

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

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First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun has lost confidence in Victoria Gold’s ability to respond to disaster at Eagle Gold Mine

Victoria Gold lacks the financial resources to be entrusted with remediation of the environmental disaster at Yukon mine

MAYO, YUKON (August 1, 2024) – The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) calls for steps to be taken to remove Victoria Gold Corporation’s management from control of the work needed to remediate the heap leach disaster at the Eagle Gold Mine, which is located in FNNND territory in the Yukon. FNNND urges the Yukon Government to take immediate and robust action to ensure that the necessary work is being undertaken to remedy and prevent further harm from the significant and confirmed cyanide contamination that was caused by the heap leach pad failure at Victoria Gold’s Eagle Gold Mine. FNNND also reiterates its call for a full and independent inquiry, under the *Public Inquiries Act*, to examine the technical, regulatory and legislative failures that caused this catastrophe and ensure it never happens again.

“The reality is that Victoria Gold cannot rectify the environmental damage caused by this event,” said FNNND Chief Dawna Hope. “They have been failing to take the remediation actions directed by the Yukon Government. Victoria Gold’s apologies and the comments of their CEO in the media ring hollow and they ring false. The company has lost our confidence and we do not believe they will be able to effectively address this disaster they created in our traditional territory.”

Chief Hope continued, “the Eagle Gold Mine disaster is a catastrophe that our Nation will need to live with for decades, if not generations. And the cyanide contamination gets worse by the day. FNNND can no longer support this project or any further heap leach mining on our territory. The risks from heap leach mining are no longer acceptable in light of the damage already caused to our lands by this catastrophe. The simple fact is that Victoria Gold now lacks consent and social license.”

First Nation of the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun represents the most northerly community of the Northern Tutchone language and culture group. The village and townsite of Mayo is within the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun Traditional Territory and covers 162,456 square kilometres of land, that being 131,599 km² in the Yukon and 30,857 km² in NWT.

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun today has over 600 citizens. As a self-governing First Nation, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun can make laws on behalf of their citizens and their lands. The First Nation rematriated 4,739.68 square kilometres of lands.

Media Inquiries

There are no interviews available this week.

FNNND will accept questions and interviews August 8th afternoon only. Please email vgresponse@nndfn.com to submit interview requests to take place on August 8, 2024.