

Info at NIRB

From: Sigurdson, Brian <BSigurdson@GOV.NU.CA>
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To: info@nirb.ca
Subject: Auryn Resources

Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street, P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

To whom' it may concern

Subject: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Auryn Resources "Gibson MacQuoid Gold Project" Project Proposal

On behalf of the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (KHTO), I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments on Auryn Resources proposed Gibson MacQuoid Project.

The KHTO does not support and strongly opposes this project.

The project lies within the calving ranges of the Qamanirjuaq herd. The herd is currently the largest herd of Barren ground caribou in Canada but, preliminary results from the 2017 survey indicate a continued decline from 500,000 in 1994 to somewhere inbetween 200-300,00 caribou in 2017.

The KHTO notes that the proponent plans on doing the work outside of calving season but, seasonal restrictions do protect from habit loss and habitat modification caused by exploration activities. Habitat loss has been identified as the main reason for declines of caribou across Canada. A continued decline will effect ecosystems across the qamanirjuaq range and will have severe effects on Inuit harvesting activities throughout the region. Also note that the community of Rankin has not been meaningfully consulted regarding the project. While the proponent did come to Rankin, the consultation was very poorly scheduled, and conducted in the smallest venue available in Rankin. It was also conducted at a time when the community was under the impression that calving grounds were off limits to exploration activities.

The HTO recommends that the project is abandoned and recommends that regulators stop signing mineral exploration agreements with-in critical caribou habitat through out the Kivalliq.

Brian Sigurdson
Chair
Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers