



**NUNAVUT WATER BOARD**

**NUNAVUT WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**Communication, Consultation and Engagement  
Plan**

**DRAFT**



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Nunavut Water Board (NWB) is planning to develop a comprehensive Water Management Strategy for Nunavut that reflects watershed, regional and territorial issues and priorities around freshwater.

This Communication, Consultation and Engagement Plan (Plan) provides an outline as to how and when stakeholder consultation will be conducted and how the feedback received from the consultation will be incorporated into the development of the Nunavut Water Management Strategy.

This Plan seeks to answer the following questions:

- Why is the Steering Committee consulting (Section 1.2);
- Legal considerations and requirements to consult (Section 3.0);
- Policy direction and initiatives within Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and the federal government that must be met (Section 4.0);
- Who does the Steering Committee need to consult (Section 7.0);
- The expectations of the people and groups that will be consulted; and
- When and how consultation will be conducted (Section 7.1).

### 1.1 Terminology

Throughout this document the following terminology will be used and it is defined here for clarity.

Nunavut Water Management Strategy (Strategy) – The overarching policy for the management of freshwater resources in Nunavut being developed by the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) in consultation with the Stakeholders identified in this Plan.

Framework – The outline of the key components for the Strategy.

Policy – a definite course of action adopted for the sake of expediency and facility.

Stakeholder – Institutions of Public Government, Designated Inuit Organizations, federal and territorial government departments, and non-governmental organizations and agencies as well as all residents of Nunavut.

### 1.2 Consultation Objectives

The goals of this process are to:

- Advise the public and other Stakeholders that the parties with water responsibilities in Nunavut are working together to develop a Water Management Strategy for Nunavut.
- Advise the public and other Stakeholders that the Strategy will recognise the unique challenges and opportunities for water management in Nunavut.
- Encourage public participation in the development of the Nunavut Water Management Strategy.
- Support decision-making that results in a Strategy that is reflective of all Nunavummiut and their values.
- Empower communities to be involved in the management of water resources.



- Contribute to the Stakeholders' understanding of key water management issues in Nunavut.

## 2.0 STEERING COMMITTEE

The NWB proposes establishment of a Steering Committee, whose purpose is to recommend a comprehensive Strategy that provides a coordinated management approach that ensures freshwater in Nunavut is conserved and used in a manner that provides the optimum benefit for all Nunavummiut in particular, and all Canadians in general. This Committee is intended to bring Nunavut's Institutions of Public Government, Designated Inuit Organizations, federal and territorial government departments, communities and other non-governmental organizations and agencies together to address the challenge of developing an integrated water management strategy for Nunavut.

The Steering Committee will provide a centralized, coordinated and focused approach within the territory to create a Strategy which supports the alignment and compatibility of policies, programs and services of the various stakeholders with the goals of sustainable water management.

### 2.1 Structure

The NWB proposed that the Steering Committee consist of one member and one alternate from each of the NWB, CIRNAC, Government of Nunavut (GN), Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI), and the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) (Figure 1). The NTI may wish to designate an alternate from any of the Regional Inuit Associations (RIA). Additional members may also be added with the agreement of the Committee. Two Co-Chairs will be selected, one from each of the NWB and CIRNAC. The work of the Committee will be supported by a facilitator provided by the NWB, Golder Associates.

