



## My Opinion About Pebble Mine *by Yako Nickoli*

**W**e don't need Pebble Mine. It has already changed the hunting grounds. The caribou are not around anymore like they used to be. We don't see them in our backyards anymore like up by Mike and Dallia's or walking by the airport or across the river. In my opinion, with all that noise that the helicopters make (people say you can hear them for miles) maybe it is scaring the caribou away... and think about the exhaust from the heavy equipment. Hunters from up the lake have to go further and further to hunt caribou to put away meat for their families.

We don't need a big hole in the ground. I've seen pictures and heard stories. It does not look nice. We had people from here who went to look at mines. Is it going to be like down in the States where there is no more fish? Why block off streams where the fish are spawning? Pebble Mine is going to put in dams, culverts, and roads. Their people never mention anything about what it is going to be like or told anyone about the other mining claims that there are around the lake. If Pebble Mine gets their permits then all the other mining claims would want one too. Why? To dig more holes that we don't need. They say Pebble Mine will be the largest mine. What will happen when we have a

disaster? The earth does not sit still and all the polluted materials will move. It won't matter how good they say it is, or will be. Realize what happened in the Exxon oil spill. People say it changed their lives and the subsistence lifestyle. There is still crude oil in some areas from that spill.

There are a lot of streams with fish where Pebble Mine is. It is not the only place they will ruin. Places on the Nushigak and Bristol Bay area will be ruined too. We have a lot of sport fishermen, women, and children who love this area and the Nushigak area. It is like a home away from home. Here it is peaceful and quiet with beautiful lakes and crystal clear streams. Have those big-wigs come and seen for themselves and seen what nature is like and the peace and quiet? What do they know? This is all I have to say. We had a very good meeting with the people that came here against Pebble Mine. They showed us what will happen if the mine goes through. It will not look pretty. It will be UGLY with a capital U! The mine will look like a BIG HONEY BUCKET!

**Think about the future!** I was raised here and I'm still here. This place is not just my home it is my life.

