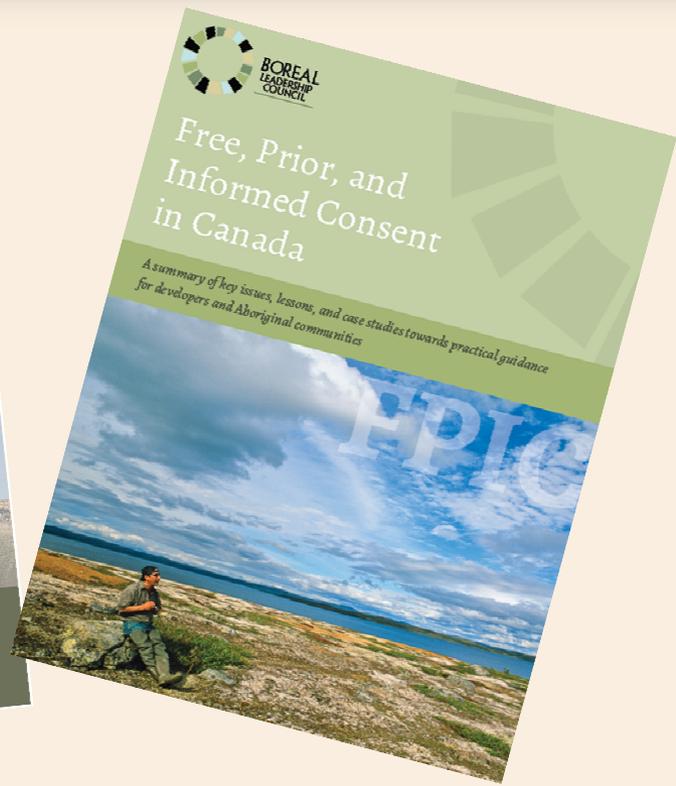
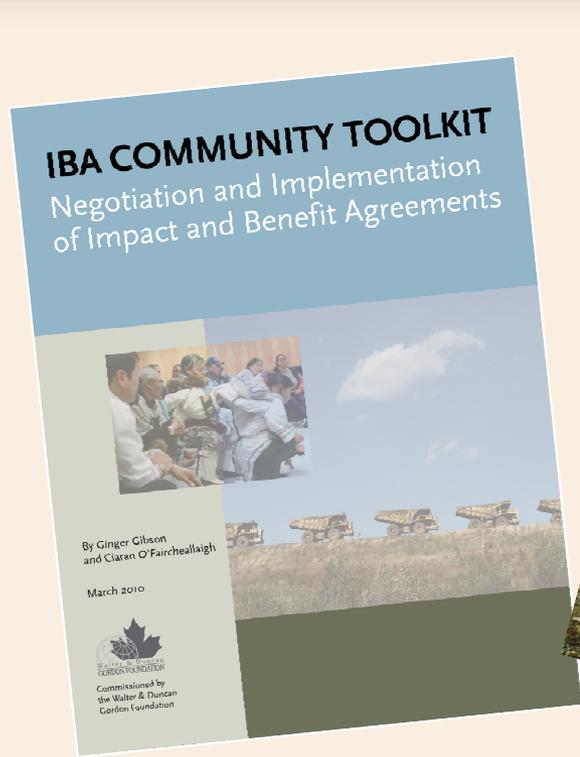
- Pit flooding
- Waste rock piles: bury waste? Depth of cover?  
Animals to travel there?
- Tailings (cover completely and keep a pond or  
remove and make a rock landscape)
- Ongoing research: Whata'a 2013

# Reconciliation



- Right to self-determination
  - To make choices about land and life
  - With information
  - Under conditions where there is enough time and capacity to do so

# Resources



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