

Ministre des Affaires autochtones
et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

APR 08 2013

Ms. Elizabeth Copland
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0

Dear Ms. Copland:

Thank you for your letter of February 11, 2013, addressed to former Minister John Duncan, regarding the Nunavut Impact Review Board's decision to re-engage the Part 5 review of Xstrata Zinc Canada and Sabina Gold and Silver Corporation's revised Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project.

In considering the proponents' request for re-engaging, the Board determined that the changes being put forward for the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project did not require substantial alterations to the Project's original scope as developed in 2004. However, the Board has indicated that some aspects relating to the Project, such as public concern with the potential for transboundary effects and the scale of cumulative effects assessment have changed. As a result, the Board requested that the Minister reconsider the original participant funding award.

I am pleased to confirm that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada is committed to providing the remaining funds from the original participant funding awarded in 2008. This funding will be available to those recipients who are in good standing after April 1, 2013. However, I am unable to respond favorably to the terms of the Nunavut Impact Review Board's request to reconsider the original participant funding award. I agree that encouraging timely, effective and inclusive participation during the review is important, and I am confident that the Board's process can take these into consideration. I would encourage the Board to pay due attention to this when submitting its work plan and budget for the review of the Project.

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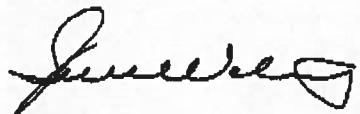
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In addition, I would like to offer one note of suggestion to the Board in regard to the consideration of cumulative effects. With similar parallel review processes occurring with the Hackett River and Back River Projects, I would encourage the Board to explore efficiencies where possible.

I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board for the chance to comment on this matter and I look forward to working with the Board as this environmental assessment progresses.

Sincerely,



Bernard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP

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TO: _____

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COMMENT: