

# SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE NO.: 11EN006

INAC File No.: N2011C0006

March 29, 2011

Honourable John Duncan Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Ottawa, ON

Via email: Duncan.J@parl.gc.ca and minister@inac-ainc.gc.ca

Re: <u>Screening Decision for Uranium North Resources Corp.'s "Mallery Lake" project proposal (NIRB File No.: 11EN006)</u>

#### Dear Honourable John Duncan:

The primary objectives of the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) are set out in Section 12.2.5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) as follows:

In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of the residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

## Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA states:

Upon receipt of a project proposal, NIRB shall screen the proposal and indicate to the Minister in writing that:

- a) the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5;
- b) the proposal requires review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB shall identify particular issues or concerns which should be considered in such a review;
- c) the proposal is insufficiently developed to permit proper screening, and should be returned to the proponent for clarification; or
- d) the potential adverse impacts of the proposal are so unacceptable that it should be modified or abandoned.

#### NIRB ASSESSMENT AND DECISION

After a thorough assessment of all material provided to the Board (please see *Procedural History* and *Project Activities* in **Appendix A**), in accordance with the principles identified within Section 12.4.2 of the NLCA, the decision of the Board as per Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA is:

**12.4.4** (a): the proposal may be processed without a review under Part 5 or 6; NIRB may recommend specific terms and conditions to be attached to any approval, reflecting the primary objectives set out in Section 12.2.5.

# RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS (pursuant to Section 12.4.4 (a) of the NLCA)

The Board is recommending that the following or similar project-specific terms and conditions be imposed upon the Proponent through all relevant legislation:

#### General

- 1. Uranium North Resources Corp. (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
- 2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
- 3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to NIRB (Part 1 & 2 Forms, February 3 2011) and to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Land Use Application, February 18, 2011).
- 4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

#### Water Use

- 5. The Proponent shall not extract water from any fish-bearing water body unless the water intake hose is equipped with a screen of appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.
- 6. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

# Waste Disposal/Incineration

- 7. The Proponent shall incinerate all combustible wastes daily, and remove the ash from incineration activities and non-combustible wastes from the project site to an approved facility for disposal.
- 8. The Proponent shall keep all garbage and debris in bags placed in a covered metal container or equivalent until disposed of at an approved facility. All such wastes shall be kept inaccessible to wildlife at all times.

- 9. The Proponent shall ensure that the incineration of combustible camp wastes comply with the *Canada-wide Standards for Dioxins and Furans*, and the *Canada-wide Standards for Mercury*.
- 10. The Proponent shall ensure that no waste oil/grease is incinerated on site.
- 11. The Proponent shall ensure that an export manifest or the appropriate transportation of dangerous goods documentation accompany all potential hazardous samples and/or materials that are transported off site.

# **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

- 12. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body and in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
- 13. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occur a minimum of thirty-one (31) metres away from the high water mark of any water body.
- 14. The Proponent shall store all fuel and chemicals in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife
- 15. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g. self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) at all refuelling stations. Appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) must be readily available during any transfer of fuel or hazardous substances, as well as at vehicle-maintenance areas.
- 16. The Proponent shall inspect and document the condition of all large fuel tanks and fuel caches on a weekly basis. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name and examined for leaks immediately upon delivery.
- 17. The Proponent shall flag all fuel caches on site so they remain visible in the winter months.
- 18. The Proponent shall remove and treat hydrocarbon contaminated soils on site or transport them to an approved disposal site for treatment.
- 19. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel are properly trained in fuel and hazardous waste handling procedures, as well as spill response procedures. All spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of any amount must be reported immediately to the 24 hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

## Wildlife - General

- 20. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
- 21. The Proponent shall take all possible measures to avoid wildlife encounters. Any problem wildlife should be reported immediately to the Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment.
- 22. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently worrying or chasing animals, or disturbing large groups of animals. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

23. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

# **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

- 24. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance (e.g., a 100 metre buffer around the nests). If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e. with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
- 25. The Proponent shall ensure that aircraft maintain a vertical distance of 1000 metres and a horizontal distance of 1500 metres from any observed groups (colonies) of migratory birds. Aircraft should avoid critical and sensitive wildlife areas at all times by choosing alternate flight corridors.
- 26. The Proponent shall advise all pilots of relevant flight restrictions and enforce their application over the project area, including flight paths to/from the project area.

#### **Caribou Disturbance**

- 27. The Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration, and shall cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have passed.
- 28. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with migration or calving of caribou, until the caribou have passed or left the area.

## **Ground Disturbance**

- 29. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.
- 30. The Proponent shall implement suitable erosion and sediment suppression measures on disturbed areas before, during and after construction in order to prevent sediment from entering any water body.

# **Drilling on Land**

- 31. The Proponent shall not conduct any land based drilling or mechanized clearing within thirty-one (31) metres of the normal high water mark of a water body unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.
- 32. If an artesian flow is encountered, the Proponent shall ensure the drill hole is immediately plugged and permanently sealed.
- 33. The Proponent shall ensure that all drill areas are constructed to facilitate minimizing the environmental footprint of the project area. Drill areas should be kept orderly with garbage removed daily to an approved disposal site.
- 34. The Proponent shall ensure that all sump/depression capacities are sufficient to accommodate the volume of waste water and any fines that are produced. The sumps shall only be used for inert drilling fluids, and not any other materials or substances.

- 35. The Proponent shall not locate any sump within thirty-one (31) metres of the normal high water mark of any water body. Sumps and areas designated for waste disposal shall be sufficiently bermed or otherwise contained to ensure that substances to do not enter a waterway unless otherwise authorized.
- 36. The Proponent shall ensure all drill holes are backfilled or capped prior to the end of each field season. The Proponent shall ensure that all sumps are backfilled and restored to original and/or stable profile prior to the end of each field season.

# **Temporary Camps**

37. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.

### **Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

38. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state as practical as possible upon completion of field work.

#### Other

- 39. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
- 40. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and to consult with local residents regarding their activities in the region.

#### MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In addition, the Board is recommending the following:

# Wildlife Log/Record of Observations

Prior to commencing operations, the Proponent shall submit a Wildlife Monitoring and Response Plan to the NIRB, Environment Canada (EC), the Beverly and Qamanirjuag Caribou Management Board (BQCMB), and the Government of Nunavut, Department of the Environment (GN-DOE). At a minimum, the Plan must address INAC's Caribou Protection Measures, and must also include:

- a. The following requirements:
  - i. Any NIRB terms and conditions contained within this Screening Decision;
  - ii. Aircraft must maintain a flight altitude of at least 610 m at all times, particularly when there are observed groups of caribou, [and] maintain a vertical distance of 1000 m and minimum horizontal of 1500 m from any observed concentrations of birds;
  - iii. The employment of an independent caribou monitor while the project is in operation;
  - iv. The requirement to record, on a daily basis, results from caribou monitoring activities. At the end of each month of project operations, the Proponent must submit this information to GN-DOE;
  - v. The requirement to record all wildlife observations and map, using GPS coordinates, any sensitive wildlife sites, such as denning areas or nesting areas, and especially techniques for surveying caribou in the Proponent's project area;

- b. Predicted impacts to wildlife from project activities, including any Species at Risk;
- c. Proposed site-specific measures to reduce anticipated impacts to wildlife;
- d. A wildlife encounter minimization training plan for operators of fixed wing and helicopter referenced on Page 6 of the Proponent's *NIRB Part 2 Form*.
- e. Proposed monitoring procedures including frequency, monitoring period(s), locations where monitoring will occur, recording and reporting protocols, and discussion regarding how the data collected in the wildlife monitoring program will be used to determine whether adaptive mitigation and management strategies for wildlife are required;
- f. Clear description of thresholds that will be used to determine the necessity for adaptive mitigation and management strategies; and
- g. Procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation measures.

Any subsequent direction provided by the GN-DOE regarding the Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan must be forwarded to the NIRB.

