

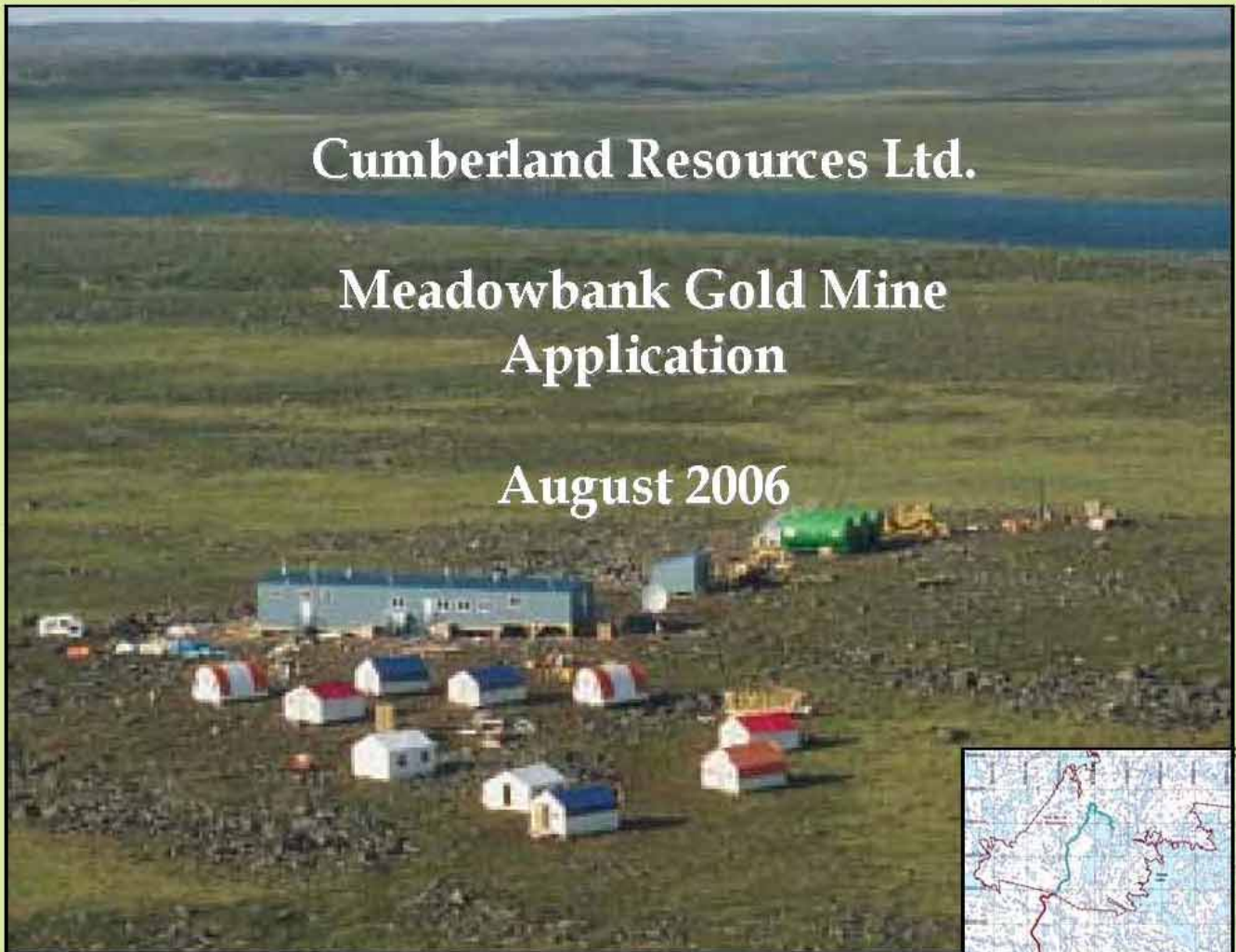


Nunavut Impact Review Board



File No.: 03MN107

# Final Hearing Report for the Meadowbank Gold Project



Cumberland Resources Ltd.

Meadowbank Gold Mine  
Application

August 2006



Chesterfield Inlet Elder



Shipping Route



All Weather Private Access Road



## INSIDE COVER PAGE

### **NIRB's Primary Objectives under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement** **Article 12, Section 2.5**

**IN CARRYING OUT ITS FUNCTIONS, THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF NIRB SHALL BE AT ALL TIMES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE EXISTING AND FUTURE WELL BEING OF THE RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES OF THE NUNAVUT SETTLEMENT AREA, AND TO PROTECT THE ECOSYSTEMIC INTEGRITY OF NUNAVUT SETTLEMENT AREA. NIRB SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WELL BEING OF RESIDENTS OF CANADA OUTSIDE THE NUNAVUT SETTLEMENT AREA.**

#### **Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)**

PO Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut  
X0B 0C0

Telephone (867) 983-4600  
Facsimile (867) 983-2574

#### **Cover Photo Credits**

Meadowbank Exploration Camp – Courtesy of Cumberland Resources Ltd.  
Map of All Weather Private Access Road – Courtesy of Cumberland Resources Ltd.  
Map of Chesterfield Inlet – Courtesy of Cumberland Resources Ltd.  
Eli Kimmaliardjuk – Courtesy of NIRB staff

## SIGNATURE PAGE



Photo 1: Board Members (from Left) Peter Paneak, Lucassie Arragutainaq, Elizabeth Copland, Peter Akkikungnaq, Albert Ehaloak, Mary Avalak

THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED TO THE HONOURABLE JIM PRENTICE,  
MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND  
FEDERAL INTERLOCUTOR FOR MÉTIS AND NON-STATUS INDIANS BY THE  
NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD ON THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2006.

Mary Avalak  
Board Member

Peter Paneak  
Board Member

Lucassie Arragutainaq  
Board Member/ Secretary – Treasurer

Albert Ehaloak  
Board Member

Elizabeth Copland  
Acting Chair





## COVER LETTER

NIRB File No.: 03MN107

August 30, 2006

Honourable Jim Prentice  
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and  
Non-Status Indians  
Terrasses del la Chaudière  
10 Wellington, North Tower  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0H4

By Courier and Email

RE: Final Hearing Report for the Meadowbank Gold Project

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Dear Minister Prentice;

Please find enclosed the above cited report by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) issued to you pursuant to Section 12.5.6 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA). The report contains an assessment of the Meadowbank Gold Project (the Project) and its impacts and determines that the Project should proceed. NIRB has proposed Terms and Conditions for the Project which reflect its objectives set out in Section 12.2.5 of the NLCA.

In accordance with Section 12.5.7 of the NLCA, your approval and decision is required.

Translated versions of the report are being prepared in Inuktitut and French, and will be available as soon as possible. Please contact the undersigned in writing should you have any questions regarding the matter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Copland  
Acting Chair

c.c. Mr. Kerry Curtis, Cumberland Resources Ltd.  
Meadowbank Distribution List  
NIRB Public Registry



## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Project Proponent: Cumberland Resources Ltd.  
Suite 950 – 505 Burrard Street  
Box 72, One Bentall Centre  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V7X 1M4

Telephone: (604) 608-2557  
Facsimile: (604) 608-2559  
Email: [info@cumberlandresources.ca](mailto:info@cumberlandresources.ca)  
Website: [www.cumberlandresources.com](http://www.cumberlandresources.com)

Project Description Received:  
March 31, 2003

Dates of Hearings: Day 1: March 27, 2006, Baker Lake, NU.  
Day 2: March 28, 2006, Baker Lake, NU.  
Day 3: March 29, 2006, Baker Lake, NU.  
Day 4: March 30, 2006, Chestfield Inlet, NU.  
Day 5: March 31, 2006, Rankin Inlet, NU.

Members Present: Elizabeth Copland, Acting Chair  
Mary Avalak  
Peter Paneak  
Lucassie Arragutainaq  
Albert Ehaloak  
Peter Akkikungnaq<sup>1</sup>

Board Staff:	Executive Director:	S. Briscoe, B.A.
	Technical Advisor:	K. Tunaley, B. Eng., MIT
	Technical Advisor:	S. Lines. P.Biol., DEIA
	Technical Advisor/	
	Hearing Coordinator:	C. Inglis, B.A.
	Hearing Coordinator:	L. Payette, B.Sc.
	Monitoring Officer:	J. Gladstone
	Manager of Env. Admin.:	G. Joudrey
	Administrative Trainee:	S. Novoligak

Interpreters: J. Tucktoo-Lacasse, J. Otokiak, B. Kogvik, M. Hunt

NIRB Legal Counsel: W.A. Tilleman, Q.C.

Court Reporter: A. Jones, (DICTA Court Reporting)

---

<sup>1</sup> Peter Akkikungnaq sat with the Board at the Hearing, but his term as a member of NIRB expired after the Hearing closed, but before the Decision was made.

