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## **Overview of Archaeological Work and Heritage Protection – Pistol Bay Project (Whale Cove Area)**

### **Commitment to Heritage Stewardship**

BG Gold is committed to protecting Nunavut's cultural heritage through responsible exploration and development practices. Since initiating mineral exploration in the Whale Cove area in 2011, the company has worked proactively with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, local community members, the hamlet of Whale Cove, Government of Nunavut Department of Culture and Heritage (GN-CH) and the Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT) to identify, document, and protect archaeological and heritage resources.

All archaeological work has been conducted under valid Nunavut Class 2 Archaeologist Permits in accordance with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations. The company's approach emphasizes early assessment, avoidance of sensitive areas, and collaboration with Inuit partners to ensure cultural and environmental integrity are maintained.

### **Summary of Work Completed to Date**

Archaeological field studies have been undertaken in multiple phases around the Pistol Bay Project area since 2011. These include initial regional surveys, follow-up assessments of proposed work areas, and detailed site-specific inspections in advance of the new permanent field camp.

#### **Early Surveys (2011–2013):**

Comprehensive archaeological impact assessments were conducted by qualified consultants (Golder Associates Ltd.) across the broader project permit area. These programs combined helicopter reconnaissance and pedestrian surveys to establish a baseline record of heritage sites within the 860 km<sup>2</sup> property. More than one hundred sites were documented, most representing historic Inuit land-use features such as tent rings, caches, hearths, kayak stands, and other traditional structures. These findings provided important contextual information for long-term exploration planning and helped guide future drilling to ensure the protection of culturally sensitive areas.

#### **Recent Work (2021–Present):**

Prior to establishing the permanent camp northwest of Whale Cove, a new Archaeological Impact Assessment was completed under Nunavut Archaeologist Permit 2021-34A. The investigation involved pedestrian reconnaissance and surface inspection of the proposed 2.6-hectare camp area and access routes. A local community member from Whale Cove participated in the field program, ensuring traditional knowledge was incorporated.

The assessment identified one archaeological site within the vicinity of the proposed camp, consistent with traditional Caribou Inuit land-use patterns. Following consultation with GN-CH,

BG Gold re-evaluated its camp layout to ensure a minimum 30-metre avoidance buffer around the feature. Additional protective and monitoring measures were recommended and are being implemented as part of BG Gold's heritage protection protocol.

### **Ongoing Protection Measures**

BG Gold integrates heritage protection into all aspects of project planning and field operations. The company's procedures include:

- Early archaeological screening before any ground disturbance.
- Engagement with GN-CH, the Inuit Heritage Trust, and the Hamlet of Whale Cove during permitting and planning stages.
- Employment of local community members during archaeological and environmental fieldwork.
- Implementation of avoidance zones and clear field markings around identified heritage sites.
- A "stop-work" protocol requiring immediate suspension of activity and notification of authorities if new artifacts or cultural features are discovered.

### **Summary and Commitment Moving Forward**

Through more than a decade of archaeological study and collaboration, BG Gold has developed a strong understanding of the cultural landscape surrounding its Whale Cove operations. The company's actions demonstrate a clear commitment to respecting Inuit heritage and ensuring that exploration and development proceed responsibly and transparently.

BG Gold will continue to work closely with territorial regulators, local organizations, and cultural experts to ensure heritage stewardship as the project activities progress.