ATTACHMENT 3

NIRB Screening Decision Report

SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE No.:

NPC File No.: 150798
Related NIRB file No.:13UN034,19WA006,19UN013
NWB File No.: 3AM-IQA1626

March 19, 2026

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of City of Iqaluit's "Long Term Water Project (LTWP)" is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (*Nunavut Agreement*) and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

Subject to the Proponent's compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in below, issued in accordance with s. 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is of the view that the project proposal is not likely to cause significant public concerns, and it is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The NIRB therefore recommends that the responsible Minister accepts this Screening Decision Report.

OUTLINE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*. The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister indicating one of three options:

(a) a review of the project is not required;

(b) a review of the project is required; or

(c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On December 30, 2025, the NIRB received a referral to screen City of Iqaluit's "Long Term Water Project (LTWP)" project proposal (NIRB File No: 25XN041) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable land use plan. All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's Public Registry by using any of the following search criteria or www.nirb.ca/project/126292.

- Project Name: Long Term Water Project (LTWP)
- NIRB File No.: 25XN041
- NIRB Application No.: 126292

Table 1: NIRB's Assessment Process

Date	Stage
December 30, 2025	Receipt of project proposal
December 30, 2025	Pursuant to s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA* the NIRB requested the Proponent complete an online application to address information required for Screening
December 31, 2025	Receipt of online application from Proponent
January 05, 2026	Request(s) to Proponent for additional information in order to carry out screening pursuant to s. s. 144(1) of the *NuPPAA*
January 13, 2026	Proponent responded to information request(s) and provided additional information
January 14, 2026	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*
January 14, 2026	NIRB conducted an inclusion or exclusion of scope
January 14, 2026	Public engagement and comment request (which included draft terms and conditions) was issued in English with translations provided once available
March 19, 2026	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

1. Project Scope

Location	Qikiqtani region, within the municipal boundaries of the City of Iqaluit on southeastern Baffin Island. Project components are situated at Lake Geraldine, Lake Qikiqtalik, and the Niaqunnguk (Apex) River.
Objective	The objective of the Long-Term Water Project is to secure a reliable, climate-resilient municipal water supply for the City of Iqaluit for the next 100 years by developing new permanent raw water sources, increasing water storage capacity, and upgrading water conveyance infrastructure while applying to renew Type "A" Water License 3AM-IQA1626.
Timeline	Construction: June 1, 2026, to October 31, 2029 Operations: November 1, 2029, to November 1, 2099 (long-term operation)

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepted the scope of the project as set out by City of Iqaluit in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal includes the following undertakings, works, or activities:

- Construction and operation of raw water intake structures and raw water pump stations at Lake Qikiqtalik and the Niaqunnguk (Apex) River.
- Construction of a new raw water storage reservoir located immediately east of the Lake Geraldine Reservoir, including dams, spillway, valve access building, and control structures.
- Installation of raw water conveyance pipelines from Lake Qikiqtalik and the Apex River to the new reservoir, and a pipeline and outfall conveying water from the new reservoir to Lake Geraldine.
- Construction of service corridors, all-weather access roads, road upgrades, culverts, and pipeline river crossings required to support the new infrastructure.
- Development and operation of quarries and borrow pits, laydown areas, and a concrete plant to support construction activities.
- Use of fuel, lubricating oils, and greases, and operation of heavy equipment during construction.
- Use and storage of explosives
- Installation of electrical distribution lines and backup power systems to support pumping stations and reservoir facilities.
- Continued operation of temporary supplemental water pumping facilities from the Apex River until the permanent long-term water project (LTWP) infrastructure becomes operational.
- Ongoing operation of existing municipal water supply, wastewater treatment, sewage lagoon, sludge management, and landfill facilities under the renewed water licence.
- Implementation of environmental management, monitoring, mitigation, and reporting measures during construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

2. Inclusion or Exclusion to Scoping List

The NIRB has identified no additional work or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

3. Public Comments and Concerns

As outlined in Table 1 above, notices regarding the NIRB's screening of this project proposal were distributed to community organizations as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties with a request for interested parties to provide the Board with any comments or concerns 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 or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before February 4, 2026, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

Table 2: Comments Received

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Government of Nunavut -Culture and Heritage (GN-CH)	359334
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)	359358
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	359369
Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	359368
Transport Canada (TC)	359274

a. Summary of Comments and Concerns Received

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB in relation to the Long-Term Water Project (LTWP) project proposal:

GN-CH:

- GN acknowledges that an archaeological impact assessment has been completed under a permit issued by the Department of Culture and Heritage (CH), but notes it applies only to assessed areas.
- Project design may change, and any ground disturbance outside the assessed footprint is not authorized and may affect archaeological resources.
- GN notes that archaeological sites are known to occur in the Iqaluit area and that undocumented sites may be present, particularly near shorelines, raised beaches, rivers, and waterbodies.

