



VIA EMAIL

June 4, 2015

The Hon. Bernard Valcourt, P.C., M.P.,
Minister, Department of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development
21st Floor, Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H4

Dear Minister Valcourt,

Re: Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation Mary River Project Phase II

I am writing with regards to the non-conformity decision by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) dated April 8, 2015.

NTI supports Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)'s position that an application for amendment to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan is the best process as per the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (Nunavut Agreement), in order for the matter to move forward. The amendment review process would provide the greatest opportunities for public involvement and consultation with affected Inuit communities.

Although exemption is permissible under the Nunavut Agreement, it should only be used in extraordinary and compelling circumstances, or for minor variances from the existing plan with minimal impacts, and not as a tool to essentially bypass the land use planning process.

Baffinland's Iron Mines Corporation's application presented some significant novel dimensions that have no precedent to follow in Nunavut. Therefore, it is important for NPC to be provided with the resources needed to be able to effectively fulfill all mandated functions under the Nunavut Agreement. Considering an amendment to the land use plan in a timely manner is one of the NPC's key and ongoing functions.

I also encourage you to accept QIA's invitation to attend a community meeting in Pond Inlet, which I would be delighted to attend as well.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Towtongie
President
president@tunngavik.com

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Cc: Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P., Minister of Environment
Hon. Peter Taptuna, Premier of Nunavut
Hunter Tootoo, Chairperson, Nunavut Planning Commission
P.J. Akeeagok, President, Qikiqatani Inuit Association