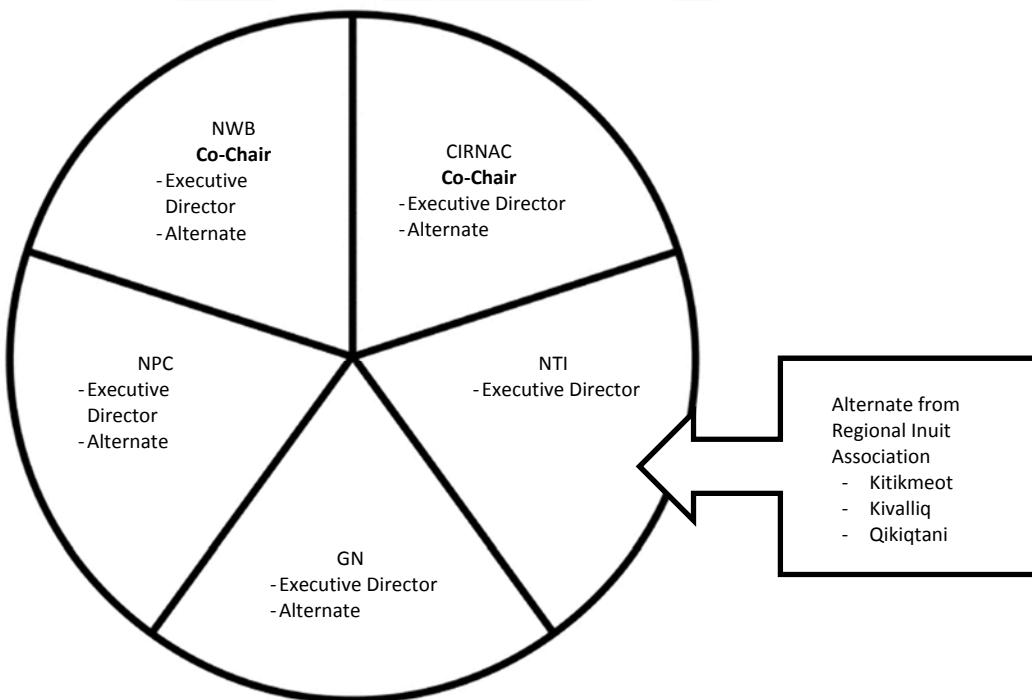


Figure 1: Steering Committee structure.



### 3.0 OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE NUNAVUT AGREEMENT

The mandate of the NWB in Article 13 (Part 2) of the *Agreement Between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* specifies that the NWB “shall have responsibilities and powers over the regulation, use and management of water in the Nunavut Settlement Area...” As further and more specifically developed under the federal *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 10, the NWB has been given very broad jurisdiction over the management of all freshwater in Nunavut. Consequently, the NWB considers the development and implementation of a comprehensive territorial Water Management Strategy as a central component of the NWB’s broad freshwater management mandate. However, the NWB recognises that this process must be undertaken in collaboration with several key stakeholders (i.e. the Steering Committee) who also have central roles in the use, conservation and management of Nunavut’s freshwater resources. Although, to date, the NWB’s primary water management focus has been on the review, issuance and monitoring of individual water licences for the use of water and deposits of waste, the NWB has previously undertaken various policy initiatives with the objective of establishing a more comprehensive approach to freshwater management than can be accommodated in individual licensing decisions.

It should be noted that in the development of this Plan, the NWB expressly recognizes the unique and constitutionally protected rights of Inuit to be consulted during the development and implementation of policy initiatives that affect the use and management of water in the Nunavut Settlement Area.<sup>1</sup> The NWB will seek advice and direction from NTI, the Regional Inuit Associations, CIRNAC and GN regarding consultation requirements and opportunities that may arise for the NWB to fulfill the required consultation throughout.

### 4.0 POLICY DIRECTION BACKGROUND

#### INAC-NRO Strategic Plan

The ultimate goal of the Nunavut Regional Office of CIRNAC (formerly Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada or INAC) is: “To work in partnership to help improve the quality of life of Nunavummiut...” the Vision is to be “an effective INAC regional office able to deliver our Department’s mandate in Nunavut”.

For the purpose of consultation surrounding the development and implementation of the Strategy, the NWB sees that an essential element of this vision, i.e. “focused and successful management” will be met by establishing good relationships with the people of Nunavut and agencies and industries working in the territory.

The NWB anticipates that the Steering Committee Members will be able to establish a positive and productive consultation environment by interacting with stakeholders, conducting external consultations, and promoting healthy dialogue.

Similarly, the NWB expects that the GN’s participation in the Steering Committee will be consistent with the goals set out by the GN in the *Parnautit: the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy* and also recent water policy development initiatives associated with the discussion of the future devolution of Federal powers to the GN.

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<sup>1</sup> See for example the rights and obligations as set out in the *Nunavut Agreement*, Article 20, Part 2 and Article 10, Part 8.



### Political Priorities

The NWB is also encouraged that recent commitments from the elected representatives of Canada and Nunavut are indicative of a strong willingness to be more active partners for positive change in the development of the North. Recent federal budgets have highlighted an enhanced interest in “northern development” and the NWB is hopeful that ongoing funding for this important initiative will be secured in future

### Public Engagement

The NWB wishes to build on the successful public engagement undertaken to support the development of the *Nunavut Waters Regulations* in 2011 and intends to use the lessons learned during those consultations to support the successful development of the Strategy.

