

**HOUSE OF COMMONS  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS**

Brief on the study of Arctic Sovereignty, Security  
and Emergency Preparedness of Indigenous Peoples

**Agnico Eagle Mines Limited**

**Summary**

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited (“Agnico Eagle”) is a Canadian-run global gold producer with a longstanding and significant presence in Canada’s North. Our Company has supported Indigenous communities in the Arctic to safeguard Arctic sovereignty, improve regional safety and security and to augment their ability to prepare for and efficiently tackle emergencies. We recognize that permanent, connected residents and commercial activity within a nation is a key component of sovereignty and security.

Agnico Eagle would like to make three key recommendations to the Government of Canada through this Committee:

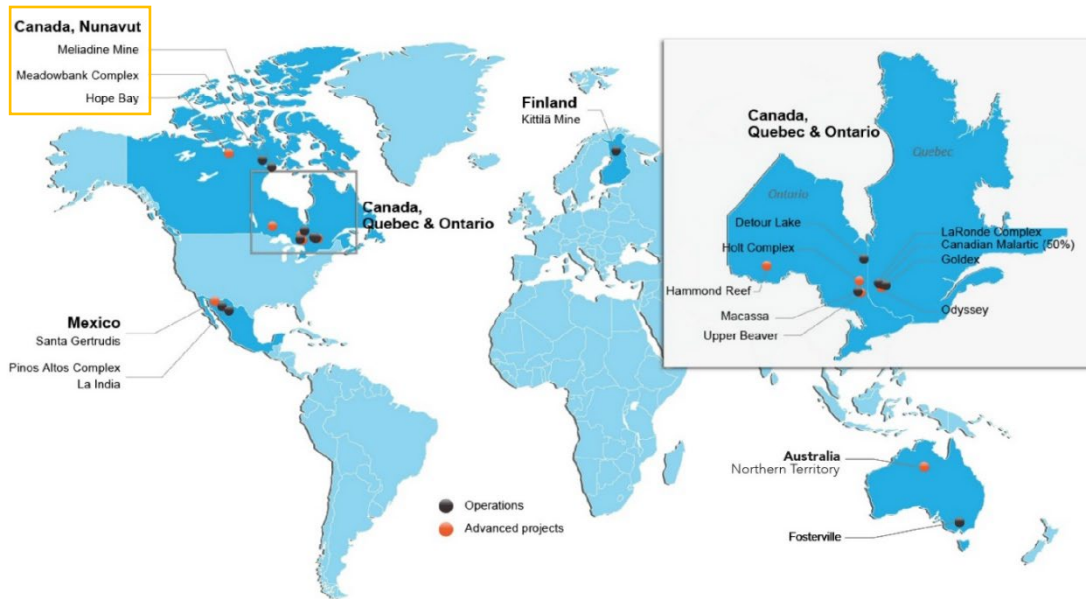
1. Implement a comprehensive Arctic Vision and Strategy
2. Foster safe and secure Arctic communities
3. Utilize existing initiatives and infrastructure to enhance Arctic emergency preparedness

**Overview of Agnico Eagle and its Nunavut Operations**

Agnico Eagle is a global gold producer with mines in Canada, Mexico, Australia and Finland and employing over 16,000 people. Headquartered in Canada, we are the largest producer of gold in Canada and third largest producer in the world. Agnico Eagle has been in business in Canada for over 65 years. Our business strategy focuses on geological regions with strong gold endowment in stable global jurisdictions, with a commitment to being both a good employer and a good neighbour.

We are proud that Agnico Eagle is a partner of choice within our industry, with a reputation for being reliable, operating with respect for others, and for building trust and sharing opportunity with all stakeholders and Indigenous groups.

One of our most meaningful partnerships is with the government, partners, peers and people of Nunavut, which we have been fostering since 2007. We currently have three operations in Nunavut: the Meliadine and Amaruq mines, along with our Meadowbank mining complex, in Nunavut’s Kivalliq region, as well as our Hope Bay project, in Nunavut’s Kitikmeot region.



