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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely pleased to be in Arctic Bay this week. My name is Charlie Inuaraq, and I am from Pond Inlet. Many of you probably know me as I lived here and at Nanisivik for many years. I am a Board Member with the Nunavut Water Board, and I am joined today by my fellow board member, Geoff Qilak Kusugak, who is from Rankin Inlet. Qilak has been working with the Nunavut Planning Commission and DIAND, and now works as a communications officer with the Kivalliq Inuit Association. Thomas Kudloo, who is chair of our board deeply regrets not being here tonight. Unfortunately there was a mechanical problem with the airplane that was suppose to fly him from his home in Baker Lake to Rankin inlet. Because of this he was not able to meet his connecting flight to Iqaluit.

Qilak and I are here in Arctic Bay in an informal capacity. I will not be chairing this meeting, but we are here only to accompany Patrick Duxbury, whom you all know. Patrick has been with the Nunavut Water Board since the fall of 2002 and he's been working hard to make sure that the residents of Arctic Bay are kept fully informed about the status of the closure and reclamation of the Nanisivik Mine and have the opportunity to express their views to the Nunavut Water Board and other regulators regarding these matters.

Last year, the Nunavut Water Board held a hearing in Arctic Bay, and you were told by our chair, at the end of the hearing, that the Board would be back to hear more concerns from residents before making a final decision on the reclamation of the mine. In a few weeks from now, we expect to receive from CanZinco their final abandonment and restoration plan. This plan will be thoroughly scrutinized by the Nunavut Water Board and interested parties before we can approve it. Again, in line with our policies, we will hold a hearing to hear the concerns and views of the public of Arctic Bay before making our decision, and Patrick will be back here several times before the hearing so that the community understands what CanZinco is proposing to do and can make their views known to the Board. If CanZinco submits their plan by mid-December as requested by the Board, we would like to come back here for a hearing the first week of March 2004, if this is acceptable to all parties and the community.

So, I won't waste too much of your time now. Patrick and Levi have prepared a presentation, and you will have the chance to ask questions freely to them. Thank you and have a good meeting.