



Affaires autochtones et
Développement du Nord Canada

Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

Sous-ministre adjoint

Assistant Deputy Minister

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H4

JUN 02 2017

Mr. Ryan Barry
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0



Dear Mr. Barry:

This is in response to your letter of April 24, 2017, addressed to the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, requesting additional time for the Nunavut Impact Review Board to complete the screening decision with respect to North Country Gold Corp.'s "Gibson-MacQuoid" Project Proposal (NIRB 17EN029, NPC 148480).

On the Minister's behalf, I am granting the Nunavut Impact Review Board permission to exercise this provision of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* and exceed the 45-day limit for the screening of this project. Under section 92(4) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, the period of time required for the screening of a project proposal by the Nunavut Impact Review Board may exceed 45 days with the approval of the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs. I recognize that this project proposal involves unique considerations making screening within 45 days impossible for the Nunavut Impact Review Board. I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board for its diligence in reviewing this proposal.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding my reply, please do not hesitate to contact Karen McIntyre, Land Administrator Specialist, Lands Administration, Nunavut Region, at (867)975-4283.

Respectfully,

Stephen M. Van Dine
Assistant Deputy Minister
Northern Affairs Organization

c.c.: Tracey McCaie, A/Director, Lands & Contaminated Sites

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