SEPA UPDATE

Maurice Albert

The Kaska and Selwyn Chihong are beginning to negotiate a Participation Agreement (SEPA). This agreement defines the relationship between the Kaska people and those working for the mine. It will replace the Interim Measures Agreement (IMA) which is currently in effect and was meant to define benefits and opportunities for the Kaska while exploration activities were underway.

It is important that there is good community input into the SEPA so that community interests are well defined and addressed. It is also important that any challenges faced in the past under the IMA are identified and fixed.

Holding April SEPA Workshops in Whitehorse

In April, a series of workshops will take place in Whitehorse to discuss key components of the SEPA. The workshop participants will include Kaska and Selwyn Chihong representatives along with some invited experts who have successfully built relationships between First Nations people and those engaged in responsible resource development elsewhere. These workshops will focus on

- Experiences with the Interim Measures Agreement -What worked and what didn't;
- 2) Kaska business development and procurement;
- Training and employment needs and commitments; and
- 4) The Environment, including water, fish and wildlife management.

Creating Permanent SEPA Committees

The workshops will discuss what should be included in the SEPA, what further discussions should take place in the communities, and how the permanent SEPA committees of Kaska/Selwyn Chihong representatives should be established. These committees have been proposed to give Kaska a window on mine planning. They are meant to provide an opportunity to identify challenges during mine planning, construction and operations phases of mine development and to suggest alternative options for getting the job done. They are being created to provide a problem solving forum for Kaska and the company in key areas of business development, training and employment and environmental protection.





Building a Solid, Respectful Partnership

The workshops and the permanent committees will also be tasked with finding effective ways to engage community people during SEPA negotiations and throughout the life of the mine. It is important that good information is shared and constructive discussions take place on how the mine can be developed responsibly and for the benefit of all people involved.

Selwyn Chihong is committed to doing things differently and better than ever. It is well known that this can only be accomplished by building and operating the mine in an environmentally responsible way; with a solid commitment to worker safety and well-being; and to the benefit of the communities who share in the stewardship of the resources. This requires building a solid and respectful partnership with Kaska.

Maurice is Selwyn Chihong's VP, External Affairs.