



Sanirajak

The ISP is overseen by the Inuit Avatimut Kamattiarnirmut Katimajjiit (IAKK), a committee comprised of representatives from each impacted community. As recognized through multiple NIRB reviews—including Phase 2, the 2022 Production Increase Renewal, and the Sustaining Operations Proposal—Inuit-led studies fill critical gaps between western scientific monitoring and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. In response to these findings, QIA committed to carrying out several studies, including the Pond Inlet Country Food Baseline Study and other mandated research, with Baffinland’s support. Additional studies were subsequently directed by the IAkk based on community priorities.



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Each ISP study is designed, led, and conducted by Inuit, supported by QIA staff and subject-matter experts where needed. These are not hypothesis-driven assessments; rather, they are focused on gathering information, data, and observations from the land and water, rooted in Inuit knowledge and lived experience. The resulting reports document the process and outcomes of Inuit-led monitoring around the Mary River Project.

The purpose of this work is twofold: to bring forward community concerns in a transparent and meaningful way, and to inform continuous improvement of the project. Where ISP findings confirm predicted impacts, they help focus efforts on areas of uncertainty. Where findings identify gaps or misalignment, they support enhancements to management plans, mitigation measures, and monitoring programs. While the studies were commissioned by QIA, they were carried out at arm's length, and their results do not necessarily represent QIA's final and formal positions on the issues examined.

QIA supports responsible, sustainable mining and development in the Qikiqtani Region. We recognize that mining delivers long-term benefits and opportunities, and also creates impacts that must be understood, monitored, and guided by Inuit leadership and community experience. The ISP is a critical mechanism for achieving this balance between the Mary River Project's impacts and benefits experienced by Inuit.

Results and findings from ISP research and monitoring supports overall efforts to ensure the Mary River Project impacts are being predicted and managed in a way that meaningfully addresses Inuit rights impacts. This facilitates the resolution of uncertainty where the ISP confirms that current predictions and resulting mitigation and management measures are effective, and pinpoints areas where steps must be taken to further strengthen and adapt the Project. In this way, the ISP both validates what is working and illuminates where improvements are needed to address Inuit communities' concerns.

We appreciate the Boards' ongoing work to support rigorous, transparent, and inclusive regulatory processes. Should you require clarification or wish to discuss any aspect of the ISP studies in greater detail, QIA is available at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jared Ottenhof
Director, Lands and Resource Management