

October 13<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 – Minister's Letter and Cumberland Plans**

Cumberland acknowledges the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) October 3<sup>rd</sup> letter in which the Board asks for a written indication of the proposed date for the filing of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and whether any delay is required in light of Minister Scott's September letter.

Cumberland has considered the Minister's instructions to NIRB and the responses of those parties who commented on the Minister's letter in light of the NIRB Pre Hearing Decision and Report of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Although the Minister has emphasized the importance of a thorough assessment of the proposed all weather access road as a component of the overall Meadowbank project, it does not appear to Cumberland that any new requirements which might affect the contents or timing of the FEIS have resulted.

Cumberland will have the FEIS completed and back from the printer, ready for shipping to NIRB and the registered parties to this proceeding by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005. Cumberland will be contacting the registered parties over the next few days to determine how many copies of the FEIS each party requires.

Cumberland is aware that the Miramar Mining Corporation may shortly be filing a revised FEIS for its Doris North project. It appears possible that the almost simultaneous filing of two FEIS could create some capacity problems with the Board or among reviewing agencies. The timing of final NIRB hearings is a matter of some importance for both companies since decisions to take advantage of the 2006 barge season may depend on the timing of a NIRB decision. We suggest that the Board consider canvassing the proponents and parties to both proceedings before making any decision on the scheduling of final hearings for these proceedings.

Yours truly,

***Original Signed By:***

John Donihee  
Counsel to Cumberland Resources Ltd.

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\* Practising law through the John Donihee Professional Corporation.