



Affaires indiennes
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Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Sous-ministre adjoint Assistant Deputy Minister

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H4

JAN 15 2018

Ms. Elizabeth Copland
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
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Via e-mail: ecopland@nirb.ca; info@nirb.ca; rbarry@nirb.ca

Dear Elizabeth:

Thank you for your Screening Decision Report (Report) of October 31, 2017, addressed to the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, regarding the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Government of Nunavut's "Grays Bay Road and Port" project proposal (proposal). The Report indicates that the Nunavut Impact Review Board (Board) has determined that the proposal may have significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts; may have significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; will cause significant public concern; and involves technological innovations, the effects of which are unknown. Accordingly, the Board has determined pursuant to section 92(1)(b) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (Act) that a review of the proposal is required.

I, on behalf of the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and along with the federal departments of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Canada, Natural Resources Canada, and Transport Canada (responsible Ministers), have jurisdictional responsibility to determine whether the proposal is to proceed to a review by either agreeing with or rejecting the Board's Report pursuant to section 94(1) of the Act. After having reviewed the Board's Report, the responsible Ministers concur to send the proposal to the Board for a review pursuant to section 94(1)(a)(iv) of the Act.

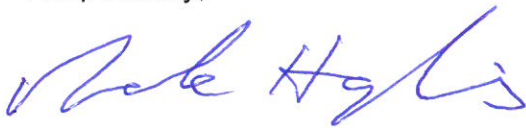
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As the Board notes in its Report, there are five particular issues or concerns relating to the proposal that should be considered through a public review process to ensure that these issues and concerns are better understood and, if necessary, that related impacts can be effectively mitigated should the project be approved to proceed. The responsible Ministers agree that these issues or concerns should be given careful consideration in the course of its review.

Additionally, the Board mentions the benefits of participant funding in promoting effective participation by potentially affected groups in the review of the proposal. While, as you noted, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada does not have an established participant funding program at this time, we do recognize the additional benefits that can accrue from the provision of such funding and assure you that the Department will certainly consider its ability to make funds available to potentially affected groups if there is a demonstrable need. This being said, we also have confidence that the Board's robust review process provides meaningful opportunities for groups to participate in the assessment of potential benefits and risks associated with project proposals.

I appreciate the work that the Board has done in screening the project proposal. The responsible Ministers have the utmost confidence in the Board to conduct a rigorous review of the proposal and look forward to receiving the Board's Final Hearing Report upon completion of the review.

Respectfully,



Stephen M. Van Dine
Assistant Deputy Minister, Northern Affairs

c.c.: Philippe Morel, Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries, Oceans and
the Canadian Coast Guard Canada
Glenn Mason, Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources
Canada
Pierre-Marc Mongeau, Assistant Deputy Minister, Programs,
Transport Canada