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Hamlet of Pond Inlet
P.O. Box 180
Pond Inlet, Nunavut
X0A 0S0

May 20, 2016

Honorable Carolyn Bennett
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
Terrasses de la Chaudiere
10 Wellington, North Tower
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H4

Re: Current Status of Baffinland Iron Mine

Dear Minister Bennett,

The Hamlet Council had a special meeting to discuss the current status of Baffinland to be exempt from Nunavut Planning Commission. Last year the council sent a letter to then Honorable Benard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP to support Baffinland Iron Mine's request at exemption in response to the Nunavut Planning Commission's negative conformity determination in regards to the Phase 2 application.

The Mayor and the council again met on May 11, 2016 to discuss the current status of Baffinland Iron Mine's Phase 2 project. Currently the company is continuing community consultations and has told the community that it expects to provide the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) a finalized Environmental Impact Statement later in 2016.

We are aware that NIRB has requested confirmation from you that the Ministerial exemption granted by the previous Minister in your position is still applicable. In June of last year, the Hamlet Council made it clear that we supported the project moving to the Environmental Assessment Phase under NIRB, and we continue to believe this is. Our community will be far more affected by Phase 2 than any other and we continue to have many questions about the Project and how our concerns will be addressed. We also strongly feel that the best way to consider all the issues is to move to the environmental hearings process, particularly in our community. It has been almost a year since our last letter to your ministry and we want to see the NIRB phase continue. With this in mind we hope that you will confirm to NIRB that the Ministerial exemption continues to apply to Baffinland's Phase 2 project.

Thank you for your time and understanding for our concern, and if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the number below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Inuarak', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Charlie Inuarak
Hamlet of Pond Inlet

c.c

Hunter Totoo – Nunavut Member of Parliament
Brian Aglukkaq – Nunavut Planning Commission
PJ Akeeagok – President of Qikiqtani Association
Todd Burlingame – Baffinland Iron Mines
Jimmy Pitseolak – Chairperson of Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Org.
Joe Enook – Member of Legislative Assembly of Nunavut
Peter Taptuna – Premier of Government of Nunavut
Cathy Towtungie – President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporation