



Dogrib Treaty 11 Council

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August 8th, 2003

Ms. Stephanie Briscoe
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0E 0C0

Re: Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project

Dear Ms. Briscoe:

In his letter of April 10th 2003 to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), Minister Nault raised several preliminary observations with respect to the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project. His main observations were that the project was large in scale and that it has the potential to have impacts that reach beyond the Nunavut Settlement Area. In particular he noted that the project has the potential to impact the Bathurst caribou herd and its habitat. He noted that the Bathurst caribou herd is a transboundary resource shared by the people of Nunavut and the NWT.

The Dogrib Treaty 11 Council is in agreement with the Minister's observations. We agree that a project of this size (even as revised in the May 13, 2003 report) will likely have profound and long term impacts that reach beyond Nunavut.

As the NIRB will be aware, the Tł'chǫ have recently completed our land claims negotiations. On August 25th 2003 our land claims agreement, now known as the *Tł'chǫ Agreement*, will be signed by Canada, GNWT and the Tł'chǫ. The Mənwhì Gogha Dè Nytłèè, the area on which the Tł'chǫ rely, is described in the *Tł'chǫ Agreement*. It extends into Nunavut and covers some of the lands that are the subject of this project. As a result the Tł'chǫ have very direct and important interests that stand to be affected by this project. The project also has the potential to seriously impact the caribou herds. The continued health of the caribou herds is an issue of major concern to the Tł'chǫ. As the Tł'chǫ see it, the large scale of this project indicates that it may have significant impacts not only the caribou but also on much of the lands and resources on which the Tł'chǫ rely.

Accordingly, the Tł'chǫ would wish to participate as fully as possible in the review of this project. As we see it, this project, which stands to have impacts beyond the boundaries of Nunavut, requires a review that is not a Nunavut-only review.

Dogrib Unity

| Behchokǫ (Rae-Edzo) | Whatì (Lac La Martre) | Gameti (Rae Lakes) | Wekwetì (Snare Lake) |
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Therefore, the Tłchǫ take the position that the appropriate course of action is to refer the project to the Minister of the Environment for a Part 6 review by a federal environmental assessment panel pursuant to 12.4.7(a) of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

We would appreciate being kept fully informed as to the process of this project. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

In Tłchǫ Unity,



Grand Chief Joe Rabasca

Cc. Hon. Robert Nault
Hon Stephen Kakfwi