

CUMBERLAND RESOURCES LTD.

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December 14, 2005

**To: INAC
Gn
Kiv IA
Hamlet of Baker Lake**

By FAX and e-mail

Dear Sir:

RE: Future Options for Meadowbank Gold Project Access Road

As you are aware, Cumberland Resources Ltd. (Cumberland) has submitted a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for its proposed Meadowbank project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). This project includes a private all weather access road which will be built and run by Cumberland for the life of the mine. Cumberland's plan does not include any role in operation or management of this road after abandonment and decommissioning of the Meadowbank site. Further, we expect that land owners for the road right of way and regulators will insist that Cumberland decommission the road as part of its cleanup upon mine closure *unless some other party or parties decide to take over and operate the road.*

The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and NIRB have asked Cumberland to consider long term options for the road. Cumberland has advised NIRB that it has no intention of operating the road once the Meadowbank project is closed. On November 25, 2005, NIRB asked Cumberland to provide more information on the potential roles that all levels of government will play in the operation of the road and especially in terms of future options for the road.

Cumberland seeks your assistance in answering several questions about operation of the road and its future so that we can respond more fully to NIRB.

1. Given that Cumberland will construct and operate the road as a private facility, do you see any role for your organization in traffic control, public safety or regulation of the road?
2. After Cumberland completes its abandonment and decommissioning of the Meadowbank site do you envision any role for your organization in operating and managing the road?
3. If you see a role for your organization in operating the road after the Meadowbank project is finished are you willing to accept the operational costs and liability which will go along with that role?

Your written response to these questions would be of great assistance to Cumberland in completing its submissions to NIRB on the all weather access road. I would appreciate it if you could forward your response to our questions at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours truly,

Craig Goodings
Manager of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs

cc. Stephanie Briscoe
Executive Director, NIRB