

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

I am pleased to present the Nunavut Impact Review Board's Annual Report for the 2008 fiscal year. The NIRB's mission is to protect and promote the well-being of the environment and Nunavummiut through the impact assessment process. It has been another busy and successful year for the NIRB and I am proud of the work that my fellow board members and our staff have done.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008-09

During 2008-09 the NIRB staff and board were kept busy with a total of 141 project proposals that were submitted for assessment in accordance with Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Of the 141 project proposals submitted to the NIRB, 72 entailed Part 4 screenings in addition to five Part 5 reviews, and the monitoring of three projects pursuant to Article 12 of the NLCA.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act shall no longer apply within the Nunavut Settlement Area due to an amendment to the NLCA that was tabled in Ottawa in May 2008. This amendment is a great step towards reducing duplication and improving the efficiency of Nunavut's regulatory process.

I am pleased to announce the NIRB has completed its 5 Year Strategic Plan and Funding Requirements to direct the organization over the next 5 years. This plan was drafted to allow the Board to meet current capacity and create a level of readiness to take on the known and unknown emerging issues and challenges in the regulatory system. The plan addresses key areas including governance, legislation, policy development, and human resources. I encourage you to read this

Plan at your convenience. It can be found on our ftp site located at [http://ftp.nirb.ca/STRATEGIC PLAN/](http://ftp.nirb.ca/STRATEGIC_PLAN/).

The board and staff have also completed several initiatives and extensive training in topics including transportation corridors, cumulative effects, iron ore mining, and marine seismic surveys. The board and staff have attended, presented, and participated in a number of conferences and workshops throughout the year, including the Nunavut Mining Symposium and Mineral Development Advisory Groups for both the Kiggavik and Meliadine projects.

THE FUTURE

In 2009, key initiatives for the Board include our continued public awareness programs for ongoing Part 5 reviews, participating in the Nunavut Marine Council, and working towards finalization of enabling legislation.

I trust you will find this Annual Report to be informative and useful. Our staff are always available to answer any questions that you may have; please feel free to contact them directly or through our general email address at info@nirb.ca. Also, we are continuously updating materials on our ftp site which can be found at <http://ftp.nirb.ca>.

Thank you for your interest in the NIRB and your continued support of the work we do. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.



Lucassie Arragutainaq
Chairperson

INTRODUCTION: OUR MANDATE, MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) was established on July 9, 1996 as an Institution of Public Government with RESPONSIBILITIES for the environmental assessment of projects in the Nunavut Settlement Area as described in Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA). The primary functions of the Board pursuant to the NLCA is to screen project proposals in order to determine whether or not a review is required; to gauge and define the extent of the regional impact of a project; to review the ecosystemic

and socio-economic impacts of proposals; to determine whether proposals should proceed, and if so, under what terms and conditions; and to monitor projects as they proceed.

The MANDATE of the NIRB shall be to use both traditional knowledge and recognized scientific methods in ecosystemic and socio-economic analyses to assess and monitor, on a site-specific and regional basis, the environmental, cultural and socioeconomic impacts of those project proposals for which it has responsibility.

The MISSION of the NIRB shall be to protect and promote the well-being of the environment and Nunavummiut through the impact assessment process.



BOARD MEMBERS

The Board Members of the Nunavut Impact Review Board consist of: two members directly appointed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC); two members direct appointed by Government of Nunavut (GN); and four members appointed by INAC upon nomination by Designated Inuit Organization.

Lucassie Arragutainaq
Acting Chairperson (GN Appointed)

Henry Ohokannoak
Vice Chairperson (INAC Appointed)

Peter Akkikungnaq
Secretary/Treasurer (INAC Appointed)

Glenn McLean
(GN Appointed)

Patricia Enuapik
INAC Appointed, Nominated by NTI

Percy Kabloona
INAC Appointed, Nominated by NTI

Archie Angnakak
INAC Appointed, Nominated by NTI

Donald Watt
Alternate Board Member

Putulik Papigatuk
Alternate Board Member

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Avalak
INAC Appointed, Nominated by NTI



NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

STAFF MEMBERS

Stephanie Autut
Executive Director

Millie Evalik
Director of Finance & Administration

Jeff Rusk
Director of Technical Services

Jorgen Komak
Manager of Information Systems

Leslie Payette
Manager of Environmental Administration

Lena Atatahak
Executive Secretary

Priscilla (Ovik) Evalik
Finance and Administration Clerk

Sylvia Novoligak
Environmental Administrator

Josie Tucktoo-Lacasse
Interpreter and Translator

Ryan Barry
Technical Advisor

Sophia Granchinho
Technical Advisor

Amanda Hanson
Technical Advisor

Li Wan
Technical Advisor

Tara Arko
Assistant Technical Advisor



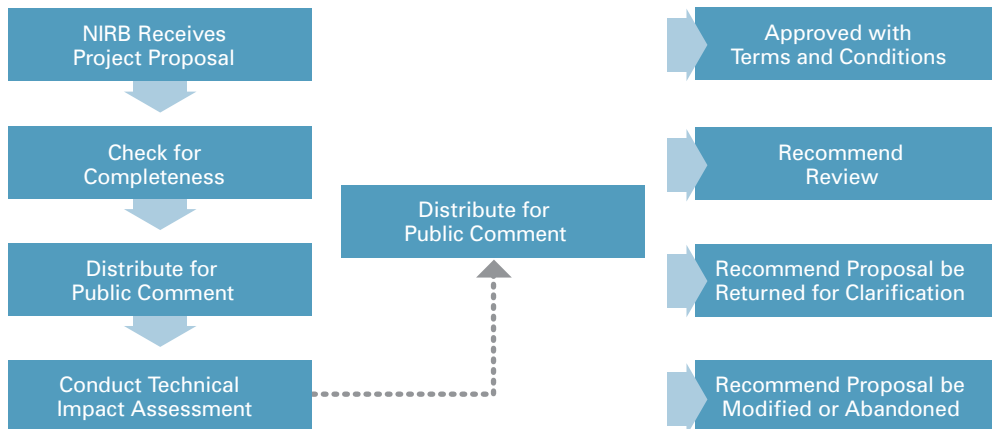
SCREENING PROCESS

The NIRB conducts environmental screenings of project proposals in accordance with Section 12.4.1 of the NLCA which states,

“the NIRB shall screen the proposal to determine whether it has significant impact potential, and therefore whether it requires review under Part 5 or 6.”

Pursuant to Section 12.4.4 of the NLCA, the Board may make one of four determinations following screening:

- 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.



SCREENINGS

From April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009, the NIRB received a total of 141 project proposals, which can be placed into the following categories according to the type of project:

- 72 12.4.4 Screenings:
 - 20 Exploration (1 Seismic)
 - 33 Research (1 Defense)
 - 3 Contaminated site remediation
 - 3 Quarries
 - 3 Access/Leases
 - 2 Cruise ships
 - 2 Camps
 - 2 Mining developments
 - 1 Road & bridge repair
 - 1 Winter warfare course
 - 1 Naval facility
 - 1 Landfarm

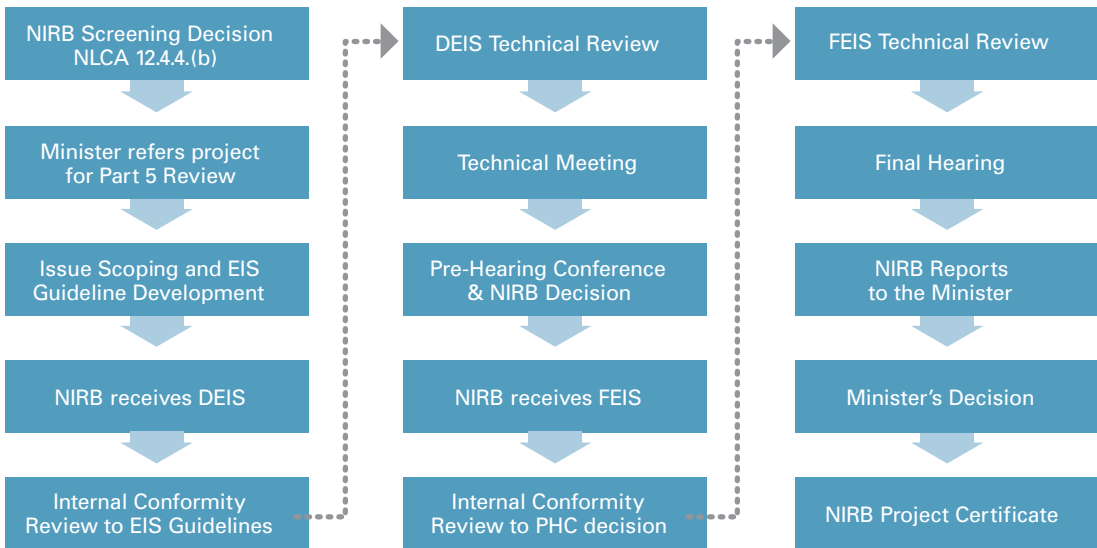
- 69 12.4.3 Exemptions (Extensions, Renewals, Amendments)



REVIEW PROCESS

Following a Part 4 Screening, the Board may recommend that a project be subject to a review in accordance with 12.4.2(a) of the NLCA which states that a project shall be sent to review when in the NIRB's judgment, it:

“may have significant adverse effects on the ecosystem, wildlife habitat or Inuit harvesting activities; may have significant adverse socio-economic effects on northerners; will cause significant public concern; or involves technological innovations for which the effects are unknown.”



REVIEWS

BATHURST INLET PORT AND ROAD JOINT VENTURE LTD'S BIPR PROJECT (NIRB: 03UN114)

The Bathurst Inlet Port and Road (BIPR) project consists of a proposed port and facilities on Bathurst Inlet, a 211 km all-weather road to Contwoyto Lake (which would connect to the existing Tibbit to Contwoyto winter road), and a 20 person camp at Contwoyto Lake. The project proponent is Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Joint Venture Ltd., a partnership between Kitikmeot Corporation (50%) and Nuna Logistics Ltd. (50%). Originally recommended for review in 2003, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the BIPR project was submitted to the Board by the proponent in early 2008. On June 4, 2008 the NIRB released a public summary report, detailing the results of information sessions held throughout the communities of the Kitikmeot region and Ulukhaktok, NWT. These meetings provided an opportunity for community members to learn more about the proposed project and how to participate effectively in the NIRB's review process.

On August 1, 2008, BIPR Joint Venture Ltd. wrote to the Board and requested that further technical review of the BIPR project be suspended until the schedule of the project and its potential users could be reassessed in early 2009. After soliciting comments from parties regarding the suspension request, the NIRB commenced the 60 day technical review of the Draft EIS but determined that no Technical Meeting or Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC) would be scheduled until the proponent indicated it was ready to proceed further. The NIRB forwarded Information Requests (IR) from the technical review to the proponent and then formally suspended additional proceedings until the proponent is ready to re-engage the review process with an IR response submission. The Part 5 review of the BIPR project remained suspended as of March 31, 2009.



REVIEWS

OZ MINERALS LTD'S HIGH LAKE PROJECT (NIRB: 06MN082)

The High Lake Mine project is a proposed copper, zinc, gold and silver mine located in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. The project is currently owned by OZ Minerals Ltd., formerly known as Zinifex Canada Inc. Mining methods proposed for this development include the use of both open pit and underground workings. The mine site and processing facility would be at High Lake, which is located approximately 175 km southeast of Kugluktuk. It would be serviced by a 49 km winter road during the construction period, and a 53 km all season road during operation. Both roads would connect the mine site with a dock facility to be built at Grays Bay, located on the coast of the Coronation Gulf. The dock would be used to bring in equipment and supplies, and ship out ore concentrate.

