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NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

July 31, 2009

Honorable Chuck Strahl, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indian Affairs & Northern Development
and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians
21st Floor, 10 Wellington
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

Dear Minister Strahl,

**Re: Nunavut Water Board Loss of Quorum and Exigent Circumstances Surrounding the
Renewal of Licence 2BB-MEL0914 (Previously 2BB-MEL0709) Meliadine Lake Gold
Project, Comaplex Minerals Corp.**

I am writing to advise you of the exigent circumstances surrounding the Nunavut Water Board's (NWB or Board) renewal of the attached Type B Water Licence 2BB-MEL0914 (Licence) issued effective July 31, 2009 to Comaplex Minerals Corp. for the Meliadine Lake Gold Project.

As most recently set out in a letter to you from NWB Chair Thomas Kabloona, dated August 26, 2008, regarding the status of appointments to the NWB and the risk of loss of quorum, the Board has been operating for quite some time with the minimum number of members necessary for a quorum. There are currently five members appointed, four vacancies, and the terms of two of the existing five appointments set to expire in October and December 2009. In October 2008, in order to mitigate the risk of losing quorum, pursuant to section 29 of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act (Act)*, the Board appointed three member panels and delegated certain powers, duties and functions to these panels, including the approval of Type B licence applications.

Despite the Board's best efforts under these difficult circumstances to carry out its responsibilities in accordance with its statutory authority, due to the scheduled annual leave of one Board member, and an unexpected medical emergency of the Chair, the Board is now in a position that both the Board and the panel delegated to consider Type B licence applications are without quorum. With the current Licence for the Meliadine Lake Gold Project expiring on July 31, 2009 and giving consideration to the fact that the site is active, the three remaining Board members have authorized the approval of the attached renewal Licence, with ratification of their decision to be placed before the full Board upon achieving quorum. The Board members have also asked that I advise you of their decision, and request that you advise the Board members if you prefer they proceed in another manner.

The Board members have also asked that I urgently request that your attention be given to filling the outstanding appointments to the NWB. Of particular concern to the current members of the Board is that the vacancies on the Board may result in a deviation from the proportional representation provided for in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and the *Act*.

In the interim, and subject to receiving your advice on this matter, until quorum can be achieved, the remaining Board members will assess the urgency of applications before the Board and consider only those applications where it is essential to provide for the conservation and utilization of waters in Nunavut. The Board looks forward to your reply, care of its' Chairman, at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Filiatrault', written in a cursive style.

Dionne Filiatrault, P. Eng.
Executive Director
Nunavut Water Board

Cc Michael Nadler - INAC
Mark Balog, Comaplex Minerals Corp.