

From: [Matchbox Gallery](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Agnico Eagle Mine plan to pipe 'salty' water into Melvin Bay
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:05:18 PM

To whom it may concern,

I write to you as a 30 year plus Rankin Inlet resident and as a person who has seen much change in the town over these years.

Change can be good. People need employment. And people also need an environment in which to live, renew their bodies, their minds and their spirits.

Melvin Bay happens to be one of the most wonderful places, close to town, for finding mussels in the Rankin Inlet area. People of all ages can get there without having to own a heavy vehicle. It's not polluted, so far, by dump runoff, mine tailings or too much else. Because it's a closed and small bay, naturally any extra substance, piped in on a regular basis, has to remain in the waters and affect the natural balance of the bivalves, other sea creatures and the well being of the citizens of the area. Mussels are filter feeders and unusual chemicals will obviously affect them, building up in their bodies.

The waters near the island close to Melvin Bay called 'Panorama Island' is known, I was told, in Inuktitut as 'the place where seals come to breath' (a rough translation). You can always see seals there on the spring ice all the way to the closed end of the bay..

People hunt seals. People enjoy mussel gathering, while observing the phases of the moon and tides. The convenience and economic benefits for AEM by discharging this water will never replace the natural gifts of nature given to so many people of Rankin Inlet that now still exists as it did in generations past.

My hope is that the leaders at AEM and yourselves at NIRB, can be patient and respect the whole and varied needs of all the population of Rankin Inlet, and rethink this waste water issue which has no previous guidelines or examples to help instruct your actions.

Thank you for reading these thoughts.

Sincerely,
Sue Shirley