

From: [Ministre des Affaires du Nord, ministre responsable de Développement économique Canada pour les Prairies et ministre responsable de l'Agence canadienne de développement économique du Nord / Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister responsible for Prairies Ec](#)
To: [Marjorie Kaluraq; nirb info](#)
Cc: ["minister@nrcan-mcan.gc.ca"; "min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca"; "chef.XMSC-Chief@tc.gc.ca"](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Correspondence from the Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister Responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada and Minister Responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Date: March 21, 2023 8:24:35 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

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Ministre des Affaires du Nord, ministre responsable de
Développement économique Canada pour les Prairies et
ministre responsable de l'Agence canadienne de
développement économique du Nord



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister Responsible for
Prairies Economic Development Canada and
Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern
Economic Development Agency

March 21st, 2023

Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0

Dear Kaviq Kaluraq:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 20, 2023, providing notice that the Nunavut Impact Review Board (the Board) is initiating a reconsideration of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 007 in light of Sabina Gold and Silver Corp's (Sabina) Back River Project Energy Centre project proposal (the Energy Centre Proposal), a proposed amendment to the approved Back River Gold Mine Project.

I am writing on behalf of all the responsible Ministers. I understand that, after considering comments from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the Governments of Canada and Nunavut, and Sabina, the Board has determined that the Energy Centre Proposal warrants reconsideration of the existing Project Certificate under Article 12, Section 12.8.2(b) and (c) of the Nunavut Agreement and Section 112(1)(b) and (c) of *the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*.

In your correspondence, you invited me to provide direction with respect to priorities and reasonable timelines associated with the Board's reconsideration of the terms and conditions of Project Certificate No. 007, any guidance related to key factors to be considered by the Board during the reconsideration, and the availability of participant funding.

In terms of priorities and timelines, I am confident in the Board's ability to determine and undertake the reconsideration process for the Energy Centre Proposal within a reasonable timeframe, taking into consideration other ongoing reviews. In light of the scope of the Energy Centre Proposal and both the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's and Sabina's requests for a brief review process, I encourage the Board to assess opportunities for streamlining the assessment where possible (recognizing the Board's discretion to conduct a reconsideration in the manner that it considers appropriate).

In your correspondence, you indicated that the Board heard from parties that the proposed activities may have far-reaching impacts on caribou migration, migratory birds, Inuit and Indigenous harvesting. I agree that these

are important factors to consider during the reconsideration.

The Board has identified five potentially impacted communities within the Kitikmeot region (Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk) and is giving special consideration to groups who were residents and/or now spend time in the areas of Bathurst Inlet and Bay Chimo. Given the potential for impacts to migratory barren-ground caribou herds (i.e. Bathurst and Beverly), federal officials intend to notify other Indigenous groups with connections to these herds of the Board's reconsideration process. Officials will apprise Board staff of groups being notified.

Additionally, the Board has requested that participant funding be made available to interested parties. The Government of Canada recognizes the benefits that accrue from the provision of participant funding and will endeavour to make funds available to support the participation of potentially affected groups in the assessment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these matters. The responsible Ministers look forward to receiving the Board's report following the reconsideration process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Vandal', is positioned above the printed name.

Hon. Dan Vandal, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable, Joyce Murray, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Omar Alghabra, P.C., M.P.

Canada 