Sound Technician: P. Braden, (PIDO Productions)

Parties:

Proponent: Cumberland Resources Ltd.:

C. Goodings, Environmental Coordinator  
K. Curtis, President and Chief Executive Officer  
J. Donihee, Counsel  
J. Ikinilik, Elder from Baker Lake  
T. Mannik, Nakturalik from Baker Lake  
H. Mannik, Traditional Knowledge Specialist  
M. Haqpi, Community Liaison  
R. Anand  
J. Koski, Construction Manager  
B. Thiele, Vice President of Meadowbank Development  
R. March, Senior Project Geologist  
V. Bertrand, Geochemistry Specialist (Golder Associates)  
C. Clayton, Geological Engineer (Golder Associates)  
D. Chorley, Groundwater Specialist (Golder Associates)  
J. Cuning, Geotechnical Engineer (Golder Associates)  
S. Ross, Socio-Economic Specialist (Golder Associates)  
M. Gebauer, Terrestrial (Gebauer and Associates Ltd.)  
R. Baker, Fisheries and Aquatics (Azimuth Consulting Group Inc.)  
J. Green, Cumulative Effects Assessment Specialist (AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd.)  
R. Palczynski, Environmental Engineer, Air Quality and Noise Specialist (AMEC)

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated:

G. Hakongak, Department of Land and Resources

Kivalliq Inuit Association:

L. Manzo, Director of Lands  
K. Gilson, Counsel  
D. Ningeongan, Manager  
R. Kownak, Environmental Officer  
S. Hartman, Environmental Officer  
M.R. Angshadluk, Interpreter-translator  
A. Sexton (Geovector Management)  
G. Feasby (SENES Consultants)  
J. Martin (SENES Consultants)  
B. Putulik, Member of Kivalliq Inuit Association Board of Directors  
J. Kabvitok, Member of Kivalliq Inuit Association

J. Aupulutuq

Government of Nunavut:

M. Atkinson, Department of Environment  
M. Settingington, Department of Environment  
  
K. Landa, Counsel  
E. McKenna, Department of Economic Development and  
Transportation  
J. Hawkins, Department of Economic Development and  
Transportation  
N. Wischniewski, Department of Executive and Intergovernmental  
Affairs  
I. Sobol, Department of Health and Social Services  
B. Mueller, Department of Health and Social Services  
J. Dawe, Department of Community Government Services  
J. Ross, Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth  
B. Chambers, Department of Education  
H. Tagoona, Department of Education  
R. Ash, Department of Education  
R. Mark, Government Services  
P. Hainnu, Government Services

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada:

M. Nadler, Regional Director General  
L. Webber, Counsel  
R. Abernethy-Gillis, Environment Division  
J. Lim, Environment Division  
S. Dewar, Manager of Land Administration  
J. Rogers, Manager of Water Resources  
J. Gertzbein, Mineral Development Advisor  
H. Kablalik, Rural Development Advisor and Resource  
Management Officer  
E. Hopkins, Environmental Policy Analyst  
M. Hine, Resource Development Advisor  
C. Drouin, Communications Officer  
D. Brubacher (Brubacher Development Strategies)  
E. Fier (EBA Engineering)  
M. Watson (EBA Engineering)  
A. Robinson, Geochemistry Reviewer  
P. Morton, Groundwater Quality and Hydrogeology

Environment Canada:

C. Spagnuolo, Environmental Assessment Specialist  
A. Wilson, Water Pollution Specialist



Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

G. Faulkner, Habitat Management  
T. Gordanier, Habitat Management  
D. Moggy, Habitat Management

Natural Resources Canada:

A. McAllister, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer  
R. Johnstone,  
A. Desbarats, Geological Survey of Canada

Transport Canada:

J. Cowan, Environmental Affairs  
J. Morrel, Environmental Affairs  
C. Miller, Marine Safety

Health Canada:

M. Briscoe, Environmental Assessment Officer

Independent Consultant:

R. Halim, Hatch Acres Incorporated

Hamlet of Baker Lake:

S. Mikkungwak, Hamlet Councilor  
C. Simailak, Hamlet Councilor  
R. Seeteenak  
A. Gamble  
N. Attungala

Chesterfield Inlet Representation in Baker Lake:

