



NIRB File: 25EN075

link: www.nirb.ca/project/126241

Nunavut Planning Commission File No.: 150930

March 25, 2026

To: The Honourable Rebecca Chartrand
Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON

Sent via email: rebecca.chartrand@parl.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Somerset Mineral's "Coppermine Project" Proposal, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Honourable Minister:

On October 8, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral pursuant to the Nunavut Agreement and *NuPPAA* to conduct a screening¹ of Somerset Mineral's "Coppermine Project" proposal and after completing the required process, the NIRB determined² that **a review of the project is not required** and recommended specific terms and conditions³.

The attached Screening Decision Report provides the regulatory framework, scope of proposal and Board's assessment process, public engagement, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts, and recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Additional information on the project can be viewed on the NIRB's public registry at the link at the top of this letter.

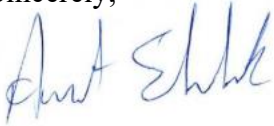
The NIRB look forward to receiving a response from the Minister, and any questions on the Board's assessment process or the Screening Decision Report can be directed to the NIRB's Director, Operations, Tara Arko at 1-866-233-3033 EXT 500 or tarko@nirb.ca.

1 Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*

2 Pursuant to s. 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

3 Pursuant to s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

Sincerely,



Albert Ehloak

Acting Chairperson for Screening Panel
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 25EN075 (March 25, 2026)

cc: Alex Vilela, Somerset Minerals
Denise Lockett, Lockett Consulting Services Inc.
Lootie Toomasie, Chairperson, Nunavut Water Board
James Ectoolook, Acting Chairperson, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Marcus Bermann, Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Cory Barker, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association