

NIRB File No. 08EN034 INAC File No. N2008C0015

May 5, 2008

Honourable Chuck Strahl Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Gatineau, OC

Via email: strahl.c@parl.gc.ca

Re: <u>Extension Request for NIRB Screening of Savant Explorations Ltd.'s "Retort Lake – Yava Property Mining Exploration" project proposal</u>

Dear Honourable Chuck Strahl:

Pursuant to Section 12.4.5 (b) of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA), the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) hereby requests more time to screen the project proposal referenced above (INAC File No. N2008C0015).

On March 28, 2008 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Savant Explorations Ltd.'s (Savant's) "Retort Lake – Yava Property Mining Exploration" project proposal from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number **08EN034** and commenced a Part 4 Screening.

Following a preliminary completeness check of this project proposal, on April 4, 2008 the NIRB requested additional information from Savant, to be submitted by April 25, 2008. The NIRB received the requested information on April 21, 2008 and subsequently distributed the file information to Interested Parties and municipalities most affected by this project proposal, inviting interested persons to comment directly to the NIRB by May 16, 2008.

The NIRB is not able to provide a screening decision within the 45 day time period, or 42 days for INAC applications as per Section 12.4.5 of the NLCA and therefore requires additional time to screen the project proposal. It is anticipated that the screening process will be completed by May 23, 2008.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the authorizing agency will inform the Proponent, stakeholders and interested Parties on the extension. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

(original signed by:)

Stephanie Autut - Executive Director Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Richard Cote, Savant (<u>riccote49@gmail.com</u>); Jeff Holwell, INAC (<u>holwellj@inac-ainc.gc.ca</u>)