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Letter of Transmittal

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1. Introduction

Following the creation of the new territory of Nunavut under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and the formation of the Government of Nunavut (GN), the GN stated in the Bathurst Mandate (1999) its commitment to prepare an economic strategy for Nunavut. In June, 2003, “The Nunavut Economic Development Strategy” (NEDS), a collaborative effort between more than 25 organizations (including GN, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs), Chambers of Commerce, etc.) was released. This major document identified the need for economic growth to advance the quality of life of Nunavummiut, and identified mining as an important part of any growth strategy.

One of the key components of NEDS is the goal to create sector specific strategies that will guide the development of the Nunavut economy. In late September 2004, GN initiated, through the Department of Economic Development and Transportation (ED&T) the development of the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy (Strategy).

The goals and objectives of the Strategy are to develop and support:

- a sustainable mineral exploration and mining sector that forms a foundation for a diverse and vibrant economy in Nunavut;
- a mineral exploration and mining sector active across Nunavut that provides substantive benefits to all communities in Nunavut; and
- a mineral exploration and mining sector that embraces the concept of Sustainable Development and makes a real contribution to Healthy Communities as enunciated in the Bathurst Mandate.

The concept of sustainable development, which is the basis upon which the Strategy is to be built, is defined as:

- being based on world best practices of environmental impact mitigation and reclamation;



3.2 Principles

Principles are the moral code of an organization. The principles put forward in the following statements are strongly influenced by the tenets prescribed by the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ), the underlying code for all activities in Nunavut. The principles upon which the strategy will be built are:

- *Pijitsirniq/Ihumaliukti* - Respect and provide for community, family and individuals;
- *Aajiiqatigiingniq/Pitiakadigiiklotik* - Have regard for the Inuit way of decision-making; employ discussion and build consensus;
- *Pilimmaksarnik/Ayoikyumikatakhimanik* - Enable knowledge and skills to be passed on through observation and practice;
- *Piliriqatigiingniq/Havakatigiikklutik* - Ensure people collaboratively work together for a common purpose;
- *Qanuqtuurunnarniq/Kaujimatukanut* - Encourage people to be resourceful and work to solve problems; and
- *Avatimik Kamattiarniq/Amiginik Avatimik* - In all things have respect for the environment and ensure it is protected.

3.3 Vision

Vision is a statement of success that serves to guide supporting actions in a manner consistent with an organization's principles. A vision must challenge and inspire an organization to excel. The vision that will guide the development of this Strategy is:

A sustainable mineral exploration and mining industry that:

- **provides long term social and economic benefits to Nunavummiut;**
- **contributes to Nunavut's economic goals;**
- **is attractive to investors; and**
- **protects the environment.**

This statement reflects a balance that captures the following points:



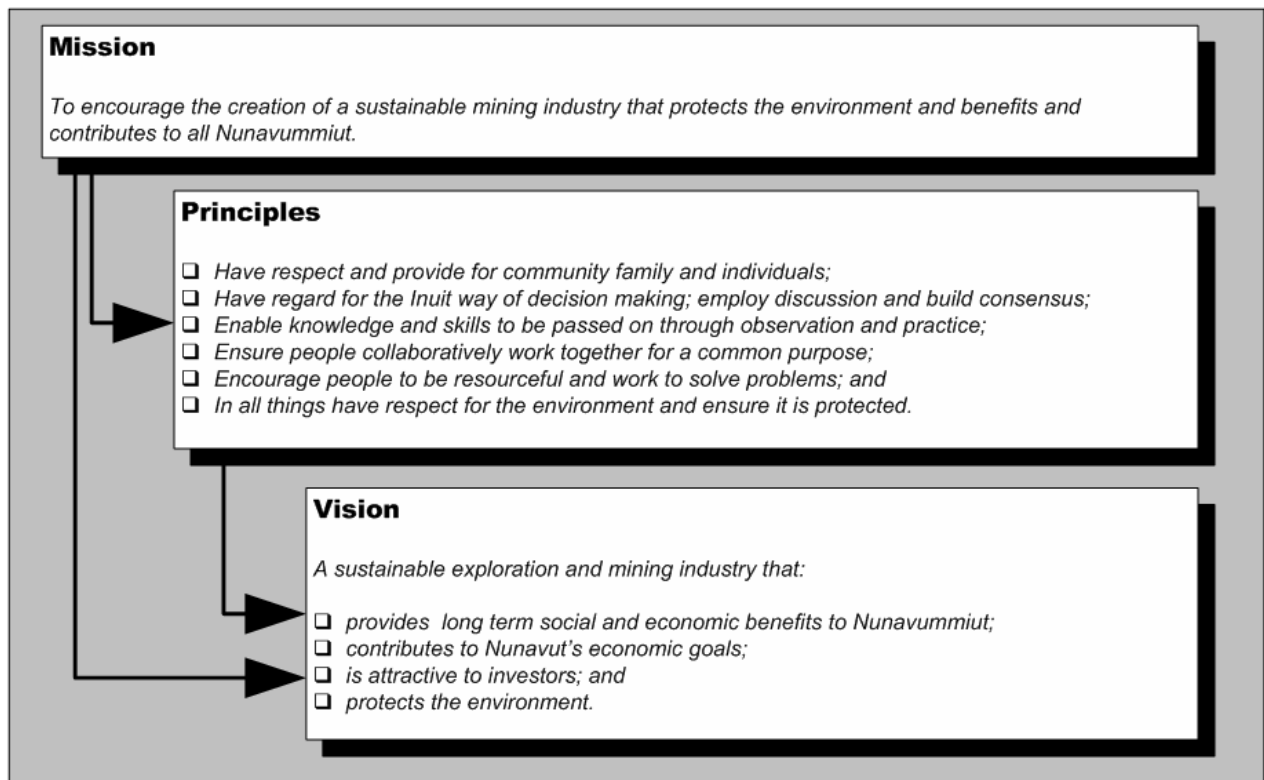
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- the concept of a sustainable mining industry that has a strong long term future and does not limit other long-term uses of the land;
- the fact that mineral exploration and mining should be implemented with long term social and economic benefits to individuals and communities within the territory;
- exploration and mining initiatives should help stimulate the economy of Nunavut for the benefit of all;
- those who make mineral exploration and mining investments in Nunavut are key stakeholders and it is important that their needs be taken into account to create a positive environment that will encourage their participation; and
- the environment is of paramount importance in Nunavut and all activities by the minerals industry must have profound regard for safeguarding its integrity.

