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News Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Nunavut welcomes the Federal Government's Decision on Baffinland's Mary River Project

IQALUIT, Nunavut (December 4, 2012) – Premier Eva Aariak and Minister Responsible for Mines, Peter Taptuna, welcome yesterday's approval of the Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Project by the Government of Canada.

"The Mary River project is of great importance to the future of Nunavut," said Premier Eva Aariak. "Our government believes that this project will be an important step toward the creation of a sustainable mining industry that minimizes impact to the environment and benefits all Nunavummiut."

Baffinland Iron Mines now moves into the final project certificate stage.

The Mary River Project has a current projected lifespan of 21 years. Baffinland plans to mine 18 million tonnes of iron ore per year and build a road, railway, deep-water port and other mine-site infrastructure on northern Baffin Island, southwest of Pond Inlet.

"This project has the potential to change the lives of many Nunavummiut," added Peter Taptuna, Nunavut's Minister of Economic Development & Transportation. "We want this change to be positive, providing meaningful careers and a steady income for Nunavummiut.

The Government of Nunavut will continue to work with the Nunavut Impact Review Board and other stakeholders during the regulatory stage.

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