



**Arctic
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Limited**

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Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
Delivered via email

NIRB File: 08MN053

Dear Madame Chair,

Co-ops understand and appreciate the weighty responsibilities of making decisions that impact people who may have a lot in common, but do not always share the same views on important matters. It is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB) responsibility to weigh all the impacts and provide recommendations to guide responsible project development of the Baffinland Iron Mines Mary River Project and, specifically, both the proposed Phase 2 expansion and the present application for 6.0 Mtpa. The purpose of this letter is to outline the impacts that Co-ops have seen resulting from the project so that you may consider them as you weigh all the submissions received.

The Mary River project has proven to be an excellent opportunity for Co-ops and their communities to prosper through contracting. As major contractors, the Co-op System has a shared responsibility to work with Baffinland as an active participant in the delivery of benefits through the Cooperative Business Model to improve everyday life in the communities. Each Co-op and community have distinct priorities with respect to delivering patronage rebates to Members, lowering prices, investing in community infrastructure, grants & donations, training & development, etc. Since 2018, the Co-ops in Arctic Bay, Igloolik, Pond Inlet and Sanirajak have returned over \$4,500,000 in patronage dividends to over 3,400 individual Members. The joint-venture partnerships of these Co-ops have provided over \$4.6 million to Co-op Members during the life of the project to date. It is our expectation that Phase 2 will bring additional economic opportunities to cooperatives that would be transformational with respect to the Co-op's ability to deliver benefits to individual Members. As for the application to continue shipping 6.0 Mtpa, should that application be denied and Baffinland operations cease, the Co-op System and individual Co-op Members will certainly experience material negative financial impacts.

Key additional direct measurable benefits through Baffinland contracting:

- Approximately 78 tons of Food delivered to Kaniqtugaapik Food Bank and Iliqsasvik Society in Clyde River
- Food/contributions of \$67,600 in the amount of approximately 21 tons provided to Qajuqturvik Food Centre in Iqaluit
- Food/contributions of \$75,000 in the amount of almost 22.5 tons of food provided to school foodbanks at Nakasuk and Joamie schools in Iqaluit
- Over 15 tons of water valued at more than \$50,000 contributed by BIM to the Iqaluit DEA during the water crisis October 2021
- \$10,650 contributed to the Nunavut Kamtsiaqtut Helpline
- \$5,250 contributed to the REACH Program in Iqaluit
- \$18,850 to sponsor Iqaluit New Year's Eve Fireworks 2020 & 2021 through 123Go
- Freight for Foodbanks Canada "After the Bell" program of almost \$6,100
- Country Food donation to Elder's Centre in Iqaluit valued at over \$1,600
- Christmas Food Hampers delivered to over 1,500 households in impacted communities
- Two separate cleaning/sanitation kits delivered to each of over 1,500 households in impacted communities during the pandemic valued at approximately \$300,000
- Contribution of an ATV and freight valued at over \$22,000 to the school in Grise Fiord

Co-op Members and their families in the communities have long suffered from a lack of employment, training and business opportunities, contributing to economic and social inequities. In addition to the positive impacts of contracting activity to support responsible development, there are enormous opportunities for employment available to Nunavummiut either directly with Baffinland or because of the spin-off benefits of the project.

Research commissioned by the Nutrition North Canada program highlights an inverse relationship between household income and reported household food insecurity. "Nationally, almost half of households with no more than \$10,000 annual income are food insecure, with that incidence dropping to about 10% among households with incomes between \$30,001 and \$40,000." (Phillips & Associates, 2017) and "...the fact that food prices are indeed higher in the North erodes the buying power of a given household income, exacerbating the effects of poverty." (Phillips & Associates, 2017). Anecdotally, Member Co-ops note increases in disposable income in the community when seasonal or temporary construction projects are employing community residents. Because of the estimated life-of-mine for this project, the employment opportunities can be transformational and multi-generational for the communities of the region, and significant Territorially.

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) is the legitimate representatives of the Inuit people of the Region. We have confidence that they have negotiated a fair and reasonable Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement (IIBA) and subsequent Inuit Certainty Agreement (ICA). Please consider the impacts on communities as outlined above as you work towards your final decisions on these project applications.

Co-operatively yours,



Duane Wilson
Vice-President, Stakeholder Relations
Arctic Co-operatives

Cc; Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs
Udlu Hanson, Baffinland Iron Mines
Hall Beach Co-op (Sanirajak)
Igloodik Co-op (Igloodik)
Taqqut Co-op (Arctic Bay)
Tununiq-Sauniq Co-op (Pond Inlet)