

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PROPOSAL - MARY RIVER IRON
ORE MINE NIRB FILE NUMBER 08MN053

HEARING

VOLUME 17

Iqaluit, Nunavut

November 2, 2021

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1 Proceedings taken at Aqsarniit Hotel and Conference
2 Centre, Iqaluit, Nunavut.

3

4 NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

5 K. Kaluraq Chair of Hearing

6 M. Qumuatuq Panel Member

7 C. Emrick Panel Member

8

9 NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD STAFF (IQALUIT)

10 T. Meadows Legal Counsel

11 K. Costello Executive Director

12 T. Arko Director, Technical Services

13 M. Ings Director, Finance and

14 Administration

15 C. Barker Technical Advisor 2

16 G. Daoust Technical Advisor 1

17 S. Taptuna Manager of Communications

18 J. Klengenberg Outreach Coordinator

19

20 NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD STAFF (POND INLET)

21 K. Morrison Manager, Impact Assessment

22 C. Pelletier Technical Advisor

23 F. Emingak Junior Technical Advisor

24

25

26

1 PROPONENT

2

3 BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION REGISTERED SPEAKERS
4 (IQALUIT)

5 B. Armstrong Legal Counsel

6 C. Kowbel Legal Counsel

7 B. Penney President, Chief Executive
8 Officer

9 M. Lord-Hoyle Vice-President, Sustainable
10 Development

11 L. Kamermans Director, Sustainable
12 Development

13 A. Moore Manager, Government Relations
14 and Public Affairs

15 J. Tigullaraq Head of Northern Affairs

16

17 BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION REGISTERED SPEAKERS
18 (POND INLET)

19 P. Quassa Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation

20 M. Clark Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation

21 C. Merkosak Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation

22

23 BAFFINLAND IRON MINES CORPORATION REGISTERED SPEAKERS
24 (ONLINE)

25 L. Duke Legal Counsel

26 J. Andrews Legal Counsel

1	M. Anderson	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
2	T. Sewell	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
3	E. Malcolm	Sustainability Specialist
4	K. Johnson	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
5	S. Borcsok	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
6	C. Devereaux	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
7	G. Goruk	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
8	K. Varadarajan	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
9	S. Douville	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
10	A. McLeod	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
11	K. Button	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
12	P. Taqialuk	Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
13	M. Settingington	EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc.
14	J. Krizan	EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc.
15	C. Legault	Fednav Limited
16	T. Keane	Fednav Limited
17	P. Rouget	Golder Associates Ltd.
18	M. Winterbottom	Golder Associates Ltd.
19	P. Osborne	Golder Associates Ltd.
20	P. Abgrall	Golder Associates Ltd.
21	M. Austin	JASCO Applied Sciences
22	D. Del Cardo	Genessee Wyoming Canada
23	S. Sefsik	Genessee Wyoming Canada
24	L.R. Pelletier	Genessee Wyoming Canada
25	F. VanBiljon	Hatch Engineering
26	J. Prno	JPSCL Limited

1	R. Cook	Knight Piésold
2	G. Clinton	Impact Economics
3	C. Moore	Intrinsik
4	J. McClintock	Wood Plc
5	D. Jarrat	Nunami Stantec
6	V. Corning	Nunami Stantec
7	S. Wallace	Nunami Stantec
8	P. Glenen	Nunami Stantec
9		
10	INTERVENORS	
11		
12	QIKIQTANI INUIT ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
13	L. Land	Legal Counsel
14	O. Akesuk	President
15	L. Barnabas	Secretary Treasurer and
16		Portfolio Lead
17	J. Ottenhof	Technical Lead and Director of
18		Lands and Resource Management
19	R. Paton	Director, IQ & Engagement
20	S. Williamson Bathory	Special Advisor to President
21	J. Ash	Arktis Solutions
22	J. Higdon	Arctic Biological Consultants
23	B. Stewart	Arctic Biological Consultants
24	S. Leech	The Firelight Group
25	A. MacDonald	The Firelight Group
26	J. Groves	Qikiqtani Inuit Association

1	M. Hemp	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
2	R. Stevenson	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
3	R. D'Orazio	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
4	S. Foulds	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
5	A. Qammaniq	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
6		Director
7	J. Tunraluk	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
8		Director
9	K. Pudluk	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
10	L. Bingiuk	Director
11	L. Tapardjuk	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
12		Director
13	J. Jaypoody	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
14		Director
15	P. Amagoalik	Qikiqtani Inuit Association
16		Director
17		
18	NUNAVUT TUNNGAVIK INCORPORATED (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
19	J. Eetoolook	Vice President
20	D. Connor	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
21	C. Gillis	Policy Analyst
22	P. Irngaut	Director, Lands
23	C. Lyall	Executive Assistant
24	D. Lee	Department of Wildlife
25	P. Lavallée	Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
26		

1	HAMLET OF POND INLET (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
2	F. Tester	Technical Advisor
3	J. Arreak	Mayor of Pond Inlet
4	J. Idlout	Hamlet of Pond Inlet
5	M. Koonark	Hamlet of Pond Inlet
6	C. Sangoya	Elder Advisor
7	C. Nutarak	Elder Advisor
8	E. Panipakcocho	Elder Advisor
9	N. Kautuk	Community Representative
10	S. Nuturak	Youth Community Representative
11	J. Inualuk-Kunuk	Hamlet of Pond Inlet
12	G. Inuarak	Member of the Public
13	A. Uuttuvak	Member of the Public
14	J. Enogoo	Member of the Public
15	A. Killiktee	Member of the Public
16		
17	MITTIMATALIK HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ORGANIZATION	
18	(REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
19	E. Murphy	Legal Counsel
20	E. Ootoovak	President
21	A. Hanson-Main	Technical Advisor
22	K. Komangapik	Pond Inlet Hunters and
23		Trappers Organization
24	I. Inuarak	Pond Inlet Hunters and
25		Trappers Organization
26		

1 IGLOOLIK WORKING GROUP AND IGLOOLIK HUNTERS AND
 2 TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

3 G. Morash Hamlet of Igloolik
 4 S. Mikki Member of the Public

5

6 HAMLET OF SANIRAJAK (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

7 J. Audlakiak Mayor of Sanirajak
 8 E. Irgittuq Elder Advisor
 9 J. Kaernerik Hamlet of Sanirajak
 10 P. Nagmalik Sanirajak Hunters and Trappers
 11 Association
 12 M. Kupaq Community Representative
 13 M. Appaqaq Member of the Public
 14 K. Naullaq Youth Community Representative

15

16 HAMLET OF ARCTIC BAY AND IKAJUTIT HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS
 17 ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

18 Q. Robinson Legal Counsel
 19 O. Eegeesiak Technical Advisor
 20 M. Koonoo Arctic Bay Hunters and
 21 Trappers Association
 22 L. Kalluk Community Representative
 23 D. Oyukuluk Member of the Public
 24 Q. Oyukuluk Member of the Public
 25 E. Qaqqasiq-Taqtu Community Youth Representative

26

1 HAMLET OF CLYDE RIVER AND CLYDE RIVER HUNTERS AND
 2 TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

3	J. Natanine	Hamlet of Clyde River
4	A. Cormack	Hamlet of Clyde River
5	L. Tanguay	Hamlet of Clyde River
6	S. Aipellee	Clyde River Hunters and
7		Trappers Association
8	J.I. Angutikjuaq	Elder Advisor
9	O. Audlakiak	Women Community Representative
10	J. Palituq	Youth Community Representative

11

12 AMARUQ HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED
 13 SPEAKERS)

14	J. Kakee	Elder Advisor
15	M. Mike	Amaruq Hunters and Trappers
16		Association
17	J. Akavak	Amaruq Hunters and Trappers
18		Association
19	K. Akpalialuk	Amaruq Hunters and Trappers
20		Association
21	L. Ipeelie	Amaruq Hunters and Trappers
22		Association

23

24 HAMLET OF RESOLUTE BAY (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

25	A. Salluviniq	Elder Representative
26	R. Attagootak	Community Representative

1 GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

2 S. Chari Legal Counsel
 3 J. Onalik Deputy Minister EDT
 4 G. Karlik Assistant Deputy Minister
 5 Department EDT
 6 N. O'Grady Government of Nunavut
 7 D. Haney Project Manager Impact
 8 Assessments
 9 S. Atkinson Wildlife Consultant

10

11 CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA
 12 (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)

13 S. Dewar Director, Resource Management
 14 K. Pawley Manager, Environmental Assessment
 15 F. Ngwa Manager, Environmental Assessment
 16 A. Chaikine Senior Environmental Analyst
 17 D. Abernethy Regional Socioeconomic Analyst
 18 R. Bingley Environmental Analyst
 19 J. Walsh Senior Environmental
 20 Policy Analyst
 21 A. Vigna Environmental Policy Analyst
 22 M. Staniewski Environmental Policy Analyst
 23 C. Rose Environmental Policy Analyst
 24 N. Pfeiffer-Major Junior Environmental Policy
 25 Analyst
 26 H. Baba SNC-Lavalin

1	K. Henriksen	Regional Director General
2	J. Ankersmit	Director General
3		
4	NORTHERN PROJECTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE	
5	S. Gruda-Dolbec	Legal Counsel
6	L. Dyer	Regional Director
7	A. Shafi	Project Manager
8		
9	ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA (REGISTERED	
10	SPEAKERS)	
11	M. Pinto	Environment and Climate Change
12		Canada
13	J. Small	Acting head, Environmental
14		Assessment North
15	A. Wilson	Technical Expert, Water Quality
16	R. Ejeckam	Senior Mining Project Officer
17	B. Asher	Technical Expert, Air Quality
18	R. Holt	Technical Expert, Air Quality
19	C. Kabanguka	Environmental Emergencies Expert
20	K. Patel	Technical Expert, Water Quality
21	M. Fairbairn	Regional Director
22	J.F. Dufour	Technical Expert, Water Quality
23		
24		
25		
26		

1 FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)
2 G. Bernard-Lacaille Senior Biologist, Fish and
3 Fish Habitat Program, Arctic
4 Region
5 A. Sorckoff Lead Biologist
6 A. Beattie Team Lead, Mining Oil and Gas
7 North
8 T. Hoggarth Regional Director, Aquatic
9 Ecosystems, DFO Science
10 M. Marcoux Marine Mammal and Narwhal
11 Expert
12 K. Howland Aquatic Invasive Species Expert
13 P. Smith Fisheries Management Expert
14 N. Pashkoski Fisheries and Oceans Canada
15 S. McLennan Fisheries and Oceans Canada
16 T. Seal Fisheries and Oceans Canada
17
18 HEALTH CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)
19 M. Gale Regional Manager
20 W. Wilson Environmental Assessment
21 Coordinator
22 E. Kalcsics Engagement Specialist
23 P. Partridge Acting Regional Manager
24 N. Lyrette Environmental Specialist
25 J. Anderson Health Canada
26

1	NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
2	P. Unger	Senior Environmental
3		Assessment Officer
4		
5	PARKS CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
6	A. Stoddart	Environmental Assessment
7		Scientist
8	J. Bastick	Environmental Assessment
9		Specialist
10	A. Maher	Parks Canada
11	J. Chisholm	Parks Canada
12	J. Boon	Parks Canada
13	J. Hoffman	Parks Canada
14	L. Jonart	Parks Canada
15		
16	TRANSPORT CANADA (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
17	J. Barker	Regional Environmental Advisor
18	A. Gudmundson	Regional Manager Environmental
19		Programs
20	J. Johar	Manager Marine Safety and Security
21	J. Cram	Manager Rail Safety Engineering
22	M. O'Soup Bushie	Transport Canada
23	K. Klarenbach	Transport Canada
24		
25	OCEANS NORTH (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
26	C. Debicki	Legal Counsel

1	A. Joynt	Senior Policy Advisor
2	K. Westdal	Oceans North
3	J. Jones	Scripps Institution of
4		Oceanography
5		
6	WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (REGISTERED SPEAKERS)	
7	A. Dumbrille	Lead Specialist, Marine Shipping
8		and Conservation
9	P. Okalik	Lead Specialist, Arctic
10	E. Keenan	Specialist, Arctic
11		
12	NUNAVUT INDEPENDENT TELEVISION NETWORK (REGISTERED	
13	SPEAKERS)	
14	I. Gilles	Legal Counsel
15	L. Tulugarjuk	Chairperson, Executive Director
16	Z. Kunuk	Founder and Director
17	L. Lipsett	Technical Advisor
18	M. Malliki	Nunavut Independent Television
19		Network
20		
21	INTERPRETERS/TRANSLATORS	
22	J. Tucktoo	Interpreter/Translator
23	V. Dewar	Interpreter/Translator
24	R. Katsak	Interpreter/Translator
25	L. Janes	Interpreter/Translator
26		

1 E. Horvath, CSR(A) Official Court Reporter

2 S. Burns, CSR(A), RPR, Official Court Reporter

3 CRR

4

5 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 9:02 AM)

6 THE CHAIR: Good morning. Before we
7 start, we'll have an opening prayer. Joshua Arreak, if
8 you could ...

9 Opening Prayer

10 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Joshua, for the
11 opening prayer.

12 Opening Remarks

13 THE CHAIR: As you know yesterday, my name
14 is Kaviq Kaluraq, and I'm the Chairperson of the
15 Nunavut Impact Review Board or NIRB.

16 On behalf of my fellow Panel members, Madeleine
17 Qumuatuq and Catherine Emrick, and the Board staff,
18 welcome. Welcome to Day 2 of this session of the
19 public hearings of the Board's assessment.

20 The last Phase 2 development proposal,
21 Baffinland -- Baffin Iron Mines for Phase 2, a proposal
22 change to the Mary River Iron Ore Mine project. For
23 those of you attending in Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, or
24 remotely, welcome. Your participation is essential to
25 the success of this -- of this impact assessment
26 process, and the Board thanks you for joining us today.

1 I would like to remind everyone that there will be
2 interpretation available throughout the hearing, and
3 earpieces are available from the front. There are
4 sign-in sheets at the table when you enter the room.
5 They're at your tables now for the microphones, and
6 there are sign-in sheets at the table as you enter the
7 room. Please sign in if you have not already done so.
8 Please turn off your cell phones or set them to
9 "silent" before we begin.

10 For all speakers, whenever you are speaking,
11 please speak directly into the microphones. Because we
12 are wearing these face masks, it's hard to be clear
13 sometimes. At a reasonable pace, state your name
14 and so that we'll be making sure that the interpreters
15 can understand what you are saying and where you're
16 from and your community or organization before you
17 provide the comment. Please be respectful of other
18 speakers and do not interrupt so it doesn't confuse
19 people.

20 The Board appreciates everyone's commitment to
21 establishing a respectful and productive atmosphere at
22 this hearing.

23 Before we go into the community roundtable, it's
24 my understanding that yesterday -- well, yesterday I
25 posed a question to the hamlets and hunters and
26 trappers organization, and the Sanirajak Hunters and

1 Trappers Organization does have a representative, and
2 they didn't answer my question. So before we begin the
3 community roundtable, I would like to ask the Sanirajak
4 Hunters and Trappers Organization if they can provide a
5 response to my question.

6 Michael Ferguson.

7 MR. FERGUSON: Mike Ferguson, technical
8 advisor for the Sanirajak HTO and the Igloolik HTO.

9 The question yesterday was asked, if I understand
10 correctly, can IQ be used to monitor environmental
11 conditions and also to contribute to regulatory
12 requirements, and I can give two examples from my
13 experience, and I would like to say a very emphatic and
14 enthusiastic "yes" to your question.

15 One example is I worked with Inuit on Baffin
16 Island some years ago, and we were able to -- or they
17 were able to -- and I developed methodologies to put it
18 on paper -- to describe 90 years of caribou population
19 change on Baffin Island, changes in distribution and
20 abundance. These -- the results were accepted in
21 academic peer-reviewed journals.

22 And to show monitoring going forward, Inuit are
23 very capable of -- based on their knowledge of making
24 very accurate and reliable predictions of how the
25 environment will respond to stress, and we developed a
26 series of surveys, telemetry, range studies, looking at

1 snow and lichen resources which proved their theories
2 about how caribou are affected by the environment.

3 This, I believe, methodology can be used for any
4 species if you want to look at historical change to
5 give a context of what may happen or what is happening
6 today, and I think can be very instructional. You can
7 develop and test, based on their knowledge, how to --
8 how the environment will respond to any stressor,
9 including ships, dust, and so on and so forth. So I
10 think it is very applicable to the Baffinland
11 situation.

12 Another example in terms of regulatory application
13 of IQ, if you look at the 2016 Nunavut land use plan,
14 the draft plan, and you look at Baffin Island and the
15 high Arctic islands in this region, you will see very
16 few, if any, caribou areas and many other types of
17 areas that were identified for protection.

18 At the request of HTOs, Jason Mikki and myself
19 went to 13 communities, and the evidence of the results
20 of that based entirely on IQ, their evidence -- we
21 accepted their evidence. When we went to communities,
22 we said, Your evidence is valid. How do we use it?
23 And we explained to them what the planning commission
24 needed for them to say and accept IQ in the
25 identification of areas, and you can tell the
26 regulatory implications of that or the draft regulatory

1 implications of that process by comparing the 2016
2 draft plan and the lack of areas identified on -- in
3 Baffin region compared to the 2021 draft plan. Vastly
4 different. So that's another example.

5 The other comment is that scientists, such as
6 myself, have often questioned the reliability of IQ and
7 oral traditions, and I am convinced that the oral
8 tradition behind IQ is its strength and not a weakness
9 at all.

10 Inuit came out of an environment where there were
11 no pens and paper. Everything they knew had to be in
12 their heads. They transmitted that orally from
13 toddlers all the way up to other adults. I accepted
14 that the necessity of accuracy and reliability of their
15 information is a survival need of that information.
16 Your children may not survive if you do not give them
17 accurate, reliable information. You, as an Elder, if
18 you are, may not survive if your children cannot bring
19 home good, quality food for you to eat.

20 So this is not a need recognizable in science or
21 research. And the oral traditions of Inuit, I am
22 convinced, are the foundation of the reliability, the
23 survival reliability of their information. Thank you.
24 Community Roundtable

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you for responding to my
26 question.

1 Right now we're going to start -- we'll now begin
2 with the community roundtable portion of the public
3 hearing.

4 The community roundtable, it's focused on giving
5 designated community representatives and members of the
6 public and to NIRB in Pond Inlet with an opportunity to
7 ask questions about the Phase 2 development proposal
8 and its potential impacts to the proponent and to the
9 registered intervenors and to share with the Board and
10 communities -- community members' knowledge,
11 experience, views, concerns, and issues.

12 Remember, and be reminded in addition to the
13 questions and comments from community representatives
14 here at the table, on the agenda there's also an
15 opportunity for members of the public in Pond Inlet to
16 ask questions and provide their comments to the Board.

17 For members of the public in Pond Inlet, if you
18 want to ask questions of the proponent or intervenors
19 or want to share your views with the Board, please
20 provide your name to the NIRB staff at the front of the
21 room, and they will provide your name to put on my list
22 of individuals who would like to speak.

23 Although the Board may not have enough time to
24 ensure everyone gets a chance to speak, the feedback
25 provided from the public and through community-based
26 intervenors and during the previous community

1 roundtable sessions is already part of the Board's
2 hearing record and will be considered by the Panel
3 during decision-making.

4 For the first three days of the community
5 roundtable, the Board has the community representatives
6 from Pond Inlet seated at the table along with the
7 community representatives of two of the other six North
8 Baffin communities.

9 Today, community representatives from Igloolik and
10 Grise Fiord are joining the community representatives
11 from Pond Inlet to ask questions and share their
12 knowledge and views.

13 Tomorrow, community representatives from Clyde
14 River and Resolute will join the community
15 representatives of Pond Inlet at the table.

16 On Thursday, the community representatives from
17 Arctic Bay and Sanirajak will be seated with the Pond
18 Inlet community representatives at the table.

19 On the last day and a half of the community
20 roundtable, community representatives from all of the
21 seven potentially affected North Baffin communities
22 will have an opportunity to ask questions and share
23 their views.

24 Every day of the community roundtable, there is
25 time for community members present at the hall in Pond
26 Inlet to share their views and ask questions.

1 We will now proceed with the community roundtable
2 Agenda Item 3, summary presentation by the proponent.
3 Following the presentation from Baffinland, we will
4 turn to questions or comments from the community
5 representatives joining us at the table from Pond
6 Inlet, Igloolik, and Grise Fiord, and we will be
7 checking in with the members of the general public in
8 Pond Inlet.

9 The proponent and registered intervenors are all
10 standing by for questions, so community representatives
11 and the general public are encouraged to ask questions
12 to Baffinland or any of the registered intervenors who
13 have participated in the assessment.

14 I will ask our legal counsel to mark as an exhibit
15 the presentation to be provided by Baffinland.

16 NIRB legal counsel.

17 Procedural Matters by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
18 Counsel

19 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
21 Review Board.

22 Madam Chair, I have two hard copies of the
23 presentation materials that I propose to file as the
24 next exhibits in this public hearing, being the
25 introduction and project overview presentation in
26 English and Inuktitut, and a version that is in

1 Inuktitut and French. And it is also my understanding
2 that there is an additional exhibit consisting of an
3 update to already-filed materials with the Board with
4 respect to the consultation record of Baffinland, and I
5 would ask that legal counsel for Baffinland provide a
6 description of that material.

7 Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 THE CHAIR: Baffinland legal counsel.

9 MS. KOWBEL: Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 Christine Kowbel, legal counsel of Baffinland.

11 The second document we'd like marked as an exhibit
12 is an update to NIRB Registry Number 337147, and that's
13 a community engagement update that outlines some
14 additional engagements that Baffinland has carried out
15 since October 18th. That includes engagements with the
16 Hamlet of Igloolik, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Sanirajak,
17 and also provides some details on a youth forum that
18 was organized by Baffinland.

19 There's also a reference to updated translated
20 documents that have been provided to the NIRB registry,
21 and that is a translated version of the commitment
22 list.

23 Thank you, Madam Chair, those are my exhibits.

24 EXHIBIT 94 - Hard Copy, Introduction and
25 Project Overview, Public Hearing Iqaluit and
26 Pond Inlet, April 2021, (English/Inuktitut)

1 EXHIBIT 95 - Hard Copy, Introduction and
2 Project Overview, Public Hearing Iqaluit and
3 Pond Inlet, April 2021, (English/French)
4 EXHIBIT 96 - Electronic Copy, November 2, 2021,
5 Update to Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's
6 Community Engagement (previously filed with
7 the Board on October 18, 2021, Doc ID: 337245)
8 (English)

9 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

10 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Those
11 are my procedural matters.

12 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Megan Lord-Hoyle.

13 MS. LORD-HOYLE: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland.
14 Udlu Hanson will be providing the presentation today
15 and will be the key speaker for the community
16 roundtable portion of the hearing. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Udlu Hanson.

18 Presentation by Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
19 Regarding the Phase 2 Development Proposal (Community
20 Roundtable)

21 MS. HANSON: Udlu Hanson, Baffinland.
22 Thank you. Good morning.

23 Could I have the presentation put up on the
24 screen.

25 Thank you. I'll proceed.

26 THE CHAIR: Yes, go ahead.

1 MS. HANSON: Thank you. Udlu Hanson.

2 Thank you to the community representatives who
3 have made the effort to be here today. Thank you to
4 the city of Iqaluit for hosting this public hearing.

