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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavuliuqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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Office of Premier John Main
Hivuliqtip John Main Havakvingani
Bureau du premier ministre John Main

October 29, 2026

Translation to Follow

Mr. Daniel Qavvik
C/O Jason Iqaluq, MLA for Hudson Bay
P.O. Box 228
Sanikiluaq, NU X0A 0W0

Dear Mr. Qavvik:

Thank you for your letter of May 7, 2026, and for raising this matter in the Legislative Assembly regarding the proposed Port of Churchill Plus Project and its potential implications for Inuit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, the community of Sanikiluaq, and Nunavut more broadly.

The Government of Nunavut recognizes that developments occurring outside Nunavut may have implications for Nunavummiut, Inuit rights and interests, the environment, transportation systems, and economic development opportunities. It is important that potential impacts are appropriately considered and that Nunavummiut have opportunities to understand and provide input on projects that may affect them.

To date, the Government of Nunavut has had limited engagement regarding the proposed Port of Churchill Plus Project. However, the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Nunavut offers an avenue for dialogue. The Government is aware of certain aspects of the project but has not seen sufficient detail on any consultation activities involving Nunavut municipalities. The Government of Nunavut believes that Nunavummiut, Inuit organizations, and affected communities should have meaningful opportunities to understand potential impacts and participate in applicable consultation and regulatory processes should the project proceed. Much of the waters within Hudson Bay fall within Nunavut jurisdiction either through the Nunavut Act or the Nunavut Agreement (Zone II designation and associated rights) but all the water is interconnected and remains vitally important for Inuit and Nunavummiut.

Currently, the Government of Nunavut is not actively engaged with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association regarding the application of Articles 5 and 20 of the Nunavut Agreement to the proposed project. The Government recognizes the importance of ensuring that Inuit rights, interests, and obligations established under the Nunavut Agreement are appropriately considered through applicable regulatory, environmental assessment, consultation, and decision-making processes.

The Department of Environment will continue to monitor the proposed project, which is being jointly advanced by the Indigenous-led Arctic Gateway Group and the Government of Manitoba. The Government of Nunavut has not participated in any screening, environmental assessment, or regulatory review of the proposed project and has therefore not made a determination regarding its compliance with applicable federal, provincial, or territorial environmental protection legislation.

The Department of Environment is aware of the potential for transboundary environmental impacts to Nunavummiut and would welcome opportunities to participate in future regulatory processes to help ensure that development proceeds in a manner that protects the environment and wildlife while considering the interests of Nunavummiut.

At present, a specific future role for the Government of Nunavut in ongoing environmental monitoring associated with the proposed project has not been identified. Responsibility for environmental oversight, marine transportation regulation, navigation safety, and the management and protection of marine mammals in and around the Port of Churchill rests primarily with federal authorities and the Province of Manitoba. Should future regulatory processes identify potential impacts to Nunavut's environment, wildlife, or residents, the Government of Nunavut would seek opportunities to participate in those processes and provide input within its areas of responsibility.

Assessments have not been completed regarding the potential impacts of the proposed project on Nunavut's mining and critical minerals strategy, the proposed Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link project, the proposed Kivalliq Inter-Community Road project, or marine traffic routes and volumes in Hudson Bay. Developments will continue to be monitored and potential implications for territorial priorities and strategic infrastructure initiatives will be assessed as additional information becomes available.

With respect to emergency preparedness, spill response, and environmental damage mitigation, Nunavut Emergency Management and the Department of Environment have not been consulted or directly engaged regarding the proposed project and are not aware of any project-specific emergency management planning activities involving Nunavut at this time.

Nunavut Emergency Management remains focused on emergency planning, response and recovery. This division continues to work closely with federal, territorial, Inuit, municipal, and private-sector partners to identify and assess potential hazards in Nunavut communities. If additional details about the proposed project become available, we will review and address any emergency management impacts within our existing mandates and responsibilities.

An assessment of the potential impact of the proposed project on Sanikiluaq's marine transportation infrastructure has not yet been undertaken. However, community engagement and schematic design work have recently been completed for improvements to the community laydown area and enhancements to the sealift ramp. This project is funded through Transport Canada's Oceans Protection Plan with an approved budget of $2.8 million.

This work is separate from a feasibility study undertaken by Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding a Small Craft Harbour in Sanikiluaq. As additional information regarding the proposed Port of Churchill Plus Project becomes available, potential implications for transportation infrastructure and community needs in Sanikiluaq will continue to be assessed.

Thank you for raising these important matters. The Government of Nunavut will continue to monitor developments related to the proposed Port of Churchill Plus Project and will remain engaged on issues that may affect Nunavummiut, Inuit interests, and Nunavut communities.

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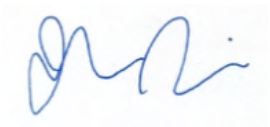

Hon. John Main
Premier of Nunavut

cc: Hon. George Hickes, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Nunavut
Hon. Brian Koonoo, Minister of Environment
Hon. Craig Simailak, Minister of Community Services and Minister responsible for Mines
Mr. Jason Iqaluq, Member of Legislative Assembly Hudson Bay
Stephen Innuksuk, Clerk, Legislative Assembly of Nunavut