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**Written submission from the  
Thessalon First Nation**

**Mémoire de la  
Première Nation de Thessalon**

**Regulatory Oversight Report for  
Uranium and Nuclear Substance  
Processing Facilities in Canada: 2018**

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**Rapport de surveillance  
réglementaire des installations de  
traitement de l'uranium et des  
substances nucléaires au Canada :  
2018**

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Commission Meeting

Réunion de la Commission

December 11, 2019

Le 11 décembre 2019

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# THESSALON FIRST NATION

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## Thessalon First Nation Comment on Cameco's Blind River Refinery Installation

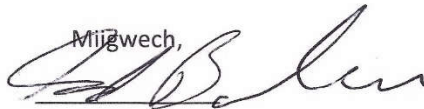
Date: November 14, 2019

Nuclear refining can be a tricky subject. Often just the mention of the subject can make some people overly concerned safety for the environment and the surrounding settlements. Thessalon First Nation is committed to their traditional role as being stewards to the land, fulfilling their eternal role as protectors to the well-being of Mother Earth. While we take this duty very seriously we also recognize the necessity of the energy that nuclear can provide. We also recognize the considerable regulations the industry operates under. We just ask that it be done as safely as possible and have the proper safeguards in place.

Looking over the summary, the obvious care taken by Cameco to put into place the proper protocols in place to reduce the chance of catastrophic incidents from happening. This fact as well as the strong track record that company boasts have put a lot of our concerns to rest. We take heart in the numerous efforts taken to ensure the integrity of the surrounding environment of the facility.

While we are heartened by the track record boasted by the company, we do have concerns that this good record continues throughout the working life of the facility. Another concern we have is what plans are in place for the decommissioning of the facility after operations cease. We want to be ensured all sources of contamination will be removed and the land footprint of the facility is rehabilitated to its pristine pre-construction condition.

We want to work with the regulators and the company officials in a spirit of co-operation to address these concerns. Thessalon First Nation recognizes there is more to be gained in this approach as opposed to a confrontational stance. We look forward to developing a closer relationship with other stakeholders in order to ensure the future we would like to see. In order to further cement this relationship we would like to see employment opportunities extended to our residents so that we can monitor the situation closely and further tie our organizations closer together.

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Chief Edward Boulrice