



**Athabasca Denesuline Né Né Land Corporation**

12 January 2018

Nunavut Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay NU X0B 0C0  
Email: info@nirb.ca

RE: Agnico Eagle “John Tugak’s Huckleberry Claim” (NIRB File No. 17EA068)

To whom it may concern,

The Athabasca Denesuline (AD) have serious concerns regarding Agnico Eagle’s Huckleberry Claim proposal. This proposed mineral exploration project will be in the heart of the Qaminirjuaq barren-ground caribou herd’s calving ground, therefore this project will have a direct impact on the caribou herd, and potentially our communities.

Athabasca Denesuline culture, history and way of life are highly dependent on the health of barren-ground caribou herds. The AD Elders tell us through traditional knowledge and first hand experience that any activity that causes stress, or results in a change of usual behaviour and/or diversion of the migratory path of the caribou, can impact on the health and condition of these animals. The area that this project would be located is heavily used by the caribou during the critical time of calving and post-calving. This subsequently impacts on the AD communities that rely on these caribou for sustenance. Industrial activity and development is the first and foremost activity that causes this type of impact

In addition, the barren-ground caribou herds are currently under consideration for being listed under the Species at Risk Act and are listed as “threatened” under the COSEWIC. The herds are in decline and therefore it is imperative that the Precautionary Principle be followed, and that no permits are issued for disturbances to the calving grounds.

Email: info@adnlc.ca

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve # 201

Mailing address: Box 23126 South Hill PO, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 8A7

Phone: (306) 953-7287 Fax: (306) 763-2973

The Athabasca Denesuline request:

- 1) That NIRB does not issue a permit for Agnico Eagles' proposal, and for any other exploration or development within traditional barren-ground caribou calving grounds, the risks are too high
- 2) If NIRB goes against our request, and issues a permit, we would like this project proposal to go through a Part 5 Review. We would request to participate in this comprehensive review.
- 3) Cumulative impacts need to be considered on a larger scale, and consider impacts from climate change.

If you have any questions, or to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (306) 953-7287, or email: [info@adnlc.ca](mailto:info@adnlc.ca).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Robillard', written in a cursive style.

Ron Robillard  
President

cc.

Earl Evans – Beverly Qaminirjuaq Caribou Management Board

Chief Coreen Sayazie – Black Lake Denesuline First Nation

Chief Bart Tsannie – Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation

Chief Louie Mercredi – Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation