

## Appendix 36: 2021 Kivalliq Inuit Elders Advisory Committee Report

## **Kivalliq Inuit Elders Advisory Committee Report – November 23, 2021**

### **Initial Considerations**

Three considerations provided the scaffolding for the creation of an Inuit Elders' advisory committee. First was how to build a process to integrate traditional names of various locations. After our public hearings for Whale Tail 2, NIRB board and public were critical of Agnico Eagle for selecting the name "Whale Tail" in an area with no apparent connections to whales. We then committed to the people of Baker Lake to integrate a process respectful of traditional and Inuit place names.

A second consideration was how to build a better dialogue around mining if we do not understand the initial aspirations Elders had for Nunavut with the prolonged historical dispute over land selection process and subsurface rights in Kivalliq. Our Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) coordinator who spearheaded this committee, David Kritterdlik, explained that many of Inuit behind the various negotiations of land selection for Nunavut have passed on and it is important to document the vision, knowledge and stories from the remaining elders today. This elders' committee, according to our IQ coordinator could also assist in building a better consultation process to improve the community's understanding of our projects.

A final consideration was a wish to re-integrate elders who were initially engaged in initial consultations of gold mining exploration companies in Kivalliq. This would also inform our understanding of previously collected Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and would provide rich information on how to integrate such traditional and community knowledge into our exploration, planning and operational plans.

### **Background**

Agnico Eagle's IQ Coordinator led the selection process to recruit committee members. He identified potential committee members and then vetted the prospective members with various mayors and other elders from the region. The process to identify and meet with potential members took approximately 1 year due to the Covid related restrictions.

The participating Elders organized the foundational structure and process for the creation of this committee. At no time did any of the southern based Agnico employees or consultants were involved in redirecting the mandate. In other words, the Elders "owned" the committee creation process and this led to active engagement.

### ***Committee Members***

As of November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the committee includes 21 elders, including an elder facilitator, from 5 of the 7 Kivalliq communities. The two remaining and most distant communities are expected to have representation in 2022. Selection of committee members was based on the ability and willingness to contribute to the collection of traditional knowledge for our mining activities in Kivalliq as opposed to the size of the community.

### *Meetings*

The first in-person meeting with the committee members was in June 21-22, 2021. The objectives of the initial meeting was to assess alignment of this proposed committee. It included matters such as terms of reference, honorariums, hearing equipment, materials, interpretation, third-party facilitation, recording of meeting minutes and agenda topics. The first meeting provided an opportunity to bring the elders to our Meliadine site to the exploration road.

The follow up second in-person meeting was November November 1-5, 2021. The agenda topics were to review the draft Terms of Reference, honorarium payments, election of committee of Chair and Vice Chair. We also organized a Meliadine site visit with the permission of the Chief Public Health Officer of Nunavut. Finally, our Agnico Eagle adult educator gave an excellent presentation to the Elders on the training opportunities. This presentation was the highlight of the meeting, according to the committee members. As such, the Elders requested that a standard agenda topic at every meeting must include training updates for Inuit.



*Figure 1 Trip to Meliadine Mine*



*Figure 2 Trip to Upper Amer Lake with Elder Philippa*

### **Terms of Reference**

The first draft of the Terms of Reference were reviewed by the Elders' committee on November 1, 2021. Due to time constraints and issues with the translated version in Inuktitut, the committee was unable to finalize a resolution approving the Terms of Reference. That said, the mandate of the Kivalliq Elders

Advisory Committee were reviewed by the committee without objections. The Mandate and Objectives of the Terms of Reference are reproduced below:

### ***Mandate and Objectives***

*The purpose of the Elders' Committee is to provide independent insights, knowledge and experience to guide Agnico Eagle in conducting its activities in a respectful and socially responsible manner. Specifically, the Elders' Committee may be asked to:*

- 1. Review and validate previously collected Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*
- 2. Provide advice on local and Inuktitut names of various locations*
- 3. Support in the incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in various documentation and processes such as Nunavut Impact Review Board or Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements*
- 4. Advise in the integration of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into Agnico Eagle's operations, such as caribou and wildlife management plans and participate in the mitigation of community concerns*
- 5. Participate in various focus group meetings to help Agnico Eagle understand how various mine related projects may affect / improve culture and way of life of Kivalliq Inuit*
- 6. Suggest communities to be engaged with as part of Agnico Eagle's community consultation and comment*
- 7. Provide advice on Inuktitut and plain language and Inuktitut to improve understanding of mining activities by Inuit*
- 8. Visit various Agnico Eagle exploration and operation sites in Kivalliq*
- 9. Advise Agnico Eagle on how to support community well-being for the future*

It is expected that the draft Terms of Reference will be adopted by way of a resolution at the next meeting in March of 2022 in Baker Lake.

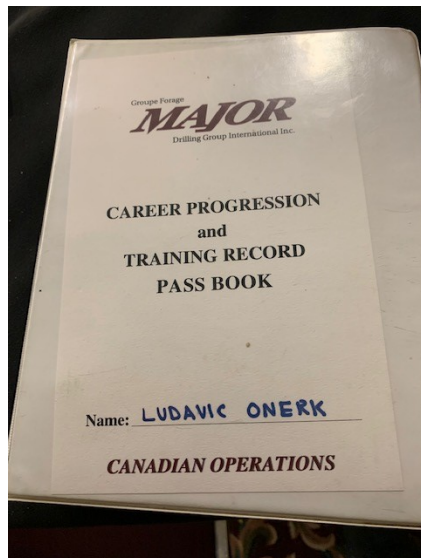
### **Meeting Updates and Examples of Key Learnings**

Inuktitut was spoken at the meeting. This allows for better communication amongst members. Southern based employees attend the meetings and had interpretation support at all times. The meetings were chaired by a Chair elected by the committee members for the next year. The third-party facilitator was well experienced and followed strict guidelines to keep the discussion on point. The meeting minutes were recorded by an experienced Inuktitut teacher and then transcribed to English. This process allows Agnico to accurately record the comments of the members.

#### **Key Learnings:**

1. Better communication leads to better understanding of mining activities in communities
2. Exploration activities should not "just happen like that"
3. Interpreters do not have right vocabulary to properly explain what is going on in mining related hearings. Interpreters want to be shown the different aspects of mining terms so that the elders can support interpreters on how to best describe in Inuktitut
4. Technical terms are complicated so it is difficult to understand what mining wants. Need to explain in everyday language

5. Inuit will understand if they are “shown” more. They are used to being shown on how to carry out tasks and are quick learners when they are “shown” (this applies to both regulatory consultations and training)
6. Inuit must be consulted when it comes to building roads. At this time, many roads are too high for proper caribou migration and this is where HTO must play a role
7. Before AWAR roads, little activities with ATVs but now, weather is wetter and ATV are harming the environment. Would like to see more shared use of AWAR with ATVs to protect environment
8. Inuit do not understand underground mining and want to learn more on how it works. Not against mining
9. Benefits: elders are tired of hearing about royalties because they feel they will never see the positive impacts of royalties for their families and communities. According to elders, royalties stay in bank accounts of their organizations and never reach their communities. Yet, training represents concrete and real benefit for their families and communities. For example, an elder showed his book of micro certifications thanks to a drilling company. He was proud of his micro-certifications because it allowed him to work safely and be gainfully employed.



10. One elder is concerned about how their young kids are too focused on their mobile phones and not focused on their studies. Elders want to play a role in helping young one to focus on mining opportunities and schooling
11. A few elders wanted training for young men and women working at the mine to learn on how to save and spend wisely
12. Wellness: The term “mental health” is not well thought of. Rather, the elders recommended that Agnico refers to “whole of being”. Elders believe the opening of a beer, wine and liquor store in Rankin is going to create a lot of friction in families. Will encourage Agnico to bring education on drugs and alcohol
13. Overwhelming special praise to Agnico from the committee’s elders for caring about their communities as evidenced by the topics generated through this committee. One member

stated: *"We seriously think AEM should be our GN"*. The entire committee applauded this elder for this statement.

### **Implementation Status**

Many IQ were shared with various internal Agnico Eagle teams including:

1. New initiative with Permitting to identify a glossary of terms requiring IQ
2. New initiative with Training to identify micro certification programs such as Hand tools safety
3. Geo locate areas associated with history of Kivalliq north starvation (see Upper Amer Lake) and record on maps for exploration
4. New map overlays for Permitting of local traditional names

To do next meeting in March 2022:

1. Finalize draft Terms of Reference
2. Introduce Whale Tail 3
3. Update on Training
4. Visit Meadowbank