

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et
du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits



Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor
for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

SEP - 7 2005

Mr. Albert Ehaloak
Acting Chair
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0



Dear Mr. Ehaloak:

This is in response to your letter of July 28, 2005, regarding the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (the Board) Pre-Hearing Decision on the Meadowbank Gold Project (the Project). I appreciate the Board taking the opportunity to update me on the change to the Cumberland Resources' (the Proponent) Project proposal, and the Board's intention to include the new all-weather road component in the current Part 5 review of the Project. As you are aware, the change in scope of the project was made following my decision to refer the Project for a review under Part 5, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. For this reason it is important that I be advised whenever substantial changes are made to project proposals during a review.

I understand that the issue surrounding road access was a key topic at the recent pre-hearings held by the Board. The Board noted in its July 14, 2005 Pre-Hearing Decision Report for the Meadowbank Gold Project, that there was ambiguity in the Proponent's discussion of road access to the mine in its Project Description Report. In response, the Board scoped the Project broadly enough to account for the possibility of an all-weather road and drafted the Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines accordingly. As a result, I am satisfied that including the all-weather road as part of the current Part 5 review will result in a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the entire Project.

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Pursuant to Section 12.5.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, I would like to identify a particular issue for the Board to consider. An all-weather road of this scale would be the first of its kind in Nunavut. Given the fact that the road is connected to the community of Baker Lake, it is essential that the environmental and socio-economic effects of its construction, use and eventual abandonment, be fully considered as well as possible future options for the road.

Thank you for writing. I am confident that the Board will conduct a thorough and timely review of the Project, and I look forward to receiving the Board's Final Hearing Report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andy Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andy" and the last name "Scott" clearly distinguishable.

The Honourable Andy Scott, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Jean-C. Lapierre, PC, MP
The Honourable Geoff Regan, PC, MP
The Honourable Ruben John Efford, PC, MP