Mr. Kownak, Wildlife Office  
Ms. L. Mimialik, Hunter  
Mr. L. Mimialik,  
Mr. L. Autut, Hunter and Trapper Organization and Hamlet Councilor  
Mr. J. Issaluk, Hamlet Councilor  
Ms. J. Putulik, Elder  
Ms. T. Kukkiak, Elder  
Mr. T. Kadluk, Hamlet Councilor  
Ms. A. Kimaliadjuk, Elder

Rankin Inlet Representation in Baker Lake:

Ms. B. Putulik, Hunters and Trappers Organization Council  
Mr. M. Inukshuk, Chair for the Hunters and Trappers Organization  
Ms. A. Tatty, Hunters and Trappers Organization and Youth Justice Committee, Elder  
Ms. B. Niviatsiak,



Mr. J. Ell, Carver, Hunter  
Ms. C. Hicks,  
Ms. B. Nakoolak  
Mr. W. Inukshuk, Hunters and Trappers Organization



**Photo 2: Interpreters at Final Hearing**

## **CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD**

This report is prepared for the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada pursuant to Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. However, it is also intended for the diverse group of interested persons who participated in the Part 5 Review process and will be translated for a broader audience accordingly.

The Board would like to thank all those who provided expert advice, traditional knowledge, and who shared their support and/or concerns for the Project. With this input the Board was able to make an informed decision recommending that this Project proceed to the regulatory stage, subject to the Terms and Conditions included in this report.

NIRB would also like to thank Cumberland Resources Ltd. for their cooperation during this process, and expects that such cooperation will continue with NIRB and the regulators in the future.

As development in Nunavut continues to expand, NIRB is confident that the future well-being of Nunavut residents and their land, water and resources, can be protected through a thorough impact assessment process. The success of this Part 5 Review is indicative of NIRB's capacity and determination to meet those objectives, and the Board thanks Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for its funding and support. NIRB hopes for the continued participation and cooperation of all parties in the impact assessment process in Nunavut.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board and Board staff for their effort throughout the process.

Kind Regards,

Elizabeth Copland  
Acting Chair

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (“NLCA”), the function of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (the “Board”) is to assess the extent of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the Meadowbank Gold Project proposal, and to recommend to the Minister whether the Project should proceed, and if so, under what Terms and Conditions. In carrying out this function, the primary objective by law is at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of Nunavut and the protection of Nunavut’s ecosystemic integrity.

In the case of Cumberland Resources Ltd., and its Meadowbank Gold Project proposal, the Board held its Final Hearing in March 2006 in the communities of Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet and Rankin Inlet. The Board heard from members of each community and input was received from Elders, Hamlet representatives, both the federal and territorial governments and an independent consultant.

Section 12.5.5 of the NLCA requires the Board to take into account all matters relevant to its mandate. In accordance with the burden of proof upon Proponents, it is Cumberland Resources Ltd.’s obligation, as the beneficiary of the application, to ensure the information necessary for the Board to conduct a full review of the matters relevant to its mandate is before the Board. The Board cannot delegate its mandate to assess the interrelated and interdependent matters in its mandate to regulatory bodies that are typically mandated to focus on one specific aspect of the environment. The Board must be satisfied that it has evaluated the significance of the adverse impacts of the Meadowbank Gold Project on the basis of the information before us. Moreover, the very nature of environmental assessment requires the Board to consider these impacts early in the life of the project.

For these reasons, the Board required additional information from Cumberland over the course of the environmental assessment, including written submissions on issues that were outstanding following the Final Hearing. The Final Hearing record closed on July 28, 2006. Without this additional information the Board was not in a position to make a positive decision to the Minister under section 12.5.6(c) of the NLCA.

In ultimately reaching a positive decision to the Minister under section 12.5.6(c) of the NLCA for this Project, the Board considered the many commitments made by Cumberland Resources Ltd. during the Final Hearing and prior to the closing of the record. Many of the concerns of regulators involved in this review have been addressed by these commitments and through requests by regulators for Terms and Conditions in the NIRB Project Certificate. The Board relies on the fulfillment of the commitments made by Cumberland Resources Ltd., and a further lengthy list of Terms and Conditions necessary to ensure information gaps are filled on a timely basis, in determining that the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the Meadowbank Gold Project can be mitigated.

Accordingly, the Board recommends to the Minister that the Meadowbank Gold Project be approved and proceed to the regulatory phase. This recommendation is subject to the 86 Terms and Conditions, including the requirement to fulfill commitments made during the Final Hearing, contained in this report.







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