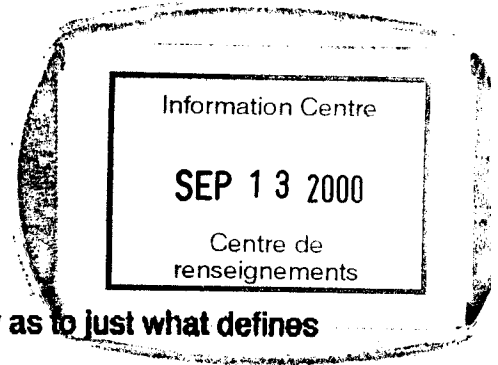


de Goutière Jewellers, Ltd.

September 12, 2000

2542 ESTEVAN AVENUE
VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 2S7
CANADA

Telephone (250) 592-3224
Fax (250) 592-3236



Dear Sirs:

Recently there has been much turmoil within our industry as to just what defines a Canadian diamond.

Frankly, I believe this argument is more about market share than provenance. Throughout the industry gemstones of all kinds are often referred to by their country of origin ie. Brazilian tourmaline, Madagascar sapphire, Thai ruby, to name just a few and regardless of where they were cut.

To suggest that there is no way to police the provenance of a rough diamond as has been forwarded by the lead protagonist of this argument is a bit of a slap in the face to the company from which they themselves must buy from. All rough diamonds mined in Canada are sorted in Belgium then sold to legitimate dealers and cutters throughout the world. B.H.P., the owners of the Ekati mine, have advertised heavily in the trade press and many companies are beginning to deal in Canadian diamonds especially since the problems of rebel controlled mines in Africa.

If the company which owns and controls the distribution of Canadian diamonds obviously believes that a Canadian diamond is one which is mined in Canada, a practice accepted by the industry and the consumer, why should one company be allowed simply by locally cutting and polishing approximately 2% of the Ekati out put call it's product the only true Canadian diamond. This sounds more like attempting to gain a monopoly than an altruistic search for provenance.

Canadian diamonds are a success story for our much beleaguered mineral industry and a great economic boost for the north. B.H.P. is doing an admirable job in promoting Canadian diamonds throughout the world and no matter where these stones are cut and polished they will always be Canadian diamonds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. de Goutière", written over a circular scribble.

R. de Goutière,
C.G.A., A.G.S.



FINE WATCHES - GOLD JEWELLERY