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The Honourable Jim Prentice, MP PC  
Minister of the Environment  
House of Commons  
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, MP PC  
Minister of Indian Affairs and  
Northern Development  
10 WELLINGTON STREET  
GATINEAU PQ K1A 0H4

Dear Ministers:

**Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) Review of the Proposed Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway**

We understand that the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) has referred the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project to the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) for further review. As the Proponents of the Project, we concur that if this referral is indeed required, we seek your confirmation that the EIRB review will be the only environmental assessment process for this project.

The decision to refer this project to the EIRB is consistent with the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* (IFA). It also reflects the fact that the proposed Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway will be located entirely within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. We note that the referral solely to the EIRB is consistent with recent federal initiatives to modify existing *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) regulations to streamline the review of certain infrastructure projects and to avoid potential duplication of project reviews. We understand the impetus for a more streamlined environmental process is the precept of "one project - one assessment".

The referral to the EIRB enables participation of federal departments and agencies in this review. In accordance with Section 9.0 of the EIRB *Operating Procedures* (February 2004), the EIRB process "expects government agencies and officials to participate actively in any public reviews that may be established by the EIRB". It follows that the Proponents anticipate full participation of the applicable federal Departments in the upcoming EIRB review process for the proposed Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project.

In closing, we request a response confirming that the environmental assessment of the project will be conducted solely under Section 11 of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*. This will ensure an effective, professional and comprehensive environmental assessment of the project.

Sincerely,



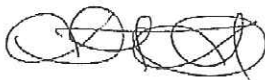
Mervyn Gruben  
Mayor  
Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk

Sincerely,



Denny Rodgers  
Mayor  
Town of Inuvik

Sincerely,



Michael McLeod  
Minister, Department of Transportation  
Government of the Northwest Territories

Attachment

- c. Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister  
Government of Canada  
Honourable, Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health  
Government of Canada  
Honourable John Baird, Minister of Transport  
Infrastructure and Communities  
Honourable Floyd K. Roland, Premier  
Government of the NWT  
Ms. Nellie Cournoyea, Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation  
Ms. Nicole Jauvin, President, Canadian Northern Economic Development  
Agency  
Ms. Elizabeth Snider, Chair, Environmental Impact Review Board