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Government of Nunavut, Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs

Gouvernement du Nunavut, Ministère de l'Exécutif et des Affaires Intergouvernementales

December 2, 2005

Stephanie Briscoe, Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360,
Cambridge Bay,
NU X0B 0C0

Re: Meadowbank Gold Project Conformity Review and Final Hearing Schedule

Dear Ms Briscoe,

The Government of Nunavut (GN) thanks Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for its letter dated November 28, 2005 requesting Parties to comment on the timing of the review process and final hearings for Cumberland Resources, Meadowbank Gold Project.

The GN recognizes that the review of such projects requires significant resource commitment from the proponent, the NIRB, the Designated Inuit organization (DIO), government departments and interested members of the public. The GN also acknowledges that the NIRB and other stakeholders have limited capacity to this end.

Currently in Nunavut there is substantial investment by the mineral industry resulting in the Doris North and Meadowbank mining projects proceeding through the review process at the same time. NIRB must manage this workload while considering the views of the proponents and the interveners.

The Cumberland Final Environmental Impact Statement contains a significant volume of new information, and there are still some outstanding information requirements, as confirmed by the NIRB in their November 28 letter and Conformity Review. Considering this, the GN recommends that NIRB continue the review of the Meadowbank Project as outlined in the NIRB letter dated November 25, 2005.

This is also to advise you that GN departments would prefer to participate *by teleconference* in a FEIS conformity meeting tentatively scheduled for December 15, 2005.

Yours truly,
Original signed by

John Walsh
Deputy Minister

cc DMEEL