



**FREDERICTON
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

— *The Voice of Business* —

364 York Street, Suite 200
Fredericton, NB
E3B 3P7



February 22, 2017

Hon. Brian Gallant
Premier
Province of New Brunswick
Chancery Place
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1

Dear Premier Gallant:

Re: Accommodation agreement with Maliseet First Nations for the development of the proposed Sisson Mine

We are writing today to commend you and your government on reaching an accommodation agreement with the St. Mary's, Woodstock, Oromocto, Tobique, Kingsclear and Madawaska First Nations in regards to the proposed Sisson mine project.

We have been closely following the Sisson mine project's development over the past five years and are pleased that several major milestones have been achieved to date. It is our opinion that Sisson Project representatives have done everything reasonably possible to communicate and inform the public, an indication they will be good stewards throughout the 27-year lifespan of the mine. We do hope your government will continue to express support for the project with your federal counterparts as the federal environmental review process continues.

Natural resource development has long been the bedrock of New Brunswick's economy and we see this project as the continuation of that lineage. Creating 300 well-paying jobs will have a significant impact on the region, particularly when one includes the expected 4.5 multiplier, leading to an additional 900-1350 indirect jobs over the mine's life. We are also aware that the project's proponents have been working closely with a wide-range of industry stakeholders, including educational and training organizations, to ensure that as much locally-available labour can be hired as possible. There are also many companies in the region that will be able to supply service and equipment to the project on a permanent or ad hoc basis.



In short, this project would support hundreds of New Brunswickers and their families for a generation. We have every confidence that the project proponents and the government will be able to manage and mitigate potential hazards inherent to its development, ensuring a win-win agreement for generations to come.

We appreciate the challenges involved in such a situation and your government deserves credit for coming to this agreement with the First Nations potentially affected by the project. Finalizing this accommodation is not only a major step in moving the Sisson mine project closer to reality, but also a signal to other potential investors that major projects such as this can be done in New Brunswick. This factor is of equal importance to the economic impact of this project. It bodes well for the province's natural resource development future. We need more of these stories.

We again commend you and your government for moving this project one step closer to fruition - we look forward to its official opening in the near future.

Sincerely,

Paul Simmonds
Robert Simmonds Clothing
President, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

Krista Ross, CEO
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce

cc: Hon. Rick Doucet, Minister of Energy and Resource Development
cc: Matt DeCoursey, MP, Fredericton
cc: Hon. Stephen Horsman, Deputy Premier