

# GIANT MINE

A giant liability forever



Do you have an interest in the people, land and animals in and around Giant mine?

Do you snowmobile, ski or walk on Back Bay in the winter?

Are you concerned about passing a burden on to future generations?

Now is the time to learn more and speak up about the future of Giant Mine!

## Giant Mine Remediation Project - Public Hearings Sept. 10-14, 2012 (ALL SESSIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

### Monday Sept. 10, 2012

*Freeze and Underground Theme*  
(9-5 at Tree of Peace)

**Public Comments at 4:30 pm**

### Tuesday Sept. 11, 2012

*Water Treatment and Management Theme*  
(9-3:30 at Tree of Peace)

**Public Comments at 3:00 pm**

**Evening Community Hearing** (public comments)  
Yellowknife (7-9:30pm at Tree of Peace)

### Wednesday Sept. 12, 2012

*Surface Remediation* (9-3:30 at Tree of Peace)

**Public Comments at 3:00 pm**

**Evening Community Hearing** (public comments)  
(7-9:30pm at Chief Drygeese Centre, Dettah)

### Thursday Sept. 13, 2012

*Monitoring, Oversight, and Perpetual Care*  
(9-5 at Tree of Peace)

**Public Comments at 4:15 pm**

### Friday Sept. 14, 2012

*Monitoring, Oversight, and Perpetual Care*  
(9-5 at Tree of Peace)

**Public Comments at 4:00 pm**

### If you wish to present, or for more info, contact:

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## Giant Mine Historical Timeline

**1948**

Giant Mine starts operation

**1951- 1999**

237,000 tonnes of arsenic trioxide dust blown underground (over 7 times the size of the Precambrian Building where the movie theatre is located)

**1999**

Giant Mine goes into receivership, taken over by federal government

**2005**

Giant Mine Remediation Plan completed

**2008 - present**

On-going Environmental Assessment. Numerous delays by federal and territorial governments. The Developer's Assessment Report was a year late, and there were 9 other delays for over 200 days.

**2008**

City of Yellowknife refers project to Mackenzie Valley Review Board for Environmental Assessment

**2007**

Federal government applies for water licence to carry out Remediation Plan



Alternatives North



City of Yellowknife



Design by:  
myka jones  
design

# GIANT MINE



The federal department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and Government of the NWT are responsible for Giant Mine. The two governments developed a plan to remediate Giant Mine. The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is reviewing that plan.

## What is in the Remediation Plan?

- Freeze the arsenic trioxide dust underground forever.
- Demolish buildings at site; bury and freeze toxic materials.
- Cover the tailings ponds with clean material.
- Construct fences and barriers around the open pits.
- Remove contaminated soils to allow industrial use of the site.
- Build new water treatment plant.
- Monitor the site during active remediation and forever.

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100027410>

## What is the cost of the Remediation Plan?

Canadian taxpayers are paying for the costs of remediation, monitoring and maintenance at Giant Mine:

- \$150 million spent to date.
- \$480 million for the remediation work.
- \$1.9 million a year (forever).

Giant Mine made social, economic and cultural contributions to Yellowknife. However, it has left cultural, social and environmental legacies that need to be resolved. We need urgent action, but we also need to work together to resolve outstanding issues.

This brochure was prepared by Alternatives North. For more information, please contact us at:

[info@alternativenorth.ca](mailto:info@alternativenorth.ca) or 920-2765

## Key Unresolved Issues

### Water

- A new water treatment plant is planned; discharge moved to Back Bay.
- Government predicts “local ice thinning” in Back Bay from 81 metre long diffuser.
- No modelling to determine ‘how thin’, where and when thinning will occur, and whether public safety will be at risk.
- Modelling to predict impacts on Back Bay water quality not completed.

### Independent Oversight

- Federal government will carry out the Giant Mine Remediation Project, monitor it, take any enforcement action, review recommendations from the environmental assessment, and approve its water licence.
- No federal commitment to community-based independent oversight.

### Perpetual Care

- Giant Mine will require monitoring and maintenance forever!
- No long-term funding identified for the site.
- No inventory of site records and documents and no plan to preserve them or make them publicly available.
- No plan for further research and development of a more permanent solution for the underground arsenic.
- No plan developed for perpetual care using best practices and lessons learned from other sites and experiences.

### End Use

- Mine site to be remediated to allow for industrial use only.
- Remediation Plan does not consider potential recreation, residential or commercial use.