



March 14, 2023

The Honourable Dan Vandal,
Minister of Northern Affairs, Canada
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Executive Offices
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

Aluki Kotierk
President
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
P.O. Box 638 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

The Honourable David Akeeagok
Minister of Environment
Department of Environment, Government of
Nunavut
1104A Inuksugait Plaza,
PO Box 1000, Station 1500
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Dear Minister Vandal, Minister Akeeagok, and President Kotierk,

RE: Recommendation to Amend the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan to include a Transportation Corridor from Mary River Mine Site to Steensby Inlet (Amendment No.1)

The Nunavut Planning Commission has publicly reviewed an Amendment Application from Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (BIMC) to reconsider an amendment to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan to include a railway from the Mary River Mine Site to Steensby Inlet within the planning region.

The Amendment Application has been considered in accordance with the provisions of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, including:

- 59 (1) *The federal Minister, the territorial Minister, the designated Inuit organization or any person, including a corporation or other organization, affected by a land use plan may propose to the Commission an amendment to that plan.*
- (2) *The Commission must consider the proposed amendment and, if it considers it appropriate to do so, conduct a public review in accordance with the by-laws and rules made under section 17.*

...

- 60 *The Commission must consider the submissions made during a public review in respect of a proposed amendment and may make any revisions to the proposed amendment that it considers appropriate.*

61(1) *The Commission must submit the original or revised proposed amendment to the federal Minister, the territorial Minister and the designated Inuit organization with a written report of any public review and its recommendation as to whether the amendment should be accepted or rejected, in whole or in part.*

...

62 (1) *As soon as practicable after receiving the proposed amendment, the federal Minister, territorial Minister and designated Inuit organization must accept the Commission's recommendation jointly or reject it, in whole or in part, with written reasons.*

The Commission has considered BIMC's Amendment Application, reasons for rejection of the original amendment, comments provided during the public review, and recommends that a revised version of the proposed amendment be accepted. The recommended amendment is attached to this letter for your consideration, as well as a report of the public review that summarizes the information that was considered by the Commission and the analysis that led to this recommendation.

The Commission looks forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Andrew Nakashuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Planning Commission

cc: Megan Lord-Hoyle, VP Sustainable Development, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
Olayuk Akesuk, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
The Honourable P.J. Akeeagok, Premier of Nunavut
Marjorie Kaviq Kaluraq, Chairperson, Nunavut Impact Review Board
Mary River Distribution List