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## EYE ON KITIKMEOT What We Heard

For more than a year, we were out in the Kitikmeot listening to community feedback about the Back River Project (Hannigayok).

We visited communities in June 2012, November 2012 and April 2013. During these visits, we held public meetings, talked on local radio shows and distributed information materials. We also talked with Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), Hamlet Councils and our two community advisory groups (Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk).

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) also held scoping meetings in February 2013. These scoping meetings were led by NIRB and are part of NIRB's environmental and socio-economic assessment process of the Back River Project. At that time we also held meetings of our own.



John Kaiyogana and Jason Prno update communities on the Back River Project.

## What We Learned

From our community conversations, we learned that residents are excited about the possibility of employment and training opportunities coming to the Kitikmeot. These opportunities will help communities economically as well as give important training to residents (especially youth).

Even though they see significant benefits associated with the approval of the Back River Project, local residents are concerned about:

- The socio-economic effects of increased employment in the area (especially in regards to financial management and families being separated for two week work rotations).
- Land and wildlife protection (especially for caribou and fish).
- Effects of the Project on hunting and harvesting.
- Effects of the Project on water quality.
- The protection of archeological resources.
- How the Project will be monitored once approved.
- How the mine will be closed in a safe manner.

We'll address all of these issues in our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We expect our draft EIS to be completed for the end of 2013 or early 2014, and our final EIS to be released in 2014.

If you have any comments or concerns about the Back River Project, please contact **John Kaiyogana** at [jkaiyogana@sabinagoldsilver.com](mailto:jkaiyogana@sabinagoldsilver.com) or drop by Sabina's Cambridge Bay office (4 Omingmak Street) to talk to John in person.

## PROJECT INFO

### Where is the Back River Project?

Even though our proposed gold mine is called the "Back River Project" it's not on the Back River. The vast majority of the Back River Project (Hannigayok) is located to the north of the river's watershed. The map below, shows where the Project is located.



## Keeping Up-to-Date

In this phase of the Back River Project, we're obtaining permitting approvals and we're studying the Project's economic feasibility. Since June 2012 we've done the following:

- Submitted the Back River Project Description to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) in June 2012.
- Held three community visits (June 2012, November 2012 and April 2013).
- Established a Sabina office in Cambridge Bay and hired a Community Liaison Officer, **John Kaiyogana (jkaiyogana@sabinagoldsilver.com)**.
- Participated in the NIRB scoping meetings for our Project.
- Responded to the NIRB's draft and final guidelines.
- Established Community Advisory Groups in Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk.
- Advanced two major studies on traditional knowledge and the socio-economic context of the Project.
- Developed a Donations Policy in the Kitikmeot Region that supports initiatives pertaining to 'youth and education' and 'community wellness and traditional lifestyles'.

For our next milestones, we hope to release a pre-feasibility report in the fall of 2013 and a Draft EIS by the end of the year/beginning of 2014. The pre-feasibility report will include additional project details and an assessment of the Project's economic viability. The EIS will describe the potential positive and negative environmental effects of the Back River Project and how Sabina will manage those.

## IN THE COMMUNITY 2013 Calendar of Events

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Launch of Sabina's Back River Project (BRP) website, <a href="http://www.backriverproject.com">www.backriverproject.com</a>  Launch of BR News, Sabina's community newsletter	NIRB's scoping meetings for the BRP  Booth at the Kitikmeot Trade Show – Cambridge Bay		Full Kitikmeot community tour  BBQ sponsorship at the Kugluktuk Frolics	BBQ sponsorship at the Omingmak (Cambridge Bay) Frolics	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Summer issue of BR News	Bathurst Inlet visit		Release of pre-feasibility study (tentative)  Fall 2013 issue of BR News	Full Kitikmeot Community Tour	Winter 2013 issue of BR News





## COMMUNITY CORNER WITH JOHN

### The Fabulous Frolics

At both Spring Frolics BBQs (Kugluktuk in April and Cambridge Bay in May), I cooked more than 500 hamburgers. This gave me a chance to talk with friends I hadn't seen for a long time. The response was so positive it warmed my heart and many people thanked Sabina for being good sponsors.

The Nattik Frolics BBQ was held on April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Kugluktuk Recreation Complex before the Opening Ceremonies. It was an amazing night – the mayor welcomed everyone including the Frolic King and Queen contestants; the children and teen square dancing troops, the Delta Drum Dancers as well as the Copper Inuit Drum Dancers performed; and the Downstairs Band played to rave reviews.

The Omingmak (Cambridge Bay) Frolics BBQ was held from 10 a.m. to 1:10 p.m. on May 17 outside of the Royal Bank, which is located on Main Street. It gave our team (Sylvia Novoligak, Terry McCallum, Martina Kapolak and me) joy to grill burgers for so many happy people. The Omingmak Frolics Parade followed the BBQ with floats from different people and organizations. Sabina gave away caps, flash lights, toques, flashers & pencils to parade watchers.

Thank you to everyone who helped me at the Sabina Spring Frolic BBQs. Without you, the events wouldn't have been so successful or fun.





## PEOPLE ON SITE

### Creating a Family Atmosphere

**Amaruq Justin Porter (called AJ)** started working as a core cutter for Sabina's Back River Project in 2010. Since starting with the Project, he's also helped out with environmental baseline studies.

Core cutting is one of the most important jobs on site because it helps geologists and engineers understand the quality and the size of the gold deposit. We take numerous samples to determine how much gold is located at the Project site. Core samples are 3.5 cm in diameter and can be the length of a football field. By cutting these samples geologists can examine them to tell engineers

where the gold is located and how it is mixed with other metals and rock. (It's up to the engineers to figure out how to mine it!)

Besides learning new skills, AJ loves working with the people on site. He's made new friends and some members of his crew come from his home town, Gjoa Haven. And his cousins Austin and Jimmy work on site. It's almost like home.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Baseline Studies Make a Difference

More than 50 baseline study teams will come to the Back River Project (Hannigayok) area in 2013.

These teams will collect information about the current environmental and socio-economic conditions in the western Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut (the Project's location). By predicting how the Project will interact with the local and regional area, Sabina can plan and design the Back River Project to minimize environmental effects.

Baseline study teams usually include:

- Consultants who specialize in the data collection and interpretation;
- Inuit employees who help with data collection;
- Pilots and logistics personnel who help the teams complete their field work; and
- In some cases, an Elder who is familiar with the area.

The number of baseline studies varies depending on the study area, project components and the level of data needed to describe the existing conditions. Government regulators, community members, and engineers help Sabina target which baseline studies need to be conducted.

Some areas of study are more significant because they are identified as Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs) or Valued Socio-economic Components (VSECs) for the EIS and the region. For example, caribou are considered a valued component because they are extremely important to the Inuit way of life.

For a full list of our ongoing baseline studies, visit the Environment & Permitting section of [www.backriverproject.com](http://www.backriverproject.com).



## On the Wild Side

One of the most important areas of study is the wildlife within the Project location. Wildlife studies examine the animal communities in the area, when/how the animals use the area, and how they travel through the area. This work also identifies rare, endangered or sensitive species.

Some of our wildlife studies include: caribou, grizzly bears, wolves, muskoxen, wolverine, birds, waterfowl, raptors, seabirds, small mammals (including their den sites) and marine mammals. Methods used in each wildlife study are different and depend on the animal species. The table below describes how caribou, grizzly and wolf baseline studies differ.



This wolverine is stealing the bait from the top of a DNA sampling tripod.

ANIMAL*	EXAMPLE METHOD(S) – 2013	EXAMPLE STUDY OBJECTIVES
Caribou	Tripods with motion cameras attached.	Motion cameras track how caribou use the area (pass through, live and/or calf).
Grizzly Bears	DNA capturing tripods made with three barb wired-wrapped pieces of wood that are nailed to a plywood platform. Lamb's wool with a strong smelling attractant (fish guts or seal oil) is placed inside the tripod. Grizzly bears rub against tripod and leave fur samples, which need to be collected every 15 to 18 days and sent to a lab.	DNA samples determine how many grizzly bears live in the area and which locations are the most heavily populated.
Wolves	DNA capturing tripods with one barb wired-wrapped piece of wood are nailed to a plywood platform. The bait is placed on top of the post. Wolves rub against the barbed wire leaving fur samples, which need to be collected every 7 to 10 days and sent to a lab.	DNA samples determine how many wolves live in the area and which locations are the most heavily populated.

\*Note: Many wildlife studies (such as caribou) are completed in conjunction with other exploration companies and government agencies working in the western Kitikmeot. This helps make studies more efficient and reduces environmental stress.

## NAME OUR NEWSLETTER

Do you have a great name for this newsletter?  
If so, submit your name to **John Kaiyogana** at **JKaiyogana@sabinagoldsilver.com** by September 1, 2013.

**If we choose your name, you'll win an iPod Nano!**

## QUESTION, COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

We want to hear from you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the work we're doing, please contact **John Kaiyogana** at **JKaiyogana@sabinagoldsilver.com** or drop by Sabina's Cambridge Bay office (4 Omingmak Street) to talk to John in person. You can also contact our Vancouver head office directly.