



July 29, 2003

Dear Meadowbank Distribution List:

Re: Your comments on the Project Description and various regulatory applications
NIRB File #: 03MN107
Project Title: Meadowbank Project
Proponent: Cumberland Resources Ltd.

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received confirmation from the Nunavut Planning Commission on July 18, 2003 that the Meadowbank Project, as described through a Project Description, a Nunavut Water Board Water Use Application, a Kivalliq Inuit Association Land Use Permit and a Department of Fisheries and Oceans Fish Habitat Authorization Application, conforms to the Keewatin Land Use Plan. Cumberland Resources filed these documents for a mining development project near the community of Baker Lake.

It is the intent of NIRB to screen the Meadowbank Application, which is the purpose of this letter. To assist you in the screening, all of the above-noted documents are available through the Internet on the NIRB ftp site at <ftp://ftp.nunavut.ca/nirb> in the folder "Meadowbank Gold Project/Screenings" or at the NWB ftp site at <ftp://ftp.nunavut.ca/nwb> in the folder "NWB1 MINING or BULK SAMPLING/NWB1MEA". Should you have problems accessing the Project Description or any of the relevant applications, please contact the undersigned at your earliest possible convenience.

Please assess the project description and supporting applications for the potential effects on the ecosystemic and socio-economic environments, from your knowledge of the area or your field of expertise, and forward your comments and recommendations to NIRB by **Friday August 29, 2003**. A comment form has been included with this letter.

Please note that following receipt of your comments, the Board is required to make a decision under section 12.4.4 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The possible options are:

- a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or Part 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;

- b) the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;
- c) the proposal is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening, and should be returned to the proponent for clarification; or
- d) the potential adverse impacts of the proposal are so unacceptable that it should be modified or abandoned.

Please indicate your preferred option with reasons supporting your decision. Once again, comments are due back to the Board by **Friday August 29, 2003**. Should you require additional assistance, please contact the undersigned for consideration in this regard.

If you have any questions regarding this application, please do not hesitate to contact our office directly at (867) 983-2593.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Briscoe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Stephanie Briscoe
Executive Director