## 5.0 STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Steering Committee will develop a draft framework which will then be provided to a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for feedback (Figure 2). In parallel to the TAG feedback process, community consultation and engagement will be conducted as detailed in this Plan.

A work plan for the consultation process is provided in Appendix A.

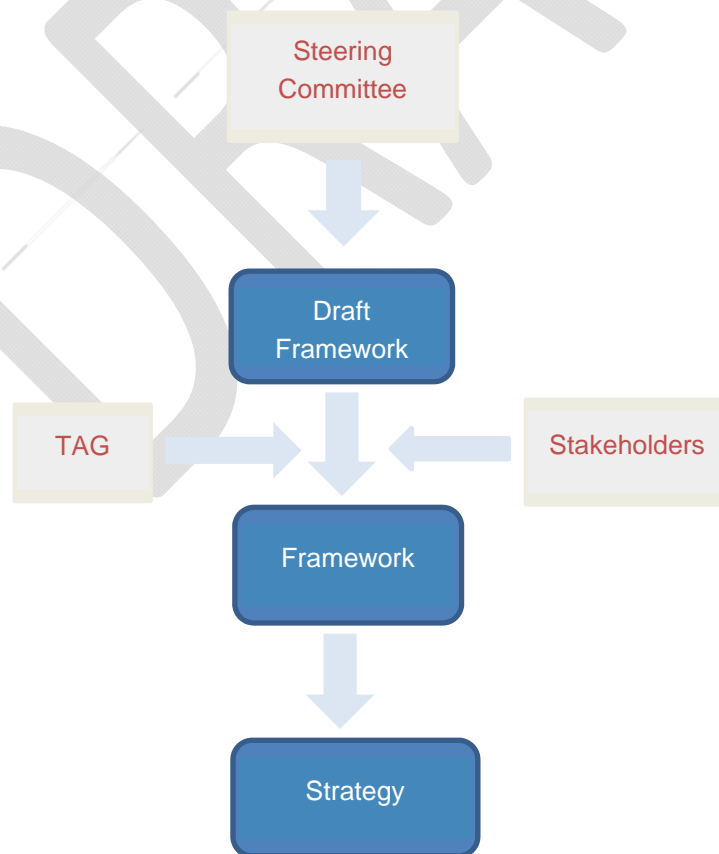


Figure 2: Strategy development process overview.



## 6.0 TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

The TAG will provide technical guidance on the science component of the Framework, including expertise related to water quality, hydrology, hydrogeology, aquatic organisms and climate change. TAG will be comprised of members from various stakeholder groups who are considered by the Steering Committee to have the appropriate expertise. It is anticipated that the TAG will also include additional members of the Institutions of Public Government as set out in the Stakeholder list (See Section 7.0).

The Steering Committee recognises the commitment of the TAG and the valuable expertise they will provide and the NWB is committed to working with TAG Members to find ways to provide the human and financial resources necessary to support their active participation in the development of the Strategy. The Steering Committee commits to considering the input from the TAG before finalising decisions on matters that have been reviewed by TAG.

## 7.0 STAKEHOLDERS

Although the list of Stakeholders who will be consulted during the development of the Strategy provided below is preliminary and may be changed after consultation with the Steering Committee, at present, the NWB anticipates consulting the following parties:

- Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
- Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal (NSRT)
- Regional Inuit Associations (RIA)
  - Kitikmeot
  - Kivalliq
  - Qikiqtani
- Nunavut communities including Hamlets, Hunters and Trappers Associations (HTA), Youth Groups, Elders Groups, Community Land and Resources Committees (CLARCs)
- Environment and Wildlife management groups
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)
- Municipal Governments/Officials
- Others who request or otherwise indicate a desire and a reason for consultations (individuals, non-governmental organisations)
- Private Businesses
- Industry (mining, oil & gas)



- Mining Association of Canada (MAC)
- Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA)

The level of consultation and engagement required will vary between Stakeholders, to reflect both the legal mandates that must be considered with some Stakeholders and applicable time and resource limits.

