

**Nunavut Impact Review Board
Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
X0B 0C0**

03 October, 2020

Re: COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

Sirs,

I attended the Community Roundtable and Pre-Hearing Conference of Baffinland Iron Mines Corp.'s "Phase 2 Development" Proposal in Iqaluit from 28 September to 01 October, 2020. I would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board for having made my attendance possible.

I truly believe that the decision on whether or not to proceed with the doubling of the production from the Mary River Mine is a decision that must be made by Inuit people. They are the original inhabitants and the majority of the mining operation occurs on Inuit Owned Land.

However, I also truly believe that the deliberations of the N.I.R.B. should not be conducted without considering the wishes of the whole range of Inuit. At these three days of meetings I saw only three Inuit under the age of thirty years. Two of these spoke from Pond Inlet and the third sat quietly but attentively throughout the whole proceedings in Iqaluit. I find this odd since young people make up such a large proportion of the overall Inuit population.

I have spent almost 20 years working with youth in Arctic Bay through the Army Cadet program. During that time we have usually had about 25 youth aged 12 to 18 years in our Corps. We have generally been able to maintain a program that offers at least 8 hours of leadership and skills training per week for 35 weeks per year. All of these Cadets were young Inuit so I think that I have a small perspective into their hopes and fears.

I believe that the young people of Arctic Bay want to broaden their horizons. Many of them enjoy hunting and love to spend time on the land with their extended families. However, many of them also want to advance in a career without leaving their home community. The Mary River Project gives them this opportunity.

There are over forty residents of Arctic Bay working at the Mary River Project. There are more that want to work there. Many of these people are my former Cadets whom I know quite well. They are labourers, heavy equipment operators, B-Train drivers, apprentices and training in administration. I am proud of them.

I have attended over almost every presentation held in Arctic Bay by either Baffinland Iron Mines or the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. I have organized and listened at over four hours of community discussion without outsiders present. During all of this time I have only heard two people say that the mine should not expand. Both of these people were basing their decision on false information. People are concerned and they want environmental monitoring to be tough, thorough and carried out by Inuit. But people also want Inuit to be able to advance in meaningful careers and this should not be forgotten.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these views. The N.I.R.B. is doing a good job in a difficult situation and I wish you all safer and calmer days in the future.

Yours Sincerely,



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