

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Ms. Stephanie Briscoe  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 2379  
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut  
X0B 0C0

**BY FAX and e-Mail**

Dear Ms. Briscoe:

**RE: Meadowbank Gold Project – Assessment of All Weather Road**

Cumberland Resources Limited (Cumberland) staff have been reviewing submissions from reviewing agencies in preparation for the Technical Sessions scheduled by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005. We note that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) has again raised its concern with respect to the treatment of the all weather access road in its submissions. This concern is expressed in Mr. MacIsaac's letter of May 20<sup>th</sup> addressing NIRB's nine points for the pre-hearing conference (see the comments under Objective 3 page 1) and it is found in the INAC technical submission as well (see the Executive Summary page (i) para 3 and page 14 in the submission).

NIRB earlier directed Cumberland to address this issue by way of response to a letter sent by Mr. MacIsaac on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and we did so on May 16<sup>th</sup>. NIRB wrote Mr. MacIsaac on May 17<sup>th</sup> addressing this issue and we thought the matter of project splitting had been resolved. If we are not correct and further submissions on the issue would assist the Board please let us know.

As indicated in our May 16<sup>th</sup> letter, Cumberland is not project splitting. Our intention is that the road access to the site be subjected to the highest level of NIRB scrutiny, an environmental impact assessment hearing under part 5 of the NLCA. To go back and screen the road now would in fact and law be splitting the project. Cumberland would appreciate it if NIRB could clarify the status of its ruling on this matter. We hope to have the opportunity to discuss access road related issues with the parties in both the technical session and the pre-hearing conference. That discussion might be more productive if some clarification could be provided.

Yours truly,

***Original Signed By:***

John Donihee  
Counsel to Cumberland Resources Ltd.

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\* Practising law through the John Donihee Professional Corporation.