

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2012/05/02/north-nti-royalty-payment.html>

# NTI gets first mine royalty payment of \$2.2M

**Inuit land claims organization say money will go into a trust**

[CBC News](#)

**Posted: May 2, 2012 9:41 AM CT**

**Last Updated: May 2, 2012 11:29 AM CT**

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*The Meadowbank gold mine, owned by Agnico-Eagle, is located near Baker Lake, Nunavut, on Inuit-owned land. (The Canadian Press)*

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The Inuit land claims organization in Nunavut got its first-ever royalty payment Tuesday of \$2.2 million.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated took in the money for allowing Agnico-Eagle's Meadowbank gold mine on Inuit-owned land near Baker Lake, Nunavut.

The organization's president Cathy Towtongie said this is the first big step.

"And if there is mining to be done on Inuit-owned lands, we benefit," she said.



*Cathy Towtongie, the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, said the organization will put the money in a trust. (CBC file)*

Towtongie said Agnico-Eagle originally paid this money to the federal government. The federal government transferred the money to the organization after NTI insisted it belonged to Inuit.

The \$2.2 million was transferred to NTI for 2010/2011 when the mine opened. NTI expects the 2011/2012 royalty payment within the next few months.

Towtongie said the money will go into a trust fund and will not be used by NTI or anyone else for the time being.

She said many Inuit want direct payments from the royalties, but said there will be no decision on that until there is \$100 million in the bank.

"When it reaches \$100 million, then it will be up to three quarters of the Inuit and NTI AGM to decide how this will be distributed," said Towtongie.

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- [Angoof](#)2012/05/02  
at 3:44 PM ETHow much would Inuit benefit if they outright owned the mines, oilfields, diamonds, gold, etc. See the way I see it, we would be having companies bid to do what they need to do to extract the riches from our grounds, would we be talking a percentage or should we be outright owning the materials that are coming out of the ground, something for the Inuit leadership to seriously look at this issue. As we are being marginalized in our own lands. We need to explore the option of becoming a real "Inuit Nunangat"!!!*Rating-3*[Agree with comment \(1 people agree\)](#)[Disagree with comment \(4 people disagree\)](#)[Reply](#)[Show 2 replies](#)[Policy](#)[Report abuse \(0\)](#)
- [ublugiaq](#)2012/05/02  
at 2:29 PM ETWow, way to go for the Inuit beneficiaries of Nunavut.

I can guarantee as a beneficiary, we are not going to see where the money is going, majority of the Inuit beneficiary doesn't know where they money goes.

*Rating*4[Agree with comment \(6 people agree\)](#)[Disagree with comment \(2 people disagree\)](#)[Reply](#)[Policy](#)[Report abuse \(0\)](#)

- [ukiugtaqtuq](#)2012/05/02  
at 12:54 PM ETLooks like selling out and allowing damage to the land by profit (only) motivated companies is starting to have a small payoff for landclaims (though, not directly the beneficiaries). Wonder if this will further encourage representatives of Inuit organizations to continue to trade short term gain for damage to lands traditionally used by animals and subsistence hunters in a sustainable manner.

Disappointed by the trend towards mining, mining, mining, but can't say I'm overly surprised, given the pro development slogans being pumped out by Inuit orgs and Nunavut Government over the last few years. "Nunavut rocks" And arsenics. And radioactive dusts... and... hey, where did the caribou go?*Rating-6*[Agree with comment \(6 people agree\)](#)[Disagree with comment \(12 people disagree\)](#)[Reply](#)[Show 1 reply](#)[Policy](#)[Report abuse \(0\)](#)

- [Arctic Dude](#)2012/05/02  
at 11:05 AM ETSee, it can all work out pretty good if people don't panic and if they do work together. *Rating*16[Agree with comment \(20 people agree\)](#)[Disagree with comment \(4 people disagree\)](#)[Reply](#)[Policy](#)[Report abuse \(0\)](#)