

Friday, April 3, 2026

To: Nunavut Impact Review Board

Subject: Bayridge Resources Baker Lake Project

I want to express my opposition to the uranium exploration proposal based on potential environmental concerns, the risk of affecting the caribou, as well as lack of extensive consultation.

Lack of Consultation

There are not as many Elders around to document traditional hunting areas, camps, and migration routes, so when companies come in to consult, they are getting limited information that does not represent the vast expanse of traditional Inuit camps, migration routes, as well the extensive array of archaeological features that need to be protected. Some of this information has been previously documented to some extent, so companies should be required to do extensive research and share that with the community during public consultations. Asking a few community members to indicate areas of significance on a map, while valuable information, is very limited research.

Environmental Risks and Food Insecurity

When the Bayridge Baker Lake Project community information session took place on March 11, 2026, community members at the meeting indicated they are against any disturbances to that area (east of Kazan River and the Kazan River area) due to caribou migration and environmental concerns, such as potential negative impact on the water. They pointed out that the caribou migration routes are not always identical.

I hope Bayridge documented what community members said at the meeting and shared those voices of opposition with NIRB.

Food Insecurity

Is uranium exploration the precursor to uranium drilling and mining? Even if uranium was not radioactive, even if there were no environmental risks to the land and water, there is a serious threat to the migration of caribou. Food security is a major issue in Baker Lake. The opportunity to harvest caribou is even more important as a means to providing families with a supply of

healthy meat. Any helicopters or airplanes around where the caribou would usually go, places the opportunity to secure an adequate supply of meat in jeopardy.

Ethical Considerations

There are no limits, to my knowledge, to the use of the uranium that is extracted in Nunavut. That is, it could be used to make weapons to kill humans.

Cultural and Archaeological Protection

I believe that the Bayridge Baker Lake Project needs to conduct extensive research with the Inuit Heritage Trust, Inc.

<https://www.ihti.ca/archaeology-governance>

For example:

Article 33

33.2.2 The archaeological record of the Nunavut Settlement Area is of spiritual, cultural, religious and educational importance to Inuit. Accordingly, the identification, protection and conservation of archaeological sites and specimens and the interpretation of the archaeological record is of primary importance to Inuit and their involvement is both desirable and necessary.

Long History of Uranium Exploration and Mining Opposition

Inuit in Baker Lake have a long history of opposing uranium exploration, drilling, and mining. For example, “In 1978, the community of Baker Lake and ITC took the Federal Government to court, in an attempt to stop uranium exploration in important hunting areas and caribou habitat” (p. 8 in Inuit Knowledge of Caribou Habitat – Background Report, September 10, 2015). Barnabus Peryour “told the court that caribou were no longer coming to usual crossings...and that aircraft were frightening the caribou away” (ITC, 1979: 9, in Inuit Knowledge of Caribou Habitat – Background Report, September 10, 2015, p.8).

Last summer, in 2025, the usual migration of caribou to the shoreline of Kazan River in Baker Lake did not happen. Any disturbances to the area (s), as proposed by Baybridge, increases the risk of disturbing caribou migration, which is already at risk.

Truth and Reconciliation, not further Exploitation

In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, I ask Bayridge to release their land claim of traditional Inuit land. I encourage Bayridge to follow Landore Resources Canada Inc., who withdrew their application to renew a mining lease after hearing concerns from First Nations (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/biigtigong-nishnaabeg-reconciliation-9.7122748>). Chief Duncan Michano said, “If you want true reconciliation with First Nations, that is the kind of thing you do: you give land back...” (CBC, March 11, 2026). Reconciliation with Inuit by releasing all claims, would be a major step forward.

As a Baker Lake resident posted on the Baker Lake Community Facebook page regarding the uranium exploration proposal, “No means no” (K.O., April 2, 2026).

I would like to add that if NIRB would like community input, the Baker Lake Community Facebook page is easier for most people to navigate than the NIRB public comments option.

I encourage the Nunavut Impact Review Board to not permit Bayridge’s Baker Lake Project.

Thank you.

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