The High Lake project has been undergoing a review since May 30, 2007 when the NIRB received a referral from the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC). The original project proposal was accepted as a Draft EIS by the Board; therefore the NIRB commenced a technical review of this document

and held Technical Meetings from November 30 to December 3, 2007 which resulted in a draft list of commitments from the proponent. At the end of the Technical Meeting, the Board adjourned the High Lake PHC as a number of agenda items were still outstanding from the proponent.

Further meetings were held in the beginning of 2008 to address the outstanding items from the Technical Meeting agenda. The proponent also held a water quality and climate change technical workshop and a failure modes effects analysis workshop in May 2008 to fulfill commitments made previously during the Technical Meeting. In May 2008, the NIRB formally postponed the PHC for this review until all of the remaining outstanding issues were resolved.

By September 2008, the NIRB provided the latest updated draft list of commitments to the proponent for its review. Also, the Board indicated that the Part 5 review of the project was effectively suspended until the proponent formally notifies the NIRB that it is ready to re-engage the review process and proceed to a PHC. The Part 5 review of the High Lake project has remained suspended as of March 31, 2009.



REVIEWS

URAVAN MINERALS INC'S GARRY LAKE PROJECT (NIRB: 08EN037)

The Garry Lake project consists of a uranium exploration program in the Kivalliq region, approximately 235 km northwest of Baker Lake, as proposed by UraVan Minerals Inc. After screening the project proposal, the NIRB determined that the nature, timing, and location of the project indicated that it: i) has the potential to cause significant adverse ecosystemic effects, (ii) may have significant adverse socio-economic effects on northerners, and iii) has caused significant public concern. On June 27, 2008 the Board issued a screening decision report to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (the Minister), recommending a review of the Garry Lake project under Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the NLCA.

On September 25, 2008 the Minister referred the Garry Lake project to the NIRB for a review of the ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts under Part 5 of Article 12 of the NLCA. Pursuant to Section 12.5.4 of the NLCA, the Minister asked that "the Board structure the review in a manner that will facilitate a thorough, yet expeditious review of the project". Additionally, the Minister stated his support for focusing the scope of the review on the project's impacts and cumulative impacts on wildlife habitat and Inuit wildlife harvesting.

Following a public scoping and guideline development workshop in Baker Lake in November of 2008, the Board issued final guidelines for the preparation of a draft EIS to the proponent on February 20, 2009. These guidelines were the result of significant input from the public and will form the basis of the Board's technical review of the project. As of March 31, 2009 the Board continues to await a draft EIS submission from the proponent for this project.



REVIEWS

SABINA SILVER CORP'S HACKETT RIVER PROJECT (NIRB: 08MN006)

The Hackett River project involves the construction and operation of a combined surface and underground base metal mine located on both Inuit Owned and Crown lands, as proposed by Sabina Silver Corporation (Sabina). Three significant deposits, East Cleaver, Main Zone, and Boot Lake, have been identified on the property, with total indicated resources (zinc, silver, copper, lead and gold) of approximately 47 million tonnes. The operational life of the project is anticipated to be approximately 14 years, with the mine being expected to employ approximately 250-325 personnel on rotating shifts during that time.

This project has been undergoing a Part 5 review since September 2008, when the NIRB received a referral from the Minister of INAC in accordance with NLCA Section 12.4.7. The NIRB proceeded to scope the Hackett River project in order to gauge the potential for, and severity of, any impacts

which may result should the project proceed. In October of 2008, the NIRB staff held public scoping and open house meetings throughout the communities of the Kitikmeot region.

In November 2008, following the Scoping Meetings, the NIRB issued a public scoping report which summarized concerns relating to the Hackett River project that were raised by the public in each of the communities visited. The NIRB staff also held an EIS Guideline Development Workshop in Yellowknife in November 2008. The purpose of this workshop was to identify and resolve any issues pertaining to the project and the draft Guidelines developed by the Board for Sabina's preparation of its draft EIS.

Following the guideline development workshop, the Board issued a revised draft of the EIS guidelines for an additional round of public comments in December 2008. The Board anticipates issuing finalized EIS guidelines in early April 2009 and will then await a draft EIS submission from the proponent for this project.



REVIEWS

BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORP'S MARY RIVER PROJECT (NIRB: 08MN053)

The Mary River project is proposed by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland), and is located on Baffin Island, approximately 160 km south of Pond Inlet and 1000 km northwest of Iqaluit. This project involves the construction, operation, closure, and reclamation of an 18 million tonne-per-annum (Mt/a) open pit iron mine. High-grade iron ore will be mined and processed at Mary River using conventional crushing and screening methods. A railway system will transport the ore approximately 143 km from the mine site to an all-season deep-water port and ship loading facility at Steensby Inlet, where the ore will be loaded into ore carriers for overseas shipment through Foxe Basin and Hudson Strait. Year round shipping will be undertaken with a fleet of cape-sized ore carriers with the capacity to break ice, while additional non-icebreaking ore carriers and conventional ships will be used during the open water season.

The Mary River project proposal was submitted to the NIRB and other regulatory agencies in March of 2008. On April 30, 2008 the Nunavut

Planning Commission (NPC) issued a positive conformity determination for the project in relation to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). Highlighted in this determination were the provisions set forth in sections 3.5.11 and 3.5.12 of Appendix C of the NBRLUP, regarding the requirement for a joint public review by the NIRB and the NPC to address the transportation corridor proposed by development of the railway as described above.

Upon receipt of NPC's determination, the NIRB screened the project and, in June of 2008, issued a screening decision to the Minister of INAC (the Minister), indicating a review under Part 5 or 6 was required. On February 11, 2009 the Minister referred the project to the NIRB for a review of the ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts under Part 5 of Article 12 of the NLCA. As of March 28, 2009 the NIRB staff had commenced public scoping meetings scheduled for 11 communities in Nunavut which have the potential to be impacted by this project. The results from these scoping meetings will be used to develop guidelines for the proponent to prepare a draft EIS for this project.



REVIEWS

AREVA RESOURCES CANADA INC'S KIGGAVIK PROJECT (NIRB: 09MN003)

The Kiggavik project is proposed by AREVA Resources Canada Inc (AREVA), and is located in the Kivalliq Region, approximately 80 km west of Baker Lake. The project is a proposed uranium ore mining and milling operation that involves the development of five individual mines, three open pit mines (East Zone, Center Zone) at Kiggavik and both an open pit mine (Andrew Lake) and an underground mine (End Grid) at Sissons. Reagents, fuel and supplies would be barged to a storage facility near Baker Lake and transported to Kiggavik via truck on a 90-100 km access road. Uranium ore concentrate, commonly referred to as yellowcake, will be transported by air or may be transported by barge during the open water season to southern Canada.

The Kiggavik project proposal was submitted to the NIRB and other regulatory agencies in November of 2008. On January 16, 2009 the NPC issued a positive conformity determination for the project in relation to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). Upon receipt of NPC's determination, the NIRB screened the project and, in March of 2009, issued a screening decision to the Minister of INAC, indicating a review under Part 5 or 6 was required. As of March 31, 2009, the NIRB is waiting for the Minister's direction for the next steps in the review.



MONITORING PROCESS

One of the primary functions of the NIRB as stated in Section 12.2.2(e) of the NLCA is to monitor projects in accordance with the provisions of Part 7 of Article 12.

The purpose of a monitoring program set up pursuant to Section 12.71 shall be:

- a. To measure the relevant effects of projects on the ecosystemic and socio-economic environments of the Nunavut Settlement Area;
- b. To determine whether and to what extent the land or resource use in question is carried out within the predetermined terms and conditions;
- c. To provide the information base necessary for agencies to enforce terms and conditions of land or resource use approvals; and
- d. To assess the accuracy of the predictions contained in the project impact statements.

During the period from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009, the NIRB continued monitoring the Jericho Diamond Mine, the Doris North Gold Mine, and the Meadowbank Gold Mine projects.



MONITORING

JERICO DIAMOND MINE (NIRB: 00MN059)

In July 2004, the NIRB issued Project Certificate (PC) No.002 for the Jericho Diamond Mine project to the Tahera Diamond Corporation (Tahera). Full operation of the mine commenced in July 2006.

In January 2008, Tahera filed for creditor protection and prepared for a period of care and maintenance. In accordance with Part 7, Article 12 of the NLCA and the PC, the NIRB continued its monitoring responsibilities for the project following this transition. As part of the monitoring responsibilities, the NIRB's Monitoring Officer visited the Jericho site, reviewed reports

submitted by Tahera and prepared a summary report outlining Jericho's compliance with the PC terms and conditions.

In September 2008, the Socio-Economic Monitoring (SEM) Committee members met to discuss a process for producing a report on the SEM for the Jericho project that would fulfill the requirements of the PC. As of March 31, 2009 a report is in the process of being completed and is expected to be provided to the Board in the near future.



MONITORING

DORIS NORTH GOLD MINE (NIRB: 05MN047)

In September 2006, the NIRB issued PC No. 003 to Miramar Hope Bay Ltd (MHBL) for the Doris North Gold Mine project.

In early 2008, following acquisition of the Doris North project by Newmont Mining Corporation (Newmont) from MHBL, Newmont deferred the Doris North underground mine in order to pursue a broader Hope Bay belt-wide strategy that will incorporate the Doris North deposit. The belt-wide strategy is expected to include the Doris, Madrid and Boston deposits. The infrastructure completed for the Doris North project will facilitate the ongoing exploration of the Hope Bay district. In 2008, the completed infrastructure included:

- Fuel storage (5 million litre) tank at the Roberts Bay site and at the Doris North site (1.5 million litre);
- Camp facilities at Doris North site; and
- Other ancillary facilities at Doris mine site.

In May of 2008, HBML submitted the annual report for the Doris North project and, in November of 2008, also submitted a Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Report and Noise Abatement Report. In September 2008, based on the monitoring activities for the Doris North project, the NIRB released its 2008 Annual Monitoring Report, followed by recommendations to HBML based on the NIRB's findings resulting from compliance monitoring and effects monitoring activities.

In early 2009, HBML requested the Board temporarily modify or suspend some of the requirements in the PC for Doris North project due to its decision to defer the mine development. After a review, the NIRB granted portions of the request in light of the new development strategy, and requested the compliance by HBML with the remaining terms and conditions in the NIRB PC. As of March 31, 2009 the Doris North project remained in a care and maintenance mode, pending new development plans as mentioned previously.



MONITORING

MEADOWBANK GOLD MINE (NIRB: 03MN107)

In December 2006, the NIRB issued PC No. 004 to Cumberland Resources for the Meadowbank Gold Mine project. During 2007, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd (AEM) purchased Cumberland Resources, including the Meadowbank holding.

In 2008/09, the NIRB continued with its monitoring responsibilities related to the project certificate issued for the Meadowbank Gold project. AEM officially opened the all-weather access road from the Hamlet of Baker Lake to the Meadowbank site in March of 2008. The 2008 season also saw the mine site transition fully into the construction phase, with all pending authorizations issued by July of that year.

As part of the Board’s monitoring responsibilities for this project, the NIRB’s Monitoring Officer visited the Meadowbank site, reviewed reports submitted by AEM and prepared a summary report outlining AEM’s compliance with the terms and conditions contained within PC No. 004.