- GN identifies potential archaeological impacts from ground-disturbing activities, including construction of intakes, reservoirs, pipelines, roads, quarries, laydown areas, and other infrastructure.
- Archaeological assessment by a qualified archaeologist is required for any ground disturbance outside previously assessed areas, prior to disturbance.
- Archaeological assessment and permitting are required if project components are modified, expanded, or relocated.
- Standard protections apply, including 50 m buffers, chance find procedures, and compliance with Nunavut archaeological legislation.

CIRNAC:

- Hazardous Materials: Large volumes of fuels and hazardous liquids would be stored and handled. CIRNAC notes insufficient detail on how storage and refueling locations would be finalized relative to terrain, drainage, and sensitive areas, and how spill response planning accounts for material volumes and spill-generated waste.
- Acid Rock Drainage / Metal Leaching: Significant excavation and blasting are planned. CIRNAC notes uncertainty in how ARD/ML test results would inform material placement and how potentially reactive materials would be managed over the long term.
- Permafrost Sensitivity: The project is located in continuous permafrost and includes linear infrastructure and containment structures. CIRNAC notes limited information on managing thaw-related risks and long-term integrity over the 100-year operating period.
- Consultation: CIRNAC recommends continued engagement with potentially interested parties, including Inuit organizations and local stakeholders, and consideration of Inuit Knowledge, environmental and cultural protection, and local employment and procurement.

ECCC:

- The Environmental Screening Report indicates that quarry materials and excavated rock from the reservoir footprint would be used for construction.
- The report does not include an assessment of metal leaching (ML) or acid rock drainage (ARD) potential for these materials.
- ECCC identified this as a gap in the environmental characterization.
- ECCC recommends that quarry areas and reservoir excavation materials be characterized for ML/ARD to confirm suitability and prevent potential environmental effects.

DFO:

- DFO identified potential effects to fish and fish habitat related to the use of explosives, water withdrawals, installation or replacement of culverts and pipes, and the infilling or destruction of ponds.
- A Request for Review has been submitted to DFO and is currently under assessment.
- DFO considers that potential impacts to fish and fish habitat can be addressed through its regulatory review process.
- DFO would submit any questions through the Nunavut Water Board (NWB File No. 3AM-IQA1626).

TC:

- Project may involve works in or near navigable waterways: water intakes at Niaqunngut (Apex) River and Lake Qikiqtalik, outfall to Lake Geraldine, bridges, and culverts.
- Such works are subject to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA); minor works may not require approval but must be posted on the TC NPP site.
- Proponent should use TC's Project Review Tool to confirm navigability and determine if works qualify as minor.
- If works do not qualify as minor, the proponent must either apply to the Minister for approval or follow the public resolution process.
- Existing water intakes at Geraldine Lake and Apex River are legacy works and lawful under CNWA; any alterations would require assessment under CNWA.

4. *b.* Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit or Indigenous and Community knowledge in relation to the proposed project. However, Inuit Qaujimaningit and Indigenous and community knowledge is incorporated into the terms and conditions recommended below based on information collected from prior and similar projects, data collected and mapped by the Commission, and other available sources.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF *NUPPAA*

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts. Table 3. The Board took particular care to consider Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

Table 3: Summary of the Board's Assessment of Factors s. 90 *NuPPAA*

Factor	Comment
The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.	▪ The proposed project footprint is primarily confined to municipal lands within the City of Iqaluit and includes linear infrastructure and associated facilities. The proposed project occurs within habitats used by wide-ranging wildlife species, including migratory and non-migratory birds, Arctic fox, Arctic hare, and Species at Risk such as polar bear. Given the localized nature of the physical footprint and the availability of surrounding undisturbed habitat, the spatial extent of potential effects is limited. Habitat loss or alteration is expected to be small relative to regional habitat availability.
The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.	▪ Based on the information provided, no areas of elevated ecosystemic sensitivity have been identified within the project footprint. The project area includes lands influenced by existing municipal infrastructure

