

**Fisheries and Oceans Canada Closing Remarks for the
Nunavut Impact Review Board Hearings on the Meadowbank Proposal**

July 2006

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to serve as an intervener in the review of the Meadowbank gold mine proposal. DFO has carefully considered all of the information that Cumberland has presented in the EIS and follow-up submissions. Should this proposal be granted approval to proceed to the regulatory phase, we will continue to use the information received during these hearings in any future approvals of this project.

On July 12, 2006, NIRB requested that interveners provide closing remarks on the following five topics:

1. All Weather Road
2. Socio-Economics
3. Consultation with Chesterfield Inlet
4. Temporary Explosives Factory
5. Identification of any gaps in Cumberland's list of commitments.

DFO is continuing to work with Cumberland Resource Ltd. (CRL) to ensure the water crossings on the all weather road will not impact fish or fish habitat. We understand that CRL will be working with local Hunter Trapper Organizations to ensure increased access created by the road will not put unsustainable fishing pressure on local fish stocks. With proper measures both these issues can be resolved without residual impacts.

DFO is assuming that Cumberland's list of commitments is for commitments made after the final verbal hearings held in March 2006. We assume that commitments made during the hearings, and in pre-hearing documentation, also apply.

DFO has no further comments on the above five topics.

DFO is still seeking an answer to the Board's final question concerning the placement of spill kits in Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake. We will convey this information to the board as soon as we receive it from other federal agencies.

DFO recognizes the significance and magnitude of the decision before the Board and that the Board must weigh other considerations in addition to fish and fish habitat in rendering that decision. We trust that our comments and recommendations will be helpful to the Board in their deliberations.

Thank you once again.

Dave Gibson
Habitat Management Biologist