In July and September of 2008, the NIRB received (from Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd and the Hamlet of Baker Lake respectively) distinct and separate requests to reconsider Condition 32 of the NIRB PC No. 004, as per Section 12.8.2 of the NLCA. The NIRB determined that a public hearing would be required to facilitate the reconsideration of Condition 32, and accordingly the Board requested approval from the Minister of INAC to hold such a hearing in Baker Lake.

In January of 2009, the Minister concurred with the NIRB’s recommendation that the reconsideration of Condition 32 required a public hearing, and subsequently, in January of 2009 the NIRB issued formal notification that a public hearing was to be held in Baker Lake in April of 2009.

In March of 2009, the NIRB staff visited Baker Lake and conducted community information sessions to provide information regarding the request for a 12.8.2 NLCA reconsideration of Condition 32, and to educate members of the public regarding the NIRB’s public hearing process and how they can participate effectively.



ACHIEVING OUR MISSION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The NIRB operates under the principle that public participation is an important element of an open and balanced environmental assessment process. Effective public participation strengthens the quality of the NIRB's review process and helps to avoid potential misunderstandings and conflict. The NIRB has an obligation to create opportunities for the active and informed participation of the public at every possible stage of the review process.

Highlights of the Board's extensive public participation programs include:

GARRY LAKE PROJECT NIRB 08EN037

The NIRB conducted a public scoping and guideline development workshop in the community of Baker Lake. The NIRB staff visited briefly with several local organizations to promote attendance at the workshop, including the offices of the Baker Lake Hamlet, Hunters and Trappers Organization, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment and Kivalliq Inuit Association. The objective of this workshop was to allow the NIRB staff to effectively consult with the public and interested parties on the proposed scope of the NIRB's assessment, while soliciting their advice on valued ecosystem and socio-economic components that should be addressed by the Proponent's Environmental Impact Statement.



ACHIEVING OUR MISSION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

HACKETT RIVER PROJECT NIRB 08MN006

The NIRB organized public scoping meetings and open houses in Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Umingmaktok, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk. The purpose of the meetings was to ensure residents were aware of the NIRB review process, and introduced to the project undergoing review. The open houses provided residents with a second opportunity to bring questions to the NIRB, allowed the staff to interact more informally with community residents, and increased the NIRB's visibility in these communities. The NIRB staff also visited schools to promote awareness of the Board and the Hackett River project.

MARY RIVER PROJECT NIRB 08MN053

As of March 31, 2009, the NIRB has held public scoping meetings and open houses in Pond Inlet, with further meetings scheduled next fiscal year in Arctic Bay, Resolute, Grise Fiord, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Coral Harbour, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Clyde River, and Iqaluit. Through the public scoping meetings, the NIRB will collect and categorize comments, concerns, and traditional and local knowledge received from members of the potentially affected communities, related to this project proposal. Issues raised at the public scoping meetings, combined with the input from other parties regarding the NIRB's draft scoping list, will contribute to a complete and comprehensive project scope.



ACHIEVING OUR MISSION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MEADOWBANK GOLD MINE NIRB 03MN107

In preparation for the Public Hearing for the 12.8.2 reconsideration of the Project Certificate for the Meadowbank Gold Mine the NIRB held information sessions in the community of Baker Lake. The purpose of these information sessions was to ensure the residents were aware of the 12.8.2 Hearing process and how they can actively participate in the community roundtable sessions and hearing. The public hearing for this file is scheduled for May of 2009.



ACHIEVING OUR MISSION WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

The Board continues to coordinate and cooperate with our affiliate Boards, authorizing agencies, industry, and the general public to improve certainty and efficiency in the regulatory process. The following outlines the highlights from the past year:

The NIRB received requests from the Government of Nunavut (GN) and Parks Canada (PC) to consider additional authorizations exempt from the NIRB's Part 4 Screening process as per Schedule 12-1(7) of the NLCA. For the GN's request, the Board agreed to exempt Wildlife Act authorizations that fall below the definition of project proposal. The NIRB declined to exempt the other authorizations requested (including Species at Risk License) due to pending NPC/NIRB legislation and the lack of approved land use plans for much of Nunavut. Additionally, the Board agreed to exempt PC research and collection permits for a term limited to three years or until such time as the above-mentioned legislation is in place. The NIRB offered to reconsider both exemption requests in the future when the issues surrounding the NIRB legislation and Nunavut land use plans have been resolved.

Related to the fulfillment of 13.6.1 of the NLCA, the NIRB continues to work with the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) to promote coordination of the impact assessment/water licensing processes during the Screening phase of the regulatory system. The NIRB has been collaborating with

the NWB on the development of the NWB's Guides (similar to the NIRB Guides) and has also been in discussions developing a 'Coordinated Process Framework' for the collaboration of review processes envisioned in Section 13.5.2 of the NLCA.

The NIRB and the NWB distributed the Framework to Guide a Coordinated NIRB/NWB Process to a Nunavut wide distribution list for comment. The Boards are working on next steps in relation to these comment submissions, including how they may affect Part 5 reviews currently in progress (Sabina Hackett River and Baffinland Mary River) which may apply aspects of the proposed Coordinated Process Framework.

The NIRB continues to work with the NPC on the fulfillment of 3.5.11 and 3.5.12 of Appendix C of the NBRLUP and the requirement for a joint public review to address the transportation corridor proposed by Baffinland's Mary River project. The Boards distributed the draft process diagram for comment at the end of March 2009. In the coming year, the Boards will be working on the next steps in relation to the comment submissions.

The NIRB also remains committed to consulting closely with the Federal and Territorial governments, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. in order to finalize the Nunavut Land Use Planning and Impact Assessment Act.

ACHIEVING OUR MISSION INITIATIVES

During 2008-09, the NIRB completed several initiatives and projects designed to provide guidance as well as improved operational efficiencies to regulatory stakeholders and the NIRB staff.

HIGHLIGHTS

Completion of the NIRB 5 Year Strategic Plan and Funding Requirements

The objective of this plan was to build upon the Board's considerable success in operations to date, while endeavoring to make improvements to become even better and position the Board to address emerging issues and challenges.

Strategic goals for the Board over the next five years include:

- To fulfill its mandate and meet existing and future needs by having adequate funding and appropriate funding in place.
- To continue to conduct fair, efficient, consistent, and responsible impact assessments including public participation.

- To continuously strive to build and maintain effective working relationships with the Federal Government, Territorial Government, Nunavut planning partners, and industry.
- To ensure that all operational policies will be developed in accordance with the NLCA and relevant Federal and Territorial legislation.
- To ensure that the organization has in place physical facilities, systems, and equipment to support operations.
- To be at the forefront of effective and efficient business operations by leveraging the best and most cost effective technology available.

The plan was developed over a period of 12 months with the active participation of all the NIRB staff. Their efforts in developing this strategic plan and their commitment to its implementation will be vital to the success of the organization over the coming years.

The NIRB's 5 Year Strategic Plan and Funding Requirements is available for viewing at: http://ftp.nirb.ca/STRATEGIC_PLAN/.



ACHIEVING OUR MISSION INITIATIVES

Nunavut Marine Council

Pursuant to NLCA Section 15.4.1 the NIRB, the NWB, the NPC, and the NWMB may jointly, as a Nunavut Marine Council, or severally advise and make recommendations to other government agencies regarding the marine areas, and Government shall consider such advice and recommendations in making decisions which affect marine areas.

The NIRB approached the respective chairs of its sister Institutions of Public Government (IPG) with a request to meet for the purposes of discussing the Nunavut Marine Council and the case for its potential usefulness.

Representatives of the IPGs met on November 18, 2008 and discussed the following items:

- NLCA Article 15, section 15.4.1
- IPG specific marine issues
- 1st Annual Nunavut Marine Conference
- Role of Government
- Budget requirements

Terms of reference are currently being developed for the Council, and continued work on this initiative is expected in the near future.



Conferences and Workshops Attended

The NIRB staff and board members attended and participated in a number of conferences and workshops including:

- Geoscience 2008
- Cordilleran Roundup Conference 2008
- Nunavut Mining Symposium 2008 including:
 - Regional Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee Meeting
 - Fuel Bladder Sessions
- Sabina Silver Corporation – Hackett River Mineral Development Advisory Group (MDAG)
- AREVA Resources – Kiggavik MDAG
- NLCA 303 Workshop
- Transport Canada Marine Policy Workshop



ACHIEVING OUR MISSION INITIATIVES

Staff and Board Member Training

The NIRB staff and board members were provided with training in the areas of transportation corridors, cumulative effects, iron ore mining, and marine seismic surveys.

The NIRB staff were provided with ongoing-training in Inuktitut by the NIRB's interpreter/translator, and also maintained several professional designations and memberships related to environmental assessment including:

- Association of Environmental and Resource Economists
- Canadian Environmental Certification Board - Canadian Environmental Practitioner In Training (CEPIT)
- International Association for Impact Assessment (Western & Northern Canada IAIA)

- Canadian Water Resource Association
- Arctic Institute of North America

Summer Student

With funding from the Kitikmeot Economic Development Commission (KEDC), the NIRB employed a student for the summer of 2008. Pam Gross worked within the NIRB's technical services department gaining insight into key administration and impact assessment functions. Additionally, she coordinated many of the NIRB's extracurricular projects that summer including the NIRB's Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) and Nunavut Day celebrations.



UPCOMING / FUTURE PLANS

The NIRB is preparing for another very busy year!

Within the remainder of 2009, the Board will conduct the 12.8.2 Hearing for the Meadowbank Gold Mine and release its decision for the reconsideration of the Project Certificate. The NIRB Staff will continue the extensive public participation visits for the Mary River project in ten additional communities in Nunavut and seven communities in the Nunavik Settlement Area. The NIRB is also anticipating the receipt of the Minister of INAC's direction for the review of AREVA's Kiggavik project proposal.

After years of work with the Legislative Working Group, the Nunavut Land Use Planning and Impact Assessment Act is expected to be tabled in the upcoming year, which will lead to increased certainty in the regulatory process and clarified direction for the NIRB's processes.

Other ongoing initiatives include the creation of the NIRB website, a guidance document for cruise ships, the finalization of the NIRB Rules of Procedure and further work with the Nunavut Marine Council are anticipated to ensure the NIRB's continued efficiency and effectiveness.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS**
MacKay LLP

Suite 301, 5120-49th Street
P.O. Box 727
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N5
Tel: (867) 920-4404
Fax: (867) 920-4135
www.MackayLLP.ca

mackay.ca

Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors of Nunavut Impact Review Board

We have audited the statement of financial position of Nunavut Impact Review Board as at March 31, 2009 and the statements of operating fund and equipment fund, for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Nunavut Impact Review Board as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Mackay LLP

**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
April 17, 2009**

Chartered Accountants

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Statement of Operating Fund

For the year ended March 31,	Budget 2009	Actual 2009	Actual 2008
Revenue			
Core (Schedule A)	\$ 2,507,404	\$ 2,418,493	\$ 2,315,057
Jericho Diamond Mine Project (Schedule B)	87,546	33,591	43,264
Legislative Meetings (Schedule C)	94,475	94,475	33,330
Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project (Schedule D)	968,465	125,333	95,069
Doris North Project (Schedule E)	52,458	35,397	83,107
Meadowbank Gold Project (Schedule F)	48,587	47,724	77,075
Wolfden Project (Schedule G)	71,554	70,917	487,074
Uravan Lake Project (Schedule H)	147,750	96,813	-
Meadowbank 12.8.2 Reconsideration Project (Schedule I)	71,978	60,060	-
Mary River Iron Project (Schedule J)	163,921	86,065	-
Hackett River Project (Schedule K)	236,892	163,412	-
	4,451,030	3,232,280	3,133,976
Expenses			
Core (Schedule A)	2,507,404	2,418,493	2,315,057
Jericho Diamond Mine Project (Schedule B)	87,546	33,591	43,264
Legislative Meetings (Schedule C)	94,475	118,481	33,330
Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project (Schedule D)	968,465	125,333	95,069
Doris North Project (Schedule E)	52,458	55,245	83,107
Meadowbank Gold Project (Schedule F)	48,587	47,724	88,546
Wolfden Project (Schedule G)	71,554	70,917	487,074
Uravan Lake Project (Schedule H)	147,750	96,813	-
Meadowbank 12.8.2 Reconsideration Project (Schedule I)	71,978	60,060	-
Mary River Iron Project (Schedule J)	163,921	86,065	-
Hackett River Project (Schedule K)	236,892	163,412	-
	4,449,530	3,276,134	3,145,447
Current year deficiency of revenue over expenses	-	(43,854)	(11,471)
Contributions for prior period expenses			
Meadowbank Gold Project (Schedule F)	11,471	11,471	28,260
Wolfden Project (Schedule G)	-	-	17,977
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	11,471	(32,383)	34,766
Transfer to equipment fund (Note 15)	-	(43,789)	(52,550)
Operating fund, beginning of year	-	(95,213)	(77,429)
Operating fund, end of the year	\$ 12,971	\$ (171,385)	\$ (95,213)

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Statement of Equipment Fund

<u>For the year ended March 31,</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 216,358	\$ 258,719
Transfer from operating fund (Note 15)	43,789	52,550
<u>Amortization</u>	<u>(88,384)</u>	<u>(94,911)</u>
<u>Balance, end of year</u>	<u>\$ 171,763</u>	<u>\$ 216,358</u>

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2009 2008

Assets

Current

Cash (Note 5)	\$ 1,013,484	\$ 31,512
Short term investment	-	700,000
Accounts receivable (Note 6)	92,859	420,133
Prepaid expenses	4,062	11,445

1,110,405 1,163,090

Equipment (Note 7)

171,763 216,358

\$ 1,282,168 \$ 1,379,448

Liabilities

Current

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 282,492	\$ 261,366
Deferred revenue (Note 8)	460,199	346,056
Due to Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Note 9)	315,302	436,790
Wages and benefits payable	223,797	214,091

1,281,790 1,258,303

Net Assets

Operating fund **(171,385)** (95,213)

Equipment fund **171,763** 216,358

378 121,145

\$ 1,282,168 \$ 1,379,448

Approved by the Directors



Director



Director

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2009

1. Organization and Jurisdiction

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (the "Board") is established under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* with a mandate to use both traditional Inuit knowledge and recognized scientific methods in an ecosystem analysis to assess and monitor on a site-specific and regional basis the environmental, cultural and socio-economic impact of development proposals. The Board is exempt from tax under paragraph 149.1(1) of the *Income Tax Act*.

2. Accounting Changes

General standards for financial statement presentation

The CICA has amended Handbook Section 1400 "General Standards of Financial Presentation" effective for periods beginning on or after January 1, 2008 to include requirements to assess and disclose the Board's ability to continue as a going concern. The adoption of this new section did not have an impact on the Board's financial statements.

Capital disclosures

In December 2006, the CICA issued Handbook section 1535 "Capital Disclosures" which is effective for years beginning on or after October 1, 2007. The section specifies the disclosure of (i) an entity's objectives, policies, and processes for managing capital; (ii) quantitative data about what the entity regards as capital; (iii) whether the entity has complied with an capital requirements; and (iv) if it has not complied, the consequences of such non-compliance. This new Section relates to disclosures and did not have an impact on the Board's financial results.

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2009

3. Significant Accounting Policies

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used by management in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Financial Instruments - recognition and measurement

Section 3855 requires that all financial assets and financial liabilities be measured at fair value on initial recognition except for certain related party transactions. Measurement in subsequent periods depends on whether the financial asset or liability has been classified as held-for-trading, available-for-sale, held-to-maturity, loans and receivables or other liabilities.

Financial instruments classified as held-for-trading are subsequently measured at fair value and unrealized gains and losses are included in net income in the period in which they arise. The Board has classified cash and short term investments as held for trading.

Available-for-sale assets are those non-derivative financial assets that are designated as available-for-sale or are not classified as held-for-trading, held-to-maturity, or loans and receivables. Available-for-sale assets are subsequently measured at fair value, when possible, with unrealized gains and losses recorded in other comprehensive income until realized, at which time they will be recognized in net income. The Board does not have any financial instruments classified as available-for-sale.

Held to maturity assets are those non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity that the Board has an intention and ability to hold until maturity, excluding those assets that have been classified as held-for-trading, available-for-sale, or loans and receivables. The Board does not have any financial instruments classified as held to maturity.

Financial instruments classified as loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets resulting from the delivery of cash or other assets by a lender to a borrower in return for a promise to repay on a specified date or dates, or on demand, usually with interest. These assets do not include debt securities or assets classified as held-for-trading. The Board classifies accounts receivable as loans and receivables.

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities, due to Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and wages and benefits payable are classified as other financial instruments and are measured at cost or amortized cost.

(b) Financial instruments - disclosure and presentation

Section 3861 establishes standards for the presentation of financial instruments and non-financial derivatives and identifies the information that should be disclosed about them. Under the new standards, policies followed for periods prior to the effective dated generally are not reversed and therefore, the comparative figures have not been restated.

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2009

3. Accounting Policies Continued

(d) Fund accounting

The Operating Fund reports the revenue and expenses relating to the general operations.

The Equipment Fund reports the assets and liabilities related to the Board's investment in equipment and the amortization.

(e) Accrued leave and termination benefits

Employees' vacation pay and banked overtime are accrued as earned.

(f) Pension contributions

The Board and its employees make contributions to employee RRSPs. These contributions represent the total liability of the Board and are recognized in the accounts on a current basis. Total contributions for 2009 were \$89,806 (2008 - \$83,633).

(g) Recognition of contributions

The Board follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Revenue received in advance of being used for the delivery of goods and services is deferred and recognized as revenue when used.

(h) Equipment

Equipment are recorded at cost. Amortization is calculated by the declining balance method except for leasehold improvements which are calculated by the straight line method over the term of the lease, at the annual rates set out in note 7.

(i) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the updated amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2009

4. Future Accounting Changes

Effective April 1, 2007, the Board implemented the new CICA Handbook Section 1506 "Accounting Changes". Under these new recommendations, voluntary changes in accounting policy are permitted only when they result in the financial statements providing reliable and more relevant information. This section requires changes in accounting policy to be applied retrospectively unless doing so is impracticable, requires prior period errors to be corrected retrospectively and requires enhanced disclosures about the effects of change in accounting policies, estimates and errors on the financial statements.

These recommendations also require the disclosure of new primary sources of generally accepted accounting principles that have been issued that the Board has not adopted because they are not yet effective.

Financial Instruments

In December 2006, the CICA issued Handbook Section 3862, "Financial Instruments - Disclosures" and Section 3863, "Financial Instruments - Presentation". Originally required to be implemented for fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2007, the CICA has extended the implementation date for one year, to fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2008. Management now intends to implement these Sections effective April 1, 2009.

Section 3862 establishes standards for disclosures about financial instruments and non-financial derivatives and identifies the information that should be disclosed about them. Section 3863 establishes standards for presentation of financial instruments and non-financial derivatives. Transition provisions are complex and vary based on the type of financial instrument under consideration. The effect on the Board's financial statements is not expected to be material.

Allocation of expenses

In January 2009, the CICA issued Handbook Section 4470, which is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2009. The section specifies (i) the disclosure of accounting policies adopted for the allocation of expenses among functions, the nature of the expenses being allocated and the basis for which such allocations have been made, and (ii) that the amounts allocated from fundraising and general support expense and the amounts and functions to which they have been allocated should be disclosed. This new Section relates to disclosures and does not have an impact on the Board's financial results.

Cash flow statement

In January 2009, the CICA revised Handbook Section 4400.46, which is effective for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2009. The section specifies that a Cash Flow statement should be prepared in accordance with the CICA Handbook section on Cash Flow. This new Section relates to disclosures and does not have an impact on the Board's financial results.

International financial reporting standards

In January 2006, the CICA Accounting Standards Board (AcSB) adopted a strategic plan for the direction of accounting standards in Canada. As part of that plan, accounting standards in Canada for public companies are expected to converge with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") by the end of 2011. The impact of the transition to IFRS on the Board's financial statements has not yet been determined.

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2009

5. Cash

The Board has a revolving demand loan for general business purposes. Any outstanding balance bears interest at the prime rate. No amount was outstanding at year end. There is a general security agreement covering all assets other than real property in place.

6. Accounts Receivable

	2009	2008
Arctic Sunwest Charters	\$ -	\$ 79,371
Goods and Services Tax	69,168	38,416
Indian Affairs and Northern Development CORE funding	-	197,004
Nunavut Implementation Training Committee	-	100,000
Travel advances and other	23,691	5,342
	\$ 92,859	\$ 420,133

7. Equipment

	2009			2008	
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Artwork	0%	\$ 6,114	\$ -	\$ 6,114	\$ 6,114
Furniture and fixtures	20%	211,133	131,664	79,469	65,502
Vehicles	30%	-	-	-	7,497
Computer equipment	30-55%	291,048	219,467	71,580	94,981
Software	100%	12,142	8,639	3,503	-
Leasehold improvements	S/L 5	213,132	202,035	11,097	42,264
		\$ 733,569	\$ 561,805	\$ 171,763	\$ 216,358

8. Deferred Revenue

	2009	2008
Core funding	\$ 460,199	\$ 346,056

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2009

9. Due to Indian Affairs and Northern Development

	2009	2008
Bathurst Inlet Port and Road	\$ 98,791	\$ 151,202
Doris North Project	-	692
Hackett River Project	73,480	-
Jericho Diamond Mine Project	830	991
Legislative Meetings	-	16,670
Mary River Iron Project	77,856	-
Meadowbank 12.8.2 Reconsideration Project	11,918	-
Meadowbank Gold Project	863	-
Uravan Lake Project	50,937	-
Wolfden	627	\$ 267,235
	\$ 315,302	\$ 436,790

10. Statement of Cash Flows

A statement of cash flows has not been prepared as, in the opinion of management, it would not provide additional meaningful information.

11. Economic Dependence

The Board is dependent upon funding in the form of contributions from the Government of Canada - Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Management is of the opinion that if the funding was reduced or altered, operations would be significantly affected.

12. Commitments

The Board has entered into a 10 year lease agreement for business premises commencing on April 1, 2009 and ending on March 31, 2019. Annual lease commitments for the years ended 2010 - 2014 are \$203,344. Annual lease commitments for the years ended 2015 - 2019 are \$223,573.

The Board has entered into lease agreements for office equipment that expire as late as March 31, 2014. Aggregate annual lease commitments to lease expiry dates are as follows: 2010 - \$18,790; 2011 - \$18,374; 2012 - \$18,235; 2013 - \$18,235; 2014 - \$9,118.

13. Financial Instruments

The following sections describe the Board's financial risk management objectives and policies and the Board's financial risk exposures.

Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Board currently does not have any risk management objectives and policies in place.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss. The Board is exposed to credit risk from customers.

14. Budget

The budget figures presented are unaudited, and are those approved by the Board.

15. Interfund Transfer

The amount of \$43,789 (2008 - \$52,550) consists of the transfers from the operating fund to the equipment fund to fund the acquisition of assets.

16. Comparative Figures

Certain of the prior year figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.