Factor	Comment
	and historical disturbance. Aquatic and terrestrial environments in the area may experience temporary disturbance during construction activities; however, these environments are not considered highly sensitive at a regional scale. The application of standard mitigation measures is expected to reduce the risk of adverse ecosystemic effects.
The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.	▪ Archaeological assessments were completed for the project area by the Proponent, and not previously unidentified historical or archaeological resources were identified within the proposed project footprint. Known sites in the broader area were addressed through avoidance or mitigation measures. The Proponent has committed to implementing chance-find procedures should heritage resources be encountered during construction. ▪ Based on available information, significant impacts to cultural or archaeological resources are not anticipated.
The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.	▪ The project proposal is located within municipal boundaries and near existing infrastructure, limiting potential effects on human populations. No permanent displacement of residents or changes to community access have been identified. ▪ Wildlife species present in the area are expected to experience temporary disturbance, particularly during construction; however, populations are not expected to be adversely affected at the regional level. ▪ Effects on both human and animal populations are anticipated to be localized and temporary.
The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.	▪ The Board considered a zone of influence extending beyond the immediate project footprint from the most potentially disruptive project activities within the municipality of Iqaluit. Potential impacts are expected to be low to moderate in magnitude, limited in complexity, and primarily associated with the construction phase. The probability of occurrence is moderate, while the frequency and duration of effects are expected to be temporary. ▪ With the implementation of recommended mitigation measures and regulatory compliance, impacts are expected to be largely reversible, and no significant residual effects are anticipated.
The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the	▪ Table 4 identifies past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects considered in the cumulative

Factor	Comment
project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.	effects assessment, including research, tourism, and site remediation activities. ▪ The potential for cumulative effects resulting from spatial or temporal overlap between the proposed project and these activities was assessed as the City of Iqaluit and surrounding area have a lot of research activities and is used as a base for many projects. Given the differing project types, limited geographic overlap, and generally temporary or low-intensity nature of the identified projects, cumulative impacts are expected to be limited. ▪ Terms and conditions, along with mitigation measures, have been recommended to manage and minimize potential cumulative effects, as outlined in the Views section.
Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.	▪ No additional factors were identified that would materially affect the assessment of impact significance. Regulatory requirements applicable to the project mandate the implementation of mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures. These requirements provide additional assurance that potential environmental and socio-economic impacts would be identified and appropriately managed throughout the project lifecycle.

Regulatory Requirements

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

Acts and Regulations

1. The *Fisheries Act* (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/index.html).
2. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-28.8/)
3. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/), the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1035/index.html) and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1036/index.html)
4. The *Species at Risk Act* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/.). Attached in **Appendix A** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
5. The *Wildlife Act (Nunavut)* and its corresponding regulations (http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html).
6. The *Nunavut Act* (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix B**.

7. The *Wildlife Area Regulations* under the *Canada Wildlife Act* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1609/FullText.html).
8. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* (http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/t-19.01/) and the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations* (http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-tofc-211.htm).
9. The *Territorial Quarrying Regulations* (http://www.canlii.org/en/ca/laws/regu/crc-c-1527/latest/crc-c-1527.html) or equivalent
10. The *Explosives Act* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/e-17/) and *Explosives Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2013-211/index.html).

Other Applicable Guidelines

11. The *Guidelines for the use of Explosives in or near Canadian Fisheries Waters* (http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/82558/publication.html).
12. The *Northern Land Use Guidelines, Volume 07: Pits and Quarries* (http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/360991/publication.html).
13. Environmental Guidelines for the Management of Hazardous Waste, Government of Nunavut, Revised October 2010 (https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/Guideline%20-%20General%20Management%20of%20Hazardous%20Waste%20%28revised%20Oct%202010%29_0.pdf).

Table 4: Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects Considered

NIRB Project Number	Project Title	Project Type
Proposed Developments – undergoing assessment		
26KN003	Nikku Iqaluit Redevelopment Project	Site Cleanup/Remediation
Present Projects – approved or in operation		
25YN082	Community Bedrock Mapping Points of Interest	Research
Past Projects		
25TN072	Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions - Ocean Nova	Tourism

VIEWS OF THE BOARD

In considering the above factors, the Board has identified the following and respectfully provides its views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. The NIRB has also proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:

Valued Component	Biophysical Environment (Wildlife and Habitat)
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat may result from vegetation clearing, ground disturbance, blasting, heavy equipment

	operation, and increased human presence during construction of intake structures, pipelines, access roads, quarries, and the new reservoir. Temporary noise, vibration, and visual disturbance may affect migratory and non-migratory birds, small mammals (e.g., Arctic fox, Arctic hare), and wide-ranging species such as Polar Bear. Aquatic species and fish habitat may also experience temporary disturbance from in-water works, water withdrawal, and changes in flow regimes. Short-term habitat alteration may occur within the construction footprint.
Nature of Impacts:	Potential impacts are expected to be localized, temporary, and primarily associated with the construction phase. The magnitude of effects is anticipated to be low to moderate, given the limited spatial footprint and the availability of surrounding undisturbed habitat. Disturbance-related effects are expected to diminish following completion of construction activities. With appropriate mitigation, impacts are expected to be largely reversible and not significant at the regional population level.
Mitigating Factors:	The Proponent has committed to implementing mitigation measures including timing restrictions for in-water works, erosion and sediment control measures, wildlife monitoring, appropriate waste management, and adherence to regulatory requirements under applicable federal and territorial legislation. Disturbance areas would be minimized to the extent practicable, and previously disturbed or municipal lands would be used where feasible. Blasting and construction activities would be managed to reduce noise and vibration exposure. Adaptive management measures would be implemented should unanticipated wildlife interactions occur.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Wildlife – General: 19 through 21 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance: 22 through 25 Road and Ground Disturbance: 26 Aggregate Removal within Existing and New Quarries: 27 through 32 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas: 33 through 36

