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Kavamat Nunavutmi
Government of Nunavut
Gouvernement du Nunavut

August 30, 2002

Mr. Robert Nault
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
10 Wellington Street
Les Terraces de la Chaudiere
OTTAWA, ON
X1A 0H4



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Project Review Status – Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project

Dear Minister Nault:

We are jointly writing to you to provide the Government of Nunavut's perspective on the environmental review process for the proposed Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project.

We have been advised that the Nunavut Impact Review Board have forwarded the results of its screening of the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project description. It is our understanding that you will now make a determination on whether the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) will conduct the review (Part 5), or whether the project will be reviewed by a Federal Environmental Assessment Panel (Part 6). The Government of Nunavut supports a Part 5 review given that the project is entirely within Nunavut and Nunavummiut will be the most significantly impacted socially and economically.

While the outcome of this review will be of interest to other Canadians and some will have strong opinions, for the people of Nunavut this project is about our future, protecting our environment and our heritage while building a strong and sustainable economy.

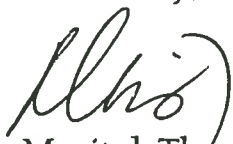
A "Part 6" review will be perceived as undermining the sense of self-determination that has marked the creation of Nunavut and the capability to do a comprehensive review by the structures established under the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. We note that you have approved a Part 5 Review for the Doris (Hinge) project, which will be a joint effort between NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board and will take into consideration the mandated concerns of related federal agencies.

The Government and people of Nunavut have great faith in the structures created under the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. We are confident that a "Part 5" Nunavut Impact Review Board review of the Bathurst Port and Road project will be open, efficient, thorough, and ensure that all issues related to the project will be given full consideration.

One of the key foundations of sustainable development is ensuring that the local people and communities most impacted by development have the tools to ensure that development will only proceed if the environment is protected and there are substantive and sustainable benefits to the local people and communities. A Part 6 Review will most surely relegate local issues, particularly environmental concerns, to secondary status while the Review Panel funds and deals with issues and concerns beyond Nunavut. The Nunavut Impact Review Board is the structure that the Inuit and the federal government, on behalf of all Canadians, created to ensure sustainable development in Nunavut.

We urge you to proceed with a "Part 5" Nunavut Impact Review Board review of the Bathurst Port and Road project.

Yours truly,



Manitok Thompson
Minister of Community
Government & Transportation



Olayuk Akasuk
Minister of Sustainable Development

Cc Charlie Evalik, President, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson, Nunavut Impact Review Board
Thomas Kudluk, Chairman, Nunavut Water Board
Minister Ng, MLA, Cambridge

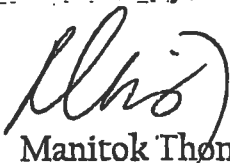
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