#### Government of Nunavut contacts:

- a. Manager, Wildlife, Dustin Fredlund, (867) 982 7441, <a href="mailto:dfredlund@gov.nu.ca">dfredlund@gov.nu.ca</a>
- b. Conservation Office, Kivalliq Region, (867) 793 2944
- c. Regional Biologist, Mathieu Dumond (867) 982 7444, mdumond@gov.nu.ca

#### OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board is recommending the following:

#### **Bear and Carnivore Safety**

- 1. The Proponent review the bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques outlined in "Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country" which can be down-loaded from this link: http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/\_live/documents/content/Bear\_Safety.pdf. Note that recommendations in this manual are also relevant to polar bears. There is a DVD about polar Nunavut safety available from Parks at the following http://www.nunavutparks.com/english/visitor-information/suggested-resources.html and a "Safety in Polar Bear Country" pamphlet from Parks Canada at the following link http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/auvuittug/visit/visit6/d/i.aspx.
- 2. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office.

#### **Incineration of Wastes**

3. The Proponent review Environment Canada's "Technical Document for Batch Waste Incineration", available at the following link: <a href="http://www.ec.gc.ca/gdd-mw/default.asp?lang=En&n=F53EDE13-1">http://www.ec.gc.ca/gdd-mw/default.asp?lang=En&n=F53EDE13-1</a>. The technical document provides information on appropriate incineration technologies, best management and operational practices, monitoring and reporting.

# **Species at Risk**

4. The Proponent review Environment Canada's "Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada", available at the following link: <a href="http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En&xml=5407909E-10F6-4AFE-ACDF-75B9E820B4A1">http://www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En&xml=5407909E-10F6-4AFE-ACDF-75B9E820B4A1</a>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including *Species at Risk*, are encountered or affected by the project.

## **Change in Project Scope**

5. All Authorizing Agencies shall notify the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions associated with this project prior to any such change.

#### Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

- 1. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) impose mitigation measures, conditions and monitoring requirements pursuant to the Federal Land Use Permit, which require the Proponent to respect the sensitivities and importance of the area. These mitigation measures, conditions and monitoring requirements should be in regard to the location and area; type, location, capacity and operation of facilities; use, storage, handling and disposal of chemical or toxic material; wildlife and fisheries habitat; and petroleum fuel storage.
- 2. INAC should also consider the importance of conducting regular Land Use Inspections, pursuant to the authority of the Federal Land Use Permit, while the project is in operation. The Land Use Inspections should be focused on ensuring the Proponent is in compliance with the conditions imposed through the Federal Land Use Permit.

#### Other

The Proponent shall consult with the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization regarding proposed project activities including timing and location of exploration activities, and developing a Wildlife Monitoring Plan.

#### REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the project:

- 1. The *Fisheries Act* (http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/F-14///en).
- 2. The Proponent is advised that the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (<a href="http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-15.31/">http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-15.31/</a>) lists calcium chloride (CaCl) as a toxic substance. The Proponent should assess alternatives (including biodegradable and non-toxic) to drill additives prior to the use of CaCl and try to avoid the use of CaCl.
- 3. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (http://www.canlii.org/ca/sta/n-28.8/whole.html).
- 4. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and *Migratory Birds Regulations* (http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/M-7.01).

- 5. The *Species at Risk Act* (http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/S-15.3). Attached in **Appendix B** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
- 6. The *Nunavut Wildlife Act* which contains provisions to protect and conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat, including specific protection measures for wildlife habitat and species at risk.
- 7. The *Nunavut Act* (<a href="http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/N-28.6">http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cs/N-28.6</a>). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix C**.
- 8. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations*, *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* (<a href="http://www.tc.gc.ca/tdg/menu.htm">http://www.tc.gc.ca/tdg/menu.htm</a>), and the *Environmental Protection Act* (<a href="http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-15.31/text.html">http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-15.31/text.html</a>). The Proponent must ensure that proper shipping documents accompany all movements of dangerous goods. The Proponent must register with the GN-DOE Manager of Pollution Control and Air Quality at 867-975-7748.
- 9. The *Aeronautics Act* (<a href="http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/A-2/">http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/A-2/</a>).
- 10. The *Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA)* (<a href="http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/N-22/index.html">http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/N-22/index.html</a>).