Valued Component	Metal Leaching
Potential effects:	The project proposal includes quarry development and blasting activities that would disturb bedrock materials. Exposure of certain rock types has the potential to result in metal leaching under specific environmental conditions. Given the proximity of some quarry and construction areas to surface water bodies, there is a potential pathway for metals to enter receiving waters if unmanaged.
Nature of Impacts:	The risk of significant metal leaching is considered low, as the project does not involve mineral extraction or long-term waste rock storage. Disturbed materials are expected to be incorporated into engineered structures rather than stockpiled for extended periods. Any potential effects would be localized and limited to the construction phase. With appropriate controls, impacts would be reversible and not expected to result in measurable degradation of regional water quality.

Mitigating Factors:	Erosion and sediment control measures, appropriate management of disturbed materials, and water quality monitoring under applicable regulatory approvals provide safeguards against potential metal release. Regulatory requirements establish mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and corrective action should elevate metal concentrations be detected. Adaptive management measures can be implemented if monitoring indicates the need for additional controls.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Water Courses/Water Bodies: 6 through 9 Waste Management: 10 Fuel and Chemical Storage: 11 through 15 Aggregate Removal within Existing and New Quarries: 27 through 32 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas: 33 through 36

Valued Component	Inuit Land Use and Harvesting
Potential effects:	Proposed Project activities, including construction of intake structures, pipelines, access roads, and quarry development, may result in temporary disturbances to areas used for Inuit harvesting and travel. Increased equipment traffic, noise, and restricted access during construction could affect hunting, fishing, and land-based activities in the immediate project vicinity. In-water works and changes in water levels may also temporarily affect access to aquatic harvesting areas.
Nature of Impacts:	Potential impacts to Inuit land use and harvesting are expected to be localized and primarily limited to the construction phase. The project is situated within municipal lands and near existing infrastructure, which reduces the likelihood of widespread disruption to harvesting areas. Any access restrictions would be temporary, and alternative travel routes are generally available. Impacts are expected to be reversible following completion of construction activities.
Mitigating Factors:	Construction activities can be scheduled and managed to minimize interference with harvesting seasons and land use patterns. Communication with the community regarding construction timing and access restrictions helps reduce disruption and during operations signs would be placed for crossings. Standard environmental protection measures to safeguard wildlife and water quality further support the protection of harvesting resources. Regulatory oversight and monitoring provide mechanisms to identify and address any unforeseen effects on Inuit land use.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Wildlife – General: 19 through 21 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance: 22 through 25 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas: 33 through 36 Other (Community Engagement and Inuit Land Use): 37 and 38

Socio-economic effects on northerners:

Valued Component	Cultural and Heritage

Potential effects:	Ground disturbance associated with construction activities, including excavation, quarry development, access road upgrades, and installation of infrastructure, has the potential to affect previously unidentified archaeological or heritage resources. Physical alteration of landforms may disturb buried archaeological materials if present within the project footprint. Increased human activity during construction could also increase the risk of inadvertent disturbance to cultural features.
Nature of Impacts:	Archaeological assessments were conducted within the proposed project area, and no known significant heritage resources have been identified within the proposed disturbance footprint. As a result, the likelihood of significant impacts is considered low. Any potential effects would be localized to areas of ground disturbance and limited to the construction phase. If unidentified resources were encountered, impacts could be significant at a site-specific scale; however, such impacts would be manageable through established regulatory procedures.
Mitigating Factors:	Territorial legislation requires that work cease if archaeological or heritage materials are encountered during construction. Archaeological assessments have been completed within the project area under applicable permits. Regulatory frameworks provide mechanisms for the identification, protection, and management of cultural and heritage resources should previously unidentified materials be discovered. These existing requirements reduce the likelihood of significant residual effects.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Road and Ground Disturbance: 26 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas: 33 through 36

Valued Component	Socio-Economic Conditions
Potential effects:	The project has the potential to generate both positive and adverse socio-economic effects. During construction, temporary employment and procurement opportunities may benefit local businesses and workers. Short-term disruptions may occur due to increased traffic, noise, and construction activity within municipal boundaries. Temporary restrictions on access to certain areas may affect recreation or land use in the immediate vicinity of the project during construction and signage where applicable for operations. The project is intended to enhance long-term municipal water security, which may provide positive effects on community well-being, public health, and infrastructure reliability.
Nature of Impacts:	Adverse socio-economic effects are expected to be temporary and localized to the construction phase. The project is located within municipal lands and near existing infrastructure, reducing the likelihood of widespread community disruption. Positive effects associated with improved water supply reliability are expected to be long-term. Overall, impacts to socio-economic conditions are anticipated to be low in magnitude and not significant at the regional scale.

