## Tuktoyaktuk Hunters & Trappers Committee



P.O. Box 286, Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T. X0E 1C0 • Phone (867) 977-2457 • Fax (867) 977-2433

February 2, 2012

Mr. Eli Nasogaluak Environmental Assessment Coordinator Environmental Impact Review Board Box 2120 Inuvik, NT XOE OTO

Dear Mr. Nasogaluak:

## RE: Environmental Review of Construction Of The Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, Northwest Territories

We are writing to express our concern with the length of time and the details of the current review being undertaken by the Environmental Impact Review Board (Board). Most particularly this review appears to be taking far too long and focusing on many matters which are not relevant to the Project.

We understand that the Board recently decided to move the Review into the Technical Review phase and that as part of this phase on January 16<sup>th</sup> the Board issued 70 Information Requests covering 80 pages. These Requests cover a wide range of topics including noise, dust, climate data, housing and employment.

The construction of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway has been a long standing objective of the residents of Tuk and Inuvik and will provide significant economic benefits to the Beaufort-Mackenzie region and to the Northwest Territories. The available window with which to access funds to complete this Project is limited and it is extremely important for the Review of the Project to be completed in a timely fashion.

The HTC and its members primary areas of concern are the impacts of development upon wildlife populations and the harvesting activities of our members and when we reviewed the Information Requests we were very concerned as we believe that many of the questions on issues such as noise, dust, climate and housing are not relevant and do not reflect the concerns of our members. For example: Information Requests #'s 6 (Noise), 19 (Climate), 21 (Dust), 28 (Housing) and 30 (Air Quality) all seem to be unnecessary and irrelevant. It would appear that these types of questions have not been generated by our members and we would therefore ask who has developed these requests and why have they been included in the Information Request package?

Continual focus by the Board on these types of issues and questions have the potential to seriously delay the Review and jeopardize the Project. We would strongly encourage the Board to limit their enquiries, focus upon the areas of concern of the HTC members being wildlife impacts and harvesting and to complete the review in a timely fashion.

We would also encourage the Board to move quickly to hold community hearings and to ensure that the Review is completed within the current time frame or sooner if possible.

Thank you very much for taking our concerns into consideration and for ensuring that this Review is completed in the most timely manner possible.

Sincerely,

Darrel Masogaluak, Chair Person Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee