

**From:** [Ministre AN - Minister NA \(AADNC/AANDC\)](#)  
**To:** [mayor@clyderiver.ca](mailto:mayor@clyderiver.ca)  
**Cc:** [Minister \(AADNC/AANDC\)](#); [jsavikataaq@gov.nu.ca](mailto:jsavikataaq@gov.nu.ca); [president@tunngavik.ca](mailto:president@tunngavik.ca); [PAkeeagok@qia.ca](mailto:PAkeeagok@qia.ca); [Info](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Correspondence from the Minister of Northern Affairs  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 12:14:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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January 20, 2021

His Worship Jerry Natanine  
Mayor of Clyde River  
P.O. Box 89  
CLYDE RIVER NU X0A 0E0

Dear Mayor Natanine:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 3, 2020, regarding the moratorium on Arctic offshore oil and gas development.

As you know, the 2016 announcement designated all Arctic Canadian waters as indefinitely off limits to future offshore Arctic oil and gas licensing, to be reviewed every five years through a climate and marine science-based life cycle assessment.

In 2018, Canada identified next steps on future Arctic oil and gas development, which included the establishment of the Committee on the Science-Based Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in the Eastern and Central Arctic (the Eastern Arctic Committee). Committee members include officials from Crown–Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and representatives from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. A science-

based assessment committee was also established with northern partners in the western Arctic.

The Eastern Arctic Committee is co-managed and supports the process for the review of science-based information, Inuit knowledge, and other relevant information that will form the basis of the science-based review in the eastern Arctic. The Eastern Arctic Committee has agreed that the findings in the strategic environmental assessment in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait will contribute substantively to the science-based assessment in the eastern Arctic.

In the coming months, the Eastern Arctic Committee will finalize a work plan on a science-based assessment in the eastern and central Arctic. As part of this planning process, the Eastern Arctic Committee will engage with Inuit communities in 2021 to discuss the proposed approach that will serve to inform the next steps regarding the moratorium on Arctic offshore oil and gas development prior to December 31, 2021.

Thank you again for reaching out. Please be assured that we will continue to work with our partners to determine the best approach moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Vandal'.

Hon. Daniel Vandal, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Joe Savikataaq, M.L.A.  
Ms. Aluki Kotierk  
Mr. P.J. Akeagok  
Ms. Marjorie Kaviq Kalurak

Canada