

TOS → Windy
Craggy**Schroeter, Tom EM:EX**

From: XT:Chapman, John Leader Mining International Inc EAO:IN
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2003 9:38 AM
To: Dan Jepsen
Subject: FW: TATSHENSHINI

Dan,

This confirms my worst fears that Minister Neufeld continues to get bad advise from Ebbels and Hermann.

John

-----Original Message-----

From: John Murray [mailto:jmurray@netidea.com]
Sent: March 31, 2003 3:16 PM
To: blair.suffredine.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: TATSHENSHINI

Blair:

On another topic ... you asked me about Windy Craggy and Recall initiative.

I have asked around some within the mining community. I am convinced now that the park is a BC Park, and therefore the province has jurisdiction - it was not clear to me whether the province, the feds or the UN prevailed.

There is an example in Tasmania (I think) of a UN designated heritage Park (same designation as Tatshenshini) being mined currently. I believe public opinion swayed in favour and the local government then allowed the operation to proceed. So it is not impossible.

However, nothing is going to happen with Windy Craggy until native land claims issues are settled. No company will entertain the vast investment required without assured certainty of tenure. That's a given.

It is my understanding that at least one of the affected native groups, the Champagne-Aishihik (sp?), is now interested in pursuing their claim, and that any and all NDP designations were made without prejudice to the Indian claims. So this is likely the quickest route to resolution.

I think the best thing you can do to assist George Abbott and your colleagues in helping to work toward quick (yet fair to British Columbians!) resolution of this challenging land claim debacle.

On a related matter you will remember that on Saturday afternoon Minister Neufeld took offense to comments from John Chapman to the effect that he needed to stop saying Windy Craggy was uneconomic. The Minister denied ever having said that, and clarified that what he HAD said was that senior companies had told him they would not be interested because of the environmentalist attention that would be drawn down on their heads.

It is also quite different than saying it is uneconomic. This has the ring of truth.

What the Minister is not aware of - and perhaps should be - is that senior people on his staff ARE saying that it is uneconomic. The very previous afternoon when I commented to Fred Hermann (Chief Mines Inspector) that you had an interest in exploring whether Recall Initiative could be a

tool in this situation Hermann went to considerable lengths to dissuade me, insisting that Windy Craggy IS uneconomic, and that you/we shouldn't waste any political capital on this battle.

Of course I believe strongly it is not government's place to decide what is economic or not - I have every right to go broke if want as long as follow due process - but the point is that while the Minister may not be saying Windy Craggy is uneconomic his senior staff IS. Chapman may have misdirected his charge, but it was NOT wrong.

Keep up the good work!

John