

Ministre des Affaires autochtones  
et du développement du Nord



Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and  
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JUN 04 2015

Mr. P.J. Akeeagok  
President  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
PO Box 1340  
IQALUIT NU X0A 0H0

Via email: [info@gia.ca](mailto:info@gia.ca)

Dear Mr. Akeeagok:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2015, regarding the Nunavut Planning Commission's negative conformity determination on Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Phase 2 Project proposal.

In your letter, you express disappointment with the Nunavut Planning Commission's recent negative conformity decision because many community members from the Hamlet of Pond Inlet felt their participation or consent was not taken into account. I, likewise, feel it is important to hear the community's and your organization's concerns as I consider Baffinland's May 21, 2015 application for exemption from the conformity requirement.

Thank you for the invitation to meet with you in Pond Inlet to discuss matters as they relate to the Phase 2 proposal of the Mary River Project. I am regrettably unavailable; however, I am prepared to send Mr. Stephen Traynor, Acting Director General of the Natural Resources and Environment Branch, on my behalf to Pond Inlet next week, between June 1 and 7, to meet with you and community members if this timing will suit your needs. This meeting would be timely and would inform my decision on Baffinland's application for exemption. If you are able to meet during the proposed dates, please contact Mr. Traynor's office directly via email at [Stephen.Traynor@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca](mailto:Stephen.Traynor@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca) or by telephone at 819-997-9381 to confirm. If you are unavailable to meet next week, I am requesting the Qikiqtani Inuit Association provide a response in writing detailing your comments regarding the Mary River Phase 2 proposal exemption request by June 10, 2015, so that I can advance my consideration of this time-sensitive request.

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I appreciate you having taken the time to write me to express your concerns, and I look forward to receiving further information in the weeks to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard Valcourt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bernard" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Valcourt".

Bernard Valcourt, PC, QC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, PC, MP  
The Honourable Peter Taptuna, MLA  
The Honourable Johnny Mike, MLA  
Mr. Hunter Tootoo  
Ms. Cathy Towntongie  
Mr. Charlie Inuarak  
Mr. Ryan Barry  
Mr. Enookie Inuarak  
Mr. Erik Madsen