



Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency

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DonnaMarie Ouelette
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NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program
Department of Environment and Renewable Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
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Re: Letter of Support for CIMP – Queens University Plankton Study

The Agency is pleased to offer our support for a Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) initiative to investigate causes of zooplankton community changes in lakes downstream of diamond mine effluent. We understand the study is a joint project of CIMP and Queens University.

We believe this proposal is timely, given the number of Aquatic Effects Monitoring Programs (AEMPs) for the various diamond mines in NWT. The results of the study would be of keen interest to the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency. The Agency has been aware of the changes occurring in zooplankton communities in Ekati AEMP lakes for several years. We understand the importance of maintaining sustainable zooplankton populations for fish species that are valued by Aboriginal communities affected by the diamond mines.

We will be eagerly awaiting the results of the study, with a view to helping the Agency and others, to determine how and why plankton communities are changing downstream of the Ekati Mine, as well as how these changes may impact fish.

Sincerely,

Bill Ross
Chairperson

cc. Society Members (DDEC, GNWT, AANDC and Aboriginal Society Members)