



Tuglia Ministam, Avatiliqiyikkut

Deputy Minister, Department of Environment

Sous-ministre, Ministère de l'Environnement

October 11, 2016

**Re: NuPPAA Implementation and Mineral Claim Staking**

Dear Mr. Van Dine,

Thank you for your letter dated September 6, 2016 regarding mineral claim staking under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), and the consequences of defining staking as a project for review purposes.

Economic growth through responsible development across all sectors is one of four priorities outlined in *Sivumut Abluqta*, the Government of Nunavut (GN)'s mandate. Non-renewable resource development that respects Inuit societal values and does not compromise the integrity of our land, water and wildlife has the potential to be an important component of Nunavut's economic growth.

The GN acknowledges the complex issues related to mineral claims staking; and the interpretation and implementation of NuPPAA. In Sivumut Abluqta, our government committed to applying sound regulatory practices to attract and manage resource development. Ensuring that NuPPAA functions effectively and does not inappropriately discourage investment in our economy is essential to this goal. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure projects are screened appropriately to protect our renewable resources and environment.

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Sous-ministre, Ministère de l'Environnement

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