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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Correspondence from the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
Date: March 5, 2025 7:19:37 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
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Ministre des Relations Couronne-Autochtones
et des Affaires du Nord et ministre
responsable de l'Agence canadienne de
développement économique du Nord



Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and
Northern Affairs and Minister responsible
for the Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

March 5th, 2025

Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
CAMBRIDGE BAY NU X0B 0C0

Dear Kaviq Kaluraq:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 8 and December 3, 2024, to my predecessor, Dan Vandal, former Minister of Northern Affairs, regarding the Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework Workshop (the Workshop) in relation to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's (Baffinland) Mary River Project. I apologize for the delay in responding.

The other responsible ministers and I appreciate the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (the Board) efforts in conducting the Workshop in Iqaluit on February 19–20, 2024. We appreciate the Board's provision of a summary report of the relevant submissions and discussions that took place during the Workshop, as well as the Board's short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations to improve cumulative effects assessment aspects associated with

the Mary River Mine. The other responsible ministers and I remain generally supportive of the Board's recommendations.

Given the suspension of the assessment of Baffinland's Sustaining Operations Proposal 2 application on October 3, 2024, the other responsible ministers and I encourage the Board to proceed with coordinating the implementation of its medium-term and long-term recommendations. As discussed in the Board's summary report, this could include:

- commencing an evaluation of the existing Mary River Project monitoring program to identify improvements and consider whether updates to existing Project Certificate terms and conditions (or further direction on their effective implementation) are needed to address concerns about potential cumulative effects; and,
- developing an updated Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework to support the consideration of future assessments.

In response to the Board's specific requests for direction, the other responsible ministers and I do not propose any modifications to the Board's recommended approach at this time.

In regard to additional parties that should be involved as the initiative proceeds, we encourage the Board to remain open to the inclusion of other organizations, if interested, who have participated in previous Mary River Mine assessments.

Regarding mechanisms and funding support for this initiative, the Department is planning to provide some funding support for the Board to initiate the first phase of the development of the framework. I understand that departmental officials have had discussions with Board staff regarding the workplan and budget for the scope of this work and will continue the discussions to ensure the funding is provided in sufficient time to commence the work.

The other responsible ministers and I encourage the Board to solicit additional input from parties that participated in the Workshop as to appropriate next steps and timelines.

We would like to again thank the Board and its staff for your continued hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, PC, MP
The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, PC, MP
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, PC, MP
The Honourable Anita Anand, PC, MP
France Pégeot
The Honourable Lori Idlout
The Honourable P.J. Akeeagok
Andrew Nakashuk
Lootie Toomasie
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