

**Subject: Valentine Gold Project Changes**

January 30, 2026

To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comment on the proposed changes to the Valentine Gold Project undertaken by Equinox Gold.

Qalipu First Nation (QFN) represents approximately 24,000 registered members in Newfoundland and abroad and is made up of 67 traditional Mi'kmaq communities across Newfoundland. As a band, we provide core programs and service to our members, including Natural Resources Management.

After reviewing the proposed modifications to the existing project as contained in the document titled "Valentine Gold Project: Notification of Change to a Designated Project", many of the potential environmental impacts are already accounted for in the original EA and EIS documents. As all changes outlined in the document take place on the established footprint of the Valentine Gold Project Site, no further destruction of the terrestrial environment is anticipated to take place. However, regarding fish and fish habitat there seems to be indirect losses due to sediment and other drainage from the separation of ore stockpiles. Although unlikely, streams within the project footprint are anticipated to see an uptick in primary production which could potentially lead to anoxic conditions.

Ultimately, we urge Equinox Gold to adhere to the practices laid out within the EA Update and EIS regarding the protection of fish and fish habitats within and adjacent to the project footprint. It is important water quality standards are enforced to protect both aquatic life and the biological integrity of both Valentine Lake and the Victoria Lake Reservoir. Continued transparency and engagement with Indigenous groups, regulators, industry, and stakeholders is paramount in ensuring requirements are upheld for current and future projects.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Chief Jenny Brake