5 In this presentation, I will describe the details
6 of Baffinland's Phase 2 proposal, the benefits the
7 expansion will bring, and I will try to demonstrate
8 where we have listened and adapted our proposal to
9 address concerns raised by Inuit and community members.
10 Most of all, I want to explain how Inuit will have
11 meaningful input and control over the operation of
12 Phase 2.

13 Since submitting our Phase 2 proposal in 2016, we
14 have held more than 250 meetings and engagements during
15 the Phase 2 review process with Inuit organizations and
16 focusing on the designated affected communities of
17 Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Igloolik, Sanirajak, and Pond
18 Inlet. Thank you to all the hard work and patience of
19 each of the participants during this process.

20 The current project began in 2015 and is currently
21 permitted to mine and ship up to 6 million tonnes of
22 ore per year until December 31st, 2021. After that, we
23 are required to return to 4.2 million tonnes per year.

24 We crush and screen the iron ore from Deposit 1
25 on-site for direct transport by ship to our customers.
26 The quality of ore is so high that it does not need

1 chemical processing. Therefore, it does not create
2 chemical waste products. We truck the iron ore to our
3 port site along a 100-kilometre Tote Road. However,
4 the use of trucks is expensive. It uses a lot of fuel
5 and creates dust. These are some of the main reasons
6 we are proposing the changes under Phase 2.

7 Eventually, the iron ore is used for everyday
8 products like cars, ATVs, buildings, hunting rifles.
9 The current operation was always meant to be temporary
10 because 4.2 or even 6 million tonnes is not a
11 profitable mine over a long term. So we are asking the
12 Nunavut Impact Review Board for permission to ship up
13 to 12 million tonnes per year of ore from Milne Port.

14 At the request of Pond Inlet, we have also agreed
15 to slowly increase shipping over time. This means that
16 if the Nunavut Impact Review Board approves the
17 project, we will not ship 12 million tonnes right away.
18 Inuit and Baffinland monitoring will tell us at every
19 step whether the project is causing unanticipated
20 effects, what project adjustments need to be made, and
21 when it is appropriate to increase the number of ships.

22 The following video, which is about two minutes
23 long, is intended to show you what Phase 2 will look
24 like. You will see a reference to 176 ore carriers per
25 year. Since the video was created, we have agreed to
26 reduce that number to 168 per year.

1 (VIDEO PLAYED)

2 THE CHAIR: Can we pause the video. Thank
3 you. The interpreter --

4 THE INTERPRETER: Okay. I got it. Okay.
5 Sorry. I got it.

6 (VIDEO PLAYED)

7 MS. HANSON: Inuit are concerned about
8 dust. Baffinland is working hard to ensure less dust
9 will be seen on the land.

10 The photo on the right shows the existing outdoor
11 crusher area at the mine, which is a large current
12 source of dust. The dark areas are dust-covered snow.

13 Because most of the crushing activities will occur
14 at the Milne Port under Phase 2, in and -- sorry -- in
15 an indoor facility, the dust coming from the mine site
16 could be reduced up to 75 percent.

17 For Phase 2, we will increase our dust monitoring,
18 including the amount of dust falling on snow and ice.
19 We are also funding independent Inuit-led monitoring
20 programs that will help us understand if dust is
21 continuing to be of concern for community members and
22 work together to come up with solutions.

23 This is a critical point of the Phase 2 proposal.
24 Replacing a 100-kilometre trucking operation with rail
25 will also significantly reduce dust generated along the
26 Tote Road.

1 Big truck tires on the Tote Road, like the kind we
2 use to haul ore, stir up much more dust than a railway
3 running along smooth, steel tracks. The rail will also
4 produce less greenhouse gases as well as reduce
5 disturbance to wildlife. With Phase 2, our fleet of
6 ore-hauling trucks will be replaced with three trains.
7 The trains will each have two engines with up to
8 64 cars, which will be filled with ore.

9 Instead of a truck passing every two to three
10 minutes along the Tote Road the way it does now, a
11 train will pass by every two to three hours. When a
12 train does pass, it will take approximately one minute
13 to pass. Right now, trucks go up and down the Tote
14 Road between the mine site and Milne Port up to 280
15 times a day.

16 Instead with Phase 2, trains will only go back and
17 forth ten times because we can move so much more ore at
18 a time with trains. This reduction of activity on the
19 Tote Road will greatly reduce any potential
20 interactions with hunters and wildlife. Adding a rail
21 will ensure that hunters and visitors will have full
22 access to the Tote Road.

23 Although the design of the entire rail line has
24 been engineered to allow caribou or other wildlife to
25 easily cross, there will also be dedicated land user
26 crossings along the entire rail line with very gentle

1 slopes so that land users can easily cross the rail
2 line with ATVs and snowmobiles.

3 Baffinland is not going to select those crossings.
4 Inuit will select those crossing locations based on
5 their needs and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. There will
6 also be additional areas where there will be culverts
7 large enough that wildlife or land users could also
8 pass through.

9 This next video is an animation of a section of
10 the proposed rail line.

11 (VIDEO PLAYED)

12 MS. HANSON: This video shows the short
13 portion of the railway that would not follow the
14 current Tote Road. We have proposed a change to the
15 original railway route based on Inuit feedback and are
16 asking for approval for that route, Route 3. Please
17 note that the speed you see the train moving is much,
18 much faster than the actual speed that it will be
19 travelling. We had to speed up the video ten times in
20 order to fit it into the time we have to show it.

21 Trains would normally travel at an average speed
22 of approximately 50 to 55 kilometers per hour. This
23 portion of the rail -- this portion of the overall rail
24 route covers a distance of 13 kilometres. It starts at
25 70 -- Kilometre 70 of the rail alignment, and the
26 loaded iron ore train is travelling towards the port at

1 Milne. The Raven River is on the left of the rail in
2 the distance. The previously proposed rail route for
3 this area was on the opposite side of the river.

4 Once delivered to port by rail, the ore will be
5 crushed and screened inside these facilities shown here
6 to prevent the escape of dust. After crushing, the ore
7 will be stockpiled and covered with a hardening spray
8 to prevent dust from blowing into Milne Inlet. This
9 spray was implemented for the first time on our
10 existing Milne Port stockpiles in the fall of 2020 and
11 continues today. Our dust monitoring results are
12 showing less dust is being spread into Milne Inlet.
13 The image on your left shows the spread of dust from
14 Milne Port in the winter of 2021. With a continued
15 application of spraying and implementation of
16 additional mitigations like wind fencing to keep dust
17 in place, Phase 2 will improve dust management overall.

18 Under Phase 2, we will add a second ore dock and
19 another ship loader to load iron ore on ships before
20 the ore is shipped to our customers worldwide. There
21 will be no change to our shipping route under the
22 Phase 2 proposal. Vessels will continue to enter
23 Eclipse Sound from Baffin Bay and pass Pond Inlet on
24 their way to Milne Port and return. The shipping
25 season will be similar from how we operate today with a
26 proposed season to last from approximately mid-July to

1 the end of October, with some flexibility into November
2 based on ice conditions and feedback from the community
3 of Pond Inlet.

4 Ice conditions and Inuit use will continue to be
5 the major factors in the exact dates that the shipping
6 season is operating on a year-to-year basis.

7 Under Phase 2, Baffinland will add larger
8 cape-sized vessels to the mix of vessels that currently
9 come to Milne Port. The addition of a second ore dock
10 and the use of larger vessels is what will make it
11 possible to ship twice as much ore in the proposed
12 shipping season.

13 It is our intention to eventually build the
14 Steensby southern rail and port, which are already
15 approved as part of the Mary River mine. However, at
16 this time, Steensby is too expensive to proceed with
17 and will require financing. This final video shares
18 words from one of our former environmental technicians,
19 Mick Appaqaq, about his role at Baffinland.

20 (VIDEO PLAYED)

21 MS. HANSON: Baffinland has made many new
22 commitments since the last hearing, demonstrating that
23 we are listening and responding to the concerns raised
24 by the affected communities. For example, with regards
25 to dust, in Phase 2, the ore stockpiles will continue
26 to be sprayed to ensure dust release is minimized. If

1 the spraying does not create the intended improvement,
2 we are prepared to do more. We are also relying on the
3 outcomes of an ongoing audit conducted by third-party
4 experts and community representatives, which include
5 some of you here today, to tell us what else we should
6 be doing. We will implement the recommendations that
7 come out of the audit and will ensure the reports and
8 our responses are all available publicly.

9 We have also committed to increasing Inuit
10 oversight and control over our shipping. In response
11 to the Hamlet of Pond Inlet, we have reduced the
12 shipping season from what was originally proposed. We
13 have also committed to decrease the total number of ore
14 carriers from 176 to 168. In the future, as larger
15 ships become available on the market, we will also be
16 able to decrease that number even further. This means
17 that under Phase 2, during the shipping season,
18 residents of Pond Inlet would see an ore carrier
19 passing by Pond Inlet one more time per day than they
20 do now. This is an increase from the current average
21 of two ore carriers per day to three ore carriers per
22 day.

23 Again, in response to Pond Inlet's request,
24 shipping levels will increase gradually over four
25 years, starting the year following a Phase 2 approval
26 during which time Baffinland and Inuit will monitor the

1 environment to ensure increased shipping is not causing
2 any unexpected impacts.

3 We are also committed to work with ore carriers to
4 use lighter fuels in Nunavut waters, which will mean
5 less emissions. Baffinland understands Phase 2 will
6 continue to shape how the community of Pond Inlet
7 users -- uses -- sorry -- their marine area.
8 Therefore, we will pay the Pond Inlet facility working
9 group \$10,000 for each ore carrier that travels by
10 their community.

11 This could amount to 1.68 million per year to help
12 support community wellness initiatives as already
13 decided by the Hamlet and the Mittimatalik Hunters and
14 Trappers Organization. This working group has already
15 received 590,000 to date with an additional 190,000
16 coming for this 2021 season.

17 Inuit have emphasized that we need to protect
18 caribou. Baffinland has incorporated important railway
19 design features using suggestions made by Inuit who
20 attended a workshop at the mine site. Other
21 operational measures such as speed controls on the
22 trains, seasonal changes, and areas of special
23 management to protect caribou will be further refined
24 with Inuit. Inuit will also be conducting monitoring
25 during the construction of the railway to ensure
26 crossings that have been properly placed, and there is

1 minimal interaction with wildlife.

2 To address concerns regarding our ability to
3 detect caribou, we have committed to building and
4 operating three dedicated observation stations along
5 the rail line. These observation stations will create
6 an additional 24 caribou monitoring positions to be
7 staffed by Inuit.

8 Inuit have told us that they want to see more
9 direct benefits in the communities from the project.
10 We have also heard that Pond Inlet should be recognized
11 for their closer relationship to the project area and
12 shipping route. Therefore, there will be additional
13 benefits for Pond Inlet specifically. The harvesters
14 enabling program provides Pond Inlet Inuit 12 years and
15 up fuel vouchers for up to \$400,000 per year.
16 \$1,200,000 has already been given under this program to
17 date to community residents. The community of Pond
18 Inlet is also eligible for an additional 200,000 per
19 year to support community-based monitoring initiatives.

20 The Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization
21 will receive a one-time payment in recognition of
22 changes in the hunting experiences and difficulties in
23 accessing the wildlife compensation fund. \$300,000 has
24 already been provided; an additional \$1 million will be
25 provided at the close of the public hearing record from
26 Baffinland.

1 With Baffinland's \$10 million contribution, the
2 Pond Inlet training centre is being constructed by the
3 Qikiqtani Inuit Association. These benefits are in
4 addition to any benefits that will flow to Pond Inlet
5 and the other communities through the Qikiqtani Inuit
6 Association and Nunavut Tunngavik. Baffinland has
7 predicted up to 2.4 billion to go to the two Inuit
8 organizations over the next 17 years of operation.

9 Finally, through agreement with the Qikiqtani
10 Inuit Association, a community benefits policy will be
11 established that will be negotiated between the
12 Qikiqtani Inuit Association and affected communities to
13 establish how direct benefits from the royalties and
14 other programs will go directly to the affected
15 communities.

16 We had over 400 Inuit working at Mary River before
17 the COVID-19 pandemic since which time we have seen a
18 decline in our entire work force. Since July, when the
19 travel restrictions were lifted, we have hired
20 71 additional Inuit employees. We will continue to
21 grow this number. For example, right now, we are
22 working with 170 potential candidates. We have
23 committed to 35 new community-based positions. Each
24 community will have at least seven in-community
25 full-time positions, with additional positions
26 available in Pond Inlet.

1 As we develop and bring Phase 2 into operation,
2 Baffinland will create 20 full-time community trainees
3 every six months in each of the five impacted
4 communities, which will mean 40 new positions per
5 community per year for three years.

6 We will provide trainees with a structured and
7 comprehensive training program and develop detailed
8 career paths for each trainee. Baffinland has
9 committed \$1.5 million per year for Inuit training for
10 the life of the mine.

11 As part of Phase 2, we will build an office and
12 training centre in each of the five affected
13 communities to provide space for our seven new
14 community-based positions as well as incorporate an
15 Elders' room to ensure that we continue to learn from
16 their knowledge and experiences.

17 We will also include spaces for meeting rooms, a
18 training centre, a community counsellor, and a doctor's
19 office for occasional use. We recognize incorporating
20 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is an area where continuous
21 improvement is absolutely required. We will appoint an
22 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit advisor in each community so
23 that we can hear and respond to concerns that may be
24 raised related to the project generally. These
25 advisors will be another direct link between
26 communities and Baffinland.

1 The communities of North Baffin are growing fast.
2 The Government of Nunavut numbers show a total of
3 1,830 children reaching adulthood over the next ten
4 years across the five communities. There simply are
5 not enough local jobs in the communities to keep up
6 with the growing population. Unemployment and social
7 welfare numbers are already too high.

8 Baffinland and the communities of North Baffin can
9 grow together in a way that protects the environment
10 and Inuit way of life, while also providing significant
11 opportunities for community well-being and success.

12 Under Phase 2, Baffinland will build a day care in
13 each of the five affected communities. We will also
14 provide an allowance for Nunavut employees with
15 children under the age of 14 of no less than \$19 per
16 pay to support their work-life balance.

17 Starting in Sanirajak, Baffinland will build and
18 operate a community garage, which will service light
19 vehicles and small engines. The garage will provide
20 training for Inuit apprentices and high school co-op
21 placements. We will work with other communities to
22 determine similar types of projects that would serve
23 their community best.

24 Phase 2 will bring substantial benefits at all
25 levels -- last slide -- from the individual Inuk
26 operating heavy equipment at the marine

1 site -- sorry -- mine site to that same person's future
2 grandchild that receives support from the Qikiqtani
3 Inuit Association's legacy fund.

4 If Phase 2 is approved, we anticipate that many of
5 the communities that I have described in this
6 presentation -- sorry -- commitments that I have
7 described in this presentation would be part of a
8 project certificate, which will be law.

9 Phase 2 is a very unique project in that our
10 project activities can be adjusted in response to Inuit
11 and Baffinland monitoring results. For example, should
12 Baffinland be permitted to use 168 ore carriers, that
13 does not mean that would necessarily happen.
14 Baffinland will work with Inuit continuously to assess
15 the operations. If shipping is causing an
16 unanticipated effect, Baffinland can ship less. If the
17 railway is causing an unanticipated effect, Baffinland
18 could run less trains or cause the trains to go even
19 slower. The project is very adjustable and will be
20 adjusted as needed based on Inuit feedback.

21 Phase 2 is also unique in terms of how it proposes
22 to manage the operation. The Inuit Stewardship Plan
23 will be funded by Baffinland and led by Inuit through
24 two committees. These committees will be able to
25 direct Baffinland to make changes in our operations.

26 There are other examples of where Baffinland has

1 made very specific decisions based on feedback and from
2 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and made changes to the way we
3 work. In 2017, we restricted the number of ships at
4 anchor to reduce disturbance. In 2018, we reduced
5 vessel transits while ice breaking was -- while ice was
6 breaking up after Pond Inlet residents saw that narwhal
7 had not come into Eclipse Sound and Milne Inlet like
8 previous years. In 2019, we changed a portion of the
9 rail route based on Inuit feedback. In 2020, we
10 started using a spray on the stockpiles at Milne Port
11 to prevent dust from spreading.

12 This year, we stopped any ice breaking in the
13 spring in response to reduced narwhal numbers seen in
14 2020. We reduced the number of ore carriers proposed
15 for Phase 2 and have agreed to a gradual shipping
16 increase, and we are actively addressing the current
17 dust and designed Phase 2 in a way that put dust
18 reduction front and centre.

19 We tried to focus this presentation on the
20 questions that we hear most often in our community
21 engagements. We also look forward to answering all of
22 your feedback -- all of your questions this week and
23 listening to your comments on Phase 2 and any
24 information that you wish to share with the Nunavut
25 Impact Review Board.

26 Phase 2 is a mechanism to create a sustainable

1 future for our business and for communities. We
2 believe it is possible to create economic prosperity
3 while protecting the environment and building stronger
4 communities. Qujannamiik.

5 THE CHAIR: We're going to be hearing from
6 community -- community involvement, Pond Inlet,
7 Igloolik, Hall Beach, and Clyde River. If you have any
8 questions or comments you want to make, I encourage you
9 to ask your questions.

10 If you have any questions for Baffinland and
11 different intervenors that we heard from yesterday, so
12 the community representatives have now the opportunity
13 to ask questions or concerns.

14 Questioning of Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation,
15 Registered Intervenors, and Nunavut Impact Review Board
16 by the Community Representatives from Pond Inlet,
17 Igloolik, and Grise Fiord (Community Roundtable)

18 THE CHAIR: Kaujak Komangapik.

19 MS. KOMANGAPIK: Kaujak Komangapik, Pond Inlet
20 HTO, hunter and trappers board member, and I would like
21 to thank you for inviting me to meet with you, and I
22 say good morning to everybody in Pond Inlet, and good
23 morning to everybody in the room, and thank you for
24 having us here in the meeting -- public hearing.

25 I do have a lot of questions, but the hunters and
26 trappers organizations have a formal board that are

1 voted in to represent their community, and in 2017 when
2 there was an annual general meeting -- during their
3 AGM, there was a lot of people who attended that annual
4 general meeting, and a motion was passed in Pond Inlet
5 that the railroad -- concerning the railroad track.

6 We had a show of hands to see what they want
7 HTO to do. Do you agree, or do you not agree? At that
8 time, after a show of hands, they -- the railroad track
9 vote showed that the majority of the present members
10 decline. They say "no" to the railroad track, and it
11 was the motion that was passed during the -- our annual
12 general meeting of the hunters and trappers
13 organization. As such, as a formal motion and
14 resolution, we had to implement it as the HTO.

15 And even if Phase 2 proposal wants to increase the
16 number of tonnage and shipping, I think the motion that
17 we passed should supersede that because the resolution
18 is a formal motion, and it's law. And that's why I
19 have a complication with myself as an individual is
20 because of that resolution that was made by HTO, I have
21 to file it as a representative.

22 And also in Pond Inlet as a board member of HTO of
23 Pond Inlet, I'm in a conflict myself having to file
24 that motion that was passed and -- because we are
25 hunters and we rely on our country food and that --
26 it's a dilemma for us at the hunters and trappers

1 organization. We -- it's our mandate to represent our
2 community so we have something to eat.

3 And during the time of a dog slaughter and taking
4 away our land from us by colonizing it, and it's been
5 almost impossible for us to survive otherwise because
6 they took away our resources and our tools to harvest
7 and hunt. And because of that, we have -- we are
8 always in a dilemma between these two competing worlds
9 where we have to think about feeding our family versus
10 following the rules.

11 And if NIRB approves Phase 2 or the minister who
12 has the -- who's the competent minister, whether he
13 agrees or not, we want to make sure that the federal
14 government, different departments like INAC or
15 different departments support Inuit and compensate
16 Inuit for what they're taking from the land from us.
17 Because on top of that, they're going to take from the
18 environment, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and
19 NTI have to support us. They're our organization and
20 should be there to be our voice and combat just for us.

21 And when we're talking about food and feeding our
22 families, you feel like crying. And my colleague and I
23 were talking about this. My heart was breaking when I
24 really thought about how damaging this is to our land,
25 the environment, the earth that feed us that is being
26 broken, and we have hardly no more wildlife to harvest.

1 There's a lot of issues that I wanted to bring up,
2 but I'm sure other people have other comments to make,
3 and the federal government couldn't answer a lot of
4 questions that we raised, and Nunavut Government the
5 same thing; they don't have answers for us.

6 And the Inuit organizations are not very well
7 prepared. It has become obvious. They have not come
8 up to the plate to represent us. And when we go
9 through hardship and hard times in our lives, the only
10 thing that sustains us is our environment, our land,
11 and our wildlife. Nothing else.

12 And during the summer, during the migration of
13 different whales through our waters, we hardly had any
14 whales this year that usually -- in Pond Inlet area
15 through Eclipse Sound. And then we heard Pond Inlet
16 had -- or Arctic Bay had a lot of whales going through
17 their inlets, and we were so envious. And you can
18 actually see the impact it has had in our community.
19 Our marine and our terrestrial animals will be impacted
20 and have already been affected. That's why it was
21 really hard this summer in terms of food. We hardly
22 had any food to sustain us throughout the year, and
23 when we were asked by Inuit organization to see if we
24 can go to Arctic Bay to -- to give them our tags, and
25 we wanted to help them to harvest what they needed. We
26 thought we were going to get muktuk, whale blubber, and

1 the meat that comes with it, and the hunters really
2 wanted our tags to -- because they're men. We couldn't
3 win over them because they're hunters.

4 They went there to harvest whale in Arctic Bay,
5 and when they got there, they got refused by Arctic
6 Bay, and they came back. Who's in charge of all these
7 jurisdictional laws that are popping up affecting
8 Inuit? And we -- we told you -- we already told you
9 that the whale population was going to delineate and
10 decrease. We already stated it, and it's happening
11 now. It happened last summer -- this summer. And it
12 has affected us in our community.

13 So, Baffinland, in terms of providing benefits
14 and -- they're giving us so much money and even
15 specifically to Pond Inlet, we recognize it is what you
16 want to do, but as a hunter and trappers organization
17 representative for the community, this proposal will
18 have a big impact on the mining, and it will have a big
19 impact on the wildlife if it's not properly planned.
20 Right now today it is not properly planned.

21 This summer, for example, we did not have any
22 narwhals at all, and so in the future, if you don't
23 have a good plan, if you don't have a way of having a
24 good plan -- and the cost of store-bought food is so
25 very expensive -- how are you going to run this?

26 Has the federal government -- how do the

1 organizations for Nunavut, the Board members and stuff,
2 how are you going to manage this for Nunavut?

3 So I'm going to let other people speak to give
4 them the room. Thank you, Chairperson. Thank you.
5 I'm done.

6 THE CHAIR: Before there's an answer,
7 let's take a break for 15 minutes. 10:36 we'll come
8 back.

9 (ADJOURNMENT)

10 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone.

11 Continuing with questions and comments to the
12 proponent and registered intervenors from community
13 representatives. First we'll go to Baffinland.

