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Ms Elizabeth Copeland, Chairperson,
Nunavut Impact Review Board
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Cambridge Bay, NU
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May 5, 2006

Dear Ms. Copeland;

Meadowbank Part 5 Review

We note with some concern the April 24th letter from the NIRB Executive Director to Cumberland Resources Ltd.

Having attended the Final Hearings in Baker Lake, we were quite satisfied with Cumberland's response to the issues and expected that NIRB would make a positive and timely recommendation on this project. While we cannot speak for Chesterfield Inlet, we offer the following observations on the first two issues:

1. All-weather Road

The Hamlet is in support of the all-weather road because we believe it will increase the opportunities for local socio-economic benefits. We believe that the three levels of government, Cumberland and the KIA are well equipped to ensure its safe use during mine operations.

Cumberland has been quite clear in its commitment on abandonment and restoration. While we have expressed some interest in the road after mine closure, we do not see this as a decision that should be made now or one that Cumberland should be asked to justify.

We note that this road is cited as *'the first of its kind in Nunavut'*. We would suggest that the Arctic Bay to Nanisivik Road was used successfully for many years, while the territorial government has had a program since the 1990s to fund local access roads in Nunavut communities.

2. Socio-Economic Effects

We are somewhat baffled by the Board's apparent concern that the road maybe of use to local residents. Subject to reasonable consideration of safety issues and mitigation of potential environmental impacts, we see these potential uses as an additional benefit.

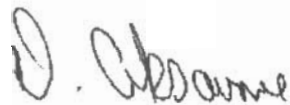
As to the *'dissatisfaction by government'*, we trust that this statement does not refer the Hamlet of Baker Lake.

As stated in our submission to the NIRB Hearings: *'We welcome the economic opportunities that the mine can bring, including the promised training, employment, business and infrastructure. We strongly support the proposed mine.'*

We are aware Cumberland's proposed schedule is tight and that any unnecessary delay in approval will delay the project and that realization of much needed benefits to our community. In the worst case, it may threaten the viability of this project and discourage other mineral exploration and development prospects.

We sincerely hope that NIRB will expedite conclusion of the Meadowbank review and make positive recommendation on this project.

Sincerely,



David Aksawnee, Mayor
Hamlet of Baker Lake

C, Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Mr. Tongola Sandy
President, KIA

Honourable Paul Okalik
Premier of Nunavut

Honourable David Simailak
MLA, Baker Lake