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Wade Luzny, CEO and Executive Vice President
Canadian Wildlife Federation
350 Michale Cowpland Drive
KANNATA ON K2M 2W1

Dear Mr. Luzny:

I am writing in response to your letter to Premier Brad Wall regarding the review of environmental policies, regulations and guidelines applicable to mine siting and operations. We appreciate your interest and concern. The Province of Saskatchewan has a comprehensive set of environmental protection legislation and regulations designed to protect the province's air, land, water and human and ecosystem health.

In Saskatchewan, before any developments occur they would be subject to the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. The EA process is a government-wide integrated review and decision-making process for high-risk project developments including siting and establishment of new mines and industrial activities, as well as any expansions or significant alterations to these facilities. These provisions help to ensure that impacts on fish and wildlife resources are minimized at the developmental phase of a proposed project.

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment also has regulations in place to control air emissions, water and solid waste discharges, industrial and hazardous waste storage and disposal, and spills and contaminated sites management. Once approval to proceed is given through the EA process, the existing regulations manage all aspects of the life cycle of a mine from construction to operation and through to decommissioning and reclamation of the minesite. Permits are issued for these activities which will contain site-specific conditions for monitoring, reporting and any other operational requirements that may be necessary. Permits for mining operations typically have a significant focus on mine tailings management design and operations.

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