

August 12, 2003

10 Sylvan Drive
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 0G8

Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 2379
Cambridge Bay
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I was a guest at Bathurst Inlet Lodge, Nunavut, July 25th to August 1st, 2003. It was obvious that the previous weeks guests had had the road/port project under discussion. It was inevitable that I too, should be drawn into the controversy regarding this project. The following are comments for the review board.

This was my second visit to Bathurst Inlet Lodge, and my third to the Canadian Arctic. As a previous employee of the Medical Services Branch, Health & Welfare Canada, I spent four years in isolated post settings, and therefore am not totally ignorant of northern affairs, nor of the problems of the indigenous people, political or otherwise.

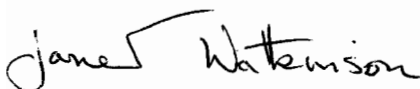
The argument that such a project would provide jobs for the Inuit is not valid, companies have long shown they employ their own people, the excuse always being, the local people are not qualified.

The Inlet itself, is of archeological and historical interest and importance, the flowers and fauna quite unique. To destroy these attributes without adequate information as to the total impact, is short sighted in the extreme.

From what I have heard at Bathurst and read in the Alberta business press, not nearly enough has been done to properly assess the environmental impact on the Inlet, specifically any hydrological studies. For this project to go ahead, federal funding will be required. As a Canadian and a taxpayer, I object to taxpayers money being spent on ideological planning concerning Arctic resources, which is not yet proven to be of benefit.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Yours truly



Janet Watkinson

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copy to: Hon. David Anderson
Minister of Environment
John Williams, MP
St. Alberta

