

Ministère de l'Environnement

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correspondence surrounding such an important decision is a cause for concern. Nunavummiut, regulatory authorities, and other stakeholders need to understand what is being proposed in Nunavut – including consistent notifications from their Institutions of Public Government (IPGs).

In follow-up to the recent May 2017 *NuPPAA* workshop, the NPC solicited feedback the Government of Nunavut and others on a portion of its Internal Procedures. The GN asks that the NPC broaden this initiative to include Amendments to Land Use Plans (*Internal Procedure Amendments to Land Use Plans*, Nunavut Planning Commission, March 2015). Our concerns in this regard are compounded by the 2016 *Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan's* prohibitive approach to zoning, which may require Proponents to submit frequent amendment applications.

As we understand the current situation, BIMC applied for an amendment to the NBRLUP on March 17, and requested that the NPC consider their proposed amendment, and if it deems it necessary, conduct a public review. The Government of Nunavut is not opposed to the consideration of an amendment to the NBRLUP and is committed to taking part in an efficient and meaningful public review process. The GN agrees with the QIA and NTI that a full public review and public hearing is not necessary under the Nunavut Agreement, *NuPPAA*, or the NPC's Internal Procedures documents. We think that it is incumbent upon the NPC and BIMC to reengage to explore alternative options, including the submission of a conformity determination and subsequent request for ministerial exemption as per section 82(1) of *NuPPAA*. This is especially the case in light of the Commission's stated position that this issue cannot be resolved prior to a decision on funding from the Government of Canada.

Finally, I would like to highlight the importance of keeping this process on track in the broader context of Nunavut's perception by industry as a mining jurisdiction. Nunavut is generally viewed as a stable and attractive place to invest; however, the past five years of reports from the Fraser Institute Survey of Mining Companies have seen our territory fall significantly in ranking among worldwide jurisdictions in confidence over permitting processes and access to mineral rights. Among Canadian jurisdictions, despite representing one-fifth of the country and being endowed with favorable geology, we rank among the lowest on investment attractiveness, and the lowest in terms of policy perceptions. The Institute's report clearly cites uncertainties and lengthy timelines in the permitting process as major issues.


I would like to stress that this letter is not intended to diminish the significance of the Phase 2 proposal review. The expansion of a transportation corridor to allow for a railway and freight delivery by winter sealift is a development on which Nunavummiut deserve to be fully engaged. However, this engagement cannot happen until the review

processes provided for in the Nunavut Agreement and *NuPPAA* commence, beginning with the amendment of the NBRLUP.

Understanding that all parties are still adapting to the new *NuPPAA*-legislated framework for project approvals, the Government of Nunavut remains confident in the ability of the IPGs to conduct full, transparent, inclusive, and prompt reviews for the benefit of Nunavummiut. We look forward to working with the Commission on subsequent stages of this amendment process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David Akeeagok

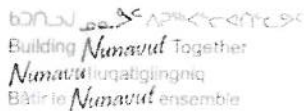
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John Hawkins

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Cc: Honourable Minister Savikataaq, Government of Nunavut
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