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I note your joint request to the Minister that he direct his officials to work with Commission to enable any potential amendment to proceed in a timely manner and on a priority basis. If the Commission receives an amendment request, we will work diligently with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to ensure it could proceed in a timely process. The Commission does require AANDC's support to enable this to happen. Further, the

I think it is important to clarify the Commission's current situation as it relates to any potential amendments by proponents. The Commission is in a predicament because each year we must prepare and submit a budget and work plan to AANDC for approval. AANDC officials have informed us that we are not allowed to deviate from this work plan. If an application for an amendment is submitted, in order for an amendment to take place in the same fiscal year we would need to have AANDC's full support.

We at the Commission understand your concerns that you stressed in previous correspondence “to allow the greatest possible public involvement in the decision making process consistent with the mandate of the NPC.” We agree with this sentiment and acknowledge the need for this to happen as outlined in the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA) and the approved NBRLUP.

I understand the Minister also agrees with the importance of holding a public consultation. In his letter to QIA dated June 4, 2014, he stated: “I, likewise, feel it is important to hear the community’s and your organization’s concerns.”

2

