

Spencer Dewar
Director, Resource Management
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Iqaluit, Nunavut
X0A 0H0

Re: Participant Funding for Future Nunavut Impact Review Board processes for Baffinland's Steensby Inlet Project

The community of Naujaat, and the Arviq HTO have concerns with the recent decision by Baffinland to abandon their plans to focus on shipping through Milne Inlet and to instead shift their operations to Steensby Inlet in Foxe Basin.

We have never had the opportunity to take part in the proceedings for this project but realize the expansion plans for Steensby will have a major impact on our community's dependence on our marine mammals, in particular our narwhal harvests. We have heard the significant impact the project has had on the community harvests of narwhals in Pond Inlet at 6 million metric tonnes and the plans out of Steensby port is far more than that. We have been made aware that NIRB has had hearings in the other communities prior to making decisions on the project, but not in our community.

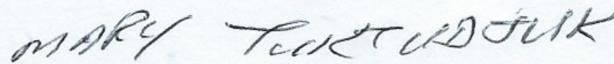
The shipping route as proposed out of Steensby will affect the migratory routes of the beluga and narwhal species which our community depends heavily on for food and income. This project has the potential to drastically alter our way of life and we need to be given a meaningful role before any terms are finalized for such project.

We noted a recent decision by NIRB that indicated the operation of both Steensby and Milne will require a reconsideration of the project, and we welcome this decision. Accordingly, we are requesting participant funding from your department so that we can meaningfully engage in this process. We feel this is necessary to ensure the duty to consult with us will be met prior to any further decisions being made that will directly impact our harvesting rights.

We look forward to hearing from you on this request.

Respectfully,

Mary Tuktudjuk
Chair Arviq HTO



cc. Kaviq Kaluraq, Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board