

**RE: Summary of Pagnirtung Community Meeting, February 16, 2012 - Hall Peninsula Integrated Geoscience Project NIRB File No. 11YN054**

Dear Ms. Gillard,

The Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office (CNGO) would like to thank NIRB for its approval to proceed with the Hall Peninsula Integrated Geoscience Project. The purpose of this project is to use geoscience to help better understand the land on Hall Peninsula - the area between Frobisher Bay and Cumberland Sound. It will produce maps of the bedrock, glacial deposits and permafrost. Work will also be conducted with Inuit Heritage Trust to produce traditional place names maps for the area. New knowledge produced will help people understand the lands resources, sensitivity to climate change and special places. It is a very exciting project for the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office and its partners.

As a follow-up to this NIRB decision, CNGO would like to take the opportunity to provide a brief summary of a recent community meeting held in Pangnirtung. Information collected from this meeting will influence the direction of the Hall Peninsula Integrated Geoscience project and ensure that field work has minimal impact on the land.

**Pangnirtung Community Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**Community Hall, 7:00-10:00pm**

## Meeting Summary

The aim of this meeting was to communicate proposed project activities to the community, engage residents and seek input into project planning and delivery. The date for this meeting was set following a brief visit to Pangnirtung at the end of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This meeting also addressed the Pangnirtung HTO's comment to NIRB requesting a public meeting on the project in order to discuss impact on wildlife. This public presentation was planned and coordinated with the support of the Hamlet office. This support was greatly appreciated and contributed to the smooth delivery of the event. Comments received during the public meeting are summarized below.

The first point raised was that sharing comments from this meeting outside of Pangnirtung would be appreciated because it would make others aware of points raised so they could be taken into consideration by other groups. Several concerns were raised regarding the impacts natural resource development could have on wildlife on Hall Peninsula. The area of most concern to people in the audience was Chidliak Bay. The main impact discussed was noise generated by helicopters and the impact that this could have on caribou.

A detailed discussion regarding caribou behaviour in the proposed study area occurred. It was suggested by members of the audience that August would be a better time to conduct field work on northern Hall Peninsula because caribou are starting to migrate from the area. It was also acknowledged that caribou move and that back in the 1940's people had to walk inland to hunt caribou. Now it is possible to hunt caribou close to the coast and people don't have to walk such long distances.



Several times it was mentioned that new scientific information collected by the project would support more exploration and mining activity in the area and that this research was being done for industry. It was emphasized that reporting back to the community was important, scientific information should be summarized into plain language (including new geologic maps) and translated. Requests were made that local people would be employed in the project.

### CNGO Summary

CNGO benefitted from comments raised during this public meeting and will work on incorporating them, as best as possible, into project planning and delivery. No field research is being planned in areas of importance to Pangnirtung until the summer of 2013. This provides extra time to coordinate research in areas important to hunters. The importance of Chidliak Bay to local residents of Pangnirtung has also been noted.

We will do everything that is reasonably possible to not disturb wildlife in the area and avoid landing and excessive hovering in areas near wildlife. The vast majority of our helicopter work will be used to drop personnel at field traverse sites and then return back to camp. Field personnel will then walk over the land all day and make observations. At the end of each day our helicopters will return to pick up geologists and bring them back to camp. In addition, all our flights to and from field camp will follow NIRB terms and conditions for minimum flying altitudes. We will fly higher if any colonies of migratory birds or herds of caribou are observed.

When planning field work during the summer of 2013 we will consider the community recommendation for conducting field work in August when caribou are migrating from the area. We would also like to explore the option of working in coastal areas during break-up (end of June) when hunters are not commonly on the land. CNGO applies geoscience expertise to study the land and its resources on behalf of Nunavut. All scientific information produced by CNGO and its collaborators is made publicly available. Industry does have access to this information but so to does a wide range of Nunavut decision-makers who are responsible for a variety of land use planning decisions. CNGO has always placed a priority on reporting research results back to communities and will continue to do so with this project.

To conclude, CNGO would like to thank NIRB for its approval to proceed with the Hall Peninsula Integrated Geoscience Project. We are excited to start this research and contribute to a better understanding of the geology and land of Nunavut.

Sincerely,

David Mats

David Mate  
Chief Geologist  
Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office