

# PILITAK

## ENTERPRISES

ᐱᓕᑕᑲ ᐃᖃᐁᐃᓴᖃᐱᓴᓴᐃᑦ ᓕᑦᑎᑦ

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE DISCOVERY PLAN

Arctic Bay Harbour Development

CW2405837

Submitted to:

Public Services and Procurement Canada

Rev-01: May 2026



 May 25, 2026

**Author :**                    **François Bourassa**  
Project Manager, Pilitak Enterprises Ltd

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION .....	2
1.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK .....	2
1.2.1 <i>Permitting</i> .....	2
1.2.2 <i>Regulation</i> .....	2
<b>2. DEFINITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE .....	4
2.2 DISCOVERY .....	5
2.3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES .....	5
<b>3. DISCOVERY PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. TRAINING .....</b>	<b>7</b>

### List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Name
ARDP	Archaeological Resource Discovery Plan
CCEMP	Contractor CEMP
NIRB	Nunavut Impact Review Board
NU	Nunavut
NWB	Nunavut Water Board
PEL	Pilitak Enterprises Ltd
PSPC	Public Services and Procurement Canada
SPRP	Spill Prevention and Response Plan

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to present the Archaeological Resource Discovery Plan for the construction project of the new harbour in Arctic Bay, Nunavut.

The construction project was awarded to Pilitak Enterprises Ltd (PEL) in February 2026 by Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) for the Department of Fisheries and Ocean (DFO). At the end of August 2026, heavy equipment, camp facilities and material will be delivered by sealift to Arctic Bay. The project consists mainly of the construction of a new breakwater with fixed wharf, a boat launch ramp, small craft floating docks laydown area and lighting. The new marine infrastructure will be constructed during the summers of 2027, 2028 and 2029 while preparation work will be carried out during the fall of 2026.

This Archaeological Resource Discovery Plan (ARDP) establishes procedures to be followed in the event that archaeological, historical, paleontological, or culturally significant materials are encountered during construction activities associated with the project. The purpose of this plan is to:

- Protect archaeological and cultural resources;
- Ensure compliance with applicable Nunavut and federal regulations;
- Minimize disturbance to archaeological resources;
- Establish clear communication and reporting procedures;
- Ensure work is suspended appropriately when discoveries occur.

## 1.1 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

The latest version of the following documents issued for the current project shall be used conjointly with the present Plan:

Document	Current Revision
Contract specifications and drawings	Issued for tender
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	Rev. 2
Contractor Construction Environmental Management Plan (CCEMP)	Rev-01
Traffic Management Plan	Rev-01
Sediment and Erosion Control Plan	Rev-00
Health and safety and Emergency Response Plan	Rev-00
Wildlife Protection and Monitoring Plan	Rev-00

## 1.2 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

### 1.2.1 Permitting

The conditions of the following licences and permits issued for this project shall be complied with:

Permit/licence	
Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC)	No. 149437
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)	No. 21UN004
Nunavut Water Board (NWB)	8BCABH2125
Fisheries Act Authorization (FAA)	20-HCAA-00155
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	PNR-00214-1
Transport Canada (TC)	2021-603772
Natural Resources Canada (NR Can)	To be issued

### 1.2.2 Regulation

The following regulations apply:

Nunavut Agreement

Section 33 in part states that: “a permit holder shall not survey, investigate, excavate or alter an archaeological site without the consent of the title holder to the land.”

Nunavut Act

Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations: Part 5(1) states that: “No person shall excavate, alter or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove an archaeological artifact from an archaeological site, without a Class 2 permit.”

Territorial Land Use Regulations:

Part 16 states that: “If, in the course of a land use operation, a suspected historic or archaeological site or burial site is unearthed or otherwise discovered, the permittee shall immediately:

- (a) suspend the land use operation on the site*
- (b) notify the engineer or an inspector of the location of the site and the nature of any unearthed materials, structures or artifacts”*

## 2. DEFINITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 2.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Any material evidence of past human activity, including but not limited to:

- Stone tools;
- Bone, antler, or ivory artifacts;
- Tent rings and traditional Inuit camp features;
- Food caches;
- Graves or burial sites;
- Cultural depressions;
- Historic camps;
- Structural remains.
- Carved ivory or antler

### TYPICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN NUNAVUT

The following are examples of archaeological resources that may be encountered in Nunavut.

<p><b>PRECONTACT CAMP (HOUSE) DEPRESSIONS</b></p>  <p>Semi-subterranean winter house depressions, often with stone outlines, hearths, and midden.</p>	<p><b>STONE FEATURES (TENT RINGS)</b></p>  <p>Circular or oval stone arrangements used as tent rings or windbreaks.</p>	<p><b>CACHE SITES</b></p>  <p>Food caches built with stones, often located on hilltops or prominent features.</p>	<p><b>MEAT CACHE / DRYING RACKS</b></p>  <p>Structures used for drying or storing meat, sometimes associated with camps or cache sites.</p>
<p><b>MIDDEN / SHELL HEAPS</b></p>  <p>Accumulations of food remains, shells, bones, and artifacts near past camps.</p>	<p><b>ARTIFACTS (EXAMPLES)</b></p>  <p>Common artifacts include stone tools, bone or antler tools, lamps, ulus, harpoon heads, and ornaments.</p>	<p><b>QIKIQAALUIT (INUKSHUK)</b></p>  <p>Inuit stone markers used for navigation, communication, or as landmarks.</p>	<p><b>GRAVE / BURIAL SITES</b></p>  <p>Precontact and historic burials, often marked by stone features.</p>
<p><b>PRECONTACT QUARRIES</b></p>  <p>Sources of stone raw material, with evidence of flaking and tool production.</p>	<p><b>HISTORIC TRAPPING CABINS</b></p>  <p>Remains of frame or stone cabins used during the historic period.</p>	<p><b>HISTORIC DEBRIS SCATTERS</b></p>  <p>Scattered historic materials such as cans, bottles, metal, and equipment.</p>	<p><b>PETROGLYPHS / PICTOGRAPHS</b></p>  <p>Rock carvings or paintings that may be found on bedrock surfaces.</p>

Note: Archaeological resources are protected under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. If you encounter an archaeological resource, stop work in the area and follow the procedures in the Archaeological Resource Discovery Plan.

## 2.2 DISCOVERY

A discovery refers to the unanticipated encounter of archaeological or culturally significant material during project activities.

## 2.3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Project Manager

- *Ensure implementation of this plan;*
- *Coordinate with the consultant and PSPC;*
- *Maintain project documentation.*

### Site Supervisor

- *Stop work immediately upon discovery;*
- *Secure the discovery area;*
- *Notify the Project Manager and the Departmental Representative;*
- *Ensure workers comply with exclusion requirements.*

### All Workers

- *Understand and comply with the current plan;*
- *Report potential discoveries immediately;*
- *Avoid disturbing suspected archaeological materials.*

### 3. DISCOVERY PROCEDURES

All fossils, coins, articles of value or antiquities and structural and other remains or relics of geological or archaeological interest discovered on or in the area of the Site of Work will be the absolute property of the Departmental Representative. Reasonable precautions shall be taken to prevent workers or persons from removing or damaging any such discovery. The Departmental Representative shall issue special instructions for removal and disposal in compliance with legislation in Nunavut.

The below procedures should be followed when a suspected archaeological resource is encountered:

- Stop all work within a minimum 30 m radius of the discovery;
- Notify the Site Superintendent immediately.
- Do not disturb, collect, move, or photograph artifacts unless directed by authorities;
- Secure the area to prevent unauthorized access;
- The site superintendent will notify the Departmental Representative and the project manager.

The construction activities within the restricted area shall not resume until authorization is provided by the Departmental Representative and applicable authorities.

## 4. TRAINING

Construction activities can have several potential negative effects on archaeological resources, particularly because the territory contains many sensitive Inuit cultural and historical sites. Common impacts include:

- Physical disturbance or destruction of archaeological sites caused by excavation, grading, trenching, blasting, drilling, or heavy equipment operation;
- Displacement or removal of artifacts such as tools, bones, tent rings, caches, or other culturally significant materials;
- Damage to burial sites or human remains, which may have significant cultural and spiritual importance;
- Erosion and sedimentation resulting from ground disturbance, altered drainage patterns, or removal of vegetation, potentially exposing or degrading archaeological materials;
- Vibration impacts from blasting or heavy machinery that may destabilize fragile features or structures;
- Unauthorized collection or disturbance of artifacts by workers or visitors if sites are not properly protected;
- Loss of historical and cultural information when archaeological contexts are disturbed without proper documentation;
- Indirect impacts from increased access, such as new roads or temporary work camps that may encourage accidental or intentional disturbance of previously undisturbed areas;
- Permafrost degradation caused by surface disturbance, which can accelerate deterioration of preserved organic archaeological materials unique to Arctic environments.

Through worker induction sessions and toolbox meetings, workers will be reminded of the following:

- What may constitute archaeological or palaeontological material;
- It is prohibited to collect any archaeological or palaeontological materials;
- If the presence of archaeological or palaeontological materials is suspected, work must stop immediately and the site superintendent must be notified;
- Do not attempt to remove or handle any discovery;
- Wait for instruction before resuming works.