

Tuesday, August 19, 2003

Chair and Board Members
Nunavut Impact Review Board
Box 2379
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

Re: Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for allowing the Olokhaktomut Hunters and Trappers Committee this opportunity to comment on this project. We would like to know why the proponent and the Nunavut Impact Review Board have not consulted with the community of Holman until now.

The committee is concerned that this project has a significant possibility of affecting the migratory route of our caribou, the Dolphin Union Caribou herd. The project description states several times that icebreakers could be used, but only mentions once that caribou migration from Victoria Island would be avoided. Our community depends on this herd as our main source of caribou meat. We cannot hunt caribou from the Minto Inlet area, as there is a voluntary moratorium.

Past caribou studies and traditional knowledge have shown us that the Dolphin Union Caribou herd uses winter habitat both East and West of Bathurst Inlet and spends from spring to early winter on Victoria Island. In 2001, the Dolphin Union Caribou herd migrated over to Victoria Island from April to July and back to the mainland from September to December.

The committee has asked the Inuvialuit Game Council to refer this project to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement because of our concerns that this project could affect our harvesting.

Please keep us up to date about this project. If you have any questions or need any more information, please call at the above phone #.

Respectfully,


Mary Banksland
Chairperson
Olokhaktomut Hunters and Trappers Committee

cc. Duane Smith, Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council
Larry Carpenter, Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT)
Bill Klassen, Chair, Environmental Impact Screening Committee
Robin Fonger, HTC Technical Resource Person
Chris Alway, Co-Management Technical Resource Person