The NWB currently expects that to deliver on the promise of an effective consultation process for the Strategy, the Steering Committee will also need to consider the following issues:

- Managing the expectations of residents, agencies and industries in, or involved in, Nunavut;
- How best to structure and report on consultation efforts;
- The nature of interaction amongst groups;
- The potential for Stakeholders to integrate this Engagement and Consultation Plan in areas and for topics where ongoing consultation efforts may already be planned/underway; and
- Identifying potential additional areas and topics in respect of which the Steering Committee may need to consult to support the development of the Strategy.

## 7.1 Consultation and Engagement Methods

Methods of engagement available include those outlined in Table 1, with those to be adopted with various stakeholders noted in the last column.

**Table 1: Potential engagement methods.**

Engagement Level	Consultation Method	To be used
Inform	Personal telephone contact	
	In person meeting	
	Mail out – letters to home and business	
	Newspaper advert or notice	
	Fact sheets or brochure	x
	Email community contacts	x
	Radio interviews, adverts or community announcements	
	NWB websites – information and notices	x
	Media releases	x
	Public displays – community halls	
	Presentations at community meetings	
	Specific information sessions	x
	Posters, signage or banners	
Consult	Invite written submissions	x
	Host focus group session(s)	x
	Anonymous suggestion/feedback box	
	Social media	x
	Public meetings in communities	x
Involve and collaborate	Meetings with key stakeholders	
	Community reference group	
	Expert reference group/committee	x





Interpreters and translators may be required in order to engage some Stakeholders.

A Stakeholder Analysis Communication Methodology is provided in Appendix B. Appendix B details which Stakeholders have been identified by the Steering Committee to be key Stakeholders and therefore may require a greater degree of engagement.

The NWB expects that a low level of engagement, such as emailed invitations to submit written feedback may be sufficient to meet the needs of some Stakeholders, however for key Stakeholders, it is expected that a higher degree of engagement will be required. This higher level of engagement is expected to comprise in-person meetings, public meetings in communities and focus group sessions.

It is anticipated that public meetings will be held in communities specifically to engage residents, local business and municipalities, with other stakeholders welcome to attend should they wish. These public meetings shall include dissemination of information regarding the Strategy, both verbally and via a written fact sheet. There will be opportunities during the meetings for discussion of Stakeholder questions or concerns and for the provision of verbal feedback.

It is expected that the inclusion of the NTI and RIAs on the Steering Committee, will ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit (IQ) can be integrated into the draft Framework to a certain degree. However, the NWB also expects that further gathering and refinement of IQ, as may be required to incorporate into the Strategy may be achieved through specific focus group sessions and/or specific information sessions or meetings.

Where possible, the timing and location of public meetings will align with other activities (e.g., community meetings or industry conferences) to hopefully maximize participation and minimize the costs and inconvenience associated with travelling to attend the meeting for participants.

The NWB anticipates that the information disseminated in various forms throughout the development of the Strategy will include:

- Draft Framework for review and comment
- How to obtain further information, if required
- Methods of providing feedback including contact information (mail, email and phone)
- Deadlines for submissions
- When the draft Strategy will be available for review

In addition to the above communication methods, a media release shall also be issued to launch this initiative, as well as posting on the NWB website and social media. Media inquiries related to the development of the Strategy will be directed to the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee for official response.

Exact details regarding the method and timing of all consultation and engagement with Stakeholder groups will be finally determined by the Steering Committee and will be included in the final version of this Community Consultation and Engagement Plan accepted by the Members.



## 8.0 REPORTING AND FEEDBACK

The Steering Committee will need to demonstrate that it has consulted effectively. Therefore, all feedback received shall be logged and summarised noting key points provided by the Stakeholder. The following information shall be included in the log:

- Stakeholder name
- Organisation represented
- Contact details
- Date
- Comment/issue

A summary report of this feedback shall be produced following the consultation and engagement period and provided to the Steering Committee. This report shall also be made publicly available through the NWB's public registry.

## 9.0 KEY PROTOCOLS

The NWB also expects that general and detailed information sheets for distribution to Stakeholders will need to be developed to support these consultations. A sample letter for distribution to Community Organisations about the development of the Strategy have been provided in Appendix C.



# APPENDIX A

## Work Plan

*TO BE UPDATED FOR NEXT VERSION*



# **APPENDIX B**

## **Stakeholder Assessment**

*TO BE UPDATED FOR NEXT VERSION*



# **APPENDIX C**

## **Sample Letter to Community Parties**

*TO BE UPDATED FOR NEXT VERSION*