## Nunavut Platform – Property Location Map

Nunavut's ambition is to build a strong and diversified economy; Agnico Eagle plays a key role in helping to achieve this. The substantial economic contribution of mining – revenues generated for governments, businesses created to support our activities, the people we employ and train – provide the foundation upon which a strong, diversified territorial economy is built.

Agnico Eagle is committed to Nunavut for the long-term and we are committed to working with our partners in the communities and territory to help build the social and economic infrastructure that is so vital to the North's future:

- Agnico Eagle is the largest private sector employer and largest miner in Nunavut.
- In 2021, we directly and indirectly employed 3,880 full-time employees and contractors of which 18% were hired locally.
- In 2021, nearly \$284M was paid in salaries for Nunavut operations, including more than \$27 million paid to Inuit employees.
- In 2021, Agnico Eagle contributed more than \$894,000 in donations and sponsorships to Nunavut communities.
- Agnico Eagle is the largest road builder and owner in Nunavut, with over 200 kilometres developed at a cost of over \$200M.
- Since 2007, Agnico Eagle has invested over \$7B in Nunavut.
- Since 2013, Agnico Eagle has invested more than \$34M in training our Nunavummiut employees.
- Since 2017, Agnico Eagle has paid more than \$109M in royalties and fees to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Kivalliq Inuit Association.
- Agnico Eagle represents more than 25% of Nunavut's GDP.
- Agnico Eagle supports the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link project that would supply clean electricity and broadband connections to Nunavut communities and the Kivalliq region, including our mine sites.

## Recommendation 1: Implement a comprehensive Arctic Vision and Strategy

As the Arctic region grows in strategic importance, not only for Canadians, but for many of our neighbours, it is vital that we come together as a nation to implement a comprehensive **Arctic Vision and Strategy**. This call to action is reflected in the government's 2021 Speech from the Throne and in its [Arctic and Northern Policy Framework](#).

And it is a call to action that echoes through history. As far back as 1958, the federal government had a "Northern Vision" to protect Canada's Arctic sovereignty and to develop its natural resources for the benefit of all Canadians.

Sixty years later, our Arctic sovereignty remains under pressure more than ever and we are still trying to agree on a strategy and a path forward that takes full advantage of the great opportunity that is present in the North and its people.

Notably, in 2019 the House of Commons Foreign-Affairs Committee tabled a report urging the government to work with NATO to determine Russia's military intentions in the North and to enlist NATO's support in protecting Canada's Arctic sovereignty. The government is taking positive steps forward through new funding towards the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Clearly, the time for action is now. We must assist the peoples of the North to build the kind of economic future they want, and to do it in a way that protects the **environment while safeguarding our Arctic sovereignty**.

As a company long active in Nunavut and northern regions, we know that this work is difficult but vital, and that it must be done in equal partnership with Indigenous peoples and through a commitment to responsible development.

Governments must be ready for the many unique challenges of operating in northern areas, and to foster a new generation of positive economic and social cycles in areas that are both difficult to service, and that have long legacies of institutional gaps. We must have a **dedicated and resourced Arctic Vision and Strategy** in order for the Government of Canada to overcome this. Such a strategy would have several key advantages for the whole country:

- i) In Nunavut, it is important to highlight that Inuit own the most mineral rich lands in the world. Identifying and selecting these lands were a strategic choice by Inuit leaders when the territory was created. It is the rock-solid basis for long-term economic and social benefits, offering good jobs, revenue to support community and cultural resources, and the ability to choose the right partners in development. At Agnico Eagle, we are guests in Nunavut, and take our responsibilities to Nunavummiut seriously. **A robust Arctic Vision and Strategy to support responsible development of these Inuit-owned resources furthers our national aim of reconciliation, creating new paths of economic opportunity, while protecting Canadian sovereignty.**
- ii) If we are to responsibly develop more projects in the North, Canada must support several key areas of challenge faced by communities and Northern operators alike. **This includes the lack of clean, emissions-free energy alternatives to power industry and communities; the urgent need for better food security, housing and infrastructure, educational centres and skills training for residents; and economic and digital infrastructure that connects the region to national and global markets.** We can't reasonably develop the critical minerals of the future without first building a solid foundation.

- iii) Canada's Arctic sovereignty is under threat as climate change and rising geopolitical tensions challenge Canada's territorial integrity. Climate change is impacting the Arctic faster than other regions, eventually opening up the territory to international access through Canadian waters and therefore to potential competition for control of the abundant resources found there – and the likelihood of a new genre of 21<sup>st</sup> century tensions. **Sovereignty is made real by permanent, connected residents and commercial activity within a Nation.** An Arctic and Northern Strategy that builds-up the people and economy of the North will be essential in this potential new era of challenges to our sovereignty that affect not only Canada, but especially those who make the Arctic home.

## **Recommendation 2: Foster safe and secure Arctic communities**

The health and safety of our employees and host communities remains our priority. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created unique challenges to the communities in which Agnico Eagle operates, including in Nunavut. Agnico Eagle worked closely with local authorities and businesses to leverage our ability to access materials to support the most vulnerable people and to provide critical health, safety, food and other supplies.

The actions taken Agnico Eagle included:

- delivered food baskets and supported food banks,
- provided hygiene and PPE supplies to communities, and
- provided workforce, equipment and material for community-led support initiatives through our "Good Deeds Brigade".

Due to the risks presented by COVID-19, beginning in March 2020 Agnico Eagle took measures to isolate its Nunavut operations from local communities. As part of these isolation protocols, we sent all of our Nunavut-based workers home with 75% of their base pay, without Agnico Eagle accessing the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. We are happy to report that our Nunavummiut employees have now returned to work.

Additionally, Agnico Eagle is committed to helping communities surrounding our operations during crises. On October 12, 2021, the Government of Nunavut announced that the water from the water treatment plant in Iqaluit may have been contaminated by petroleum hydrocarbons. In order to support to the community of Iqaluit during this crisis, Agnico Eagle shipped approximately 15,000 litres of clean drinking water (potable) by cargo flight just three days later.

**Because Agnico Eagle is present in Nunavut, we were able to leverage our supply chains to help when help was needed. Reinforcing supply chains and enhancing transport networks in the Arctic will be critical for the safety of communities in the region.** Agnico Eagle has proven its ability and desire to support these efforts through our presence in Nunavut and we look forward to working with governments and partners in supporting these improvements.

Furthermore, **safe housing** is an important challenge to address in order to close gaps in physical, mental and family health that communities, governments and partners like Agnico Eagle are working to change. The housing shortage represents a public health emergency in the territory and is a key link in addressing a wide array of social and health challenges. Indigenous communities in Northern Canada are also experiencing a food security crisis with serious implications for health and well-being. A range of coordinated approaches at multiple levels is required to address the **food security** issue in the North.



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### **Recommendation 3: Use existing initiatives and infrastructure to enhance the Arctic's emergency preparedness**

With remote areas and communities across the Arctic, tackling emergencies and preparing for them in advance can be challenging. However, utilizing existing infrastructure in the region can support these efforts and facilitate the optimal use of community and government resources.

Agnico Eagle provides Search and Rescue support for missing people, while our runways represent emergency alternative landing strips for flights in the region. Utilizing our existing infrastructure and presence in remote areas of the Arctic is vital, enabling communities and the government at large to improve emergency preparedness quickly and efficiently in the region.

Fighting fires in the remote and harsh Arctic environment is one example of the difficulty of tackling emergencies. Fighting them without the proper training or facilities has been a real challenge for Rankin Inlet's Fire Department. Agnico Eagle contributed \$250,000 when the Meliadine mine opened in 2019, toward building the Rankin Inlet Fire Department's new Regional Fire Training Centre.

### **Conclusion**

Canada's North is a vast and vital territory which requires our urgent attention. The pressures of climate change and threats of encroachment on our sovereignty require concrete action.

As proud and active partners in the North, we recognize we have a role to play in land stewardship, economic stability and infrastructure presence that contributes to Arctic security and sovereignty.

As Canada works with its northern citizens to develop and implement a modern Arctic strategy to secure a safe, sovereign and prosperous future for Canada's north, Agnico Eagle welcomes the opportunity to play an active role in the discussions.

Working together, under a coordinated strategy and concrete actions, we can create the future the North deserves. For Agnico Eagle, that's how we make mining work for everyone, and we are ready to continue our partnership in that bright future.

For more information:

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