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Qikiqtani Inuit Association

ᑎᑎᖅᑲᒃᑯᕕᒃ P.O. Box 1340
ᐃᖃᓗᐃᑦ, ᓄᓇᕗᑦ Iqaluit, Nunavut
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Serving the communities of
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ᑭᙵᐃᑦ Cape Dorset
ᑲᖏᖅᑐᒐᐱᒃ Clyde River
ᐊᐅᓯᐃᑦᑐᖅ Grise Fiord
ᓴᓂᕋᔭᒃ Hall Beach
ᐃᒡᓗᓕᒃ Igloolik
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November 1, 2019

Kaviq Kaluraq
Nunavut Impact Review Board
29 Mitik Street, PO Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, Nu
X0B 0C0

Re.: Baffinland's Phase 2 Proposal

Dear Ms. Kaviq Kaluraq,

I am writing this letter to inform you that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) is not prepared to endorse or support Baffinland's Phase 2 Proposal currently before the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB).

On October 30, 2019, QIA's board of directors held a special meeting to discuss our ongoing work on Baffinland's Phase 2 Proposal. At that meeting, our board members unanimously voted to not endorse or support the Proposal at this time.

Many of QIA's environmental and cultural concerns regarding Baffinland's Phase 2 proposal have not been adequately resolved. We are also concerned that there are issues raised by impacted communities that have not yet been addressed.

As you know, QIA fully participated in the NIRB review of the Phase 2 Proposal. Some of QIA's environmental and cultural concerns have been addressed, but numerous and significant issues remain unresolved.

Many of these unresolved issues directly implicate assessing, monitoring, and adaptive management for Inuit culture and land use.

In the past few months our organization has been working closely with impacted Mary River communities including: Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Kimmirut, and Pond Inlet. We have hosted a number of meetings with community representatives from impacted hamlets with the most recent taking place on October 7 in Iqaluit.

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Sanikiluaq

QIA's Board of Directors is specifically sensitive to the feedback it received from Pond Inlet as the most impacted community by the current Mary River Project. Throughout the review of the Phase 2 Proposal, QIA participated in and facilitated meetings with community representatives from Pond Inlet, including the Mittimatalik HTO and the Hamlet of Pond Inlet. In making this decision, QIA took the input of the community very seriously.

QIA prioritized its work with communities during the NIRB review of the Phase 2 Proposal. Inuit welcomed engagement on Inuit Qaujimanituqangit. With direct input from over 100 Inuit harvesters, QIA prepared and submitted two Tusaqtavut reports to NIRB and Baffinland presenting Inuit Qaujimanituqanit from the communities of Pond Inlet, Igloolik and Hall Beach.

QIA knows Inuit are concerned about the impacts of Baffinland's Phase 2 proposal. There are significant potential impacts from the construction of a rail system, particularly where they travel, harvest caribou and exercise culture practices at and around Kanajjuq. Inuit have made their concerns known to Baffinland throughout the review of the Phase 2 Proposal.

QIA has engaged in the Baffinland Phase 2 review process in good faith, our association has put a great deal of trust into NIRB as an institution of public government under the Nunavut Agreement. QIA's team has been dedicated to ensuring that the interests of Qikiqtani Inuit are protected and respected through the NIRB process.

Sincerely,

P.J. Akeeagok
President,
Qikiqtani Inuit Association

CC:
Ryan Barry, Executive Director, Nunavut Impact Revie Board
Aluki Kotierk, President, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.