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**NASKAPI NATION OF
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Commission d'enquête et d'audience publique sur
les enjeux de la filière uranifère au Québec
Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement
575, rue Saint-Amable, bureau 2.10
Québec, QC, G1R 6A6

1 December, 2014

Subject: *Uranium Inquiry*

Dear Commissioners,

The Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach (the "Nation") is aware that on 3 March, 2014, the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks mandated the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (the "BAPE") alongside the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (the "KEAC") to hold an inquiry and public hearings regarding concerns about the potential uranium industry in northern Quebec.

The Nation is aware that the BAPE and the KEAC are now visiting Kawawachikamach as part of Phase III of this inquiry, whereby participants are welcome to share their opinions on the subject either verbally or in writing.

As title holders of aboriginal and treaty rights within, but not limited to, northern Quebec, the Naskapis continue to maintain a special relationship with the natural environment where traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, gathering and trapping, are still frequently practiced. Any and all development of natural resources must therefore be carried out in partnership and with the consent of the Nation.

In light of the foregoing and given the lack of available scientific information, coupled with the extent of unknown risks, the Nation does not feel that a position can be presented at this time concerning the uranium industry in northern Quebec. There are simply too many unknown environmental and health concerns, political and social acceptability issues and too much uncertainty, particularly regarding the capacity to monitor and enforce the strict regulations given the remoteness of the region. Additionally, the Nation simply does not have the financial capacity to hire experts to work exclusively on this file and would need to obtain such support in order to undertake an in-depth analysis of this issue.

In summary, until further information and scientific data is available regarding exploration and exploitation of uranium in northern Quebec, the Nation is unable to assess the potential impacts, formulate any concerns or comments and thus is unable to formulate an informed opinion.

The Nation therefore insists that the Government conduct further scientific research and studies on the uranium industry in northern Quebec, prior to any exploration activity occur within the Naskapi territory. In addition, the Nation urges that an unbiased education and awareness program be developed to educate the northern communities on all aspects of uranium mining.

The Nation looks forward to continuing open communications with the BAPE and the KEAC, and to reading the public inquiry report in 2015. In the Nation's opinion, this public inquiry report should not be viewed as a comprehensive report on the overall concerns regarding uranium mining in northern Quebec but must rather be viewed as a preliminary step towards undertaking an in-depth analysis on the subject, to then be complemented by the above-mentioned proposed education and awareness program.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact myself, or Ms Lindsay Richardson at Telephone: (514) 482-6887, Fax: (514) 482-0036, E-mail: richardson@atmacinta.com.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noah Swappie', written in a cursive style.

Chief Noah Swappie
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach