


**From:** [Ministre / Minister \(RCAANC-CanNor / CIRNAC-CanNor\)](#)  
**To:** [Marjorie Kaluraq; nirb.info](#)  
**Cc:** [min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; minister@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca; chef.XMSC-Chief@tc.gc.ca; Dionne Filiatrault](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Correspondence from the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency  
**Date:** February 12, 2025 10:57:28 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

February 12, 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 December 4, 2024, regarding the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (Board) Screening Decision Report (Report) for West Kitikmeot Resources Corp.'s Grays Bay Road and Port project proposal.

As described in the Report, the Board has concluded that due to the potential for significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts, significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvesting activities, and significant public concern, the project proposal requires a review under Article 12, Part 5 or Part 6 of the Nunavut Agreement and Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (the Act).

The Ministers of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Energy and Natural Resources, Transport, and I have the regulatory jurisdiction to make a decision with respect to the Board's Report.

Having carefully considered the Board's Report, the other responsible Ministers and I agree with the Board's determination and have decided that the Board should conduct the review, as per subparagraph 94(1)(a)(iv) of the Act.

The Report describes several issues and concerns identified by the Board that are particularly relevant to the review process. These issues and concerns relate to: potential cumulative impacts of increasing mineral development in the Kitikmeot Region; other transportation infrastructure projects; impacts of increased shipping in the Kitikmeot Region; impacts on the Bathurst caribou herd; and transboundary issues. The responsible Ministers agree these issues and concerns should be given careful consideration through the assessment process to ensure the concerns are better understood and, if necessary, that possible related impacts can be effectively mitigated should the Project be recommended to proceed.

As noted in the Board's Report in regards to the transboundary issues, the Project has the potential for transboundary effects related to the Bathurst caribou herd, and the potential connection to a possible future all-season road in the Northwest Territories. Further, there is potential for increased shipping due to resupply for annual fuel and supplies during the open water season. We are encouraged that the Board has initiated meetings with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board to discuss the Project and potential cooperation,

if needed. Given the potential for transboundary effects, the responsible Ministers and I highlight the importance of ensuring that relevant transboundary groups are made aware of the review and have the opportunity to participate.

Additionally, the Board has expressed a need for participant funding during the assessment and noted that participant funding is a vital mechanism in promoting effective participation by potentially affected groups in the review. The responsible Ministers and I agree. Funds will be made available through Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada’s Northern Participant Funding Program to support the meaningful participation of Indigenous governments and organizations, and northerners in the assessment. Program officials will be following up soon with a call out for applications.

We appreciate the work that the Board has done in screening the project proposal. The responsible Ministers have the utmost confidence in the Board to conduct a thorough review of the project proposal and look forward to receiving the Board’s Final Hearing Report upon completion of the review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gary Anandasangaree', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, PC, MP

c.c: The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, PC, MP

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, PC, MP

The Honourable Anita Anand, PC, MP

Dionne Filiatrault

Canada