Mitigating Factors:	Construction activities are subject to applicable territorial and municipal regulatory requirements governing public safety, traffic management, environmental protection, and worker safety. Communication mechanisms between project authorities and the community provide a pathway for identifying and addressing concerns that may arise during construction. These existing regulatory and administrative frameworks reduce the likelihood of significant adverse residual socio-economic effects.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Air Quality: 16 and 17 Noise: 18 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas: 33 through 36 Other (Community Engagement and Local Benefits): 37 through 39

Significant public concern:

Valued Component	Public Concern
Potential effects:	Public concern may arise in relation to potential impacts on water quality, wildlife and wildlife habitat, Inuit land use and harvesting activities, and compliance with federal and territorial regulatory requirements, including works in or near navigable waters. Construction-related activities such as blasting, quarry development, water intake installation, and increased traffic may generate community questions regarding environmental protection and long-term sustainability of municipal water supply.
Nature of Impacts:	Public concern identified to date appears to be project-specific and focused on environmental management and regulatory compliance rather than broad opposition to the project itself. Concerns are considered manageable within the scope of standard environmental assessment and permitting processes. The likelihood of sustained or escalating public concern is considered low, provided environmental safeguards are maintained and information remains accessible.
Mitigating Factors:	The screening process, regulatory review mechanisms, and permitting requirements provide structured opportunities for public and stakeholder input. Existing legislative and regulatory frameworks require environmental protection, monitoring, and reporting. These processes support transparency and provide mechanisms to identify, assess, and respond to concerns should they arise during project implementation.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	General: 1 through 5 Water Courses/Water Bodies: 6 through 9 Waste Management: 10 Fuel and Chemical Storage: 11 through 15 Air Quality: 16 and 17 Noise: 18 Other (Community Engagement and Inuit Land Use): 37 through 39

Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

Administrative Conditions:

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the following project-specific terms and conditions have been recommended: 1-5.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent's compliance with regulatory requirements and the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant, or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Board is recommending the following specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of the project:

General

1. City of Iqaluit (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150798), the NIRB (Online Application Form, (January 5,2026); additional information, (January 13,2026)). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. 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 otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agency.
7. The Proponent shall ensure that no disturbance of the stream bed, lakebed or the banks of any definable watercourse be permitted, except where deemed necessary for maintaining

project-specific operational commitments or approved by a responsible authority in cases of spill management.

8. The Proponent shall implement erosion and sediment suppression measures on all areas during all project activities in order to prevent sediment or fugitive dust from entering any water body or surrounding environment. Erosion prevention measures may include berms or silt fences.
9. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

10. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

11. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
12. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
13. The Proponent shall follow the authorizing agencies' direction for management and removal of hazardous materials and wastes (e.g., contaminated soils, sediment and waste oil).
14. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.
15. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Air Quality

16. The Proponent shall take appropriate dust suppression measures in conducting all activities for this Project including using approved dust suppression additives and techniques as necessary to maintain ambient air quality.
17. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

Noise

18. All construction and road vehicles must be fitted with standard and well-maintained noise suppression devices.

Wildlife – General

19. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
20. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
21. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

22. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's Avoidance Guidelines. The Proponent's actions in applying the Avoidance Guidelines shall be in compliance with the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 and with the Species at Risk Act.
23. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.
24. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.
25. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

Road and Ground Disturbance

26. 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.

Aggregate Removal within Existing and New Quarries

27. The Proponent shall not remove any material from below the ordinary highwater mark of any lake or stream and shall maintain an undisturbed buffer zone as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies between quarry site and any high water mark of any water body to ensure erosion control.
28. The Proponent shall install silt fences/curtains down stream of any quarry activities.

29. The Proponent shall ensure there is no obstruction of natural drainage, flooding or channel diversion from quarry/pit access, stockpiles, or other structures or facilities.
30. The Proponent shall locate screening and crushing equipment on stable ground, at a location with ready access to stockpiles.
31. The Proponent shall clearly stake and flag pit and quarry boundaries, so they remain visible to other land users.
32. The Proponent shall locate quarry/pit facilities so as to avoid all recreational sites and public use areas, and to protect unique geographical features and natural aesthetics.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

33. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
34. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
35. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.
36. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) upon completion of work and/or abandonment.