# **Validity of Land Claims Agreement**

## *Section 2.12.2*

Where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial and local government laws, and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

Dated March 29, 2011 at Sanikiluaq, NU.

Lucassie Arragutainaq, Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Procedural History and Project Activities

Appendix B: Species at Risk in Nunavut

Appendix C: Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use

Permit Holders

# Appendix A Procedural History and Project Activities

# **Procedural History**

On February 2, 2011 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received Uranium North Resources Corp's "Mallery Lake" project proposal directly from the proponent. On February 18, 2011 this project proposal was referred to the NIRB for screening by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC File No. N2011C0006). On February 18, 2011 the NIRB received a positive conformity determination (Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for this file. Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB found that this project proposal did not contain sufficient information to permit proper screening; therefore, on February 24, 2011 the NIRB requested submission of additional project-specific information by the proponent. On February 25, 2011 the NIRB received the requested information and resumed screening the project proposal. The NIRB assigned this project proposal file number 11EN006.

This project proposal was distributed to community organizations in Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove and Arviat, as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, and Inuit organizations. The NIRB requested that interested parties review the proposal and provide the Board with any comments or concerns by March 21, 2011 regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why:
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic and socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before March 21, 2011 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties (see Comments and Concerns section below):

- Environment Canada (EC)
- Government of Nunavut Department of Culture Language Elders and Youth (GN-CLEY)
- Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization (Baker Lake HTO)

All information provided to NIRB regarding this project proposal can be viewed on NIRB's ftpsite, at the following location:

http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2011/

**Project Activities** 

The objective of the proposed project is to conduct early stage exploration for gold and other base metals. The proposed project is located in the area near Mallery Lake approximately 135 kilometres southwest of the community of Baker Lake in the Kivalliq Region. The program is proposed to take place between April and September 2011 and continue to 2016.

The proposed project activities would include:

- Prospecting, geological mapping, sampling, aerial and ground geophysical surveys;
- Exploration drilling (reverse circulation and diamond drilling);
- Helicopter-supported drill program, including daily transportation of field crew to drill sites and demobilization;
- Temporary tent camp facilities for a maximum of twenty (20) people near Mallery Lake;
- Twin/single otter transport of supplies, fuel and personnel to camp site from Baker Lake;
- Fuel storage at camp site (25,830 litres diesel and 30,750 litres aviation fuel);
- Temporary storage of chemicals and hazardous materials on site;
- Water use for drilling purposes and camp activities;
- Disposal of sewage, greywater and waste generated from camp operations;
- Incineration of combustible waste; and
- Removal of non-combustible and hazardous waste to an approved disposal facility.

# Appendix B Species at Risk in Nunavut

This list includes species listed on one of the Schedules of SARA (*Species at Risk Act*) and under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of SARA. These species have been designated as at risk by COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada). This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for SARA. SARA applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term "listed" species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of SARA identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are "pending" addition to Schedule 1 of SARA. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

Schedules of SARA are amended on a regular basis so it is important to periodically check the SARA registry (<a href="www.sararegistry.gc.ca">www.sararegistry.gc.ca</a>) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: August 4, 2009

Species at Risk	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Lead Management Responsibility <sup>1</sup>
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	EC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	EC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	EC
Harlequin Duck (Eastern population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	EC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut
Felt-leaf Willow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut
Peregrine Falcon (anatum- tundrius complex)	Special Concern	Schedule 1 (anatum) Schedule 3 (tundrius)	Government of Nunavut
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 3	Government of Nunavut
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Pending	Government of Nunavut
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population)	Endangered	Pending	DFO
Red Knot (rufa subspecies)	Endangered	Pending	EC

