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Bluffton, AB  
TOC OMO  
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A submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

To whom it may concern:

I have read recently about the decision to build roads and a port in the Bathurst Inlet area of Nunavut. I am deeply concerned about the impact this will have on the environment and the people living in the area.

I understand that there has been no hydrological studies performed on the area and so I do not see how you can allow the construction of the port to go ahead.

Bathurst Inlet is a unique part of Canada. Every year it provides pleasure to people who come up to see the wildlife and to enjoy meeting the people who have lived there for so many generations. All this will be lost if the port and highways goes ahead.

It has been said that the new developments will create jobs for the Inuit people. I would disagree with this. First of all, those who live and work in Bathurst at the moment, will lose their livelihood. Secondly, there are very few Inuit people who are qualified to work in this new environment. The Inuit people prefer to live and work in their own communities, and they do not enjoy moving away from their homes to be educated. This means that the jobs created by this new project will go mainly to those coming up from the south – and once again, the Inuit people will be the losers.

I lived in the north for twelve years and I saw many new projects being built. In every case, the main contractors and workers were from the south; the local people always had the poorer paid jobs. Whenever courses were offered, to improve the education of the native people, it meant that they had to move to study away from home. Invariably this failed – the people always became homesick. Meanwhile, the land and its environment were being ruined, and this had a major impact on the livelihood of the people.

Economics are important, and I do realize the difficulties faced by those living in northern Canada, with so many people on welfare and the problems this brings into a community. On the other hand, the creation of an Arctic seaport, with all the facilities needed to make it a success, seems totally out of place in Bathurst Inlet.

I would therefore suggest that no decision is made until experts have fully reviewed the situation and the impact of the port on the environment and people of the north. The first step should be a complete hydrological study to make sure that the project is feasible in the first place.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hayes