



RPD

Kille
Parks**Memorandum**

For Use Within The Company Only

To	Manager, Western District (GH)	Date	January 18, 1979
	(Use Title if Possible)		
From	Project Geologist (HPW)	File No.	
	(Use Title if Possible)		
Subject	Bathurst Inlet National Park	Reference	

I was visited yesterday by Bob Gamble who is the person assigned by Parks Canada to undertake public consultation about the proposed National Parks, working out of their new Yellowknife office.

Gamble had accompanied I.T.C. representatives to Bathurst Inlet and Cambridge Bay last week. The meetings held were primarily I.T.C. business, but they provided an opportunity for Gamble to solicit feedback from the Inuit at Bathurst Inlet concerning their attitude toward the proposed Park in that area. As you know, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada have now adopted the policy that they oppose establishment of any new parks until the land claims are settled. Consequently, there is no particular pressure being put on the Bathurst Inlet people by their national organization at this time to support the Bathurst Inlet Park proposal. That made it easier for Bob Gamble to obtain the feelings of the local people unencumbered by any outside pressures.

At the first public meeting in Bay Chimo, the Inuit made two points very clear to Gamble:

- a) they do not want a National Park
- b) they are tired of having to come in off their traplines to attend meetings.

Gamble therefore informed the people that, if they would provide him with some written proof of how they feel (e.g. the results of a referendum), he promised he would pass it on to Ottawa, and there would be no need for further meetings on the matter.

On his return trip from Cambridge Bay one day later, he was handed a petition on which the majority of adults, of all age groups, had indicated they do not want a National Park established at Bathurst Inlet. He later showed the petition to the native people living at Bathurst Inlet Lodge and all but one adult living there signed it.

Gamble has already reported to some people in Ottawa that the residents of Bathurst Inlet are opposed to the Park. He will pass the petition on after he gets back to the Inuit one more time in an attempt to have them document the reasons for their objection.

Continued

Signed _____

To: Manager, Western District

January 18, 1979

From: Project Geologist

However, he indicated to me verbally yesterday that he is already convinced on the following points:

- a) The Inuit at Bathurst Inlet are not worried about exploration activities or mine development; in fact they encourage it, subject to some controls.
- b) They are comfortable with the present level of tourist activity represented by Bathurst Inlet Lodge, but do not want to see increased tourism.
- c) The natives at Bathurst Inlet are overwhelmingly opposed to creation of a National Park in the Inlet.
- d) Bob Gamble is going to formally recommend to Parks Canada that a National Park should not be established at Bathurst Inlet.

It should be borne in mind that Bob Gamble is only a consultant to Parks Canada and his recommendation may or may not be reflected in ultimate policy. However, I think his fair and objective approach to his assignment, and his conclusions, are encouraging.

I think it is also very significant that Bob Gamble's prime contact at Bay Chimo, a man who is proving to be an influential spokesman in the community, and the person who wrote up and circulated the petition, is Bobby Kingnektak, a young man who has been employed by Cominco on our northern projects for the past three summers. In fact, Gamble's reason for coming to my office yesterday was to drop off a letter from Bobby to me indicating he is anxious to work for us again in 1979.



H.P. Wilton

HPW/ad

cc - R.P.D., C.F.L. - Yellowknife
O.E.O., H.C.M. - Vancouver
G.J.R., M.E.R.D. - Vancouver
I.W.W. - Vancouver