

May 1, 2025

The Honourable Minister Gary Anandasangaree
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

via email: minister@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

Dear Minister Anandasangaree,

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) has followed the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) screening of the Gray's Bay Road and Port Project (the Project), and your acceptance of the NIRB's recommendation to refer the Project for further review.¹

I am writing to formally request your **approval to enter into an agreement with the NIRB to enable the Review Board to participate in NIRB's examination of environmental effects of the Project in the Mackenzie Valley region of the Northwest Territories, as per section 142 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act**. This will allow the NIRB and Review Board enter in to and **formalize a project specific agreement as contemplated under our Memorandum of Understanding**.

As noted in both the NIRB's referral letter and your decision letter, the Project has the potential to cause impacts in both Nunavut and the Mackenzie Valley. This includes the potential for impacts to the Bathurst caribou herd and the potential connection to a possible future all-season road in the Northwest Territories. We note and strongly agree with your statement highlighting the importance of ensuring that relevant transboundary groups, including those in the Mackenzie Valley, are made aware of the NIRB's review and have the opportunity to participate.

The Review Board is committed to working with and supporting the NIRB to ensure a comprehensive and thorough review of these effects. By combining our expertise and resources, we can better understand and mitigate potential adverse impacts of the Project, ensuring the protection of our shared environment and communities. We believe that a collaborative approach to developing this agreement will strengthen the review processes and demonstrate our shared commitment to responsible and sustainable development across the North.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require further information. We look forward to working with the NIRB and are confident that this agreement will be beneficial for both our regions.

¹ under Part 5 of the Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement) and s. 94(1)(a)(iv) of the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA).





Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JoAnne Deneron".

JoAnne Deneron

Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

cc:

James Eetoolook, Acting President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Gavin Law, West Kitikmeot Resources Corp.

Kim Pawley, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

Adrian Paradis, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Dianne LaPierre, Government of Nunavut

Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut

Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut

Lorraine Seale, Government of the Northwest Territories

Dionne Fillatrault, Nunavut Impact Review Board

Catherine Cockney, Environmental Impact Review Board

