



December 16, 2020

Ms. Marjorie Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
By email to: info@nirb.ca

Re: Mary River Mine Phase 2 Project

Dear Madame Chair,

The NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines (the “Chamber”) advocates for responsible northern mineral development. In Nunavut, the land claims-based environmental processes (e.g., NUPPAA, NPC, NIRB) and corporate commitments made by many mining companies (e.g., MAC’s Toward Sustainable Mining protocols) provide assurance to Nunavummiut that mining companies are developing and operating mines in accordance with high environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) standards, including provision of important community supports and socio-economic benefits. With this in mind, we are writing to express our support for Baffinland Iron Mine’s (Baffinland) efforts to advance the Mary River Phase 2 expansion project.

The Mary River iron ore deposit was discovered almost 60 years ago and is one of the richest iron ore deposits globally, representing a tremendous opportunity to provide multi-generational benefits to Nunavummiut. The Phase 2 expansion project is the foundation piece needed to extend and grow the mine’s current socio-economic benefits farther into the future. Baffinland has indicated that Phase 2 is a critical step to allow the Mary River mine become more stable and sustainable by increasing production. This increased production will allow Baffinland to weather short term fluctuations in global iron ore prices, thereby allowing for continuity in the education, training, career, and business opportunities that flow from the operation of the mine. As with any northern endeavour, achieving this successfully and responsibly will require the efforts of many, including Baffinland but also the landowner, public governments, and regulators.

Ensuring that the benefits of resource development stay close to home is critical if Nunavut is to maximize opportunities from the tremendous mineral wealth of the territory and the careful negotiation of Inuit mineral interests in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Baffinland and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) have demonstrated significant commitment to these ideals through negotiation of the Inuit Certainty Agreement (ICA), which will provide direct benefits for the five communities affected by the Mary River mine and will work to address several outstanding technical issues and concerns.

The Chamber views Phase 2 as the next step in responsible development of the Mary River Mine. We appreciate the diligence of the Nunavut regulatory agencies, as well as Baffinland's mining expertise and corporate ESG commitments. It is important to note that there are other iron ore deposits globally that will compete with Mary River for investment capital, so development of Mary River as a well managed and financially viable mining operation is important from a global competitiveness standpoint. There is a great opportunity for all parties to work together to advance responsible development, thereby allowing the Mary River Mine to be a strong, resilient and responsible contributor to the health and well being of Nunavummiut, to Nunavut and to Canada for many years to come.

Yours truly,

NWT & NUNAVUT CHAMBER OF MINES



Ken Armstrong
President

c.c.: Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs
Honourable Dennis Patterson, Senator for Nunavut
Aluki Kotierk, President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Honourable Joe Savikataaq, Premier of Nunavut
Honourable David Akeagok, Minister of Economic Development & Transportation
Mr. P.J. Akeagok, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association