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July 29, 2011

Honourable John Duncan
Minister Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development,
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

**RE: Screening Decision – Agnico Eagle Mines, Meliadine Gold Mine
NIRB File No. 11MN034; AAND File No. 5510-5028**

Dear Minister,

The Hamlet Council of Coral Harbour held a special meeting today to discuss the recent screening decision by NIRB not to allow Agnico-Eagles Mines to proceed with construction of the proposed All Weather Road from Rankin Inlet to the Meliadine Gold Project site until a full review of the mining project is conducted.

In reviewing the information, it appears that NIRB based their decision not to approve the propose road project to the Meliadine site because of non-conformity to the Nunavut Lands Claims Agreement yet in a similar application for the Meadowbank project a few earlier NIRB apparently did not perceive any conflict with the agreement. Councillors are by no means experts in the field of technical analysis and environmental reviews but do find this perplexing.

The community of Coral Harbour is far removed from the Meliadine project, the majority of our residents will never see the site or drive on the road but the Meliadine Exploration and the proposed All Weather Road have direct and immediate impacts on our community. We have at least 17 individuals working directly for Agnico or for contractors on site; these jobs are desperately needed for our growing community. The unemployment rate is very high, the potential for acquiring local employment is limited and every opportunity, local or not, must be seized. Statistics shows the following labour force activity for Coral Harbour;

Figure

Labour force activity	Coral Harbour, Hamlet			Nunavut		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total population 15 years and over 66	465	225	240	19,340	9,930	9,410
In the labour force 67	310	160	150	12,635	6,745	5,890
Employed 68	250	125	120	10,670	5,540	5,125
Unemployed 69	60	30	30	1,965	1,200	765
Not in the labour force 70	150	65	90	6,705	3,190	3,515
Participation rate 71	66.7	71.1	62.5	65.3	67.9	62.6
Employment rate 72	53.8	55.6	50.0	55.2	55.8	54.5
Unemployment rate 73	19.4	18.8	20.0	15.6	17.8	13.0

Hamlet Council will soon be recognizing the achievements of 3 individuals from our community who have chosen the path of underground miners training, they have recently received their certification as Underground Miners, a first for Coral Harbour, an island where very little exploration takes place and where no underground activity may ever take place. The training of these individuals could not have happened without the support and commitment of Agnico, the visionary approach of Sarliaq /CMAC-Thyssen and financial backing from the Mine Training Society; we are very proud of them.

It is more than just training and jobs; the three young miners now have a career but more importantly they will become role models in our community, sparking interest in our youth to pursue jobs and careers in a field that was thought inaccessible to them just a few short years ago. It is our vision for Coral Harbour to become a source of underground miners and we will not stand by idle while immediate opportunities exist to train and employ our youth simply because NIRB wants to look at bits of paper later rather than now.

The previous project owner, Comaplex, stated that the fuel necessary for the underground bulk sampling project could be hauled through the winter road therefore an all-weather road was not necessary. Comaplex obviously lacked the vision (and resources) to propel the project forward when the initial application was prepared; Agnico has demonstrated great vision in moving the project forward which will benefit the entire region.

Mr. Minister, we invite you to come to our region and visit the Meliadine site and see firsthand the potential of this project, we also invite you to our community to witness what a job means to a young couple who would otherwise have no alternative but social welfare. The Lands Claims Agreement was signed and implemented for the benefit of Inuit, not to impede on them. We are certain that the regulatory process can be adhered to without jeopardizing the numerous projects that depend on the road being constructed as planned by Agnico.

Council looks forward to hearing from you on this matter and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Ningeocheak
Mayor of Coral Harbour

C. Lucassie Arragutainnaq, NIRB

Leona Aglukark, MP Nunavut

Hon Lorne Kusugak, Minister Community Development and Government Services, GN

Hon Peter Taptuna, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, GN

Tagak Curley, MLA Rankin Inlet North

Johnny Ningeogan, MLA Nanulik

All Kivalliq Mayors

Joe Kaludjak, Kivalliq Inuit Association

Denis Gourde, Agnico-Eagle Mines