



**Athabasca Denesuline Né Né Land Corporation**

Athabasca Denesuline Né Né Land Corporation  
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Phone: (306) 953-7287

May 15, 2023

Nunavut Impact Review Board  
via email: [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca); [lklaassen@nirb.ca](mailto:lklaassen@nirb.ca);

**RE: NIRB Application for Screening #125785 Bedrock Mapping from Angikuni Lake**

Dear Nunavut Impact Review Board Members,

The Athabasca Denesuline NéNé Land Corporation (ADNLC) represents the three Denesuline First Nations of Fond du Lac, Black Lake, and Hatchet Lake. Our communities are located in northern Saskatchewan, and our territories extend into what is today Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The proposed project #125785, Bedrock Mapping from Angikuni Lake, is located on the edge of our Athabasca Denesuline Harvesting Area, and our documented Traditional Land Use (TLU) includes use within the proposed study area. We have mapped TLU including travel routes, trapping routes, and overnight locations within the proposed study area, and we still use this area to this day. We have included a TLU map along with this letter, and have also provided this map in the past to the Nunavut Planning Commission during past consultations.

The project proposal does not recognize the ongoing use of this area by the Athabasca Denesuline, or our neighbors the Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene. We appreciate the efforts outlined in the project proposal to include local community members for employment and information sharing opportunities, and ask that the same opportunities and considerations are extended to our communities for: 1) contacting our communities for early dialogue and engagement; 2) translation of materials for sharing information with our Denesuline communities; 3) consideration of hiring local Athabasca Denesuline as wildlife monitors/field assistants/cooks/

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guides/building and dismantling the field camp/other; and 4) including Athabasca Denesúliné communities in post-project reporting and sharing of findings. Further, throughout the project description, there are many acknowledgments of the land use of Inuit ancestors and no mention of Denesúliné land use and long-held relationship with these lands. We would like to reiterate the Traditional and ongoing use of this area by the Athabasca Denesúliné and request that project descriptions be updated to reflect that.

We also note the potential for Athabasca Denesúliné culturally important sites and artifacts to be present within the study area. It is important to establish a process and contacts between our organizations to ensure appropriate response in the event that a culturally important site or artifact is found, and we note that having our members on-site who can recognize these signs would greatly improve the researchers'/ workers' ability to avoid any harm to these sights/artifacts.

We ask that the project proponents contact our offices to discuss how these oversights may be remedied before the field work commences, and that project materials be updated to reflect the use of this land by our communities. Our primary contact is Katie Rasmussen who can be reached at 306-294-0888 or [katiebeth.rasmussen@gmail.com](mailto:katiebeth.rasmussen@gmail.com).

Attachments: Athabasca Denesúliné Traditional Land Use Map

Sincerely,



Ron Robillard,  
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CC:

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