

Ministre des Affaires autochtones
et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JAN 27 2015

Ms. Elizabeth Copland
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0

Via e-mail: info@nirb.ca

Dear Ms. Copland:

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2014, and enclosed Final Hearing Report for the Meliadine Gold Project, and for the subsequent Notice of Errata issued on December 10, 2014 (collectively, the Report). I appreciate the Board's diligence in this matter.

As described in the Report, the Nunavut Impact Review Board has completed its assessment of the Project, and has determined that the Project should proceed subject to the imposition of 127 terms and conditions.

The Ministers of Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Transport Canada and I, have jurisdictional responsibility for authorizing the Meliadine Gold Project to proceed. We have reviewed the Report and concluded that it contains a thorough assessment of both ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts.

On that basis, and pursuant to section 12.5.7(a) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, we accept the Report and the Board's determination that the Proposal should proceed, as well as the recommended terms and conditions set out in the Report. It is evident that the Board met its primary objectives as required under section 12.2.5, to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of Nunavut, to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area and to take into account the well-being of residents of Canada outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area.

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My colleagues and I look forward to the issuance of the Project Certificate, and appreciate the Board's commitment to work with parties throughout its development to ensure that all of the associated terms and conditions can be fully and accurately implemented and incorporated into the applicable regulatory instruments.

We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Board and its staff for its thorough assessment of this Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard Valcourt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bernard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, PC, MP
The Honourable Gail Shea, PC, MP
The Honourable Lisa Raitt, PC, MP
The Honourable Greg Rickford, PC, MP