Other

37. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
38. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
39. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Change in Project Scope

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at info@nirb.ca or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at www.nirb.ca.

Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications, and reports as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

Bear and Carnivore Safety

4. The Proponent should review the Government of Nunavut's booklet on Bear Safety, which can be downloaded from this link: http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear_safety_-_reducing_bear-people_conflicts_in_nunavut.pdf. Further information on bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques can be found in the "*Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from this link: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf

5. There are polar bear and grizzly bear safety resources available from the Bear Smart Society with videos on polar bear safety available in English, French and Inuktitut at http://www.bearsmart.com/play/safety-in-polar-bear-country/. Information can also be obtained from Parks Canada's website on bear safety at the following link: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/d.aspx or in reviewing the "*Safety in Polar Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~/media/pnnp/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety_English.ashx

6. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Iqaluit, phone: (867) 975-7788

Species at Risk

7. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada", available at the following link: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf. 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.

Migratory Birds

8. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services' "Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut", available at the following link: http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html and "Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories", available at the following link: http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada

9. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change Canada's Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet "Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs" available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf

Transport of Dangerous Goods and Waste Management

10. Environment and Climate Change Canada recommend that all hazardous wastes, including waste oil, receive proper treatment and disposal at an approved facility.

11. The Proponent shall ensure that proper shipping documents (waste manifests, transportation of dangerous goods, etc.) accompany all movements of dangerous goods. Further, the Proponent shall ensure that the shipment of all dangerous goods is registered with the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, Department of Environment Manager. Contact the Manager (867) 975-7748 to obtain a manifest if dangerous goods including hazardous wastes will be transported.

12. The Proponent shall provide an authorization or letter of conformation of disposal be obtained from the owner/operator of the landfill to be used for disposal of project-related wastes.

Nunavut Water Board

13. The Nunavut Water Board impose mitigation measures, conditions and monitoring requirements pursuant to the Water Licence, which require the Proponent to respect the sensitivities and importance of water in the area. These mitigation measures, conditions and monitoring requirements should be in regard to use of water, snow and ice; waste disposal; access infrastructure and operation for camps; drilling operations; spill contingency planning; abandonment and restoration planning; and monitoring programs.

14. In particular, mitigation measures, conditions and monitoring requirements should be considered for the use of water, snow and ice for the development and maintenance of the winter road/trail for this project.

Crown Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada – Water Resources Division

15. CIRNAC – Water Resources Division should consider the importance of conducting regular inspections, pursuant to the authority of the *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act*, while the project is in operation. Inspectors should focus on ensuring the Proponent is in compliance with the conditions imposed through the Water Licence.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board's screening decision with respect to the City of Iqaluit's "Long Term Water Project (LTWP)". The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated March 19, 2026 at Iqaluit, NU.

Albert Ehaloak, *Acting* Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Species at Risk in Nunavut
Appendix B: Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use Permit Holders

APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the *Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 29 *(SARA)*, and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of *SARA*, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- 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.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the Species at Risk Registry at http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of Species at Risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of *SARA* are amended on a regular basis, so it is important to check the *SARA* registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2024

Terrestrial Species at Risk[1]	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of *SARA*	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility[2]
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Common Nighthawk	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harlequin Duck	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harris's Sparrow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Horned Grebe	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red Knot Islandica Subspecies	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut (GN)
Transverse Lady Beetle	Special Concern	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population)	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Caribou (Barren-ground Population)	Threatened	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	GN
Grizzly Bear (Western Population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Wolverine	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population)	Threatened	Schedule 1	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form)	Data Deficient	Schedule 3	DFO
Lumpfish	Threatened	No Schedule	DFO
Thorny Skate	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO

1 The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

2 Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) 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.

APPENDIX B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR LAND USE PERMIT HOLDERS

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Culture and Heritage (CH) routinely reviews land use applications sent to the Nunavut Water Board, Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. These terms and conditions provide general direction to the permittee/proponent regarding the appropriate actions to be taken to ensure the permittee/proponent carries out its role in the protection of Nunavut's archaeological and palaeontological resources.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) The permittee/proponent shall have a professional archaeologist and/or palaeontologist perform the following **Functions** associated with the **Types of Development** listed below or similar development activities:

	Types of Development (See Guidelines below)	**Function** (See Guidelines below)
a)	Large scale prospecting	Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment
b)	Diamond drilling for exploration or geotechnical purpose or planning of linear disturbances	Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment and/or Inventory and Documentation and/or Mitigation
c)	Construction of linear disturbances, Extractive disturbances, Impounding disturbances and other land disturbance activities	Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment and/or Inventory and Documentation and/or Mitigation

Note that the above-mentioned functions require either a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit. CH is authorized by way of the *Nunavut and Archaeological and Palaeontological Site Regulations*[3] to issue such permits.

[3] P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

2) The permittee/proponent shall not operate any vehicle over a known or suspected archaeological or palaeontological site.
3) The permittee/proponent shall not remove, disturb, or displace any archaeological artifact or site, or any fossil or palaeontological site.
4) The permittee/proponent shall immediately contact CH at (867) 934-2046 or (867) 975-5500 should an archaeological site or specimen, or a palaeontological site or fossil, be encountered or disturbed by any land use activity.
5) The permittee/proponent 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 CH.
6) The permittee/proponent shall follow the direction of CH in restoring disturbed archaeological or palaeontological sites to an acceptable condition. If these conditions are attached to either a Class A or B Permit under the Territorial Lands Act Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada directions will also be followed.
7) The permittee/proponent shall provide all information requested by CH concerning all archaeological sites or artifacts and all palaeontological sites and fossils encountered in the course of any land use activity.
8) The permittee/proponent shall make best efforts to ensure that all persons working under its authority are aware of these conditions concerning archaeological sites and artifacts and palaeontological sites and fossils.
9) If a list of recorded archaeological and/or palaeontological sites is provided to the permittee/proponent by CH as part of the review of the land use application the permittee/proponent shall avoid the archaeological and/or palaeontological sites listed.
10) Should a list of recorded sites be provided to the permittee/proponent, the information is provided solely for the purpose of the proponent's land use activities as described in the land use application, and must otherwise be treated confidentially by the proponent.

Legal Framework

As stated in Article 33 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (*Nunavut Agreement*):

Where an application is made for a land use permit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, and there are reasonable grounds to believe that there could be sites of archaeological importance on the lands affected, no land use permit shall be issued without written consent of the Designated Agency. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. [33.5.12]

Each land use permit referred to in Section 33.5.12 shall specify the plans and methods of archeological site protection and restoration to be followed by the permit holder, and any other conditions the Designated Agency may deem fit. [33.5.13]

Palaeontology and Archaeology
Under the *Nunavut Act*[4], the federal government can make regulations for the protection, care and preservation of palaeontological and archaeological sites and specimens in Nunavut. Under the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*[5], it is illegal to alter or disturb any palaeontological or archaeological site in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process.

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 Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement).*
>
> *"palaeontological site" means a site where a fossil is found.*
>
> *"fossil" includes:*
> *Fossil means the hardened or preserved remains or impression of previously living organisms or vegetation and includes:*
> *(a) natural casts;*
> *(b) preserved tracks, coprolites and plant remains; and*
> *(c) the preserved shells and exoskeletons of invertebrates and the preserved eggs, teeth and bones of vertebrates.*

Guidelines for Developers for the Protection of Archaeological Resources in the Nunavut Territory

(**Note:** Partial document only, complete document at: www.ch.gov.nu.ca/en/Archaeology.aspx)

Introduction
The following guidelines have been formulated to ensure that the impacts of proposed developments upon heritage resources are assessed and mitigated before ground surface altering activities occur. Heritage resources are defined as, but not limited to, archaeological and historical sites, burial grounds, palaeontological sites, historic buildings and cairns Effective collaboration between the developer, the Department of Culture, and Heritage (CH), and the contract archaeologist(s) will ensure proper preservation of heritage resources in the Nunavut Territory. The roles of each are briefly described.

[4] s. 51(1)
[5] P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

CH is the Nunavut Government agency which oversees the protection and management of heritage resources in Nunavut, in partnership with land claim authorities, regulatory agencies, and the federal government. Its role in mitigating impacts of developments on heritage resources is as follows: to identify the need for an impact assessment and make recommendations to the appropriate regulatory agency; set the terms of reference for the study depending upon the scope of the development; suggest the names of qualified individuals prepared to undertake the study to the developer; issue an archaeologist or palaeontologist permit authorizing field work; assess the completeness of the study and its recommendations; and ensure that the developer complies with the recommendations.

The primary regulatory agencies that CH provides information and assistance to are the Nunavut Impact Review Board, for development activities proposed for Inuit Owned Lands (as defined in Section 1.1.1 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (*Nunavut Agreement*)), and the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, for development activities proposed for federal Crown Lands.

A developer is the initiator of a land use activity. It is the obligation of the developer to ensure that a qualified archaeologist or palaeontologist is hired to perform the required study and that provisions of the contract with the archaeologist or palaeontologist allow permit requirements to be met; i.e. fieldwork, collections management, artifact and specimen conservation, and report preparation. On the recommendation of the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist in the field and the Government of Nunavut, the developer shall implement avoidance or mitigative measures to protect heritage resources or to salvage the information they contain through excavation, analysis, and report writing. The developer assumes all costs associated with the study in its entirety.

Through his or her active participation and supervision of the study, the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist is accountable for the quality of work undertaken and the quality of the report produced. Facilities to conduct fieldwork, analysis, and report preparation should be available to this individual through institutional, agency, or company affiliations. Responsibility for the curation of objects recovered during field work while under study and for documents generated in the course of the study as well as remittance of artifacts, specimens and documents to the repository specified on the permit accrue to the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist. This individual is also bound by the legal requirements of the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*.

Types of Development

In general, those developments that cause concern for the safety of heritage resources will include one or more of the following kinds of surface disturbances. These categories, in combination, are comprehensive of the major kinds of developments commonly proposed in Nunavut. For any single development proposal, several kinds of these disturbances may be involved

- *Linear disturbances: including the construction of highways, roads, winter roads, transmission lines, and pipelines;*
- *Extractive disturbances: including mining, gravel removal, quarrying, and land filling;*

- *Impoundment disturbances: including dams, reservoirs, and tailings ponds;*
- *Intensive land use disturbances: including industrial, residential, commercial, recreational, and land reclamation work, and use of heritage resources as tourist developments.*
- *Mineral, oil and gas exploration: establishment of camps, temporary airstrips, access routes, well sites, or quarries all have potential for impacting heritage resources*.

Types of Studies Undertaken to Preserve Heritage Resources

Overview: An overview study of heritage resources should be conducted at the same time as the development project is being designed or its feasibility addressed. They usually lack specificity with regard to the exact location(s) and form(s) of impact and involve limited, if any, field surveys. Their main aim is to accumulate, evaluate, and synthesize the existing knowledge of the heritage of the known area of impact. The overview study provides managers with baseline data from which recommendations for future research and forecasts of potential impacts can be made. A Class I Permit is required for this type of study if field surveys are undertaken.

Reconnaissance: This is done to provide a judgmental appraisal of a region sufficient to provide the developer, the consultant, and government managers with recommendations for further development planning. This study may be implemented as a preliminary step to inventory and assessment investigations except in cases where a reconnaissance may indicate a very low or negligible heritage resource potential. Alternately, in the case of small-scale or linear developments, an inventory study may be recommended and obviate the need for a reconnaissance.

The main goal of a reconnaissance study is to provide baseline data for the verification of the presence of potential heritage resources, the determination of impacts to these resources, the generation of terms of reference for further studies and, if required, the advancement of preliminary mitigative and compensatory plans. The results of reconnaissance studies are primarily useful for the selection of alternatives and secondarily as a means of identifying impacts that must be mitigated after the final siting and design of the development project. Depending on the scope of the study, a Class 1 or Class 2 Permit is required for this type of investigation.

Inventory: A resource inventory is generally conducted at that stage in a project's development at which the geographical area(s) likely to sustain direct, indirect, and perceived impacts can be well defined. This requires systematic and intensive fieldwork to ascertain the effects of all possible and alternate construction components on heritage resources. All heritage sites must be recorded on Government of Nunavut Site Survey forms. Sufficient information must be amassed from field, library and archival components of the study to generate a predictive model of the heritage resource base that will:

- allow the identification of research and conservation opportunities;
- enable the developer to make planning decisions and recognize their likely effects on the known or predicted resources; and

- make the developer aware of the expenditures, which may be required for subsequent studies and mitigation. A Class 1 or 2 permit is required.

Assessment: At this stage, sufficient information concerning the numbers and locations of heritage resources will be available, as well as data to predict the forms and magnitude of impacts. Assessments provide information on the size, volume, complexity and content of a heritage resource, which is used to rank the values of different sites or site types given current archaeological knowledge. As this information will shape subsequent mitigation program(s), great care is necessary during this phase.

Mitigation: This refers to the amelioration of adverse impacts to heritage resources and involves the avoidance of impact through the redesign or relocation of a development or its components; the protection of the resource by constructing physical facilities; or, the scientific investigation and recovery of information from the resource by excavation or other method. The type(s) of appropriate mitigative measures are dictated by their viability in the context of the development project. Mitigation strategies must be developed in consultation with, and approved by, the Department of Culture and Heritage. It is important to note that mitigation activities should be initiated as far in advance of the construction of the development as possible.

Surveillance and monitoring: These may be required as part of the mitigation program.

Surveillance may be conducted during the construction phase of a project to ensure that the developer has complied with the recommendations.

Monitoring involves identification and inspection of residual and long-term impacts of a development (i.e. shoreline stability of a reservoir); or the use of impacts to disclose the presence of heritage resources, for example, the uncovering of buried sites during the construction of a pipeline.