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Minister
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 2M4

Ministre
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

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NOV 30 1984

Mr. John H. Parker,
Commissioner,
Northwest Territories,
Yellowknife,
N.W.T.,
XLA 2L9.

Dear Mr. Parker:

Re: Service Road For Arctic Bay

We have received a request from the Deputy Mayor of the Arctic Bay Hamlet, Philip Qamanirq, for a low standard road from Arctic Bay to Victor Bay.

I understand, the same request has been made several times before to the G.M.T. but was rejected because of other priorities.

I was informed that the rationale for this road is to provide access to the soapstone deposit the community is using and to make it easier to transport the results of Inuit hunts in Victor Bay over the hill to Arctic Bay.

Since our new roads policy provides for the construction of community access roads, I would be prepared to participate in the funding for the construction of this road.

It may well be that the road could be constructed by the Hamlet Council, thus creating work in the community and possibly reducing the construction costs. We may also try to involve the Nanisivik mine, i.e., by providing some equipment.

If you agree to pursue this issue, would you please contact G.N. Faulkner, ADM, Northern Affairs Program, to work out the details.

Yours sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
ORIGINAL SIGNÉ PAR
JOHN C. MUNRO

John C. Munro

c.c. Mr. Philip Qamanirq

Canada

B.A.S.
Canada

REASONS FOR VICTOR BAY ROAD

1. Arctic Bay ice breaks up at least two weeks prior to that in Victor Bay. Hunters bringing supplies mainly in the form of Muktuk, at that time of year, must land at Victor Bay then haul their supplies overland to Arctic Bay. As there is no road this task is extremely difficult.
2. Victor Bay is a favorite camping ground both during the time ice is still in the bay and during summer. In order to travel there people run their ski-doo overland plus three wheeled all terrain vehicles. The results have been ugly scars on the surface of the land left by these vehicles.
3. En route to Victor Bay via the western proposed route there exists a stone quarry where the carvers of Arctic Bay gather their stone. Apart from carrying it in small loads on their backs the only other method of extracting the valuable stone is during winter by ski-doo. A road would facilitate this operation.
4. In order to get to Victor Bay by water one must travel over 43 kilometres whereas the land route will be 4 kilometres.
5. There are many good gravel and sand sites on the Victor Bay side near where the proposed road runs. This could be made a year round source of sand or gravel.
6. Hunters often cache food on the Victor Bay area.
7. Arctic Bay will be constructing a processing plant for country food in 1985. Since much of the muktuk is brought from Victor Bay a road would prove all the more valuable -in this case to the commerce and economy of Arctic Bay.
8. Arctic Bay intends to expand its tourism industry. A road to Victor Bay will be an added attraction for these people who do not wish to walk overland as well as to those tourists who would like to picnic away from the Community. During the Summer months Arctic Bay is quite windy. Victor Bay however does not experience these conditions which makes it a more attractive place to visit.

16 December 1983

The Honourable John C. Munro, P.C., M.P.,
Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs,
Les Terrasses de la Chaudiere,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0H4

Dear Mr. Munro:

Service Road for Arctic Bay

I was pleased to hear of your interest in the construction of a low standard road from Arctic Bay to Victor Bay, which lies just over the hill from Arctic Bay. I will advise our officers in our Department of Public Works to put together whatever information they can on this subject and to be prepared to discuss it with your officials when next they are reviewing the allocation of roads funds. We will also follow up the possibilities of involving the Hamlet Council and Nanisivik Mine in the construction phase.

Yours sincerely,

John H. Parker,
Commissioner.

c.c. Assistant Deputy Minister, Northern Affairs
Deputy Minister of Public Works

