

November 14, 2019

Delivered via Email: [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca)

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

Dear

**RE: Letter of Support – Mary River Project, Phase 2 Expansion – Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation**

I am writing to you today on behalf of Nuna East Ltd. (NEL). NEL is a partnership between the owners of Nuna Logistics Partnership and the 3 Arctic Cooperatives of Pond Inlet, Igloolik, and Hall Beach (1641170 Alberta Ltd), collectively resulting in an overall Inuit ownership of 63%.

The hiring and training of local Inuit Beneficiaries is a critical element of NEL's mandate as we execute projects for our clients in the Qikiqtaaluk Region of Nunavut. We know employment engagement with local Inuit Beneficiaries provides positive economic impact to these individuals and their families and the communities of which they reside. In addition to direct employment opportunities generated through NEL's contracting opportunities, the unique ownership structure of NEL enables the members of the Arctic Cooperatives in our 3 partner communities to directly participate in profit generated from contracts awarded to NEL.

Nuna has long been a partner of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (BIM) as the Company has developed the Mary River Project. From Nuna's earliest activities on site in 2007, including the initial tote road upgrade and initial bulk sample to current activities including a variety of heavy civil construction activities and site services, Nuna has remained committed to Inuit training and employment. Over the past 12 years, through various contracts on site, employing work crews of 40-200 people, Nuna has generated Inuit employment rates ranging from 12% to 30%.

As an Inuit company NEL respects the concerns expressed in the communities regarding the potential impact on traditional Inuit lifestyle. We respectfully encourage all stakeholders to work collaboratively with BIM to take full advantage of the proposed hearing delays in order to further study the science and openly explore potential mitigative measures that would satisfy the concerns presented.

NEL believes the Phase 2 Project proposal is critical to the prosperity of the Region and Nunavut as a whole. Our work at site has resulted in the development of many careers for Inuit and wealth generated for the communities of the Qikiqtaaluk Region. As an example, we estimate our Inuit workforce on site from 2007 to date has generated over \$10 million dollars in wages and taxes alone.

If the Phase 2 expansion is approved, NEL hopes to continue our partnership with BIM. Based on our understanding of the expansion, we anticipate the scope of work relative to our Corporate expertise, over a two-year period could require a workforce of over 600 people. Of this estimate, approximately 25% or 150 of the full-time project workforce are expected to be Inuit generating approximately \$20 million in payroll and associated taxes to Nunavut.

Furthermore, once our projects are completed, we have seen success in transitioning our Inuit employees to our Client teams thereby increasing the duration of local Inuit employment. The number of positions and associated earnings reflected above do not consider the positive post-project transition of NEL employees to BIM but these positive impacts will most definitely be felt by local Inuit.

Nuna has long recognized the requirement of providing both onsite and offsite innovative training solutions necessary to ensure maximum Inuit employment across our projects. To maximize Inuit employment and assist our partners at BIM, during the 2019 sealift, NEL took the initiative to deliver several heavy equipment training simulators to Pond Inlet. Our intent was to use these simulators and our expert training staff to provide training opportunities immediately prior to the Phase 2 Expansion Project. It is unfortunate that this early positioning may not be utilized due to Project uncertainty.

Approval of the Phase 2 Proposal will ensure Nuna is able to create even greater opportunities for Inuit through training, employment and wealth generation.

On behalf of Inuit who work for Nuna and in consideration of future potential employment for all Inuit in the Region, I strongly support Baffinland's Phase 2 Project Proposal. I also wish to express our concern over the negative impacts that will result due to a protracted delay in the review process. NEL, the Cooperative partners and Inuit employees are already experiencing the adverse affect of the delay in hearings. We urge all Parties to work together to constrain any delay in recommencing the hearings to no more than 5 to 6 months.

Sincerely,

NUNA EAST LTD.

per:



Miles Safranovich, P.Eng.  
Director, Nuna East Ltd.  
President & Chief Operating Officer, Nuna Logistics Partnership

cc: Ryan Barry, Executive Director, Nunavut Impact Review Board (rbarry@nirb.ca)