Beluga Whale	Threatened	Pending	DFO
(Cumberland Sound population)			
Atlantic Cod (Arctic population)	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Beluga Whale	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
(Western Hudson Bay			
population)			
Beluga Whale	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
(Eastern High Arctic – Baffin			
Bay population)			
Bowhead Whale	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
(Eastern Canada – West			
Greenland population)			
Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
/ Eastern Arctic populations)			
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Pending	Government of
			Nunavut
Atlantic Walrus	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Narwhal	Special Concern	Pending	DFO
Red Knot (islandica subspecies)	Special Concern	Pending	EC
Horned Grebe (Western	Special Concern	Pending	EC
population)			
Barren-ground Caribou (Dolphin	Special Concern	Pending	Government of
and Union population)			Nunavut
Grizzly Bear	Special Concern	Pending	Government of
			Nunavut
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Pending	Government of
			Nunavut
Wolverine (Western Population)	Special Concern	Pending	Government of
			Nunavut

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Environment Canada (EC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has responsibility for management of aquatic species.

# Appendix C

# Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use Permit Holders



## BACKGROUND: Archaeology

As stated in Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement:

The archaeological record of the Inuit of Nunavut is a record of Inuit use and occupancy of lands and resources through time. The evidence associated with their use and occupancy represents a cultural, historical and ethnographic heritage of Inuit society and, as such, Government recognizes that Inuit have a special relationship with such evidence, which shall be expressed in terms of special rights and responsibilities. [33.2.1]

The archaeological record of Nunavut is of spiritual, cultural, religious and educational importance to Inuit. Accordingly, the identification, protection and conservation of archaeological sites and specimens and the interpretation of the archaeological record is of primary importance to Inuit and their involvement is both desirable and necessary. [33.2.2]

In recognition of the cultural, spiritual and religious importance of certain areas in Nunavut to Inuit, Inuit have special rights and interests in these areas as defined by Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. [33.2.5]

## **BACKGROUND:** Palaeontology

Under the Nunavut Act1, the federal Government can make regulations for the protection, care and preservation of palaeontological sites and specimens in Nunavut. Under the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*2, it is illegal to alter or disturb any palaeontological site in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process.

1 s. 51(1)

2 P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

#### **Definitions**

As defined in the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*, the following definitions apply:

"archaeological site" means a place where an archaeological artifact is found.

"archaeological artifact" means any tangible evidence of human activity that is more than 50 years old and in respect of which an unbroken chain of possession or regular pattern of usage cannot be demonstrated, and includes a Denesuline archaeological specimen referred to in section 40.4.9 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

"palaeontological site" means a site where a fossil is found.

"fossil" includes:

- (a) natural casts
- (b) preserved tracks, coprolites and plant remains; and
- (c) the preserved shells and exoskeletons of invertebrates and the eggs, teeth and bones of vertebrates.

#### Terms and Conditions

- 1) The permittee shall not operate any vehicle over a known or suspected archaeological or palaeontological site.
- 2) The permittee shall not remove, disturb, or displace any archaeological artifact or site, or any fossil or palaeontological site.
- 3) The permittee shall immediately contact the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (867) 934-2046 or (867) 975-5500 or 1 (866) 934-2035 should an archaeological site or specimen, or a palaeontological site or fossil be encountered or disturbed by any land use activity.
- 4) The permittee shall immediately cease any activity that disturbs an archaeological or palaeontological site encountered during the course of a land use operation, until permitted to proceed with the authorization of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Government of Nunavut.
- 5) The permittee shall follow the direction of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and DIAND in restoring disturbed archaeological or palaeontological sites to an acceptable condition.
- 6) The permittee shall provide all information requested by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth concerning all archaeological sites or artifacts and all palaeontological sites and fossils encountered in the course of any land use activity.

- 7) The permittee shall make best efforts to ensure that all persons working under authority of the permit are aware of these conditions concerning archaeological sites and artifacts, and palaeontological sites and fossils.
- 8) The permittee shall avoid the known archaeological and/or palaeontological sites listed in Attachment 1.
- 9) The permittee shall have an archaeologist or palaeontologist perform the following functions, as required by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth:
  - a. survey
  - b. inventory and documentation of the archaeological or palaeontological resources of the land use area
  - c. assessment of potential for damage to archaeological or palaeontological sites
  - d. mitigation
  - e. marking boundaries of archaeological or palaeontological sites
  - f. site restoration

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth shall authorize by way of a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit, all procedures subsumed under the above operations.