14 Udlu Hanson.

15 MS. HANSON: Udlu Hanson from Baffinland.
16 Thank you. Thank you for the comments and the
17 questions.

18 We know in meetings with you and comments you have
19 made publicly that they always come from the heart.
20 Thank you for that. We understand these to be very,
21 very difficult decisions. We also understand and
22 respect the 2017 resolution that was passed by the
23 Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization. Since
24 then, the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers
25 Organization has pushed us in the right direction, I
26 believe, to do better, to adjust our proposal in a way

1 that reflects and tries to address concerns. The
2 observation stations, the new route, monitoring,
3 Inuit-led monitoring and Baffin-led monitoring, also
4 through the Inuit committees.

5 We believe we can do better together. We also
6 want to recognize some of the other impacts that you
7 have noted because we do believe and we do recognize
8 there are impacts. We also know that there are other
9 impacts that may not be all within Baffinland's
10 control.

11 With regards to how expensive food is, we agree.
12 We feel it ourselves as some of us are Nunavut
13 employees at Baffinland, over 300 of us. Through some
14 of our partnerships like Arctic Co-op, we have an
15 agreement with them for them to share some of their
16 contributions to their members. This has amounted to
17 over \$1 million, either through direct membership or
18 through other food security initiatives.

19 We also try and recognize this reality by donating
20 to food banks in each community and through our lunch
21 programs, but we know there's more work to do, and we
22 want to work with other organizations and the
23 communities to leverage other funding and leverage
24 other programs. Qujannamiik.

25 THE CHAIR: Qikiqtani Inuit Association,
26 Olayuk Akesuk.

1 MR. AKESUK: Good morning, Nunavut Impact
2 Review Board. I have not been affirmed or sworn in.
3 I'll try to answer that, but, before, I have to be
4 sworn in.
5 Procedural Matter by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
6 Counsel

7 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
8 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
9 Review Board. If I can have the witness state and
10 spell your name for the record, please.

11 OLAYUK AKESUK, Affirmed

12 MS: MEADOWS: Teresa Meadows, legal counsel
13 for the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Thank you, Madam
14 Chair. Those are my procedural matters.

15 THE CHAIR: Olayuk Akesuk.

16 MR. AKESUK: Thank you, Chairperson. I'm
17 Olayuk Akesuk from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

18 For these things that we are doing in terms of the
19 Qikiqtani Inuit Association, how we can support to the
20 communities and the programs that we can provide -- on
21 March 4, 2021 -- on March 4, we had a meeting. There
22 was a motion carried to looking at the communities,
23 what is happening to them, and trying to listen to
24 what's happening to them.

25 So in terms of that, because of the benefits and
26 the benefits they are receiving, perhaps specifically

1 to Pond Inlet, we want to work with them how Inuit
2 can -- are impacted and in terms of Inuit, Inuit
3 Qaujimagatuqangit employees and staff used to visit
4 communities, how they could help to assist in the
5 impact because of the iron ore mining.

6 Also to help, also in terms of the motion, how to
7 emphasize that motion and to make sure the motion is
8 carried and also given our comments to Nunavut Impact
9 Review Board and we have given it to that, and in terms
10 of these motions that Kowtokomapi [phonetic] gave to
11 make a stronger response to that motion and the things
12 that we have written and we have -- need to continue
13 with the -- to have a better -- and so we need to have
14 a good working relationship in regards to the
15 environment and that these communities, because they
16 are impacted, we want to help them, those communities.

17 In terms of the environment and the wildlife, we
18 need to have a good study on how the wildlife is being
19 impacted and whether it would be beneficial to try and
20 turn things the way the community wants it to, that
21 Inuit knowledge would be very useful in terms of trying
22 to get an employer for that particular person, that we
23 would need to go to those communities so that we could
24 collect that Inuit knowledge into that pool of
25 information. Thank you, Chairperson.

26 THE CHAIR: NTI, Nunavut Tunngavik

1 Incorporated, James Eetoolook.

2 MR. EETOOLOOK: Thank you, Chairperson, for
3 those questions and concerns that were expressed from
4 Pond Inlet.

5 In terms of the narwhal harvesting, it is for the
6 tags, they are separated, the narwhal stock is
7 separated in pieces, and we do support those concerns,
8 and we have a small -- we have a board for the wildlife
9 section and for the environment. They're the ones that
10 would also meet on these things, and we will talk about
11 narwhals and how they're separated to the regions.

12 So those allocations are given by the department
13 of Fisheries and Oceans, although they say they seem to
14 be the same stock, they are considered different from
15 each region even though narwhals move everywhere so
16 they get mixed up between stocks in terms of the
17 narwhals, and they are located as two separate stocks
18 for Pond Inlet, also to Arctic Bay, so they're given
19 different tags for those two different communities.

20 So for -- that's the way, then, the management
21 is -- you know, of the narwhals is supposed to be
22 helping the stock, but in terms of wildlife -- I'm
23 going to give the microphone over to Paul Irngaut, if
24 that's okay.

25 THE CHAIR: Paul Irngaut.

26 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Chairperson. Paul

1 Irngaut from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and thank
2 you for that question from Pond Inlet.

3 So in terms of what's mentioned, when there are
4 stocks that are separated and different narwhal's tags
5 are allocated to different regions or communities, so
6 for the summer they are separated as well for the fall
7 and for the springtime, so they have different
8 allocations for Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet.

9 And it is known that these organizations for the
10 Qikiqtani Wildlife Board, they wrote to the Board
11 that -- wrote a letter to the department of Fisheries
12 and Oceans Minister. They were told that these
13 communities -- all the communities would have to have a
14 meeting. They would have to have a discussion on the
15 whole population of narwhals, and so people were
16 thinking that it should be one number or a total of
17 numbers because the narwhals move from place to place,
18 so the department of Fisheries and Oceans did not want
19 to see something like this. They did not want to have
20 one number or one stock.

21 So for this reason, there are difficulties there.
22 Even if it's approved by one community, it's possible
23 that another community could also be given that
24 support, but the community that is being asked,
25 sometimes their tags are all utilized or they don't
26 have enough narwhal tags, and these are the reasons

1 that we end up with these issues.

2 So I think we may need to discuss this further in
3 terms of the questions around that that has been
4 brought up. We have a committee, as James has
5 mentioned, between the regions, and these are regional
6 wildlife boards. They are regional wildlife boards, so
7 in the future, we will have to meet again on that.

8 Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: For the Government of Canada,
10 will Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
11 Canada provide their response, or will it be individual
12 departments?

13 Spencer Dewar.

14 MR. DEWAR: Qujannamiik, Madam Chair.
15 Spencer Dewar for Crown-Indigenous Relations and
16 Northern Affairs Canada. I'll provide some -- I'll
17 provide an answer, and then I'll turn it over to my
18 colleague at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

19 Thank you for sharing. We certainly realize the
20 conflict you find yourself in, and we realize food
21 security is extremely important to everyone. For the
22 Government of Canada, we realize all stakeholders have
23 to make efforts to improve food security. The
24 Government of Canada has the Nutrition North program
25 which effort is to provide essential and nutritious
26 foods in communities.

1 Most recently based on consultations with
2 communities, we've introduced a harvester's support
3 grant, which we gave money to the Nunavut Tunngavik
4 Incorporation, and they provided grants for
5 distribution for hunter supports through the regional
6 Inuit associations. So on that front, I think we just
7 need to continue to talk and to do better and work
8 closely where we can.

9 In regards to the project, we see there's an
10 opportunity here to provide information to the Board so
11 that we can help avoid potential impacts. Certainly
12 the Nunavut Impact Review Board will make a
13 determination and produce a report for consideration
14 from the responsible Minister, and if a project
15 certificate does get issued for the Phase 2,
16 Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
17 would enforce for compliance the project certificate
18 terms and conditions, and the Government of Canada as a
19 whole would monitor to ensure that Baffinland was
20 operating in accordance with the project certificate,
21 and we would always be open to hear when community
22 members, other departments, thought there was anything
23 that just wasn't right, so we're always open to hear
24 concerns.

25 But I would also like to highlight that the
26 Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Baffinland, have

1 negotiated a governance of this project that provides
2 the Inuit with a significant say in the monitoring and
3 direction of the project.

4 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
5 Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille.

6 MR. BERNARD-LACAILLE: Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille,
7 Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Thank you for sharing
8 your thoughts on the subject of food security and
9 narwhal hunt.

10 From Fisheries and Oceans Canada's perspective, I
11 can give you a brief overview on how the narwhal
12 comanagement system works, and I think that it will
13 echo a little bit of what NTI has said.

14 So the Baffin Bay narwhal comanagement is based on
15 individual summering stocks. Each geographic
16 management unit encompasses the known summer range of
17 each narwhal stock, so marine mammal tags can only be
18 transferred between communities that harvest from the
19 same management unit or the same summering stock, and
20 before it's transferred to a cure, both hunters and
21 trappers organizations must approve their request.

22 The management system reflects the implementation
23 of the Nunavut agreement in which a total allowable
24 harvest is based on stock size. This system is
25 implemented through the Nunavut Wildlife Management
26 Board, approved integrated fisheries management plan

1 for narwhal in the Nunavut settlement area.

2 Fisheries and Oceans Canada acknowledges the Inuit
3 view which was earlier reported by NTI that the
4 Admiralty Inlet and Eclipse Sound stocks should be
5 considered as one stock. These stocks are currently
6 considered separate based on genetic and tagging data
7 and are continued to be managed as separate stocks to
8 avoid local depletion.

9 Recently published science advice, so scientific
10 workers that work for the Department of Fisheries and
11 Oceans, supports this management approach, and this
12 advice will be discussed at the next Nunavut narwhal
13 working group meeting which is part of the comanagement
14 system.

15 In mid-August 2021, the Mittimatalik Hunters and
16 Trappers Organization contacted Fisheries and Oceans
17 Canada to inquire about the use of Eclipse Sound
18 narwhal marine mammal tags in the Admiralty Inlet
19 narwhal management unit. However, the Ikajutit Hunters
20 and Trappers Organization of Arctic Bay passed a motion
21 stating they did not support the harvest of the
22 Admiralty Inlet narwhal allocation quota by hunters
23 from Pond Inlet using Eclipse Sound narwhal tags.

24 At that point, Fisheries and Oceans Canada was
25 advised that the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers
26 Organization supported the decision and did not harvest

1 narwhal in Admiralty Inlet.

2 So to summarize, DFO participates in the Nunavut
3 comanagement regime in regards to the harvest of marine
4 mammals, including narwhal, and we will continue to do
5 so, and I hope that my answer helped clarify a little
6 bit all tags and tags transfer work within that regime.

7 Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut, Gabriel
9 Karlik.

10 MR. KARLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
11 thank you for your concerns and information that you
12 have provided.

13 One of the key messages that the Government of
14 Nunavut has been saying for the last few years
15 regarding Baffinland and also the big challenge for
16 Nunavut communities, they are about to have -- we are
17 about to have within the next ten years 10,000 youth
18 who are going to be adults, and those adults need to
19 find jobs.

20 One of the key things to help ease the cost of
21 living will be these youth to have jobs to help pay for
22 some of the things that the increased of cost of
23 living's going to happen. Of those -- of those key
24 insecurities that we see when it comes to food
25 security, we see that even if the Government of Nunavut
26 were able to remove all southern workers in Nunavut to

1 work for Government of Nunavut, of those affected five
2 communities, about 200 of those would only be covering
3 that, while the possibility of this mine will be able
4 to employ about a thousand. So those are the balances
5 that the community members and the government and all
6 organizations are having to balance.

7 Some of the key things that we have brought up is
8 that the Government of Nunavut is co-leading the
9 Nunavut Food Security Coalition along with Nunavut
10 Tunngavik Incorporated. This is one of the things that
11 helped bring oversight, guidance, and leadership for
12 the Nunavut food security strategy that is being
13 developed.

14 Addressing food security is not an individual
15 organization's job; it's a collective responsibility.
16 We all have a role to play in this. Via the
17 implementation of this food security strategy, we
18 expect to close some of those gaps, although there are
19 more discussions that is required. We at the
20 Government of Nunavut are hoping to close those gaps
21 and also hoping to improve on what has been done so
22 far.

23 These employment opportunities that we are facing
24 now is something that we want to help along with all
25 the other organizations to achieve. If we do achieve
26 some of the these goals, this will help alleviate the

1 food insecurity. Some of the people who have worked at
2 the mine sites now have disposable incomes that will
3 help people to have a chance to go out and purchase the
4 necessary hunting equipment that are now increased
5 costs for people to use.

6 And also one of the other collaborative things
7 that the Government of Nunavut is working on right now
8 was the agreement in principle with Baffinland to help
9 monitor caribou migration, and this is something that I
10 think shows that the willingness from the Government of
11 Nunavut along with the HTO, along with Baffinland, to
12 help ease some of these questions that are still very
13 unknown and being able to adapt to those. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Questions, comments for
15 members from the community of Pond Inlet. Jayko
16 Allooloo over in Pond Inlet has a question or comment.

17 MR. ALLOOLLOO: Can you hear me?

18 THE CHAIR: Yes. We can hear you.

19 MR. ALLOOLLOO: All right. Thank you.

20 First of all, I am going to ask a similar question
21 of what was asked of yesterday about Karen Costello's
22 question, how well -- how well the whales can hear
23 noise. By Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and scientific
24 knowledge, from what I understood, I'm going to speak
25 to what I know.

26 As hunters, we go out to the floe edge. We know

1 everything about whales. We know how well whales can
2 hear. Before even a Ski-Doo can be seen and going
3 towards whales, they tend to get more and more
4 disturbed, and then right up to the time when the
5 Ski-Doo reaches the floe edge, perhaps 5 miles or more
6 from our community -- my father and his friend used to
7 go out caribou hunting during the -- towards the
8 evening. I'm going to speak to that.

9 Towards the evening, our mother -- we were on the
10 shore. My mother noticed and heard a dog barking. It
11 had happened, so they had heard a dog across -- across
12 the island. That's how far the -- the sound
13 transmitted from across Pond Inlet.

14 I also want to speak to and see -- and see this --
15 how well -- at what decibels the whales can hear. This
16 is through scientific knowledge. Whales can hear three
17 times better than we can. They can hear vibrations.
18 They have very acute hearing. They can also hear very
19 good through water. They can hear noises at a great
20 distance and very sensitive to noise. And the question
21 that was raised yesterday, there wasn't a clear answer,
22 so I wanted to clarify this and give an answer of what
23 I know.

24 Whales -- we used to go out to the floe edge and
25 sometimes to the shore to go whaling. When they're
26 moving through the water, when they dive down, they can

1 be down in the depth for one hour, and through
2 scientific knowledge it says here 13 to 500 metres,
3 they can dive down. This means that 2,788 feet. Our
4 island over there is 2 to 3,000 feet in depth when
5 they're feeding from the depth. I just wanted to
6 clarify that because it wasn't answered properly
7 yesterday.

8 And I also spoke to that here the whales, they
9 have -- yes, they have hearing on the sides of their
10 heads, but there is a hollowed area on their -- on
11 their cranium, and the sound resonates through their
12 head, making them -- making them hear really good, and
13 that's part of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

14 Where is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit? It's already
15 here in our heads. As to what the member from
16 Sanirajak was saying yesterday, it's true. It's all in
17 our -- in our thoughts. We can -- in today's world, we
18 can write things -- begin writing what we know.

19 When I was in Arviat, when we had a lot of youth
20 with us, we taught them about air, water, and ice. We
21 taught Inuit -- we taught them Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.
22 We taught and spoke to them and how to survive with the
23 CB radio because that's very crucial in our culture,
24 the use of CB radio. So we would ask hunters that are
25 out there what they predict, what the weather might be
26 throughout the day.

1 So Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit knowledge, it
2 can -- and we can produce written documents. How our
3 everyday lives are. We can speak about our
4 environment. So we look forward to seeing documents
5 written about our culture, what we know. Governments
6 can help us. We can produce videos, written documents,
7 and this would be a good starting point.

8 And Baffinland -- to Baffinland. This was my
9 answer to the Chairperson for the question that was
10 raised yesterday. To Baffinland now.

11 I don't have many questions, but there's concerns
12 that I saw and heard and as Phase 2 -- is it being
13 prepared for all the -- for Igloolik and to Milne
14 Inlet -- from Mary River to Milne Inlet that the
15 railroad that will be going through that area, how is
16 it going to be established properly? And I would like
17 to get an answer to that.

18 And also my statements and comments yesterday --
19 maybe perhaps tomorrow I will be talking about the --
20 and what I want to say now is that I can use a computer
21 a little bit, and following my knowledge and
22 understanding what I can get, and when I was looking
23 through Google for a meaning, I saw a meaning, the
24 community abuse terminology, that the communities are
25 being abused. For the past three years, we've been
26 abused by Baffinland. This is too much, and for reason

1 our hunting areas are spoiled, our waters for drinking
2 water as hunters has been destroyed, and there's no
3 more caribou in our area. There's no more narwhals and
4 whales, and we now have only few animals that we can
5 consume now or hunt. In the community, I will just say
6 that it's very emotional for us, to our livelihood, and
7 there's -- physically we are being affected, mentally,
8 physically, with these abuses for the wildlife issues,
9 and the wildlife is depleting and also by resources and
10 financially and also for workforce and for job
11 opportunities to earn wages, and also QIA, Qikiqtani
12 Inuit Association, have been now with us too much
13 through finances or -- and we're on Inuit-owned lands.
14 Things that we're supposed to get through that from
15 other sources. This is abuse. We're not getting
16 anything in our community through these. That's --
17 that's no good, and -- but maybe we need to get a
18 lawyer or take them to court for our abuses that I was
19 talking about for three years. That's not good to see.
20 Secondly, again, this has happened recently. This
21 came out on Friday, my -- if they want to get a "yes"
22 answer to the Phase 2, maybe they should produce
23 something much better form, written form. I think this
24 would be depleting and stopped. This is part of the
25 abuse that we get. We are being threatened through
26 these things, and there's many.

1 And I want to say it this way: Maybe 2 percent or
2 less in Pond Inlet has been helped, assisted by
3 Baffinland. You keep saying we've been helped a great
4 deal in the community, but to the Inuit financially
5 towards high school students, Co-op, and other
6 establishments, it's less than 2 percent or 2 percent.
7 This has been our only assistance we received from
8 Baffinland. What's going to happen to us?

9 Maybe get a lawyer to get action through court. I
10 think that's the only way, and these were my comments I
11 wanted to say to you, and I will say again that
12 there -- I only have notes, and I will give it to the
13 NIRB staff. Before it's too late, I will submit them,
14 and if we have nothing written, it would not be
15 accepted. I don't know about the others, but I just
16 would like to elaborate a little bit what I want to say
17 to you, for abusing us in the community is part of it.
18 As community members for not treating us properly
19 through Baffinland and QIA. We have less resources
20 in -- in wildlife terms. It's getting -- we're getting
21 impacted greatly to Igloolik waters, to -- to Steensby
22 area, and Milne Inlet, and Bruce Head, and we've been
23 told yes, but it's been protected and will be in
24 progress to protect us, but if there's going to be
25 ballast in the Milne Inlet and -- and also carrying the
26 gravel by railroad, and it might produce a great deal

1 of stockpile at Baffinland, and I would breathe better
2 if that's going to be done properly and much safer way.

3 And that's the first one, and also -- and we keep
4 hearing that there's no more fish in that area in Milne
5 Inlet area and other area to -- the other area to Milne
6 Inlet. It's part of the abuse that I was talking
7 about, and QIA are not treating us properly or
8 assisting us too much that Inuit -- Qikiqtani Inuit
9 Association have to receive fundings from Baffinland
10 and will be given to Mittimatalik Pond Inlet. It's
11 only less than 2 percent or 2 percent that we receive,
12 and in Baffin Island, we need to receive assistance
13 from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and these are the
14 words that we use, our leeway to receive benefits, and
15 also -- how can I say that properly? We are the owners
16 of the land. The monies, resources, goes to QIA, and
17 that -- and we're not receiving the resources we're
18 supposed to get, and it's part of the abuse, and for
19 that reason, the way it is, the environment, are you
20 going to be able to help us? What's going to happen to
21 you? Can you assist us? What are you going to help us
22 with, assist us with? The Baffinland and the Inuit
23 organizations and following what you have been
24 preparing to put in place, so our communities in Pond
25 Inlet, I think we need to get a lawyer, like I said
26 earlier, and we need to hire a lawyer for our abuse

1 that's happening to the people of the community of Pond
2 Inlet.

3 And this is true, and to make it a point, at the
4 time, the communities were gathering from -- at the
5 beginning, it started treating us not rightly. It was
6 abuse, family abuse is happening; and, second, for the
7 residential school students were abused in the past,
8 and today, secondly, Baffinland preparations with the
9 Mary River, and there's other things that we are not
10 treated well.

11 So these -- I wanted to bring these matters to
12 your attention, and some of the statements I'm going to
13 say -- well, I will bring them up tomorrow. Thank you,
14 Madam Chairperson.

15 THE CHAIR: Jayko Allooloo, thank you for
16 the papers that you submitted. Maybe you could bring
17 them to our staff at Pond Inlet and identify which one
18 they are that you were talking about and brought.

19 Jayko Allooloo, if you could share those two
20 documents that you were referencing to the NIRB staff
21 in Pond Inlet so that we can note down which documents
22 you were referring to.

23 First, we'll go to Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

24 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
25 Baffinland. Qujannamiik, Jayko, for your comments and
26 your questions.

1 As was pointed out earlier this morning, this can
2 be a very emotional topic because we're talking about
3 things very important like food, harvesting, and
4 potential impacts that are already being felt now and
5 will potentially be happening if Phase 2 is approved.

6 It's difficult to hear some of the comments, and
7 we're sorry you feel that way. There were a number of
8 comments that were made and questions that I'm going to
9 ask some of our team members for help, but before I
10 pass it on, one of the questions that was asked is, How
11 will you assist us?

12 There were some things already mentioned this
13 morning in the presentation and through answers that
14 have already been provided, so I won't go through them,
15 but I know that if community members are seeking more
16 support -- and we've heard that, so we've tried to make
17 it easier for them to reach out to somebody for that
18 support.

19 We actually have a position that's being posted
20 now as coordinator of the Tasiuqtiit Working Group
21 because there's \$800,000 that could be accessed right
22 now by community members.

23 So the coordinator will help them access that
24 funding and help them determine how to spend money to
25 assist with some of the things that were addressed this
26 morning.

1 In the interest of time, I'll move it on to the
2 two other topics. One was on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit
3 and narwhal. I'll have Melanie Austin with JASCO
4 answer that, and then she'll pass it on to Megan
5 Lord-Hoyle regarding the rail question. Qujannamiik.

6 THE CHAIR: Melanie Austin.

7 MS. AUSTIN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Melanie Austin from JASCO applied sciences. And thank
9 you for the question and for sharing your knowledge and
10 for explaining to us the ways that narwhal hear noise
11 and the way that they use sound and how important sound
12 is to narwhal.

13 I appreciate hearing your perspective on this, and
14 I agree with you that narwhal -- that sound is
15 important and that noise from ships has the potential
16 to be disturbing at close ranges, and this is why
17 Baffinland has mitigations in place to reduce the
18 amount of noise that's generated and to limit the
19 amount of time that narwhal are exposed to noise from
20 shipping.

21 As some examples, the speed restriction of 9 knots
22 and particularly things like the setback at the floe
23 edge which was implemented in response to knowledge
24 that was shared, that that is a sensitive area and a
25 sensitive time, so the vessels limit the amount of time
26 that they are close to the floe edge and when narwhal

1 may be there.

2 Because noise issues with narwhal is so important,
3 that is also why we do significant monitoring of the
4 sound levels in the water and of the ways that narwhal
5 are responding to the noise and the presence of the
6 vessels.

7 To clarify perhaps a misunderstanding about the
8 response I gave yesterday: Yesterday I was talking
9 about distances from vessels where narwhal show
10 responses to vessels and where they show a reaction,
11 which the data that we've collected indicate the
12 distances are at close range, normally
13 1 to 2 kilometres, sometimes as far as 5 kilometres.

14 But as you have shared with us, narwhal can hear
15 this sound much further than those distances. Our
16 studies indicate that at those longer ranges, we don't
17 expect there to be a stressful response to the noise at
18 long range.

19 You told us about the sounds from snow machines,
20 and as the narwhal get closer to that sound, they
21 become more responsive. That was my understanding of
22 what you shared with us, and that is what we see as
23 well. When they are close to vessels, they're more
24 likely to respond, but at longer ranges, we don't see
25 those same responses even though they can hear the
26 noise.

1 Again, thank you for sharing your knowledge and
2 for listening to my explanation to clarify my responses
3 from yesterday. And I would now pass it to Megan
4 Lord-Hoyle.

5 THE CHAIR: Megan Lord-Hoyle.

6 MS. LORD-HOYLE: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland.
7 Qujannamiik, Jayko, for sharing and posing questions to
8 us this morning. I'll echo what Udlu has said. It is
9 difficult to hear some of the commentary, and it is a
10 very emotional process that we're going through.

11 I have a specific question to respond to for you,
12 but I also want to share that our actions as a company
13 are meant to be supporting the communities. We are
14 constantly improving how we interact with the
15 communities and getting to know the communities better
16 and providing support in areas that are meaningful and
17 changing our operations to respond.

18 I believe your specific question was around the
19 scope of the Phase 2 assessment and whether or not
20 Phase 2 incorporated a rail -- the rail to Steensby as
21 well. The direct answer is yes and no. So the Phase 2
22 that we're seeking approval for here during these
23 hearings is specifically for the Northern corridor to
24 construct a rail between the mine site and Milne Port
25 and increase production along that Northern corridor
26 and increase shipping through Milne Inlet. That's what

1 is referred to as "the Phase 2 proposal".

2 However, the assessment that we've conducted looks
3 at the impacts or effects of a rail line from Milne
4 Port all the way down to Steensby, so we refer to
5 Steensby as "the already-approved project", which is
6 separate and distinct from the Phase 2 proposal, but
7 the Phase 2 proposal has taken that project into
8 account when we've completed our assessment.

9 I hope that helps to clarify. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: QIA, Olayuk Akesuk.

11 MR. AKESUK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 Olayuk Akesuk, Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

13 The QIA is part of Nunavut regional Inuit
14 associations and was established under the Nunavut Land
15 Claims Agreement, and the agreements -- we have to
16 abide by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to the best
17 of our ability as an Inuit organization, and we have to
18 follow the -- what it says in the agreement under
19 Article 26 of the Land Claims Agreement, the -- it sets
20 out all our responsibilities as an Inuit organization,
21 and we have to -- and in IIBA, Inuit Impact Benefit
22 Agreement, in 2013, September of 2013, we established
23 IIBA, and under that IIBA, we set out different things
24 to help Inuit, and the IIBA, it sets out the guidelines
25 that we had to follow under the Land Claims Agreement
26 and that -- to the best of our ability we have to --

1 how we can implement the IIBA, Inuit Impact Benefits
2 Agreements, and it defines our obligations, and at
3 times it's really hard to deal with issues that are --
4 haven't been written down in a former agreement and how
5 we can redefine the land -- or -- IIBAs and to -- we'd
6 have to go into a negotiation process under Part 4 of
7 the agreement that if we want to make additions to
8 IIBA, and we'd like to really work closely with the
9 communities on how we can resolve their concerns and
10 how they -- how we manage the funds that we receive
11 through IIBA, and there's four communities that have
12 been mentioned in the Inuit Impact and Benefits
13 Agreement. We have to work with all the communities,
14 and Jayko Alloofoo mentioned about the royalties that
15 we receive from the mine, as he mentioned earlier when
16 we, in fact, do get royalties, but under the agreement
17 we have through IIBA, there's guidelines that -- or
18 obligations to follow on how we give these fundings to
19 the communities.

20 In 2013, the IIBA was finally approved to
21 compensate the communities, and we still have room to
22 negotiate the IIBAs if the communities wish to do so.
23 We just have to get -- revisit it and see how we can --
24 agreement -- and the Nunavut agreement is under the
25 mandate of the territorial government, so we can't
26 really do anything about the Nunavut agreement or the

1 territorial agreement, and there's quite a few mines in
2 Nunavut that -- that has been worked with, and I think
3 that by looking at other mines, we might be able to
4 work with administration on how we can best benefit
5 Inuit. Especially when there's an IIBA in place that
6 has been signed, we have to revisit it and see how we
7 could improve it and how we can best benefit Inuit.

8 And we did agree to the IIBA, and we did in good
9 faith to best represent Inuit to the best of our
10 ability because it's so important in terms of
11 environment and the emotions of it, on how it impacts
12 wildlife and that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has to be
13 included in the process, as DFO mentioned earlier, that
14 scientists -- scientists' terminology or work seems to
15 be stronger than Inuit knowledge. Maybe perhaps as it
16 was mentioned, we should start documenting Inuit
17 Qaujimajatuqangit and make sure that it's implemented
18 as well.

19 Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 THE CHAIR: It's almost 12:00. After
21 lunch, Caleb Sangoya will be next on our list. We'll
22 be back at 1:15.

23

24 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 1:15 PM)

25

26 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 1:21 PM)

1 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone.

2 Starting where with we left off before the lunch
3 break, questions from community representatives to the
4 proponent and registered intervenors. From Pond Inlet,
5 Caleb Sangoya.

6 Continued Questioning of Baffinland Iron Mines
7 Corporation, Registered Intervenors, and Nunavut Impact
8 Review Board by the Community Representatives from Pond
9 Inlet, Igloolik, and Grise Fiord (Community Roundtable)

10 MR. SANGOYA: Thank you, Chairperson.

11 From yesterday there was a small mention, 101 and
12 144, the numbers relating to that, there is comments to
13 that and questions on them.

14 The marine early warning system device, I'd like
15 to know how they are utilized, how they are used.
16 Could we have an explanation. For the hunters and
17 Elders, people always said they did not want those type
18 of devices used because they affect wildlife so much.
19 In Lancaster Sound, they were used before. They have
20 really changed the environment and scared away the
21 animals and never came back.

22 And also in Igloolik. They have also mentioned
23 that in Pond Inlet as well -- they have said the same
24 thing -- that after they had put those devices in, that
25 the seals and the narwhals or belugas have really been
26 affected and impacted by those devices. Those things

1 that were used by Department of Fisheries and Oceans,
2 I'd like to ask that question to them as well as
3 Baffinland, whether the five affected communities,
4 there would be something being done in the waters
5 around those communities and whether those things that
6 would affect the wildlife, especially those that are in
7 the ocean, on the ocean floor, and whether those
8 devices were thought of in conjunction with the hunters
9 in the area.

10 THE CHAIR: First we'll go to Baffinland,
11 Udlu Hanson.

12 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
13 Baffinland. I'd like for Lou Kamermans to answer,
14 please.

15 THE CHAIR: Lou Kamermans.

16 MR. KAMERMANS: Lou Kamermans, Baffinland.
17 Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you for the question,
18 Caleb.

19 What I heard is you're asking about the acoustic
20 recorders that we have in the marine area in Eclipse
21 Sound and Milne Inlet. These are part of our acoustic
22 monitoring program. It's known as a "passive listening
23 program" because these acoustic recorders don't emit
24 any noises. That's not what they're meant to do.
25 They're meant to strictly listen. They're required as
26 part of the project certificate to be put in place and

1 inform our understanding of project activities of the
2 ambient environment and to listen to the wildlife, and
3 they help us understand how all of those factors
4 interact and how our project may be affecting them.

5 These pieces of equipment are no different than
6 the one that Oceans North also keeps and maintains
7 within Eclipse Sound. The program changes from year to
8 year based on discussions we have at the marine
9 environment working group of which the Mittimatalik
10 Hunters and Trappers Organization is a member, and this
11 year, we've actually placed one of those recorders in
12 an area that we expect to be close to the floe edge
13 come springtime, and that was at the direct request of
14 the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization, a
15 request we received through the Phase 2 review process.

16 We've been speaking with the Mittimatalik Hunters
17 and Trappers Organization recently about this program.
18 We understand there's concerns in the community about
19 what these devices do. In response to that, we
20 provided the same explanation I'm providing today
21 during meetings and also as a public radio show.
22 Myself and Joe Tigullaraq provided this information in
23 answer to questions over a two-hour period on
24 September 23rd.

25 In any event, this program and those pieces of
26 equipment are subject to the input of members of the

1 marine environment working group and the community. So
2 we've proposed that at the next marine environment
3 working group meeting that the future of the passive
4 acoustic monitoring program is discussed based on the
5 concerns identified by the community of Pond Inlet and
6 that we work together to find a reasonable path forward
7 that still let's us satisfy the requirements of our
8 project certificate, but also shows we're listening to
9 the community of Pond Inlet. Thank you. Qujannamiik.

10 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
11 Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille.

12 MR. BERNARD-LACAILLE: Thank you, Madam Chair.
13 Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille with Fisheries and Oceans
14 Canada. Thank you, Caleb, for your question.

15 I also believe that the devices you're referring
16 to are acoustic recorders. So Fisheries and Oceans
17 Canada, we can say that the hydrophones are used for
18 underwater acoustic monitoring only, and they only
19 record noises and do not actually make noise
20 themselves. The recorder, it's designed to be as quiet
21 as possible because we want the best quality sounds
22 from the monitoring, and we want to ensure that we are
23 actually able to hear the noise from animals or ships
24 using those recorders.

25 These devices are also typically installed on a
26 mooring from the ocean bottom, and, as such, it's not

1 anticipated that the devices would cause any negative
2 impacts to marine mammals or Inuit hunters in the area.
3 However, we understand that there is Inuit and
4 community concerns from these devices, and Fisheries
5 and Oceans Canada always asks the permission of the
6 local hunters and trappers organizations before we put
7 any devices into your waters. For example, this past
8 summer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada asked the
9 Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organizations for
10 permission to install acoustic recorders, and the
11 Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization told us
12 they did not want any devices installed in the waters,
13 and, therefore, we did not put any. I hope this
14 answers your question. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIR: Caleb Sangoya.

16 MR. SANGOYA: Thank you.

17 Igloolik and Sanirajak, the findings that were --
18 and the data that they heard, they were not happy with
19 the acoustic recorders being placed as well as
20 hydrophones into the -- underwater.

21 The Canadian Coast Guard also uses these -- placed
22 these hydrophones into the water as well. I had asked
23 the HTO with the placing of hydrophones via the Coast
24 Guard, but they said they had no information and had
25 not heard about hydrophones being placed underwater.
26 So I was wondering if any -- any other communities know

1 of this.

2 THE CHAIR: Sanirajak Hunters and Trappers
3 Organization will be first, Michael Ferguson.

4 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, Madam Chairperson,
5 Mike Ferguson for the Sanirajak HTO. I'll ask Paul,
6 the Chair of the HTO, to come up and express any
7 issues. I don't have any specific information myself.

8 THE CHAIR: Paul Nagmalik.

9 MR. NAGMALIK: Paul Nagmalik, Sanirajak
10 Hunters and Trappers Organization.

11 The acoustic recorders that are placed into the
12 water, we have not heard if they have been placed
13 within our waters, but the devices are used to
14 record -- record sea mammals. That's all the
15 information that I know of.

16 We have not been told whether or not these
17 acoustic recorders have been placed in our waters --
18 thank you -- as far as I know. Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Igloolik, Peter Ivalu.

20 MR. IVALU: Thank you, Madam Chair. Peter
21 Ivalu, Igloolik Working Group. I will pass the mic
22 over to David Irngaut, the Chair of the hunters and
23 trappers organization.

24 Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 THE CHAIR: David Irngaut.

26 MR. D. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm

1 Dave Irngaut. I'm the Chairperson of the Igloolik
2 Hunters and Trappers Organization.

3 Yes. We know of this. I also have questions with
4 regards to acoustic recorders. It hasn't been -- it
5 hasn't been a year. We've noticed that the behaviour
6 of sea mammals have changed. There are harp seals and
7 walrus, narwhal, whales. The -- as far as we know,
8 walrus, they have not been coming to -- within our area
9 close to our communities, but we haven't seen them in a
10 while, and we notice this change.

11 And between Sanirajak, the bearded seals, there
12 was an abundance of -- and there was killer whales as
13 well, and whales.

14 I -- we had seen a person holding one of these
15 devices around Igloolik area and near Sadleet [phonetic]
16 near Coral all the way as far as Arctic Bay. We have
17 seen these devices along the Lancaster Sound area at
18 Admiralty Inlet and that they told us they were going
19 to place these devices within these -- or close to
20 these communities.

21 I think that if we get information prior to
22 placing these devices, we would be more than happy to
23 hear from them, and that's what I wanted to voice as a
24 concern of ours.

25 The acoustic recorders, we have been -- kind of
26 been -- we have been thinking about maybe perhaps

1 placing these acoustic recorders so that we know.
2 There's a research ship called the Nuliajuk. We met
3 with them, and we wanted to see -- hear from the
4 researchers themselves what their findings are. I
5 wonder if Baffinland had hired them to place these
6 recorders to research sea mammals? I would like some
7 information in regards to this.

8 I have other comments and questions as well, but I
9 want to get an answer to my question for now. I will
10 probably have more questions to ask after I get an
11 answer from the company. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIR: Are you speaking to -- the
13 Government of Nunavut, is it, and Fisheries and Oceans
14 Canada?

15 So we'll go to Government of Nunavut first,
16 Gabriel Karlik.

17 MR. KARLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

18 If I can get this deferred while I look -- ask the
19 questions with our sealing division, which holds the
20 information for the Nuliajuk. I should have that
21 answer before the end of the day. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
23 Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille.

24 MR. BERNARD-LACAILLE: Thank you, Madam Chair.
25 Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille with Fisheries and Oceans
26 Canada.

1 So Fisheries and Oceans Canada, we're currently
2 getting in contact with our colleagues from the
3 Canadian Coast Guard, and we're looking into getting
4 the information that was just mentioned by Caleb, and
5 we'll have to ask for a deferral and provide an answer
6 at a later time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 THE CHAIR: If the parties can please
8 provide those deferred responses today.

9 Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

10 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson.
11 I'd like for Lou to respond, please.

12 THE CHAIR: Lou Kamermans.

13 MR. KAMERMANS: Lou Kamermans, Baffinland.
14 Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 To answer the question about what equipment
16 Baffinland may have in areas close to Igloolik,
17 Sanirajak. At Steensby Inlet we are continuing to
18 advance baseline understanding of the area in case that
19 portion of the project ever moves forward.

20 At this point in time, we do have one single
21 oceanographic mooring station there which measures
22 currents. It does emit a small sound; however, it's at
23 a frequency that's above what any marine mammal is able
24 to hear.

25 In the future, I believe I heard that there would
26 be interest in working with Baffinland to better

1 understand some of the environmental effects that you
2 see occurring in your area, and that's absolutely
3 something Baffinland would be able to do with the
4 hamlets if Steensby were to move forward and we were to
5 have activities in that area. So I hope that answered
6 your question, but if not, I'm happy to provide more.
7 Thank you. Qujannamiik.

8 THE CHAIR: Igloolik Hunters and Trappers
9 Organization, David Irngaut.

10 MR. D. IRNGAUT: Yes. Thank you for that
11 clarification.

12 There are some knowledge that is not -- we are
13 not -- we are being introduced to more things that have
14 to do -- have nothing to do with our culture. We -- as
15 Inuit, we know the migration routes of all the mammals.
16 I think you should hire knowledge holders so that we
17 may help you know where the mammals are. We need -- we
18 are fully knowledgeable about our environment as a
19 hunters and trappers organization. I don't believe
20 that the -- you should go to the hamlet because they
21 are more into the community infrastructure and so
22 forth, but you should go towards maybe meeting with the
23 hunters and trappers organizations because they're the
24 knowledge holders of the marine environment.

25 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

26 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,

1 Baffinland. I will pass it to Lou.

2 THE CHAIR: Lou Kamermans.

3 MR. KAMERMANS: Lou Kamermans, Baffinland.

4 Thank you, Madam Chair.

5 I'll start by simply agreeing wholeheartedly that
6 we need to work closer with Inuit in our monitoring
7 programs, and that's absolutely what we intend to do.
8 And developing that framework is going to be one of the
9 first things we do should Phase 2 be approved. It's
10 actually already in the works, and we're very confident
11 that that will take our relationship with the
12 communities and the power that Inuit feel they have
13 with respect to our project to a new level.

14 As for the advice on who to speak with in the
15 communities, that was an oversimplification on my part.
16 I was meaning to speak about -- speaking with the
17 community generally, but we certainly understand
18 there's -- there's some topics that the hunters and
19 trappers are better positioned to speak to and
20 monitoring is certainly one of them, while the hamlet
21 has other interests and specialties. But our
22 experience with Pond Inlet is that it's best when we
23 can all speak together.

24 Regardless, one of the commitments that we've made
25 through Phase 2 is to develop community-specific
26 engagement guidelines so that we recognize, respect,

1 and can communicate to everybody within our company so
2 they understand exactly how each community wants to be
3 communicated with, who the best people to speak to are,
4 how that community functions, and we want to work on
5 that directly with the communities. They should be the
6 leaders of that, and that's another thing that, should
7 Phase 2 be approved, we'll get to work on right away.
8 Thank you. Qujannamiik.

9 THE CHAIR: Igloolik, David Irngaut.

10 MR. D. IRNGAUT: Thank you.

11 If that's going to be the case, I will appreciate
12 it very much.

13 We have to work all together, all the
14 communities -- each community and hamlet and the other
15 groups. And we keep talking about it's just like what
16 we do, and some of them are just hearsay. And we're
17 all Inuit sometimes together. The knowledge of the
18 Inuit IQ has not been used enough, and we get into
19 trouble if we don't use it. For example, the Inuit
20 Qaujimagatuqangit, IQ, I was told once when I was going
21 to move to Igloolik at the time, when I was going to
22 live there, the wildlife -- don't even talk or do
23 discussions on wildlife, and now I'm doing a lot of
24 work on the wildlife issues.

25 What I said earlier, Caleb and I grew up in that
26 area, and, to me -- this is very useful to me,

1 particularly for reason he said that to me, the Elder,
2 when there's no mining activities and when they lived
3 off the wildlife at the time, and they used to talk
4 about the issues of -- wildlife issues that they
5 weren't happy about. For that reason, the wildlife a
6 lot of times deplete or get away from the area. And
7 there's a word -- the fish are the ones that get away
8 faster, and the others are -- stay around. And I've
9 heard this from the Elders in the past, and I believe
10 it. I believe the saying.

11 And we seem to fight, for us that are hunters, for
12 wildlife. We suspect the shipping boats and us Inuit
13 in the area where we hunt, we are fighting over the
14 spots, and no wonder it's happening, following the
15 Inuit knowledge and the traditional ways of --
16 practices of hunting. And we never -- we used -- we
17 never really talk about the wildlife in such a way, and
18 they've never used monitoring or time, but we believe
19 our traditional ways and the practices of our Elders
20 and the sayings and the knowledge of the Elder. And
21 this is more of a statement and using -- we need to use
22 the Inuit traditional knowledge much more.

23 I have a question on top of that -- two,
24 actually -- and the statement is more or less in the
25 area what I was talking about.

26 Today we're here at the meeting, during the public

1 hearings, and a lot of times we were stopped because of
2 the COVID-19 that we were supposed to get done -- after
3 that was halted, and it wasn't done. And my question
4 is why, during our public hearings that were at the
5 hearing, the last time are not here. I don't know if
6 any white people were in the meetings at the time, and
7 I think the last people -- the Inuit had many questions
8 for this time. And that's my question: Why aren't
9 they here now with this public hearing?

10 And second question to the Baffinland: We were
11 expecting this past fall before we were -- somebody
12 came up, and there were people from Baffinland that
13 were going to come and meet with us and the weather was
14 a factor. They couldn't arrive.

15 And we were -- I was really expecting for them to
16 come at that day, and some of the people that were
17 going to be involved at the meeting participating
18 were -- and they told me -- and he saw me later on at
19 the store, but the community that are going to be
20 meeting with, they don't seemed to be concerned about
21 them when they come in. I wonder why that is the case,
22 that they didn't meet with them. And I think this
23 would have helped a lot for the hunting areas, and I
24 would like to get an answer from the Baffinland. Thank
25 you.

26 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

1 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
2 Baffinland.

3 I believe the first question was directed at the
4 Nunavut Impact Review Board, so I'll answer the second
5 one unless, of course, you feel we need to answer it.

6 In terms of the meeting that was missed, we're
7 sorry. We did try two times to come into Igloolik, and
8 we even tried coming with a charter to try and keep
9 postponing, postponing until we thought we could make
10 it in, but each time we tried, we had to turn around or
11 we couldn't even leave Iqaluit. We do want to come
12 back again -- or we will come back again. We tried to
13 notify people as quickly as possible when we weren't
14 able to come. So, again, we're sorry that we weren't
15 able to come meet with you, and we do want to meet with
16 you again.

17 THE CHAIR: NIRB staff, can you please
18 give background on the community representatives
19 between the April hearing and this hearing.

20 MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen
21 Costello, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

22 Karen Costello for the Nunavut Impact Review
23 Board. Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 The Nunavut Impact Review Board has extended an
25 invitation for five communities -- community
26 representatives from the communities of Grise Fiord,

1 Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Igloolik,
2 Sanirajak, and invited ten people from Pond Inlet as
3 the nearest impacted community.

4 In April -- for the April hearing, the Nunavut
5 Impact Review Board was able to secure a public health
6 order to allow the meeting venues to hold up to
7 140 people. For this hearing, the Nunavut Impact
8 Review Board has to hold the meeting in accordance with
9 a gathering limit of 100 people.

10 The NIRB did not sacrifice the spaces for the
11 community representatives to ensure all those nominated
12 community representatives were able to attend and be in
13 the room with the Panel for this meeting.

14 Madam Chair, I just need to confirm that I've
15 covered all the points that the representative asked.
16 Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Did you get an answer, David
18 Irngaut?

19 MR. D. IRNGAUT: Yes. I understand much more
20 why it happened that way. It's clear, but I'd just
21 like to say again, while I have a chance, the Inuit
22 Qaujimajatuqangit, IQ, in some part I would like to go
23 back a little bit about it.

24 As Inuit, we know we have a knowledge like this.
25 When it's not done -- when it's not rectified properly,
26 don't discuss about it too much, but it will come into

1 completion at itself. And during our meetings
2 concerning the Baffinland is here with us, and we say
3 to them, This -- we're like this, and during our
4 meeting, we'll do this, and there will be some that
5 were rectified before our knowledge or -- this word,
6 "Inuit IQ", has a meaning to talk about the truth, the
7 real truth, nothing but the truth during discussions.

8 If a word has no real meaning or concrete meaning
9 or -- nothing will be done. Things will not fall into
10 place. A word is true -- when the truth come out, it
11 wasn't going to become issue, but then it becomes big
12 issue and then it goes on and on.

13 For that reason -- and a lot of times we get into
14 difficulty to my understanding, and I want to find out
15 later if that's the case. And Pond Inlet people, we
16 are affected the most. No wonder. And we keep saying
17 we supported you in -- because it was my place of
18 growing up. I know you're not in a good position and
19 the happy times are not always there, and I don't know
20 if you feel -- from the Baffinland people, you want to
21 get into Phase 2 to expand, and people from Pond Inlet
22 ask for a road to fix it properly, and we supported
23 that, people from Igloolik. And what they wanted to --
24 from people from Pond Inlet, they wanted to get it
25 done. Are you still thinking that we still -- to get
26 it fixed, and then we would support you? And the one

1 that we have access to going back and forth for that
2 reason -- and for that reason a lot of times we don't
3 agree upon things. What Inuit want and what you want
4 as Baffinland, if it could come into an agreement.
5 Because we can agree upon things and support each other
6 much more. So for -- because of this, both parties,
7 we're in both difficult compositions as from -- people
8 from Pond Inlet and Igloolik. I know it will be
9 difficult, but there's a way, and it will be better in
10 the end.

11 Some of our words, what we say, sometime we break
12 the issues because of what we say from each party, not
13 just Inuit. And if we say the truth completely, what's
14 at the table, then if it should go ahead and then if
15 there's to be any improvements, then it will be from --
16 people from Pond Inlet and the higher people -- Arctic
17 people will be informed properly of what are the
18 changes, and I think they would be much -- we would be
19 in a much better place.

20 There's a lot of things that are in the way for
21 those that have to agree, say yes from you. Like,
22 what's the reason from your point that's not being able
23 to be rectified properly? Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Before Baffinland -- before
25 Baffinland our executive director will make a
26 correction, and for those that were here last April,

1 public hearings, well, why they aren't here, she's
2 going to talk about that a little bit further. Thank
3 you.

4 NIRB staff.

5 MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen
6 Costello on behalf of the NIRB staff.

7 I'd appreciate to speak to another point that the
8 community representative asked, which was why are the
9 same people not here who were present in April.

10 When the Board made the decision to resume the
11 hearing, staff reached out to the nominating agencies
12 of the hamlet, the hunters and trappers organization,
13 and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and asked --
14 notifying them that the hearing was resuming and
15 indicated that we'd appreciate if they would reach out
16 to the same people who were present for April to see if
17 they were available to return for the resumption of the
18 hearing.

19 The NIRB appreciates that this is a significant
20 commitment of community representatives. Some
21 representatives were unable to be here due to other
22 personal commitments, and we do appreciate those who
23 stepped up in their place.

24 So the specific question as to why they aren't the
25 same people, it's that they were invited, but due to
26 other commitments, they were unable to commit to

1 attending.

2 Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

4 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
5 Baffinland.

6 Thank you for your advice. I have to say that I
7 find your words are very helpful and grounding. I find
8 you to be very wise, if I could say that in this
9 setting, please.

10 Baffinland plans to hire an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
11 advisor in each affected community, and I could only
12 hope that we can stay as open and have these open
13 conversations and listen and heed to your advice on a
14 regular basis not only through the advisor but through
15 the other Inuit committees that will be created.

16 More specifically around the road as an example of
17 where there may not have been progress made, we tried
18 to come to a place where everyone agreed. One of the
19 reasons why I believe Baffinland was perhaps taking
20 longer or trying to find a way around -- trying to find
21 a way for consensus is because of safety. Trying to
22 find a way for everybody to be happy in using the road
23 or creating a new one that worked for everybody.

24 I also believe that because we have been in this
25 process for longer than expected, it has taken away the
26 opportunity for us to have both parties -- all parties

1 to have full capacity to come to an agreement on
2 important issues like road use. It's unfortunate, but
3 I think that we'll be able to get there. We'll be able
4 to figure it out, and also, of course, after -- if
5 Phase 2 is approved, then Inuit will have full access
6 to the Tote Road because there will no longer be the
7 big trucks on it, but -- but I know that we need to
8 find a way to ensure that your wisdom, your advice is
9 followed through in a way that all parties can come to
10 agreement on issues like that. Qujannamiik.

11 THE CHAIR: Does that response answer your
12 question?

13 MR. D. IRNGAUT: Yes, I understand. It's
14 clear. I have another question on top of that.

15 At the present time we are having a public hearing
16 concerning Phase 2 proposal. I don't know where I
17 heard this, but I want to know whether this is true or
18 not. If the proposal is not approved, that they would
19 have to fire or lay off people who are working at the
20 mine at the present time. Is that true? I have
21 another question after.

22 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

23 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
24 Baffinland. I'm going to pass it to Megan Lord-Hoyle.

25 THE CHAIR: Megan Lord-Hoyle.

26 MS. LORD-HOYLE: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland.

1 Qujannamiik, David, for the question, and please let me
2 know if I don't clarify the answer for you properly.

3 This was something I spoke to yesterday, and I
4 think what we are looking at right now as a company is
5 our future is uncertain without the Phase 2, and by
6 that I mean we do not have more money coming in to the
7 company to maintain the operation as it exists.

8 At the end of this year, we're going to have a
9 permit for less amount of ore to be shipped than we did
10 this year. And at this time, there isn't an interest
11 in looking for another temporary solution between our
12 original 4.2 million tonnes and the 12 million tonnes
13 under Phase 2.

14 So what that means is without the money for
15 Steensby and without the money to maintain the current
16 operation, if Phase 2 does not go ahead, we will be in
17 a position where we will start to shut down some, if
18 not all aspects of the operation, which is called "care
19 and maintenance", which would inevitably mean that
20 there would be layoffs in different parts of the
21 organization including at site. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: We have someone online,
23 Charlie Inuarak via telephone.

24 Charlie Inuarak, if you can hear us on the phone,
25 I think you have muted your telephone. If you press
26 that and press "4". We can't hear you at the present

1 time.

2 If someone is assisting Charlie Inuarak on the
3 other side of the phone line, you need to press
4 "Star 4" to unmute the line because we can't hear on
5 our end.

6 We can't hear from Charlie, but I'll have him on
7 the list and the other colleague from Pond Inlet.

8 MS. KAUTUK: Nina Kautuk from Pond Inlet.
9 I represent the women of Pond Inlet. I'm going to be
10 asking questions later, but I'd like to be able to
11 express myself first.

12 As a woman, we're not hunters like our men,
13 obviously, but our husbands, our sons, our nephews are
14 the hunters of our families, and the women are the ones
15 that are responsible for being a seamstress, making
16 parkas and caribou clothing for hunting.

17 One of the concerns we have is if Phase 2 is
18 approved, our wildlife, marine, and terrestrial
19 wildlife are -- have gone somewhere else, and we don't
20 have those wildlife anymore. Where are we going to get
21 our material to make hunting clothing for our men?

22 But these materials that -- from the store-bought
23 material, like duffel or cloth, don't -- it's not safe
24 enough to go out -- be used out hunting like the
25 caribou and seals, the clothing that we make for our
26 men. Especially marine mammal skins are the most

1 waterproof and effective hunting equipment we have.

2 In Pond Inlet we have training programs for Inuit
3 Qaujimajatuqangit to pass on the knowledge from the
4 Elders to the younger people by being able to clean
5 skins and learning how to clean skins, and also one of
6 the things that was obvious -- was so obvious that we
7 haven't been able to train the younger generation about
8 cleaning caribou skins because there's hardly ever been
9 any caribou for a long time, and I haven't heard
10 anybody catch a caribou around that area for quite some
11 time. And it's unfortunate that we're losing -- the
12 cultural part of our Inuit is to be able to clean
13 caribou skin.

14 The Elders, a young grandmother wrote a letter --
15 or wrote online the -- the new grandchild that she got.
16 She said, I'm not going to ween her and feed her
17 country food, so they'll not miss the taste and smell
18 of it because there's so much fighting today about our
19 wildlife. In our tradition it says that if you fight
20 over wildlife, they disappear because they can hear
21 you.

22 And also there's ships going back and forth that
23 are delinating [phonetic] wildlife somewhere else. How
24 can we -- how can we be compensated for that kind of
25 loss?

26 And, unfortunately, the four communities,

1 including Pond Inlet -- I know Pond Inlet is most
2 affected because we're closest. And if Phase 2 is
3 approved, a request -- our needs are met only after the
4 fact. It seems as though only if we say "yes" to
5 Phase 2 that what we want will be given to us. That
6 seems to be the case.

7 And, for example, a little family like a husband
8 and wife -- when you have a family, you -- when your
9 family starts growing, you can't get resources just
10 like that overnight to help pay for feeding them and
11 sheltering them. Perhaps what we need from you should
12 have been agreed to a long time ago.

13 And another thing, food bank -- food security so
14 we won't go hungry. I know food banks are very useful
15 for hunger -- hungry people, and Pond Inlet, when we
16 receive -- who came up with the idea of six vouchers
17 per house? And if they're homeless, they're not able
18 to get a voucher to go to food bank. Whose idea was
19 that? What -- who made the guidelines for receiving
20 vouchers for food bank? Is that -- is that your
21 guidelines? Because there's been a tremendous effect
22 on our food source since the mine began.

23 And if Phase 2 was approved, I know there's going
24 to be a bigger effect on our wildlife, all kinds of
25 wildlife.

26 In terms of valuation of what we're losing through

1 our country food, how would you compensate us and
2 figure out what kind of valuation we're losing in our
3 country food? Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

5 MS. HANSON: Thank you. Udlu Hanson,
6 Baffinland.

7 I want to start by saying that Baffinland will not
8 be allowed to operate if it means that it's going to --
9 I don't recall the word you used, but if it's going to
10 get rid of the wildlife.

11 There are going to be a number of mechanisms that
12 will stop Baffinland -- stop Baffinland's operations if
13 Inuit feel like they're getting to a point where
14 animals are being affected, that it's affecting
15 animals.

16 And I could name all of them again, but I feel
17 like maybe one helpful way of looking at this is how
18 our CEO likes to call it. He calls it the red button.
19 Inuit will be able to push that red button if they
20 think that there's -- their animals are being impacted
21 or that they're being impacted, and some of that -- the
22 mechanisms I mention, that's what will create the red
23 button. So the Inuit-led monitoring, the Baffin-led
24 monitoring, the Inuit committees, all of this is under
25 the Inuit Stewardship Plan.

26 It's a lot of process that makes it hard to

1 understand what it actually means, and it's hard to
2 understand it too because it doesn't happen anywhere
3 else. We can't point to another mining company. We
4 can't point -- we can't even point to another operation
5 that this is the case, and we're developing it
6 together.

7 There's other comments that have been made about
8 how there are no terms of reference or that, you know,
9 things haven't been fully figured out yet, and that's
10 because the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Baffinland
11 want to figure out exactly how that's going to work
12 with Inuit. Not have it all figured out and then say,
13 Here, this is how we're going to do it.

14 So on the one hand, you know, it looks like we
15 don't have it all figured out, but on the other hand,
16 we want to do it with Inuit. We don't want to develop
17 all of that if it's not going to work. We don't want
18 to just hand it over and say, This is how you're going
19 to have an effect on our operations.

20 The other question you were asking about was
21 around compensation for changes. I'll list them. What
22 I am listing is what already has been negotiated or
23 what Baffinland has already said in response to
24 requests as additional commitments that will be put
25 into the Inuit Certainty Agreement, but I also want to
26 point out that -- and I did earlier, I believe, that

1 under the Inuit Certainty Agreement, the Qikiqtani
2 Inuit Association has already committed to negotiate
3 with communities directly. That will have nothing to
4 do with Baffinland. That will be the communities
5 negotiating with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. And
6 I believe specifically under the Inuit Certainty
7 Agreement, it says "for royalties". So this is not --
8 the list that I can provide isn't all that's going to
9 be provided.

10 And before I list them, I know that you asked
11 specifically around the vouchers and how that was
12 negotiated or how that came to be. That was negotiated
13 under the Impact Benefit Agreement, and it says in that
14 agreement that the joint executive committee, which is
15 made up of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and
16 Baffinland, we can change the conditions in it.
17 There's -- there is a provision that says we will
18 review it because it's new -- it's never been done
19 before -- so we need to review it to see if it's
20 working properly or if it's meeting the needs because
21 it was designed specifically to help Inuit with the
22 changes that may -- they may be experiencing. Maybe
23 they have to go further. Maybe they have to go to a
24 different place. Maybe it takes them longer. Those
25 were some of the considerations of why -- why it's
26 specifically for fuel.

1 So in terms of compensation, Baffinland provides
2 funding to food banks -- and you mentioned food banks.
3 I don't have the exact figure here because it's not a
4 set amount, and we have it that way because we don't
5 want -- we want to be able to work with the food banks.

6 I mentioned the financial distributions this
7 morning. That's through the Arctic Co-op. Of course
8 there's the other sponsorship opportunities, which is
9 very easy for people to request for funding, even if
10 it's a phone call and we write the request down and we
11 get them to verify. We have a very easy application
12 process.

13 I think I'm going to leave it there. I'm not
14 going to list all the benefits. I can provide that
15 information, if you want it. If you want me to, I can
16 list them. I just think I wanted to give a bigger,
17 broader answer as to the fact that we will not allow
18 for wildlife to be depleted. We would never want you
19 to see no country food. We would never want to be the
20 cause for you to not be able to show your children,
21 your grandchildren how to sew using skins. We wouldn't
22 be allowed. Even if we -- even if we wanted to,
23 there's enough mechanisms in place. There's the
24 Government of Canada watching. There's the Government
25 of Nunavut, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, but, more
26 importantly, we as a company wouldn't want to ever be

1 in that position.

2 THE CHAIR: Qikiqtani Inuit, (INUKTITUT
3 SPOKEN - NO TRANSLATION) Olayuk Akesuk.

4 MR. AKESUK: Thank you, Chairperson.
5 Olayuk Akesuk from Qikiqtani Inuit. I will have
6 Richard Paton answer that question.

7 Richard Paton.

8 MR. PATON: Richard Paton, Qikiqtani Inuit
9 Association. Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 I'd like to thank the individual for the questions
11 being asked, and I will respond to the component as it
12 relates to food security, food sovereignty.

13 So a key piece in understanding impacts is working
14 with communities, and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association
15 provided space to undertake a Pond Inlet country food
16 baseline study. This is a major study in which the
17 Qikiqtani Inuit Association is working with the Hamlet
18 of Pond Inlet to measure food access and sovereignty in
19 Pond Inlet.

20 So in order to best monitor changes, it is
21 important to first record the things that may be
22 impacted, whether it be off the land, in the animals,
23 in the water, or in the air. So this will be a major
24 Inuit-led study on the subject of food security and
25 food sovereignty conducted in and by the community of
26 Pond Inlet.

1 We know that food security exists when all Inuit
2 at all times have physical and economic access to
3 sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their
4 dietary needs and food preferences. The study will
5 provide data on community country food consumption and
6 on country food quality.

7 Inuit have always known the importance of country
8 food, and this will help explain in detail just how
9 important it is. We have started the work with Pond
10 Inlet, and as part of the next steps and over the
11 course of the next year, through an advisory committee
12 made up of Pond Inlet residents, we will work with
13 Inuit monitors to conduct this study as a part of our
14 understanding the impacts that communities are seeing
15 today. I hope this helps in responding to your
16 question. Qujannamiik.

17 THE CHAIR: Mittimatalik, Nina Kautuk.

18 MS. KAUTUK: Thank you, Chair, for the
19 answer and also a question to Qikiqtani Inuit
20 Association.

21 When we're trying to apply for funding to them, we
22 go through difficult stuff. I was told that people who
23 are trying to access, that they would have to answer a
24 whole bunch of questions, and they would have to be
25 redone or refixed, that it's difficult to go through
26 the application process. Isn't there something that

1 they could also fix so that the application process
2 would be faster, perhaps? For example, to access
3 funds? If we were to access or apply for funding for
4 training or courses, perhaps for a sewing project, that
5 there would be a faster way of doing the documentation
6 or the application process. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Qikiqtani Inuit Association,
8 Olayuk Akesuk.

9 MR. AKESUK: (INUKTITUT SPOKEN - NO
10 TRANSLATION)

11 THE CHAIR: Stephen Williamson Bathory.

12 MR. BATHORY: Thank you, Chairperson.
13 Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit
14 Association.

15 I understand the question is: How can QIA make
16 application processes for programs and benefits more
17 accessible?

18 This is a question we receive very often from
19 communities and something we're very occupied with.
20 Some of the examples we can give where QIA has recently
21 worked on this is through the period of COVID when QI
22 worked to modify some programs to provide easier access
23 to food vouchers and Elders' programs for certificates
24 for food.

25 This, we acknowledge, is an ongoing concern that
26 is often raised to QIA for the programs that it runs.

1 We have a department of social policy actively working
2 on this issue as well as a Kakivak Association.

3 Qujannamiik, Iksivauta.

4 THE CHAIR: From Pond Inlet, Nina Kautuk.

5 MS. KAUTUK: Thank you, Chairperson. Thank
6 you for that answer. I've run out of answer -- I've
7 run out of questions and comments.

8 THE CHAIR: On the phone is Charlie
9 Inuarak who had previously wanted to make a comment.
10 Is he available now?

11 MR. INUARAK: Yes. Yes. I can hear you.

12 THE CHAIR: Yes. We can hear you as well.

13 MR. INUARAK: Oh, how exciting. I tried --
14 so I've got access to another phone. I'm so happy that
15 I'm able to join.

16 Hello to everyone and to the NIRB and to all the
17 people that are participating.

18 I'm just going to make -- I go on extended periods
19 of time making comments, but I'm going to try to
20 summarize.

21 We hear that there are many deposits in the -- in
22 the Milne Inlet area. There's not only one deposit. I
23 recall Pond Inlet being the first community to be able
24 to get access to employment, but we have also had many
25 meetings, including some of those that have passed on.
26 And I have fallen ill, but we were going -- we were

1 thinking that our community was going to benefit from
2 this mine -- from this mining.

3 We want to see the hamlet grow as well as well as
4 the MHTO and the schools, training. We've been pushing
5 to have this mine open up so that we could get access
6 to the benefits as well. We have been asking to have
7 access to the many benefits that the company is
8 offering us. Some programs that they are offering,
9 there are more benefits. We have hunters and trappers.
10 We have women who sew. We have -- like, we have Elders
11 and youth camp programs. So there's these different
12 groups that like to -- like to work together.

13 We are noticing climate change. Maybe the
14 permafrost is melting, and we are noticing that the sea
15 is taking longer to ice over. The earth is in constant
16 change. We may see little bits of change, but we are
17 noticing -- sometimes we hear or feel vibrations when
18 the mining company is blasting on some days and we
19 notice that as hunters, and we also see the dust that's
20 spread across the tundra.

21 Madam Chair, in speaking to those, we have seen a
22 lot of changes and impacts, and we are not -- today
23 Jayko Allooloo was speaking to his concerns, and I was
24 in agreement with him. Yes. Perhaps we need to obtain
25 a lawyer.

26 There are many things that we are not -- we have

1 been promised, but we are not seeing the promises that
2 have been made.

3 And we used to have an abundance of narwhal that
4 go through our inlet. Our ancestors before us used to
5 catch a lot of narwhal, and they would catch them. At
6 times there was an abundance of bearded seals, walrus,
7 and many seals of all types, but we have so many things
8 that we are against today because since mining started
9 in our region, we are seeing that we're going out
10 further and further distances to go hunt for sea
11 mammals.

12 We're trying our very best to hunt seals, whales,
13 and other -- and fish and other sea mammals. We also
14 hunt out in the winter. We used to be able to catch
15 food, and I don't see anyone doing that today. There
16 were no sea mammals this summer.

17 I'm going to ask what Jayko Allooloo was asking
18 this morning as -- if NIRB is going to say "yes" to the
19 project and once it's closed, what then? What happens
20 to us?

21 The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, there are
22 some things that DFO is not able to research. Qaumajuq
23 was talking today. They were saying that they -- that
24 they have been impacted as well over in Arctic Bay.

25 After that -- after when that person was speaking
26 and there was -- some of the -- in parts of the

1 presentation this morning there was some parts that was
2 kind of vague. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans
3 had said that they -- that they had spoken to parts of
4 what they were thinking this morning. And NTI, perhaps
5 if they have an Elder on their -- on their staff or
6 some wise person who can tell the staff -- the entire
7 staff on where we can include traditional knowledge to
8 include potential impacts to marine areas. I know that
9 this is possible.

10 Qikiqtani Inuit Association president or -- had
11 also said perhaps in the future they may have a
12 better -- better plans in place. When is that? When
13 is the future? What future are you speaking of, and
14 when is that?

15 There are lots of us that have heard all these --
16 these plans in place. They are being paid every day
17 from morning until evening. They're being paid a great
18 deal of money. They seem to have that, but who is
19 doing what? No one is really speaking about doing --
20 and actually doing these programs.

21 If NIRB is going to be -- if NIRB is going to say
22 "yes" to the project, I think that if I were to be told
23 that I was in favour of a project, I'm pretty sure my
24 ancestors would have been against me.

25 The -- we -- there is also agreements in place.
26 Perhaps some of these agreements are still being worked

1 on. It's very hard to understand.

2 Qikiqtani Inuit Association, it's very difficult
3 to understand their Inuit Certainty Agreement. It's
4 very difficult to understand. The Nunavut Land Claims
5 Agreement should be used. We have agreements in place
6 in there. There's articles. NTI should be -- should
7 be adhering to what they had written in the agreement.

8 Some of the questions that were raised were not
9 answered properly. Some of the answers were kind of
10 going around the question. It was very difficult --
11 it's very difficult to understand to -- because we
12 don't have anyone who is really pushing either way in
13 favour or against this Phase 2.

14 There are recommendations that were made. The
15 people of Arctic Bay were not giving us any narwhal
16 tags. I think that we should have had some backup.

17 Qikiqtani directors were not very helpful, and
18 today, I don't know. I'm not able to agree with and
19 say "yes" to the second phase. Thank you. Okay.

20 THE CHAIR: It's 3:00. The interpreters
21 will have a break.

22 Let's take a 15-minute break and give a break to
23 our interpreters, and then we'll have answers after the
24 break to the -- to Pond Inlet.

25 (ADJOURNMENT)

26 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everyone.

1 Back to responses from the proponent and
2 registered intervenors.

3 First we'll go to Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

4 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
5 Baffinland.

6 Paul Quassa in Pond Inlet will be responding to
7 the question. Qujannamiik.

8 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.
9 Procedural Matter by Nunavut Impact Review Board Legal
10 Counsel

11 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
12 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
13 Review Board.

14 Madam Chair, Mr. Quassa has not yet given evidence
15 in these proceedings, so I will ask him to affirm
16 before he provides his evidence. So when we switch to
17 him, if I can have him state and spell his name for the
18 record, and I will give him the oath right now, and
19 then if he can come on and say "I affirm".

20 PAUL QUASSA, Affirmed

21 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

22 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
23 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
24 Review Board. Thank you, Madam Chair. Those are my
25 procedural matters.

26 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Paul Quassa.

1 MR. QUASSA: Thank you.

2 First of all, thank you that I have opportunity to
3 speak, and thank you for the Pond Inlet people and
4 welcoming me up there. Personally I am able to speak
5 on behalf of Baffinland and the other organizations
6 that were established under the Land Claims Agreement
7 in Nunavut for the affected -- that are affected for
8 the Inuit are in place, and the organizations that are
9 IPGs and are working together. Thank you, first of
10 all.

11 And I've listened for a long time when this began
12 in the past. I remember in 1960s, Baffinland started
13 their work at the Mary River and the Elders today like
14 Charlie Inuarak, David Irngaut, and others, while they
15 were young at the time when the Mary River was started
16 in Pond Inlet and some of the people that were
17 spoken -- Charlie spoke very well earlier, and I
18 understand what he was saying, and I would like to
19 begin.

20 We signed the Land Claims Agreement, and we had
21 different purposes, and the reason was that we
22 established Nunavut, and we had different reasons to
23 establish it and the vision we had for Nunavut at the
24 time. And the Inuit today that will be -- that were
25 going to happen in the field to enable to speak well
26 and ask questions pertaining to their concerns and

1 issues, so for that reason. And they are doing that
2 today from the different organizations to -- asking
3 questions to Baffinland, and there's no other way at
4 this time to do that, so the Nunavut Land Claims
5 Agreement identifies exactly how some of the things
6 were going to be run and identified properly Inuit
7 organizations, as to what they have to do and in their
8 mandates. What are they going work on? What are they
9 going to have process on? During the -- under the Land
10 Claims Agreement are identified properly, and we were
11 expecting for our future at the time -- at the time,
12 and today is today, and we're here, and we're using
13 some of the negotiated issues we brought forward.

14 And if there was going to be mining or any other
15 big projects that would be established up in Nunavut,
16 and these are the criterias you have to follow, and the
17 Inuit organizations have to do this certain work
18 pertaining to big things that would impact us in our
19 community to be established.

20 So I remember those discussions, what the Inuit
21 had a vision for, and the Inuit were -- can hunt
22 anytime because it's their way of life and culture, and
23 that's the case under our Land Claims Agreement, and
24 the Inuit organizations have to steer the people and --
25 under the land claims.

26 And today the major developments that are

1 happening, if they're going to be established, Inuit
2 have to be in workforce to earn wages, good wages, and
3 these were our visions at the time when we were
4 negotiating for land claims, and we had to consider
5 many things.

6 And also there's -- Inuit organizations were going
7 to be established during our negotiations, and we
8 identified those in the past if they've got to be
9 established under that land claims. They're written
10 properly in the Land Claims Agreement, Nunavut Land
11 Claims Agreement, and I wanted to identify that per --
12 when Charlie was speaking.

13 And also I want to say, if you don't mind,
14 Madam Chairperson, the Baffinland -- and they're
15 following what their mandate is. The mining companies
16 anywhere in the world, they're doing exactly the same
17 kind of standard work. They're not here to break any
18 law. They're not thinking in that way, but they are
19 doing what they are supposed to do as a mining company,
20 and the staff are working hard and working, and they
21 enjoy their work, and they are in that state, and at
22 the same time in the future, looking at the future now,
23 there's vague issues, and today in Nunavut job
24 opportunities are not enough. In our communities, in
25 35 communities, particularly in Baffin Island, there's
26 not enough job opportunities, and we keep saying that

1 our students in -- to finish Grade 12 -- when they're
2 done graduating, we tell them there are jobs that are
3 waiting for you, and getting to jobs when you graduate
4 or go to higher secondary education, and we tell them
5 these and remind them for our students after they
6 graduated from Grade 12, and for these reasons, we say
7 that to our young people continually.

8 And these job opportunities that are in Nunavut --
9 there's no other big industries established in Nunavut
10 other than mining and other smaller jobs in the
11 communities. Our students, we remind them, we will
12 tell them, Once you finish Grade 12 and these are the
13 job opportunities that you could work in, and these are
14 the mining company. Baffinland are the only ones here,
15 and the government outside have government for job
16 opportunities and also Inuit organizations, and we know
17 you will be here for a long time, so -- and we want our
18 young people and our children, grandchildren to work,
19 and let's move these forward. We have to tell the
20 truth, and they -- when we want our people to work, our
21 children, grandchildren, and the job opportunities, let
22 them go forward, the organization, other industry
23 companies.

24 So I believe -- I am an Inuk. I've hunted in the
25 past. That's my practice. What people say by the
26 Inuit, they know because they know their environment.

1 They know where they live, and Baffinland believes
2 those. They know and are aware, are also living in
3 this area. Some of them moved up here, and they know
4 where the Inuit hunt and what were said earlier, and
5 these are true. Irngaut said earlier, said it very
6 well. Inuit IQ, we talk about it often. It's not just
7 a word. We have to believe in it. Like David Irngaut
8 said, that's true. It's true. Inuit are
9 knowledgeable, and I know with Baffinland we believe --
10 some people believe in them, and we work with them,
11 some of us, and that's what I wanted to say. Under the
12 Land Claims Agreement negotiations, we would negotiate
13 and pay. Inuit would continually hunt from their
14 practices from time immemorial, and we still need to
15 use those.

16 So there should be job opportunities. That should
17 be our target, for people to work. Let's focus on
18 these. During our Land Claims Agreement, those were
19 our visions, for them to have job opportunities. Not
20 everybody is a hunter today. For those that used to
21 hunt are not able to do that anymore, and we need to
22 teach our young people to hunt again, and these could
23 be established in some of the criteria for education,
24 and they are available for people to hunt still today
25 and learn and learn skills, so -- but we are able to
26 buy things now. And groceries, they are very expensive

1 today, but we need to use money and pay for them, so
2 that's the case today, and for these reasons, people
3 need -- our staff are making wages, and they can buy
4 things for what they earned for, and we want to use
5 these, all of us, and for that reason, I wanted to
6 relay the message to you.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and the
8 Inuit, what they said earlier, I believe them. I
9 believe what they say, and let us know as well -- or --
10 Nunavut is -- it's going to progress pertaining to us,
11 and as to run it, some of the things we have in our
12 resources, let's use them properly, and we can be
13 established well, and we are capable for some of the
14 things that are appearing in our Nunavut area
15 industries.

16 Thank you very much. I will be listening. Thank
17 you, Madam Chairperson.

18 THE CHAIR: We'll hear from the Qikiqtani
19 Inuit Association, Olayuk Akesuk.

20 MR. AKESUK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
21 Olayuk Akesuk for QIA.

22 Yes. We are also trying to work with Baffinland
23 as well in regards to employment opportunities. There
24 is -- there are programs in place for the communities.
25 In 2013, we had an agreement. 750,000 is available to
26 any bodies that want to get access to this funding, and

1 people have accessed this funding.

2 Our first time when this money was available,
3 there was a lot of applicants. There was 750,000 in
4 place for people to apply to -- the QIA, there's
5 \$1.5 million now that we have also been able to access
6 through an agreement, so we do have funding available
7 to anyone who is a beneficiary to apply for this
8 funding.

9 I am very pleased with what Paul Quassa was
10 saying. Paul Quassa was one of the founding fathers of
11 the Nunavut agreement, and we -- they came up with the
12 Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement, so we are always
13 working towards this endeavour so that people have
14 access, the Inuit have access to funding through the
15 IIBA, so we need to ensure that this funding is
16 available to Inuit whenever the need arises, and we
17 need to ensure that -- we need to put better agreements
18 in place so that people can have access to it more
19 readily.

20 Yes, there's going to be disagreements here and
21 there, but if we work together, we can accomplish many
22 things. I want to also speak to -- to how we can work
23 together instead of being in disagreement or -- finger
24 pointing should be less. There's a lot of employment
25 opportunities out there. We can include Inuit
26 Qaujimajatuqangit in today's world.

1 The agreements that are in place, we need to
2 ensure, maybe come up with more programs, and then we
3 need to -- Mr. Quassa had mentioned this -- this mining
4 company is going to open up employment opportunities
5 for the future of our children. If we are always in
6 disagreement, we're going to -- we could maybe possibly
7 lose out on these great chances that should be open to
8 our people.

9 Let's look towards a positive instead of a
10 negative economy. NTI in 1993 made an agreement on how
11 we could strengthen these programs and opportunities
12 for the future development of our -- our land and
13 stakeholders. With Inuit knowledge, we need to -- we
14 need to strengthen that as well. From what I envision,
15 we need to pull together instead of tearing each other
16 apart as different bodies. Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 THE CHAIR: NTI, James Eetoolook.

18 MR. EETOOLOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
19 thanks to the two people that just spoke before me and
20 to Charlie Inuarak as well. I am happy that he raised
21 these concerns.

22 I'm James Eetoolook. I'm the vice president of
23 Nunavut Tunngavik. The agreement has -- has been -- is
24 an agreement between the federal government and the
25 Inuit. We could make some changes if only we all
26 agree. Sometimes it's difficult to change and amend

1 these articles, especially under the Wildlife Act. The
2 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is also one of the
3 institutions of public government, and they're
4 responsible for the Wildlife Act. They have a full
5 complement of board members, and they have many
6 accomplishments.

7 The institutions of public governments are -- are
8 here. There are comanagement regulations. When
9 we're -- we came up with them while we were working on
10 the Nunavut agreement, we fought hard to ensure that we
11 have the Wildlife Act. We also were able to -- keeping
12 in mind through development that the -- the wildlife
13 and the environment is protected as well.

14 We live off the land. We are also always in our
15 environment while we're out. There are few jobs.
16 There are training opportunities out there, and we also
17 need to ensure that we protect our wildlife as well at
18 the same time. We need to ensure that we don't lose
19 our wildlife while there's development going on, and we
20 need to ensure that we have a healthy economy and
21 healthy lifestyles as well.

22 This development to be had up here, the companies
23 need to ensure that there are no impacts to our
24 environment. The -- when we look at Mary River, before
25 there was any development at Mary River, it was
26 pristine, but today we can see scarification. It's

1 scarred. There's dust on the ground, and there is
2 blasting that goes on, and people can feel vibrations,
3 and they can see blasting going on from a distance, so
4 it's just -- it shouldn't just be a place to transport
5 iron ore. We need to ensure that all the surrounding
6 environment is not killing any plants, wildlife, small
7 rodents, fish, anything around it. It's like that.

8 Sometimes we -- it's -- we have to really be
9 careful about our environment because if we don't, then
10 the wildlife around us is going to be impacted, and
11 then we won't have anything to hunt and eat. We
12 need -- we need to ensure that we are careful. If
13 there's -- the surrounding terrestrial areas are
14 damaged, then it's going to impact the animals, and
15 then it will impact us. Everything is all linked,
16 including the wildlife that we hunt and eat. We need
17 to see mitigative measures put in place. We need to
18 ensure that there are -- that the environment is
19 monitored carefully.

20 We live off the land. We live off the animals.
21 Today our children are living a different lifestyle.
22 Yes, some are looking for employment; some are also
23 employed already. We -- I think that the companies
24 that are going to develop up here, I think that we can
25 have a better way of ensuring that the land surrounding
26 the area where they're developing is less impacted.

1 Yes, we see impacts already as a result of mining. We
2 need to ensure how can we -- how can we look for ways
3 so that there's less dust spreading out onto the
4 environment?

5 Reclamation has not even been mentioned yet.
6 How -- they haven't mentioned how they're going to
7 reclaim once mining has been completed. When we're
8 going to buy something, we like things that are -- that
9 are clean. We also want to see our environment clean.
10 We need to ensure that the land is returned to its
11 pristine condition once mining development has -- has
12 ended.

13 The agreement can help. Paul Quassa was -- said
14 we can work together. We're all resilient. We can all
15 be resilient, both through development and through
16 hunting and working together. From a time -- from the
17 time that we were here, our land has always been
18 pristine, and we want to ensure that continues, whether
19 or not there is development.

20 The coal management boards are being developed
21 with the help of DFO, and Paul Irngaut is going to --
22 is going to make sure -- ensure that there is
23 terminology and there's interpretation in the
24 regulations. Today we have to do that. There are --
25 the population in Nunavut is growing, and our economy
26 is here. There are more people out there as well that

1 are -- that are having hardship, and we see that the
2 caribou herds in each region is declining. Fish as
3 well. Fish populations are declining as well. We need
4 to think of ways on how to eliminate this. We have --
5 we have the same concerns as a whole. Are we going to
6 wake up to a pristine environment? Are we going to
7 wake up to food insecurity? So I'll stop here for now.
8 I'll hand it over to Paul now.

9 THE CHAIR: Just to remember, when you're
10 talking, it's hard to keep up for the interpreters --
11 to pause a little bit when you're speaking.

12 Paul Irngaut.

13 MR. IRNGAUT: Thank you, Chairperson. Paul
14 Irngaut from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

15 What James mentioned, as we're working on
16 Article 5, it's a basis for our work, and so within
17 that, there has to be organizations that have to spring
18 up from that article. For example, the Wildlife
19 Management Board or the regional -- or the hunters and
20 trappers organizations and the regional wildlife
21 organizations, and for -- these need to work together
22 in terms of the wildlife when they're discussing the
23 need to be working together to us when they're talking
24 with Fisheries and Oceans, for example, or with the
25 department of environment and also about the question
26 from Charlie. Thank you for that question.

1 For these things in regard to Fisheries and
2 Oceans, they have to go directly to the Nunavut
3 Wildlife Management Board to get direction, and there's
4 organizations, the regional wildlife organizations, and
5 also with Nunavut Tunngavik they are working together
6 in regards to narwhals, especially those narwhals. In
7 2013 they started working together.

8 And these regional wildlife organizations and the
9 hunters and trappers organizations, they have an
10 agreement put together for narwhals, and from what I
11 understand for Pond Inlet, the hunters and trappers
12 organization in Pond Inlet, they asked for support from
13 Nunavut Tunngavik, so sometimes there are things that
14 concern narwhal management, and it needs a good review,
15 and because of the agreement, these organizations --
16 it's called integrated fisheries management plan needs
17 to be looked at at the end of this month or the
18 following month, and they have a chance to review that,
19 and we will review it, and there are various concerns
20 around that plan, and I'm sure there will be
21 discussions on that.

22 From this Article 5, there's a mandate to work
23 together for these organizations, as I mentioned
24 earlier when we are facing the federal government
25 organizations and departments, especially Fisheries and
26 Oceans, and we're -- James is talking about those, and

1 these policies and regulations have been given these
2 things. Tunngavik doesn't create regulations. We're
3 not going to tell people, This is what you're supposed
4 to be doing. We're not regulators. Even so, we need
5 to work together as different organizations with these
6 different organizations. I hope that's understandable.
7 Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
9 Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille.

10 MR. BERNARD-LACAILLE: Thank you, Madam Chair.
11 Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille with Fisheries and Oceans
12 Canada.

13 Thank you, Charlie, for sharing your thoughts with
14 us during this process. I'm not certain if you had a
15 specific question for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, but
16 I think I did hear that you wanted us to comment on
17 some of the research that we do and also clarify our
18 role within the comanagement boards in regards to
19 narwhal harvest management.

20 So to start with our role in the comanagement
21 boards in regards to the narwhal harvest management --
22 so to start with our role in the comanagement boards, I
23 think that a good summary was just provided by NTI, and
24 I'll just reiterate that Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
25 we provide science-based advice in the context of a
26 comanagement regime, and in this case, the Nunavut

1 Wildlife Management Board, and this advice is taken
2 into account when the board approves an integrated
3 fisheries management plan, and as NTI has said, there
4 is a current integrative fisheries management plan in
5 place for narwhal that's approved by the Nunavut
6 Wildlife Management Board, and we can confirm that we
7 do participate on any reviews related to this
8 management plan and that there is a meeting scheduled
9 on November 30th to discuss the plan and that
10 participants to this meeting will be Fisheries and
11 Oceans Canada, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board,
12 regional wildlife organizations, as well as NTI.

13 As far as the research that Fisheries and Oceans
14 Canada is conducting in the regional study area -- or I
15 guess we could say in proximity to Pond Inlet -- we
16 conduct regular aerial surveys to estimate the size of
17 narwhal stocks. The last survey that was conducted by
18 Fisheries and Oceans Canada was in 2016. We had
19 planned a survey in 2020, but unfortunately that got
20 delayed because of the COVID pandemic, and the next
21 aerial survey by DFO is planned in 2023.

22 From 2017 to 2019, we've been conducting a project
23 in Tremblay Sound where we have been studying different
24 components of the ecosystem. We have also equipped
25 narwhals and seals with satellite transmitters and
26 other sensors to understand their movement and

1 behaviour, and this was done in part in collaboration
2 with Golder Associates that work for Baffinland.

3 In the spring of 2016 and 2017, DFO conducted
4 aerial surveys to estimate the densities of seals on
5 the ice. Also through correlation with the
6 Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization and
7 local hunters, tissue samples have been collected from
8 over 90 seals harvested between 2015 and 2019.

9 Also, for roughly 40 years, Fisheries and Oceans
10 Canada and the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers
11 Organization have coordinated a narwhal sampling
12 program where hunters are asked to provide hunt samples
13 to DFO and are compensated for their time. From this
14 program, we are currently analyzing reproductive tracts
15 and ovaries and are evaluating hormone levels in
16 blubbers and tusks. This work is still ongoing and is
17 not yet published. DFO is currently developing a
18 project to measure changes in cortisol hormone --
19 (INTERPRETER BELL)

20 THE CHAIR: Please slow down.

21 MR. BERNARD-LACAILLE: My apologies to the
22 interpreter.

23 DFO is currently developing a project to measure
24 changes in cortisol hormone and other indicators in the
25 tusks of narwhal. It would provide measure of cortisol
26 throughout the whole life of a narwhal because we can

1 sample from each layer that is deposited every year of
2 their life, and we can look at the variation from year
3 to year. If successful, this data could provide useful
4 baseline information.

5 And finally, DFO has also been working to collect
6 baseline data to inform an ecosystem approach to
7 fisheries and collecting data for exploratory fisheries
8 in the area. We are also planning to run a
9 community-based ballast water study program within the
10 next couple of years, and this program is directly
11 related to commitments from the Phase 2 proposal.

12 So I note this is a lot of information, but I hope
13 it helps you understand the type of research we are
14 doing in the area.

15 Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 THE CHAIR: Going back to deferred
17 responses from Fisheries and Oceans and Government of
18 Nunavut. Government of Nunavut, Gabriel Karlik.

19 MR. KARLIK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
20 Gabriel Karlik, Government of Nunavut.

21 Regarding the Nuliajuk and the question of what it
22 was doing in Igloolik at that time, the research vessel
23 Nuliajuk was rented out to Golder Associates to do some
24 research regarding Steensby Inlet, and so the
25 information that we gathered so far is we just rented
26 the vessel to Golder, and they're the ones who were

1 doing the research.

2 One of the key things that the Government of
3 Nunavut has said, if we are going to be docking in any
4 community, that we would need the hamlet's approval
5 before going into the community. One of the -- that's
6 one of the COVID protocols, and we did receive an okay
7 to go there, but as for what it was doing, Golder
8 Associates would have a better answer exactly what type
9 of research they were doing. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: First we'll go to Fisheries
11 and Oceans Canada, and we'll also go to Parks Canada.

12 Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gabriel
13 Bernard-Lacaille.

14 MR. BERNARD-LACAILLE: Thank you, Madam Chair.
15 Gabriel Bernard-Lacaille with Fisheries and Oceans
16 Canada.

17 So Fisheries and Oceans Canada, we verify with the
18 Canadian Coast Guard as well as our colleagues within
19 the department from DFO science and other departments
20 that may undertake research in the area, and to our
21 knowledge, we are not aware of any acoustic recorders
22 that have been placed near Sanirajak or Igloolik.

23 We also want to reiterate that would DFO seek to
24 install any of these devices in the future, we would
25 make sure that we would get the appropriate permissions
26 from the local hunters and trappers organizations.

1 Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 THE CHAIR: Parks Canada, Allison
3 Stoddart.

4 MS. STODDART: Thank you, Chairperson. Parks
5 Canada and hydrophone program.

6 Data will be used to establish the baseline of
7 underwater noise within Tallurutiup Imanga National
8 Marine Conservation Area in proximity of Arctic Bay.
9 It is expected that the baseline data could help better
10 understand the impact of underwater noise on marine
11 mammals within Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine
12 Conservation Area and could be used to complement the
13 work on similar initiatives conducted in Nunavut waters
14 and elsewhere.

15 2021 is the first year that hydrophones have been
16 in the waters in Admiralty Inlet. Three hydrophones
17 were deployed in September of 2021 and currently remain
18 in the water. Data obtained would be recordings of
19 underwater noise, including marine mammals, benthic
20 organisms, ship traffic, small-vessel traffic, and ice.
21 Arctic Bay HTO recently decided they would like to
22 change a couple of locations for hydrophone deployment
23 to ensure that they are not around sensitive harvesting
24 areas.

25 As a result, a couple of new locations were
26 proposed prior to deployment. All of the deployments

1 are within Admiralty Inlet. Arctic Bay HTO and Hamlet
2 of Arctic Bay have provided motions approving the
3 underwater noise monitoring project. Parks Canada has
4 also consulted with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association on
5 the project.

6 Parks Canada has been working with the
7 Nauttiqsuqtiit Inuit stewards to deploy these three
8 hydrophones during this open water season. Hydrophones
9 are used only for listening to noise, not to produce
10 noise. We do not expect that there would be any
11 impacts to marine mammals. Our hydrophone moorings are
12 at the bottom at depths of about 30 metres. Marine
13 mammals have been observed this summer near some of the
14 hydrophone deployment locations. Thank you very much.

15 THE CHAIR: There's a question from the
16 Board.

17 Madeleine.

18 MS. QUMUATUQ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Nina
19 was talking earlier, representing a woman -- she asked
20 a question earlier, and it wasn't answered, and she --
21 it was very emotional for those people who are homeless
22 and children who are homeless who aren't able to
23 receive any vouchers for food, and I'm asking now on --
24 to QIA because QIA is responsible for vouchers for
25 communities to buy food. I was really -- I really
26 felt -- I really felt that people who are homeless,

1 nothing to stay -- nowhere to stay -- children, just
2 because they don't have a house number, they were not
3 able to receive a voucher.

4 On top of all the regulations -- more regulations,
5 these funds are supposed to help women and families,
6 and they can't even receive a voucher. Wow. That's
7 another thing to worry about, especially in terms of
8 homelessness. It's amazing how much regulations going
9 to receiving what is rightfully theirs. Because it's
10 in the land claim agreement, you can't be biassed or
11 prejudicial. You are responsible for that. You are
12 responsible for making guidelines and regulations, and
13 it's amazing how much there's red tape that you add on
14 to whatever you're supposed to be doing. We need all
15 Inuit to be trained and help them, not just working
16 people's family members, people who are homeless. Be
17 fair. Don't be biassed.

18 So we have to consult and communicate better as
19 mentioned earlier, and thank you, Nina. You stated
20 something from the heart which is the truth and that is
21 real.

22 THE CHAIR: QIA, Olayuk Akesuk.

23 MR. AKESUK: Thank you, Madam Chair. QIA
24 board member. I'll get Mr. Ottenhof to respond.

25 THE CHAIR: Jared Ottenhof.

26 MR. OTTENHOF: Jared Ottenhof with the

1 Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

2 If the voucher program that's being discussed is
3 the Harvesters Enabling Program, it's a benefit under
4 the current project's impact benefit agreement. That
5 program is for any Inuk in Pond Inlet over the age of
6 12, I believe, each year to receive a voucher for fuel.
7 As Ms. Hanson alluded to earlier, we did make a
8 temporary change to that program early on during COVID,
9 I believe, where we agreed that the vouchers could be
10 used for food.

11 The administration of that program is done through
12 Baffinland and through the Hamlet of Pond Inlet, and to
13 our knowledge, just showing that you are of age and an
14 Inuk enrolled under NTI makes you eligible for that
15 program. I'm not aware of a requirement for a home
16 address or the requirements for another voucher program
17 that may be referred to here. But that's the
18 Harvesters Enabling Program under the current IIBA.
19 Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: First we'll go to Baffinland,
21 Udlu Hanson.

22 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
23 Baffinland.

24 As I understand it, and please correct me if I'm
25 wrong, but we -- we believe the reference is to food
26 vouchers, not the fuel vouchers. The fuel vouchers --

1 food vouchers that were provided during COVID via the
2 Qikiqtani Inuit Association is what I am assuming is
3 referred to here. Otherwise, in terms of the fuel
4 vouchers, that's as defined as Jared said in the IIBA,
5 the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement, for the equivalent
6 of fuel.

7 THE CHAIR: Pond Inlet hamlet, Joshua
8 Arreak.

9 MR. ARREAK: Madam Chair, I have not been
10 sworn in.

11 THE CHAIR: NIRB legal counsel.

12 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
14 Review Board. So if I can get the witness to state and
15 spell his name for the record, please.

16 MR. ARREAK: This is Joshua Arreak, mayor
17 of Pond Inlet.

18 MS. MEADOWS: Can you spell your name,
19 please.

20 MR. ARREAK: J-O-S-H-U-A, A-R-R-E-A-K.

21 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you.

22 JOSHUA ARREAK, Affirmed

23 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you.

24 Thank you, Madam Chair. Teresa Meadows, legal
25 counsel for the Nunavut Impact Review Board. The
26 witness may proceed to provide his evidence. Thank

1 you.

2 THE CHAIR: Joshua Arreak.

3 MR. ARREAK: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta.

4 The questions that were raised earlier, perhaps
5 there's somebody else who can answer these questions
6 who dealt with the voucher program, and I know about
7 the voucher program, but I haven't heard anything
8 myself about refusing someone who is homeless and who
9 was handing out these vouchers for food, and they are
10 responsible for their own voucher program. Perhaps
11 someone else knows better about the food vouchers and
12 the homeless people who were refused because of this,
13 and I apologize if I didn't give you a correct answer,
14 but I'll check when I go back home.

15 THE CHAIR: Next on the list we have Joel
16 Nashook in Pond Inlet. Just to let you know, I'm
17 listing down the names that have asked to speak, and I
18 have them on my list.

19 Is Joel Nashook still present in Pond Inlet? Can
20 the NIRB staff please confirm?

21 Next person is Cornilius Nutarak.

22 MR. NUTARAK: Thank you. Cornilius Nutarak.
23 I'm representing Elders from Pond Inlet.

24 I have a question for Mary River Project,
25 Baffinland. If the Phase 2 proposal is not approved,
26 would you lay off -- the people who are from Pond Inlet

1 who are working at Mary River, would you lay them off
2 even though there's going to be other people who are
3 maintaining the operation of the mine? My first
4 question.

5 My second question: I was part of the planning
6 process for Steensby Inlet, and we went through all the
7 documents for -- and I was part of the process, and the
8 working group did a very good job at putting all the
9 framework together, and all of a sudden we stopped, and
10 I don't know what happened to that planning process we
11 had.

12 And another item: I used to be a chair for HTO in
13 the 1980s. During that time, we were in the planning
14 process for Mary River projects. We were proposing
15 that we worked on getting employment opportunities for
16 Inuit, and I worked with Elders only. At the time,
17 there was -- there was worries about having economic
18 sustainability because the sealskin prices dropped at
19 that time, and we were looking for a different economic
20 development opportunity such as the mine, and I think
21 today, the way we planned it at the time -- it seems to
22 be running the way we had proposed it to run at the
23 time we did the planning phase, but on the other hand,
24 the -- some other concerns we had mitigating
25 circumstances such as the dust concern and request to
26 have it covered has not been followed through.

1 We had requested at that time in the planning
2 process to mitigate the dust and to make coverings for
3 the -- the vehicles, and that wasn't followed, and
4 because of that there's been a lot of dust that has
5 been flying around in the environment, and perhaps at
6 that time if they followed through with our request as
7 residents of our community, we wouldn't be here today,
8 and we wouldn't have this problem, and because after
9 our caribou has been greatly affected, we haven't had
10 caribou in our area for a long time. We haven't been
11 able to consume caribou meat from our environment, and
12 at the time we made the plans with our Elders, I think
13 that we have to implement what we planned and agreed to
14 at that time, and I think unless those are agreed to,
15 we shouldn't even go on to Phase 2, and I, myself,
16 would not want -- I mean, if Phase 2 is not approved, I
17 will be all right with it because when we did the
18 planning stages with our Elders, all the
19 recommendations we made at that time have never been
20 followed through, and perhaps if Baffinland were to at
21 least make those recommendations implemented, I'd be
22 okay in agreeing to Phase 2. And we have to work
23 together, and we also want to be able to have jobs
24 available, but on the other hand, we would like to have
25 less of a footprint in the environment and to make sure
26 we keep it clean, and we would be very happy if we were

1 able to implement recommendations we made in the past.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

4 MS. HANSON: Thank you. Udlu Hanson,
5 Baffinland. I'll ask Megan Lord-Hoyle to respond.

6 THE CHAIR: Megan Lord-Hoyle.

7 MS. LORD-HOYLE: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland.
8 Qujannamiik.

9 I'll address the first question that I heard first
10 which was if the project goes into care and
11 maintenance, would Inuit from Pond Inlet be laid off
12 but not Inuit from other communities. So as I
13 mentioned earlier, if we do go into a care and
14 maintenance scenario, that would inevitably include
15 layoffs, but as per our Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement,
16 Inuit are laid off last. That means Inuit would be
17 given priority to retain their positions. So if
18 there's two people with equivalent skills, the Inuk
19 would be laid off last.

20 But to directly answer the question, that would be
21 Inuit from any communities, not just specifically from
22 Pond Inlet. Right now we have over 60 employees from
23 Pond Inlet and over 300 employees from all of the
24 communities, so there would be layoffs included, but it
25 would be across all of the communities as per the
26 skills that would be required to maintain the site in a

1 care and maintenance scenario where there's very few
2 positions still required.

3 On the second topic, you were speaking about a
4 group that you were a part of and a recommendation that
5 was put forward from that group to cover the trucks,
6 the ore haul trucks, if I understood it, and you were
7 saying that never happened, and that is correct. Under
8 the current operation, we do not cover the ore haul
9 trucks. That is because we've investigated that, and
10 we do not see that the dust coming along the Tote Road
11 is out of the actual trucks themselves where the ore is
12 located. It's actually from the wheels on the road
13 creating dust dispersion.

14 So that is the reason why we never actually went
15 through with covering the ore haul trucks. But that
16 said, as part of the dust audit that's being undertaken
17 right now, that is an area for investigation, and an
18 Inuit committee has been formed to work with the
19 third-party consultant directly without Baffinland's
20 involvement to look at the results of the audit and
21 inform any recommendations that Baffinland would take
22 forward.

23 So that audit will look at our current operations
24 as well as if Phase 2 were to be approved, what further
25 mitigations we could be putting in place to mitigate
26 dust. Qujannamiik.

1 THE CHAIR: Cornilius Nutarak.

2 MR. NUTARAK: Thank you. You didn't answer
3 me. I said at the beginning the haul trucks I was
4 talking about from Milne Inlet. I know we will not be
5 listened to by the people of Pond Inlet concerning the
6 dust, and we were giving warnings to you, and I know
7 we -- we wanted them to cover it, and I know we won't
8 be listened to. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

10 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Baffinland, Udlu
11 Hanson. I'll have Megan Lord-Hoyle respond.

12 THE CHAIR: Megan Lord-Hoyle.

13 MS. LORD-HOYLE: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland.

14 I'm very sorry that I didn't answer your question
15 properly, and I don't mean to imply that we didn't
16 listen. This is something that we have heard in the
17 past. We don't have a record of this commitment that
18 was made, but it is something that we've heard, and
19 since we've been hearing that, we have looked into the
20 investigation and decided that it would not be of value
21 and it would not reduce dust further to cover the
22 ore -- or the ore trucks, and that is why we didn't.

23 We've taken other measures to reduce dust in
24 response to what we've been hearing, so we are
25 listening to the communities. We've heard very
26 specifically about dust being spread in Milne Inlet,

1 and we've started spraying the stockpiles as a result
2 to reduce the spread of dust in Milne Inlet. From what
3 we've heard specifically from land users who have been
4 in the area and seeing it dispersed, those are some of
5 the actions that we've taken, and the commitments that
6 we're making to dust, we are publicly recording them.
7 These proceedings will be publicly recorded so that
8 moving forward commitments that are made, we have a
9 record of them, and we will be able to follow through.
10 Qujannamiik.

11 THE CHAIR: Cornilius Nutarak.

12 MR. NUTARAK: I have no more comments.

13 That's it for now. Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: It's just about 5:00, so
15 before we go for break, if Jonathan Pitseolak would
16 like to pose his questions in Mittimatalik.

17 MR. PITSEOLAK: Hi. We are using it --

18 THE INTERPRETER: Can he take his mask off? I
19 can't hear him proper.

20 THE CHAIR: Put your mask down. The
21 interpreter can't hear you clearly, and we were on the
22 wrong channel.

23 MR. PITSEOLAK yes. Thank you.

24 Today as to -- it's impacting us. We've been
25 asking we wanted to go to smaller size to reduce, and
26 we've been pushing for concerning -- we have concerns

1 for Phase 2, and it will impact the -- the land, and
2 they want to extend the railway from Kanadjuk. I see
3 an issue. If you could elaborate more when it was
4 approved, and since there hasn't been any contribution
5 to Pond Inlet for the work that has been done for
6 Baffinland, my question is: Paul Quassa mentioned he
7 was planning with the Nunavut land use planning in the
8 community and -- and maybe the -- he knows the area
9 very well. When negotiations started with Nunavut plan
10 agreement, I wonder how important it is for our caribou
11 in our area. It's very important to us. If he has
12 heard that before, I would like to ask him that for the
13 impact that's happening with the wildlife, and maybe
14 Baffinland -- he's now working with Baffinland. If you
15 could understand us, we are struggling very hard with
16 the work that is being done. If Phase 2 would be
17 approved -- but we don't have much with the benefits
18 that our -- would be coming to the community at Pond
19 Inlet.

20 THE CHAIR: After break, after supper,
21 we're going to continue with questions, comments, and
22 responses, so we'll go for supper break and reconvene
23 at 6:30.

24

25 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 6:30 PM)

26

1 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 6:35 PM)

2 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everybody.

3 Starting where we left off before the supper break.

4 Responses to Jonathan Pitseolak questions. First we'll
5 go to Baffinland and Paul Quassa. Udlu Hanson.

6 Continued responses to community representative
7 questions (Roundtable)

8 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
9 Baffinland. I'll ask Paul Quassa to respond.

10 THE CHAIR: Paul Quassa.

11 MR. QUASSA: (NO ENGLISH FEED)

12 THE CHAIR: We couldn't hear you for a
13 while there. If you could start again. Paul Quassa.

14 MR. QUASSA: Thank you. Thank you,
15 Chairperson. Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

16 First of all, for the land use planning, I was the
17 chairperson of the planning for six years, 2006 to
18 2012, and we would visit -- for the planning, we would
19 visit for the Nunavut Planning Commission, and they
20 dealt with maps, and those maps we are dealing with
21 today. The hunters and trappers organizations are
22 still dealing with those at the time, and they would
23 look at wildlife and also the hunting areas. So there
24 was the planning commission -- land planning
25 commission's review was -- is being done now.

26 So for those that want to come to Nunavut to do

1 stuff, whether it be mining or oil drilling, other
2 major developments, if there was going to be such a
3 thing, they would have to go through the land use
4 planning commission. And also based on the planning
5 commission's map, there's indications there whether
6 mining could happen there, or these are the barren --
7 these are the barren grounds for the caribou. So these
8 things were already indicated in the plan.

9 So there was, you know, indications you can do
10 work here, but there's some restriction there and
11 stuff.

12 So just recently there was more indication to
13 caribou and wherever caribou might be in Canada is
14 reduced in numbers, and there are less caribou. Even
15 we heard that even in the south, especially, there's a
16 98 percent reduction in the caribou population, and we
17 know that in most of Canada, there is less caribou.

18 We do realize that, but based on Inuit
19 Qaujimaqatugangit, especially caribou, sometimes they
20 will be migrating closer or further away. They would
21 go to a different place. According to Inuit knowledge
22 even that is the case.

23 So there's some indication where the calving
24 grounds are so -- and the planning commission would be
25 looking after these sort of things. Up to today it's
26 probably the same and true. Especially on Baffin

1 Island -- we are told that there's not much caribou on
2 Baffin Island. So we have the situation today on the
3 island, but for this reason, when we're looking at the
4 land claims and also working with Nunavut Tunngavik and
5 other legislature and other things, listening to the
6 news and -- everyday, and when we -- when I'm here for
7 Inuit, what they say and what they want to say and what
8 they are talking about -- I understand what they're
9 talking about, as I said earlier today.

10 And when we talk about hunting -- because I'm
11 Inuk, I go hunting as well -- or used to go hunting, so
12 I was thinking for the -- Baffinland Iron Mines has
13 been planning for quite sometime and have been, you
14 know, in the 1960s when they were working in that area.

15 I have moved perhaps because I understand what
16 Inuit are talking about. I just want to make sure that
17 I understand. Perhaps I can consider within the
18 organization what I should be able to be doing.

19 So from what I understand, because I'm an Inuk, so
20 that's the reason that I'm here. And also to try and
21 help out where I can is one of the reasons that I
22 have -- those are considerations that I have thought
23 about, if I can give some discussion into this -- add
24 some -- or contribute something to this discussion.

25 So I would like to have people -- continue for
26 those people that are asking questions.

1 THE CHAIR: Olayuk Akasuk from Qikiqtani
2 Inuit Association.

3 MR. AKESUK: Thank you, Chairperson.
4 Olayuk Akasuk from Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

5 For this agreement that was signed for the
6 affected communities -- impacted communities, for the
7 Impact Benefits Agreement, we first started that -- if
8 we would have tried to start it beforehand to get some
9 more benefits because of the bigger iron being mined,
10 and I have been working on this, that Inuit would be
11 able to have some benefits for them and what is
12 beneficial to the communities to -- either the
13 communities or to the Inuit that we would have a good
14 look at this, and I do remember that I've been asked --
15 they've been asked to join in with the discussions, but
16 they said no. But we want to be more open to Inuit for
17 the stuff that Inuit wanted to do and what they want to
18 see or what they envision if there was an approval
19 within the agreement.

20 According to the Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement
21 that perhaps Mr. Ottenhof or Stephen Bathory could add
22 some more to my comments. Bathory, perhaps if he could
23 answer.

24 THE CHAIR: Stephen Williamson Bathory.

25 MR. BATHORY: Qujannamiik, Iksivauta.

26 Let me start with the questions I understood as to

1 how did the agreement that is called the Inuit
2 Certainty Agreement come to be. What was the community
3 involvement in that, and what does this agreement mean
4 now?

5 So as has been already placed on the record -- but
6 I think it's important to share this verbally as
7 well -- QI has already filed a document called "Why the
8 Inuit Certainty Agreement". As well it's the QI
9 engagement record. These filings took place at an
10 earlier stage of the NIRB process.

11 And so the reason the Inuit Certainty Agreement
12 came to be was to inform the decisions that all Inuit
13 would participate in as to whether or not to support
14 the Phase 2 proposal, and so that means decisions that
15 QI and its board would make, that means decisions
16 that (INTERPRETER BELL) also decisions that individual
17 hamlets and HTOs would make.

18 So QI elected to engage with Baffinland to
19 negotiate the Inuit Certainty Agreement, to inform
20 these decisions, and we brought that information
21 forward to communities and the public record.

22 During the time of the focused negotiation, it was
23 very difficult to engage to communities due to travel
24 prohibitions, but the way QI looks at this is in the
25 entirety of the project. That since 2013 when the
26 project had first been approved, there have been

1 sustained and ongoing engagements with QI and
2 communities from that time forward. So it's the
3 collective work from when the NIRB first approved the
4 early revenue phase amendment onwards that QI was
5 relying on to inform its work on that certainty
6 agreement.

7 Iksivauta, there was a second set of questions and
8 discussion around programs and voucher programs. We
9 understand through some clarification at the break that
10 these were specific to programs QI ran with funding
11 from the federal government during COVID. These are
12 quite distinct from programs and benefits under the
13 Mary River Project, and those programs included
14 on-the-land programs, Elders' vouchers, and a voucher
15 program for families.

16 In speaking with QI staff over the break, the
17 criteria to receive the funding was very flexible.
18 Applications were reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and
19 QI is not aware of anyone being turned away because of
20 potential issues of whether or not they own or reside
21 in their own household. So that was certainly taken
22 into consideration as QI was administering the program.

23 Iksivauta, we can supply that information in
24 written form, if that would help the Board. I believe
25 the question came from one of the Board members. We
26 can follow up through the proceedings to provide that

1 clarification as well. Qujannamiik, Iksivauta.

2 THE CHAIR: Before we continue with
3 questions and comments of community representatives and
4 interested members of the public in attendance in the
5 hall in Pond Inlet, the Board has received a request
6 from several of Baffinland's Inuit employees living in
7 Nunavut to share their knowledge and perspectives
8 during the community roundtable in the form of a video
9 that they prepared with the assistance of their union,
10 the International Union of Operating Engineers,
11 Local 793.

12 The Board has handled this request the same as the
13 request to show the 30-minute video presentation made
14 by James Simonie that showed his interviews with
15 several Elders from Pond Inlet during the community
16 roundtable session held by the Board on
17 February 6, 2021.

18 The Board recognizes that in both situations, the
19 members of the communities appearing on the videos may
20 not have been able to attend the Board's proceedings in
21 person, and their video presentations may be the only
22 way they can participate. However, the Board also
23 understands that because the employees appearing in
24 this video are sharing their opinions and views with
25 the Board but are not subject to cross-examination by
26 the Board or intervenors, the Board will not consider

1 any facts referenced in the video as new evidence if
2 such facts have not already been provided during the
3 Board's previous technical meetings and technical
4 sessions of the public hearing.

5 The video has been provided by the union in parts
6 so that the Board can make the video available in
7 sections from the NIRB's public registry. And the same
8 as the video presented in February, the Board will not
9 be marking or entering the video as an exhibit.

10 One of the employees who is featured in the video
11 will now introduce the video, and when the video has
12 concluded, the Board will continue with questions and
13 comments of community representatives and interested
14 members of the public in attendance in the hall in
15 Pond Inlet and at the table in Iqaluit.

16 The member in Pond Inlet, Norman Simonie, if
17 you're present, you can please present the video.

18 MR. SIMONIE: Hello. I'm an employee of
19 Baffinland. I am training as a mechanic for pickup
20 trucks. I've been training all year. In 2018 I
21 started working for Baffinland. I am in favour of
22 seeing Phase 2.

23 Since I started working there, I'm able to provide
24 for my family, and I'm able to purchase items that my
25 children want. And because I don't go out hunting,
26 we're only purchasing items from our grocery store --

1 or local stores. I would like to see Phase 2 be given
2 the green light.

3 There is going to be a crusher that's going to be
4 enclosed, and less dust will spread, less fugitive dust
5 will appear. I'm also -- I also work fueling vehicles.
6 Once the train is being used to haul the iron ore, it's
7 going to have less impact to the environment. I would
8 like to see Phase 2 go ahead.

9 Some of the people that I am employed with will
10 appear in the video. There will be -- also be people
11 that are employed there appearing in the video. This
12 has been provided by the union. Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Duoson.

14 (VIDEO PLAYED)

15 THE CHAIR: If you can pause the video,
16 please. Please continue.

17 (VIDEO PLAYED)

18 THE CHAIR: Can you please pause the
19 video. We need interpretation so that it can be
20 recorded on the transcript. If you can rewind the
21 video. NIRB staff.

22 MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen
23 Costello for NIRB staff.

24 I have spoken with the technicians as well as the
25 interpreters, and in order to ensure participants can
26 hear what is being said, including any who may be on

1 the phone, the technicians will pause the slide after
2 each sentence to allow the interpreters to finish their
3 interpretation, and we hope that will allow those on
4 the phone as well as those in the room to be able to
5 follow. Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 THE CHAIR: Duoson.

7 (VIDEO PLAYED)

8 MR. SIMONIE: I think I said my name
9 already. I think that I'm going to -- we have
10 employees --

11 THE CHAIR: Norman Simonie.

12 MR. SIMONIE: Hi.

13 THE CHAIR: We were -- the technicians
14 were fixing the video. There was a technical issue.

15 MR. SIMONIE: Okay.

16 THE CHAIR: So it's still being presented,
17 and the technicians are just fixing the presentation.
18 There was an interruption.

19 MR. SIMONIE: Okay.

20 THE CHAIR: Duoson.

21 (VIDEO PLAYED)

22 THE CHAIR: Continuing with our community
23 roundtable. Next on the list from Igloolik, Greg Morash.
24 Continued Questioning of Baffinland Iron Mines
25 Corporation, Registered Intervenor, and Nunavut Impact
26 Review Board by the Community Representatives from Pond

1 Inlet, Igloolik, and Grise Fiord (Community Roundtable)

2 MR. MORASH: Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

3 My question is directed to Baffinland. I
4 understand that Baffinland is considering putting day
5 cares in the communities. Igloolik is fortunate that
6 we already have two -- one brand-new day care and one
7 day care that's only three or four years old.

8 What we're lacking in Igloolik -- we have three
9 schools and they've closed all the libraries. Why --
10 I'm not sure why the department of education did that.
11 We secured funding for e-readers in the tune of
12 \$105,000, which would have allowed us to get 4 or 5,000
13 Inuit books and regular research books. Would
14 Baffinland consider, if the council decided, to help
15 out with a library versus a day care? Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

17 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
18 Baffinland. Thank you, Greg, for the question.

19 The day cares -- well, under the Inuit Certainty
20 Agreement, Baffinland has committed to constructing or
21 renovating early childhood care facilities in each of
22 the impacted communities, and this commitment, as I
23 mentioned earlier today, is -- would be under the
24 Impact Benefit Agreement and is a commitment that we've
25 made to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

26 But we also said that -- earlier today that in

1 Sanirajak we're creating a community garage. This is
2 something that they've identified as -- as a need, and
3 we said that we would be willing to discuss with each
4 community what equivalent support they would like to
5 see in their community.

6 So, for example, in Clyde River, they already
7 have, as we were told by the mayor at the time, a
8 community garage, so he asked if that funding can go to
9 the construction of a Co-op. We said "yes". If under
10 Phase 2 -- if Phase 2 is approved, instead of a
11 community garage, we will provide the funding to go
12 towards the construction of a Co-op.

13 So in Igloolik's case, if this was something that
14 you wanted to consider for your community and it was
15 supported by your hamlet, then it was something that we
16 would be able to consider as well because we have made
17 that commitment under the Inuit Certainty Agreement for
18 each affected community.

19 I hope that answers your question. Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Igloolik, Greg Morash.

21 MR. MORASH: Thank you for your response,
22 and I will be bringing back this to our council to see
23 if I'm correct, or whether I probably said something
24 out of turn, but I know they really would like a
25 library for the youth. I've heard about a lot of
26 education -- that education is super important. I

1 believe libraries are also very important for young
2 people to go and do homework and research, so thank you
3 very much.

4 THE CHAIR: Lucy Nungaq.

5 MS. NUNGAQ: Hi. I am Lucy Nungaq from
6 Grise Fiord. I just want to say in Grise Fiord, we
7 notice there is hardly any more seal and whales, and
8 the wildlife have been diminishing perhaps by the
9 ships' routing. And it would be good to -- for
10 monitoring the ships' routes. I would like to find out
11 if that would be in monitoring because we are affected
12 in our community in Grise Fiord. We used to have a lot
13 of seals and whales in abundance, and we grew up with
14 eating the wildlife of sea mammals when we grew up and
15 we would like to have it around much more.

16 THE CHAIR: Jimmy Pitseolak.

17 MR. PITSEOLAK: Thank you. Can you hear me?
18 Can you hear me?

19 THE CHAIR: Yes.

20 MR. PITSEOLAK: Thank you, Madam Chairperson,
21 for the opportunity to speak.

22 I live in Pond Inlet. I am a hunter as well.
23 These -- the video was very good to watch, and
24 interesting. I would like to say -- I have many things
25 to say.

26 In Pond Inlet, when you live in the community as a

1 hunter, we feel the impact upon us -- upon our lives,
2 and sometimes -- sometimes we can't hunt most times. I
3 would like this to be heard. There are jobs,
4 opportunities that we saw on the video, and when you're
5 a hunter in the community, I think we are the most
6 impacted people. We'd like to see economics happening
7 in the community through organizations from NTI and
8 we -- some of the things that are brought -- the
9 benefits are way too small. Not enough. So it's a
10 huge -- it's a company. It's going to go on for a long
11 while, and we haven't seen -- or this company, in their
12 preparation, they have ice visible, and the people out
13 are -- that are open to the people, they're posted, but
14 our environment has been impacted greatly and not happy
15 about that.

16 I grew up here, and the wildlife -- I did a lot of
17 training for hunting and know the environment. I just
18 don't want to say "yes" for the Phase 2, but I wanted
19 to say as well if this Phase 2 should go ahead and
20 approved and people want to get resources and money and
21 there's many, many impacts that are happening in our --
22 during the lifetime of the mine. And I used to be
23 involved in the committee for the HTO in Mittimatalik
24 as a chair as well.

25 I don't want to see only the bad of the mining, if
26 you understand what I'm trying to say. And our

1 environment, our wildlife issues, you say you -- they
2 won't be impacted, and, to my mind, that is not the
3 case. If this should go ahead with Phase 2, there's
4 many things that has to be changed, and things that
5 will be not good for the environment.

6 And it's not a happy time for many of us. Our
7 future generations, I wanted them to know before all
8 the ships started coming up, and it was abundance in
9 everything, if you understand me.

10 I have some questions, not too many. I want to
11 ask a question to NIRB and -- we keep saying our
12 community's impacted. We've identified -- things that
13 we identified are many and before the Phase 2 is
14 approved here for the people that are hunters in the
15 area -- is a concern. We don't want to stop the
16 Phase 2, but I have a question, and there's too many
17 unknown factors.

18 We keep saying in the past the organizations are
19 not representing us properly, and when you're in
20 community you don't see them as much, and when you
21 come -- some of the things should be important to the
22 community and useful.

23 And in the past when we started getting funding,
24 it was understandable at the time that communities that
25 are affected, impacted, and wanting to see good
26 benefits coming to the communities.

1 Some of them are not saying the truth, and I've
2 seen what's happening is not all the truth, and thank
3 you very much.

4 THE CHAIR: Before he gets an answer,
5 we're going to have break for 15 minutes.

6 (ADJOURNMENT)

7 THE CHAIR: Welcome back, everybody.

8 Continuing with responses to community
9 representative questions. Jonathan Pitseolak's
10 question was also not fully answered by the Qikiqtani
11 Inuit Association, so after Baffinland, I will go back
12 to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

13 Baffinland responding to Jimmy Pitseolak and Lucy
14 Nunqaq's question regarding monitoring and seals.

15 Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

16 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson,
17 Baffinland. I'll pass it on to Lou Kamermans to
18 answer. Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Lou Kamermans.

20 MR. KAMERMANS: Lou Kamermans, Baffinland.
21 Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 I think I can respond to both comments in the same
23 kind of line of thinking because I think they're
24 related in a lot of ways.

25 This process that's brought us here over --
26 spanning two years now -- and that's just been the

1 hearing -- has been about investigating, you know, all
2 the different angles that our project -- that the
3 Phase 2 proposal could impact the environment. And
4 it's on us to show how we plan to manage those effects.
5 And ultimately what we want to do is show that this
6 project presents a net benefit to the people of
7 Nunavut, that there are more benefits than there are
8 costs, and the costs in this case are the environmental
9 risks and potential effects in a lot of ways on
10 harvesting.

11 Now, what's very difficult for us to do and for
12 everyone around this table and in Pond is to try to
13 separate out what effects our project is having or
14 could have and what's happening at scales we can't
15 control.

16 We've heard a couple of times today about climate
17 change, and there are just factors influencing what
18 happens in the Arctic and in our marine area that the
19 project isn't leading.

20 So, Lucy, I believe you commented on, you know,
21 seal and whale, and are not being as much in your area
22 of Grise Fiord that they used to be. We hear the exact
23 same thing from people from Pond Inlet and hunters from
24 Arctic Bay.

25 Things are changing. We don't know exactly what's
26 driving those changes all the time, but what we've been

1 doing and what we're committed to doing is implementing
2 monitoring programs to try to understand and separate
3 out what our project may be influencing so that we can
4 manage that.

5 So that's how we go about ensuring the costs are
6 minimized. We've talked a lot around this table about
7 the benefits too. I thoroughly believe Baffinland has
8 delivered benefits to all the communities of the North
9 Baffin. They're on the sheets at the back of the room,
10 and there's stuff we just couldn't fit on those.
11 There's even more in the impact statement.

12 I understand -- and we've heard it a lot -- that
13 we haven't seen -- people in Pond especially haven't
14 seen the benefits they thought were coming. And one of
15 the issues we've had throughout this review and in
16 relation to the project in general since we started
17 operation is we came in here as a company a decade ago
18 talking about a very large project, the Steensby
19 project, and all the benefits that could bring. And
20 those were all very real and genuine commitments, but
21 that project never materialized. We never built that
22 project. We didn't get the funding to do it.

23 What we did instead, based on our circumstances,
24 we still went forward with a version of the project,
25 but it was a lot smaller. It wasn't the project that
26 could deliver the benefits that we set up for with

1 those initial expectations. Phase 2 is how we can
2 deliver on those expectations we set up ten years ago.

3 In any resource development, royalties, the big
4 payments that can go to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association
5 and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated so that they can
6 fill their trusts, ensure that they can operate for
7 years after this project's done, and once those trusts
8 are filled, how much can go to those communities
9 compared to what's going there now. What we've
10 negotiated in the Inuit Certainty Agreement increases
11 the royalty to QIA by 250 percent under normal
12 circumstances. There's provisions that make that even
13 higher, depending on the price of iron.

14 It's entirely accurate to say the royalties that
15 are seen today if Phase 2 moves forward with greater
16 production and a greater royalty, the payments could be
17 seven to eight times as high as they are now. The
18 benefits can flow to Pond Inlet so much quicker than
19 they will if the project remains as we are, goes back
20 to 4.2 million tonnes, and certainly if we go away
21 altogether.

22 The other benefit of Phase 2 is that we move
23 forward together on this. With the Inuit Stewardship
24 Plan, we are not the only ones monitoring. We'll
25 continue monitoring. We'll continue to monitor and
26 work with the Hunters and Trappers Organizations and

1 employ people from local communities to join those
2 programs, but there will be a whole other stream that
3 we're limited to funding. We don't lead it, and it
4 produces independent reports, and that can affect our
5 operations as much as our own monitoring programs.

6 So that's how together we ensure this project
7 creates more benefits than environmental risks, and
8 it's how we manage those risks together.

9 Thank you. Qujannamiik.

10 THE CHAIR: QIA, Olayuk Akesuk.

11 MR. AKESUK: Thank you, Madam Chair. QIA,
12 Olayuk Akesuk.

13 We had a question from Jonathan, a question on the
14 ICA. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIR: Yes. It was on the question
16 of the ICA.

17 MR. AKESUK: What was the question on? The
18 ICA?

19 THE CHAIR: Jonathan Pitseolak asked
20 what -- sorry. Jonathan asked earlier before the
21 supper break what it means now. What now with the
22 Inuit Certainty Agreement?

23 MR. AKESUK: Thank you. I'll get
24 Mr. Stephen Williamson Bathory to respond to that
25 question. Thank you, Madam Chair.

26 THE CHAIR: Stephen Williamson Bathory.

1 MR. WILLIAMSON BATHORY: Hello. Qujannamiik,
2 Iksivauta, and (INUKTITUT SPOKEN) for neglecting to
3 answer clearly on that question. We heard it slightly
4 differently.

5 The question is what is the status of the Inuit
6 Certainty Agreement today. And so the status is QIA
7 continues to implement the Inuit Certainty Agreement,
8 and the Inuit Certainty Agreement will be implemented
9 until there's decisions from NIRB on the Phase 2
10 proposal.

11 Should the Nunavut Impact Review Board seek to
12 recommend approval of the proposal and should the
13 Minister grant approval of the project, the Inuit
14 Certainty Agreement has obligations on both the
15 Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Baffinland to implement
16 the provisions of that agreement.

17 In the event the Nunavut Impact Review Board does
18 not recommend the project or if the Minister does not
19 approve the project, only certain provisions of the
20 Inuit Certainty Agreement would apply, and so we've
21 filed that information previously with the Board, and
22 we can provide further clarifications as requested.
23 Qujannamiik, Iksivauta.

24 THE CHAIR: Earlier, Jimmy Pitseolak
25 stated he had more questions in Pond Inlet.

26 MR. PITSEOLAK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

1 Although you didn't quite answer my question, but
2 I can understand what you're saying, I have another
3 comment to make, but I'll try to make it brief.

4 As hunters, we go hunting caribou past Mary River
5 Mine, and when we're hunters, the safety concerning our
6 hunting past -- going beyond Mary River, it's not
7 very -- set up well, and, for example, if I go to -- if
8 I go to -- go hunting, I have to go to Milne Port, I
9 have to stay in a shack for a while before I am able to
10 go hunting where I want to go, and there's -- when
11 we're going to the campsite, we don't have any
12 resources or equipment available. If there was safety
13 issues such as a fire, we have no way of communicating
14 to the community or the -- to the mine if there was an
15 emergency. So the safety part of it is not very well
16 planned.

17 And I'm going to have questions about the railroad
18 track that is being proposed to connect with
19 Steensby Port Inlet because that proposed railroad
20 track is exactly where there is a calving ground. It's
21 a calving ground. It's where the caribou pass through
22 to get to their calving ground, and it's right in the
23 centre of their track.

24 The railroad -- once you establish the railroad
25 and put down the tracks, and I think it's going to have
26 a detrimental impact on our caribou because it's their

1 route to go to their calving grounds. And I think from
2 experienced hunters, the track -- the railroad track is
3 adjacent to the calving ground of the caribou. And
4 when we're travelling to the -- near the mine site by
5 Ski-Doo, the traditional route that we use is all
6 covered in red dust, and it's totally different now how
7 we get there. It's already being affected.

8 And I'm sure as soon as the track is up and
9 running, it's going to have an effect on the caribou
10 migration route to the calving grounds, and I'm even
11 thinking at least if we have good representatives to
12 defend us in our organizations, maybe perhaps they
13 could help us to do a survey through plane or by air.
14 And when there's hardly any hunting going for caribou
15 and on the other side of it, other -- nearby
16 communities are getting to a point where they're
17 getting more strict where we can't even go hunting
18 around their area.

19 There seems to be both sides where it's getting
20 harder and harder to harvest anywhere, and there's
21 actually been hardly any support for our local hunters.
22 I know I got the answer for -- a response from --
23 earlier, but the railroad from Mary River to Steensby
24 should not be part of the mine because the caribou need
25 to have a clean environment where they can pass through
26 to get to their calving ground because we've noticed

1 that the snow is covered in red dust, and I'm sure that
2 the caribou are not going to eat that -- their food on
3 the ground because it's not edible, and I'd like for
4 you to represent hunters. Defend us. Support us.

5 I really wanted to be able to get my thoughts
6 across, but it's a very comprehensive issue that we're
7 going through, and perhaps I know we're defending and
8 hearing from Inuit, but we have to be a voice for our
9 wildlife. We have to defend our wildlife. It's --
10 it's not something that we play with. And I'm sure
11 there's other people who would like to speak, so that's
12 it for now, and I'll say something else later.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Baffinland, Udlu Hanson.

15 MS. HANSON: Qujannamiik. Udlu Hanson.

16 I'd like for Lou Kamermans to respond, please.

17 THE CHAIR: Lou Kamermans.

18 MR. KAMERMANS: Lou Kamermans, Baffinland.

19 Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 There's four topics I wrote down that I'll speak
21 to. The first is about, I believe, the deviation area,
22 the area where the railway doesn't follow the Tote Road
23 and that being in a caribou calving area or
24 post-calving area. We've studied this quite a bit, and
25 this has been subject to a lot of conversation and
26 back-and-forth with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association,

1 the Government of Nunavut, and, of course, the
2 community of Pond Inlet, both the hamlet and the
3 Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization.

4 Our plan for that area is similar to what our plan
5 is for the entire railway route is that we agree. We
6 completely understand that is a sensitive area, and
7 that's an area where we need to implement special
8 management measures. So what we would essentially do
9 is mark that area and apply different mitigations there
10 than we have elsewhere along the railway.

11 So in these areas, there's a few things we can do,
12 and it depends on what the objective is for caribou
13 crossing and disturbance. We can ensure there's even
14 smoother slopes there for the caribou so that they can
15 cross easier.

16 Where possible, we can put in larger culverts,
17 ones that can actually fit humans and wildlife
18 underneath. They're called pladart [phonetic]
19 culverts. They're like underpasses. Again, this can
20 help with crossing and making sure that caribou can get
21 from one side to the other.

22 We can also change the way the trains operate in
23 that area. The biggest way we can do that is by
24 managing speed. We can either set a year-round speed
25 restriction there, or we can set seasonal speed
26 restrictions when we know caribou are more likely to be

1 in the area. Or another commitment we have in this
2 process is to build monitoring stations specifically to
3 identify when caribou are in the area of the project,
4 and these are meant to be run by Inuit for Inuit to
5 identify when caribou are in the area for the
6 protection of the caribou so that they are there for
7 you to harvest.

8 Those stations could tell us when caribou are in
9 the area, and we could implement the measures precisely
10 when they're required.

11 We also expect to provide additional hunter
12 supports in that area. That's not just areas where
13 snowmobiles can cross over the rail, but it's building
14 dedicated trails so there's areas to travel along the
15 rail.

16 We also want to work with the Mittimatalik Hunters
17 and Trappers Organization to install hunter cabins
18 there at locations that are best suited to the hunters
19 and trappers organization. But that's not where the
20 conversation ends. Should Phase 2 be approved,
21 Baffinland is committed to continuing a very close
22 relationship with the hunters and trappers organization
23 in the community of Pond Inlet in general when it comes
24 to the management of the project in that area and for
25 all areas along the rail, for that matter.

26 Through this process, we've submitted our proposed

1 processes where hunters can identify where additional
2 crossings are required, whether they are for
3 snowmobiles, ATVs, or caribou. We can adjust the
4 design and operation of the rail for the life of the
5 project to respond to whatever the needs are.

6 You mentioned dust in your questions, and the
7 railway is a solution to dust. We've spoken about this
8 a little bit here.

9 The trucks are in every way inefficient and
10 inferior to the railway. They create more emissions;
11 they burn more fuel; they create more waste with tires,
12 and they kick up dust from a road made of materials
13 that will always become dust. The railway, it's steel
14 on steel. You eliminate that pathway, and you will see
15 far less dust along the transportation corridor with
16 the railway.

17 You mentioned assistance with monitoring and
18 surveys by air. We're planning and had planned for an
19 aerial survey this year of caribou. We didn't move
20 forward with it this year, but we do plan on moving
21 forward with it next year and continuing conversations
22 with the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization
23 about how it should be implemented.

24 We've also signed an agreement in principle with
25 the Government of Nunavut where we will provide a
26 stable source of funding that they can use to run their

1 regional monitoring programs when it's possible for
2 those programs to tell us something about our project.
3 It doesn't direct their research; it doesn't influence
4 it; but it recognizes that they're doing something
5 that's of value to us and to the Inuit in the region
6 and harvesters and that we should support that.

7 The last thing I wanted to talk about was you
8 mentioned harvester support. We already provide many
9 supports that could go towards harvesting, and Phase 2
10 increases that dramatically.

11 Currently, \$400,000 a year goes towards the
12 program for enabling harvesting in Pond Inlet through
13 fuel. Under Phase 2, there would be a new regional
14 harvesting program valued at \$750,000 a year that could
15 go towards and contribute to initiatives in all five
16 North Baffin communities. That program is not at the
17 direction of Baffinland. It would be administered by
18 the Qikiqtani Inuit Association much like the existing
19 Wildlife Compensation Fund, but our understanding is
20 that fund could go towards initiatives that increase
21 the effectiveness of harvesting or offset the cost of
22 harvesting. So it could buy equipment; it could buy
23 supplies that support harvesters; or it could buy
24 equipment and new technologies that ensure when you're
25 out harvesting, you're as successful as you can be.

26 One item we've discussed at length between us is

1 harpoon-type guns that can minimize the number of lost
2 harvests when hunting on the water. That's all things
3 that could be funded through that regional program.

4 And Pond Inlet specifically, under Phase 2, the
5 Tasiuqtiit Working Group that's already been
6 established, that could receive up to \$1.68 million a
7 year. By comparison, since that program started in
8 2018 -- that's four years now -- less than \$800,000 --

9 I'm seeing a -- from people in remote locations
10 that they've lost Iqaluit. And they're back.

11 So the last point I want to make, the funds going
12 to the Tasiuqtiit Working Group, while what's gone
13 there is significant in the last four years, it's a
14 fraction of what could go to Pond Inlet in a single
15 year under Phase 2, and the intent of those funds is to
16 support community wellness initiatives, and that
17 includes support for harvesting.

18 But those funds, much like the regional support
19 fund, it's not Baffinland's decision to say how they're
20 spent. That's up to the community. The Hamlet of Pond
21 Inlet and the Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers
22 Organization decides how that money is spent.

23 I hope I've answered all of your questions. If I
24 haven't, I'm happy to provide more responses. Thank
25 you. Qujannamiik.

26 THE CHAIR: Madeleine.

1 MS. QUMUATUQ: A question from the Board in
2 regards to the question given by Jimmy, also mentioned
3 today by Nina and others today.

4 For the support that is given by Qikiqtani Inuit
5 Association or -- that money is given to them. I heard
6 that these application forms have to be written, and
7 not being able to respond to the applications or taking
8 too long to respond to the applications or not even
9 getting an answer to the applications or something that
10 was mentioned in February. How do you operate this
11 application process? So when you receive an
12 application as a hunter -- if the hunter is saying that
13 they're going further away to hunt or if the -- they
14 don't have enough sewing materials because of lack of
15 sealskins or fur, caribou fur, how do you do the
16 process of the applications so that these applications
17 and the assistance can be given to the applicants?

18 Thank you.

19 THE CHAIR: Olayuk Akesuk, Qikiqtani Inuit
20 Association.

21 MR. AKESUK: Thank you, Chairperson.
22 Olayuk Akesuk from Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

23 For the harvesters support program, in the
24 agreement -- it was in the Inuit Benefits Agreement.
25 750,000 is mentioned there. It's available. The
26 hunters have to provide an application form.

1 For Pond Inlet, it goes through the Pond Inlet
2 Hunters and Trappers Organization, and then it goes to
3 the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and it's managed that
4 way. That's how it would be for the application. But
5 for the Ilagiiktunut Fund, anyone can apply for
6 traditional teaching or training or sewing, and there
7 are other programs that are -- applied to that for that
8 program by application and by proposal. After three
9 months, they review those applications. We tried to
10 make it available to review the applications every day,
11 but up to date, it's been like that, from what I
12 understand. Ms. Chairperson, thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Madeleine.

14 MS. QUMUATUQ: Thank you, Chairperson.

15 So I understand -- I would like to understand --
16 so how long would it take from the application being
17 submitted to a time when the person would be getting
18 the funding? How long would it be?

19 THE CHAIR: Qikiqtani Inuit Association,
20 Olayuk Akesuk.

21 MR. AKESUK: Thank you, Chairperson.

22 From the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, I would like
23 to ask Mr. Ottenhof to answer that question, please.

24 THE CHAIR: Jared Ottenhof.

25 MR. OTTENHOF: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jared
26 Ottenhof from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

1 The timeline or the process is set out in our
2 implementation guide for the Inuit Impact Benefit
3 Agreement. As it's currently structured, anybody who
4 believes that they've experienced a loss or any damages
5 from the Mary River Project, either directly or
6 indirectly, can go to their community liaison officer
7 or to their local HTO and share their experience, and
8 that experience is put into the application we've
9 developed. Once the application is complete, it is
10 then vetted by the HTO, hunter trapper
11 organization -- sorry -- and forwarded on to Qikiqtani
12 Inuit Association staff.

13 Once we receive the application, we apply the
14 experience to a sort of set rate. This could be for
15 gasoline or food for a number of days or distance
16 travelled. Or if there's a specific loss that occurs,
17 we can compensate for that as well.

18 Some applications that we received in the past
19 were for machines that were damaged by some bad gas
20 that was put in them. I believe somebody got in a
21 minor accident by Ski-Doo near the site as well, and
22 they were compensated. So the timeline varies between
23 from when the application is filed, the HTO reviews it,
24 and QIA receives it.

25 Thank you, Madam Chair.

26 THE CHAIR: Madeleine.

1 MS. QUMUATUQ: Thank you, Chairperson.

2 Thank you for the answer.

3 THE CHAIR: That concludes Day 2 of the
4 public hearing. Thank you all for answering the
5 questions and talk about your concerns and stuff.

6 We will continue with our meeting tomorrow at
7 9 AM. Tomorrow we'll be hearing from the communities
8 from Pond Inlet. We will continue with those comments
9 from the community.

10 For those -- there are three people online who
11 want to line up -- lining up on wanting to make
12 comments at the moment, so we'll continue with 9 AM
13 tomorrow morning. Have a good evening.

14

15 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 9:00 AM, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

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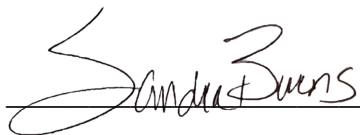
25

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:
2

3 We, Sandra Burns and Ester Horvath, certify that
4 the foregoing pages are a complete and accurate
5 transcript of the proceedings taken down by us in
6 shorthand and transcribed from our shorthand notes to
7 the best of our skill and ability.

8 Dated at the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta,
9 this 17th day of November 2021.
10
11

12 
13 _____
14 Sandra Burns, CSR(A), RPR, CRR
15 Official Court Reporter
16
17

18 
19 _____
20 Ester Horvath, CSR(A)
21 Official Court Reporter
22
23
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26

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