



WRITTEN WARNING
NUNAVUT WATERS AND NUNAVUT SURFACE RIGHTS TRIBUNAL ACT

July 6, 2026

The purpose of this warning is to inform:

Municipality of Pangnirtung
Pangnirtung, Nunavut
X0A 0R0

c/o MaryAnn Mike
A/Senior Administrative Officer
Municipality of Pangnirtung
Pangnirtung, Nunavut, Canada
X0A 0R0

Information concerning a sewage spill from the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) on January 10, 2026, collected by the undersigned Inspector designated by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) under the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act, gives us reasonable grounds to believe that the Municipality of Pangnirtung was in contravention of the following sections of its Type "A" Water License no. 3AM-PAN1828 issued by the Nunavut Water Board (the Water License):

- - Part G, Item 3(b)

Furthermore, this incident gives us reasonable grounds to believe that the Municipality of Pangnirtung is also in contravention of the following sections of the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act.

- Section 12(1)
- Section 12(3)

ALLEGED FACTS

On January 15, 2026, a sewage spill was reported from the Municipality of Pangnirtung. Untreated waste water was being discharged from the effluent discharge pipe for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). The spill had started on January 10, 2026 and was not reported to CIRNAC until January 15, 2026.

According to the information provided by the Director of Infrastructure for the Hamlet of Pangnirtung, The WWTP's operating system became stuck in standby mode and the system was unable to process waste water being delivered to the plant. The waste was discharged from the usual effluent discharge pipe, but not treated through the MBR process. As a result, waste was discarded directly from the equalization tank onto the land, and ultimately flowed into the ocean.



The WWTP's internet connection was down, resulting in the absence of an accurate volume of the product spilled. We have reasonable grounds to believe that the volume of waste water released into the environment was approximately five days' worth of the typical volume passing through WWTP.

After further email correspondence with Cameron McDonald, Director of Infrastructure for the Hamlet of Pangnirtung, CIRNAC learned that the plant operators did not have sufficient training on spill reporting procedures. Due to this, no photos were taken immediately after the release of the untreated waste water, and no spill report was submitted in a timely manner.

While problems with infrastructure and equipment do occur, the spill was not reported in a timely manner. Once the spill is under control it must be reported as early as possible to ensure inspectors and other agencies have sufficient time to respond to the situation. The spill reporting process and other spill related information are detailed in the Municipal Spill Contingency Plan.

LEGISLATION

The relevant sections of the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act relating to the deposit of waste, and obligation to report such deposits of waste, are as follows:

Deposit of waste

12. (1) Subject to subsection (2) and except in accordance with the conditions of a licence, no person shall deposit or permit the deposit of waste

Exceptions

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of

- (a) any unlicensed deposit of waste that is authorized by the regulations; or
- (b) the deposit of waste in a national park.

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Duty to report deposits

(3) Where waste is deposited in contravention of this section, every person who owns or has the charge, management or control of the waste, or who caused or contributed to the deposit, shall, subject to the regulations, without delay report the deposit to an inspector.

Principal offences

90. (1) Any person who contravenes subsection 11(1) or section 12, or fails to comply with subsection 11(3) or with a direction given by an inspector under subsection 87(1), is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine

not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or to both.

Additionally, the relevant provision relating to Spill Contingency Planning, under the Water License, issued by the Nunavut Water Board, are as follows:

PART G: Conditions Applying To Spill Contingency Planning

3. The Licensee shall, subject to section 16 of the Regulations, report any unauthorized deposits of Waste or foreseeable unauthorized deposits of waste and/or Discharges of Effluent, and:

a. Employ, as required, the approved Spill Contingency Plan;

For contraventions of the terms of Type “A” Water Licenses, the relevant provisions of Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act are as follows:

Type A licences

90.1 (1) Every type A licensee is guilty of an offence who

(a) contravenes any condition of the licence, where the contravention does not constitute an offence under section 91, or

(b) fails, without reasonable excuse, to furnish or maintain security as required under subsection 76(1) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or to both.

Continuing offences

90.3 An offence under subsection 90(1), 90.1(1) or 90.2(1) that is committed or continued on more than one day constitutes a separate offence for each day on which it is committed or continued.

The complete text of the *Nunavut Waters Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* is available on canlii website: <https://www.canlii.org/en/ca/laws/stat/sc-2002-c-10/latest/sc-2002-c-10.html>

CONCLUSION

This warning alleges a contravention of sections 12(1) and 12(3) of the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act, as well as a contravention of Part G, Item 3(b) of the Water License. It is intended to bring this matter to your attention in order for you to take the necessary corrective action to ensure future compliance with both the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act and the applicable terms of the Water License.

This warning letter is not a finding of criminal culpability or civil liability, nor is it an administrative adjudication or enforcement action. This warning and the circumstances to which it refers will form part of CIRNAC's records relating to the Municipality of

Pangnirtung, and will be taken into account in future responses to alleged violations, as well as used for internal administrative purposes, such as guiding how we conduct future inspections.

We ask that you please confirm receipt of this warning letter. You are welcome to further write to the undersigned for more information, or to respond to the facts alleged. In the absence of such a response, we will assume that the information on which we have relied in sending this warning letter is accurate. Any comments you make will be considered, and where appropriate, a response will be provided. Your comments, as well as any response from us, will be maintained on file with this warning in CIRNAC's records.

Sean Naullaq

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