A summary of the Mission, Principles and Vision is set out in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1. ED&T Mission, Principles and Vision





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- development and implementation of an integrated public data management system to provide timely access to information relevant to exploration and mining development in Nunavut. This includes geoscientific databases, land use information, subsurface rights information and an integrated regional environmental database.

The GN will plan and implement a long-term recruitment program to increase technical and management abilities. In addition, the Government will develop a long-term training program to improve current capacities at all levels within the organization. This may also require a review of existing programs that deal with Nunavut's minerals industry to improve service delivery. One example of such a program is the Nunavut Mine Training Partnership, discussed in more detail in section 4.3 below.

The GN will also develop and implement a long-term plan to integrate departmental responsibilities to avoid inter-departmental duplication and streamline the decision-making process. This will require a strong partnership with the federal government to build capacity and an understanding of the challenges in management of mineral resources in Nunavut.

4.2 Strategy Theme 2 - Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

Theme Focus – Approval of mining proposals based on sustainability and long-term protection of Nunavut's natural resources

Responds to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles of

- *Pijitsirniq/Ihumaliukti* - Respect and provide for community, family and individuals; and
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Despite fiscal restraints, the GN is committed to the development of key infrastructure to build business opportunities across the territory. To meet the goal of improving Nunavut's infrastructure, therefore, the GN must enter into partnerships with communities, Inuit Organizations, the federal government and the private sector to acquire and put in place capital equipment, support personnel and community-based infrastructure in support of mining projects. Recognizing this need, the GN has already positioned itself as a strong member of the Nunavut Economic Forum (NEF), a formal alliance of key players in the Nunavut economy which includes both levels of government, NTI and other Inuit organizations, the Chamber of Commerce and Association of Municipalities. In defining its mandate, the NEF followed the dictates of the 2001 and 2002 Conference Board of Canada Nunavut Economic Outlook Report, which resulted in its developing the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy in 2003. This strategy highlights the importance of mining to the long term economic health of Nunavut

As part of the 2004 federal budget a \$90 million strategic investment fund was announced for the three northern territories. Mining is one of the key sectors targeted by the strategic fund, and the NEF is currently prioritizing projects to optimize the benefits this money will yield to Nunavummiut.

A fundamental aspect of infrastructure development with respect to mining is the long-term growth in the Nunavut Geoscience database. In places, the Nunavut geoscience database is poor, with out of date geological mapping and limited geochemical and geophysical coverage. The GN is committed to long-term stable funding for the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office.



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produced diamonds, or a jewelry industry using Nunavut gold and/or diamonds. The GN commits to encouraging such industries where they can be shown to be economically viable.

Prior to devolution, the GN will conduct a thorough review of Nunavut's mineral royalty structure to ensure that it is competitive and fair to all parties, and will consider the implementation of fiscal incentives that promote and encourage ongoing industry investment.

Another area where government will play a leading role is through training programs to encourage an entrepreneurial culture. As with other themes, the investment and distribution of public information such as geoscience will assist in business investment in Nunavut.

A discrete area particular to Nunavut is the research, development and promotion of technologies and practices for arctic environments. This is seen by the GN as an exportable skill for use in other national and international jurisdictions.

4.6 Strategy Theme 6 - Development of an Effective Approval Process

Theme Focus: Institutional strengthening

Responds to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles of

- *Qanuqtuurunnarniq/Kaujimatukanut* - Encourage people to be resourceful and work to solve problems; and
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A number of excellent mineral projects in Nunavut have led to substantial investment to date, and the geological prospectiveness of the territory is very high. However, to encourage explorers to look for the next generation of mineral deposits, the Strategy should recognize that the regulatory regime must be attractive to them. This will require that procedures for environmental assessment and regulatory approvals can be carried out in a manner that is transparent, effective and competitive with other

