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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI

February 1, 2005

Mr. David Aksawnee
Mayor
Hamlet of Baker Lake
Baker Lake NU X0C 0A0

Subject: Freshwater Source and Sewage Lagoon

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am in receipt of your January 28, 2005 letter to Thomas Kudloo, Chairman of the Nunavut Water Board ("NWB") with respect to possible issues with the Hamlet of Baker Lake's freshwater source and sewage disposal facilities.

The NWB is an administrative tribunal that has powers over the use, management and regulation of freshwater in Nunavut. However, the NWB has neither the mandate to plan and design capital infrastructures such as water supply/treatment and sewage disposal facilities on behalf of Nunavut communities, nor the authority to regulate and monitor drinking water quality. In Nunavut, these matters are, to our knowledge, partly or wholly under the jurisdiction of hamlets, the Department of Community Government Services (Capital Planning and Technical Services), and/or the Department of Health and Social Services (Environmental Health Programme). Additionally, with respect to compliance with the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* and conditions of water licences issued by the NWB, you should contact the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

This being said, issues related to the quality of drinking water, and in particular potential bacteriological contamination of the source, are of critical importance and require due diligence from authorities responsible for the protection of public health. Therefore, I have taken the liberty to copy your correspondence to the appropriate territorial and federal government departments for whatever action they may deem necessary.

Please contact me at your convenience should you have any question.

Yours truly,


Philippe di Pizzo
Executive Director

Encl. January 28, 2005 Letter

c.c. Deputy Minister, Community Government Services
Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services
Stephen Traynor, DIAND