

Mittimatalik Hunters & Trappers Organization דיחבכביד ששבליטכת אישי אסידאיאחויי P. O. Box 189, Pond Inlet, Nunavut X0A 0S0 በበቴ<sup>1</sup>ዛል<sup>1</sup> 189, Γ<sup>1</sup>በLCር<sup>1</sup>, ዾ<mark>2</mark><sup>5</sup>, X0A 0S0

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July 19, 2019

Ryan Barry **Executive Director** Nunavut Impact Review Board 29 Mitik Street, PO Box 1360 Cambridge Bay, NU

Sent via Email

Baffinland's Request for Changes to NIRB's Phase 2 Public Hearing Venues and Re:

Dear Mr. Barry:

On July 10, 2019 the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization (MHTO) received Baffinland's correspondence to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) requesting changes to the current timeline and Hearing arrangements for its Mary River Phase 2 Proposal. The MHTO provides the following comment to the NIRB with regard to Baffinland's request that the Hearing be delayed until November 2019, and that the Hearing be held only in Pond Inlet.

With respect to the timing of NIRB's Phase 2 Hearing, the MHTO has recently received support to hire a consultant to assist us with the technical review of project materials, and to develop comments for submission to the NIRB's process. Additional time to work with our consultant would be of benefit to us. The MHTO has also recently been invited by Baffinland to attend a railway Crossing Selection Workshop at the end of July, and we recognize that a report of the findings from that workshop will not be finalized until later in August. Given the current timing for final written submissions (August 8th), the MHTO would prefer that any materials provided by Baffinland at this time (including reporting from said workshop) be made available with adequate time to review, comment and discuss, prior to preparing our Final Written Submissions. Given the thorough opportunities we have had to comment on technical materials provided up until this point, the MHTO would be concerned if Baffinland were permitted to submit new information now, with the only option to comment being our Final Written Submission. We also feel that waiting to have the Hearing until the end of Baffinland's shipping season - and our harvesting season would be beneficial, as our perspective on the recently imposed increases to project shipping frequency over this shipping season may be able to inform our participation.

While the MHTO supports a delay to the timing of the Public Hearing for the Phase 2 proposal, we do not support Baffinland's suggestion that the Hearing take place only in Pond Inlet. We agree that it is important to facilitate community participation, but believe hosting separate dates - one in Pond Inlet to focus on community input, and another in Iqaluit to focus technical expertise, will be the best means to achieving this. As many intervenors may have technical experts from farther afield that they wish to convene for a short time during the Hearing, we suggest that Iqaluit would prove the most feasible location to host the number of participants that could attend, as



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well as providing the most flexibility to facilitate their attendance. We have a vested interest in this proposal undergoing a rigorous assessment, and we feel that imposing limits on the spaces available for attendees, timing for their participation, and inconveniencing transportation options to attend the Hearing will not contribute to hosting the most effective Public Hearing possible.

We appreciate the NIRB's consideration of our concerns regarding the importance of retaining Iqaluit as a venue, and our support for changing the timing of the Hearing. We recognize there are many factors at play, and will respect the Board's ultimate decision on these matters.

Please feel free to contact Joshua Aariak, Acting Manager, at 867-899-8856 with any questions or to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Eric Ootoovak, Chairperson Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization