



**SCREENING DECISION REPORT  
NIRB FILE No.:25QN060**

NPC File No.: 150766

January 16, 2026

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board’s (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Hamlet of Gjoa Haven’s “Municipal Quarry Project” is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

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

**OUTLINE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT**

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## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

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

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

- (a) a review of the project is not required;
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On July 17, 2025 the NIRB received a referral to screen Hamlet of Gjoa Haven’s “Municipal Quarry Project” proposal (NIRB File No: 25QN060) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable land use plan. All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s Public Registry by using any of the following search criteria or [www.nirb.ca/project/126226](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126226).

- Project Name: Municipal Quarry Project
- NIRB File No.: 25QN060
- NIRB Application No.: 126226

**Table 1: NIRB’s Assessment Process**

Date	Stage
July 17, 2025	Receipt of project proposal; and referral from the Commission
July 17, 2025	Pursuant to s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> the NIRB requested the Proponent complete an online application to address information required for Screening
September 24, 2025	Receipt of online application from Proponent
September 24, 2025	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
October 31, 2025	Public engagement and comment request (which included draft terms and conditions) was issued in English with translations provided once available
November 21, 2025	Receipt of public comments
November 26, 2025	Proponent provided with an opportunity to address comments/concerns raised by public
December 8, 2025	Proponent responded to comments/concerns raised by public
December 1, 2025	Pursuant to Article 12 s 12.4.5 of the <i>Nunavut Agreement</i> and s. 92(3) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> , an extension to the 45-day timeline for the provision of the Board’s Report was requested from the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs

<b>Date</b>	<b>Stage</b>
January 16, 2026	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

## 1. Project Scope

<b>Location</b>	Kitikmeot region, Gjoa Haven
<b>Objective</b>	The Proponent intends to construct, operate and progressively close four (4) new quarries on Municipal land and Crown land to support Gjoa Haven’s future construction and aggregate needs. Project activities include excavation and extraction of aggregate; crushing, screening, stockpiling and hauling; use of water from approved municipal sources for dust suppression; waste management; spill prevention and response; and progressive closure and reclamation. Quarry operations will occur on an intermittent, as-needed basis.
<b>Timeline</b>	May 2026 to October 2031

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

- Undertakings, Works, and Activities (Summary).
  - The Hamlet proposes to develop, operate, and reclaim four new quarry sites (GH-105, GH-106, GH-107, and Quarry 2N) to supply aggregate for community infrastructure.
  - Use existing municipal road access (with minor upgrades if required).
  - Set up temporary facilities (e.g., small trailer, equipment storage)
  - Identify and avoid any flagged archaeological sites (30 m buffer).
- Site Preparation & Development.
  - Use existing municipal road access (with minor upgrades if required).
  - Truck processed aggregate to community project locations.
- Water Use & Management
  - Use ~5 m<sup>3</sup>/day of water from Swan Lake for dust suppression under existing water licence.
  - Maintain natural drainage; no water-based material washing.
- Fuel & Equipment Servicing
  - No fuel stored on-site; refueling and maintenance occur offsite where possible.
  - Respond to spills per the Spill Contingency Plan.
- Waste Management
  - Dispose of waste at the Hamlet’s municipal facilities.
  - Manage overburden on-site according to the Borrow/Quarry Management Plan.
- Monitoring & Protection
  - Protection
  - Apply erosion/sediment controls.
  - Test aggregate for ARD/ML and mitigate if required.
  - Pause work when wildlife is present and maintain communication with harvesters and community users.
- Closure & Reclamation

- Remove temporary infrastructure and equipment.
- Stabilize slopes, re-contour quarry floor, remove waste, and revegetate where appropriate in accordance with the Borrow/Quarry Management Plan.

## 2. Inclusion or Exclusion to Scoping List

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

## 3. Public Comments and Concerns

As outlined in Table 1 above, notices regarding the NIRB’s screening of this project proposal were distributed to community organizations as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties with a request for interested parties to provide the Board with any comments or concerns regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Additionally, proposed project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, were attached for consideration and comment.

On or before November 21, 2025, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

**Table 2: Comments Received**

<b>Commenting Party</b>	<b>NIRB Doc ID No.</b>
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)	358109
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	358114
Transport Canada (TC)	358112

### *a. Summary of Comments and Concerns Received*

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB in relation to the “Municipal Quarry Project” project proposal:

#### **(CIRNAC)**

- Acid Rock Drainage and Metal Leaching (ARD/ML) tests were done but results were not included. CIRNAC noted that materials with ARD/ML potential may pose risks or constraints for construction, particularly in thaw-sensitive areas. The

Quarry Management Plan includes a placeholder and CIRNAC advised that ARD/ML data should guide permitting and material handling. CIRNAC recommended that the Proponent:

- Validate geochemical results for quarry permitting.
- Plan handling measures for materials with ARD/ML risk.
- Consider water quality monitoring where contaminant transport is possible.
- Based on field observations, CIRNAC identified perma-frost related risks, including thaw-sensitive ground conditions and localized pooling, and recommended consideration of measures to manage excavation and drainage during summer operations. Recommendations include:
  - Use seasonal staging and pad/workface practices suited to thaw-sensitive conditions.
  - Implement drainage measures (grading, swales, sump pumping) to prevent ponding and instability.
  - Conduct site checks for timely adjustments or pauses if ground softens.
- The spill contingency plan is scoped to sewage lagoon scenarios, and CIRNAC identified potential spill risks associated with quarry-related activities such as fuel handling, mobile refuelling, cold-weather response, and on-road spills. CIRNAC noted that these routine activities may require clear procedures, storage protocols, equipment staging, and staff training. CIRNAC recommended consideration of updates to the plan to include:
  - Mobile refueling procedures.
  - Cold-weather spill response measures.
  - Response equipment staging and accessibility.
  - Vehicle operation and staff training/inspection routines.
- CIRNAC recommends ongoing consultation with the Gjoa Haven Hunters' & Trappers' Association, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and other relevant groups. Key issues to address include:
  - Incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and community knowledge alongside scientific approaches.
  - Mitigation measures to protect wildlife, environment, and culturally significant sites.
  - Training and employment opportunities for Inuit and local residents.
  - Procurement opportunities for Inuit-owned businesses.
  - Planning for closure of existing municipal quarries.
  - Providing regular updates on project status.

#### (ECCC)

- ECCC identified potential risks to migratory birds associated with project activities occurring during nesting season (late May-mid-August). ECCC noted that the Migratory Birds Regulations prohibit disturbance of migratory birds, nests, or eggs and recommended that the Proponent consider all migratory bird species that may occur in the project area and carry out all project phases in a manner that minimizes risk to migratory birds, nests, and eggs.

(TC)

- Has reviewed the project components and determined that its mandate is not applicable to this project.

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

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

#### **5. Proponent's Response to Public Comments and Concerns**

Due to the comments, and questions received from parties, the NIRB provided an opportunity for the Proponent to respond. The following is a summary of the Proponent's response to concerns:

- In response to concerns regarding ARD/ML the proponent noted that Geochemical testing shows very low acid generation potential due to high neutralization capacity and minimal metal leaching risk per Canadian Water Quality Guidelines. Full results will be included in the Quarry Management Plans, and periodic water quality monitoring may occur if required by community or regulators.
- In response to concerns regarding thaw-sensitive ground and drainage reliability, the Proponent states quarry staging will follow Northern Land Use Guidelines for permafrost, with measures such as grading to prevent pit lakes, snow fencing, and runoff ditches. Site-specific details will be included in Quarry Management Plans for permitting.
- In response to concerns regarding spill contingency gaps, the Proponent will develop a project-specific Spill Contingency Plan for quarries GH-105, GH-106, GH-107, and 2N to address fuel storage, transfer, training, reporting, and spill response procedures in line with best practices.
- In response to concerns regarding ongoing consultation, the Proponent states it will continue incorporating feedback from local residents and land users, including the Gjoa Haven Hunters' & Trappers' Association and Kitikmeot Inuit Association, throughout quarry operations as they are critical to the Hamlet's development.
- In response to concerns regarding migratory bird protection, the Proponent will include mitigation measures in Quarry Management Plans, such as scheduling stripping outside nesting season, prohibiting wildlife harassment, and managing waste in odour-proof containers to reduce attractants.

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

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

Community Knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

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

Factor	Comment
<p>The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The physical footprint and zone of influence are limited to the quarry sites and immediate access areas within the Kitikmeot Region. There is potential for additional roads or improvements to existing roads, but these are expected to be minor, as many trails already exist.</li> <li>▪ While the project area overlaps habitat used by far-ranging wildlife species such as migratory and non-migratory birds, Arctic fox, and Arctic hare, any potential effects on wildlife habitat are expected to be localized to the quarry sites and nearby access areas and are not regional in extent.</li> </ul>
<p>The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Proponent did not identify any designated sensitive sites within the quarry footprints, the area remains inherently sensitive due to Arctic ecosystem characteristics, including permafrost and wildlife use. Potential effects are acknowledged and will be managed through appropriate mitigation measures.</li> </ul>
<p>The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While no known areas of historical, cultural, or archaeological significance have been identified within the quarry footprints, the area is part of the broader Inuit land-use context and may contain undiscovered resources. The Proponent has committed to avoidance measures and chance-find procedures to manage potential effects on cultural and archaeological resources.</li> </ul>
<p>The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The proposed project may result in localized, short-term effects on nearby residents and wildlife; however, no population-level or regional impacts are anticipated.</li> </ul>
<p>The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A zone of influence of up to 5 km from the most potentially disruptive project activities was selected for the NIRB’s assessment.</li> <li>▪ With adherence to relevant regulatory requirements and application of the mitigation measures recommended by the NIRB, the proposed quarries are expected to cause localized, short-term disturbances, including noise, dust, and temporarily wildlife displacement. Effects are low in magnitude and well understood, with minor impacts likely during active operations and significant effects</li> </ul>

Factor	Comment
	unlikely. Impacts are intermittent, limited to quarry activity periods, and are reversible through mitigation and reclamation measures such as dust control, erosion management, wildlife protection, and progressive re-vegetation.
The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Table 4 is a list of past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects. The Board recommended terms and conditions along with mitigation measures designed with consideration for the potential for cumulative effects in the Board Views section.</li> </ul>
Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No other relevant factors were identified; however, see below for Regulatory Requirements mandating mitigation and/or reporting.</li> </ul>

## Regulatory Requirements

*The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the Project:*  
**Acts and Regulations**

1. The Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-28.8/>).
2. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/>), the *Migratory Birds Regulations* ([https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,\\_c.\\_1035/index.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1035/index.html)) and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* ([https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,\\_c.\\_1036/index.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1036/index.html)).
3. The *Wildlife Act (Nunavut)* and its corresponding regulations (<http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html>).
4. The *Nunavut Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-28.6/>). The Proponent must comply with the proposed terms and conditions listed in the attached **Appendix B**.
5. The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/t-19.01/>) and the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations* (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/clear-tofc-211.htm>).
6. The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.31/>).

The Proponent is advised that the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* lists calcium chloride (CaCl) as a toxic substance. The Proponent should assess alternatives to the use of CaCl as a drill additive, including biodegradable and non-toxic additives.

7. The *Territorial Quarrying Regulations* (<http://www.canlii.org/en/ca/laws/regu/crc-c-1527/latest/crc-c-1527.html>)

## **Other Applicable Guidelines**

The *Northern Land Use Guidelines, Volume 07: Pits and Quarries* (<http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/360991/publication.html>).

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

NIRB Project Number	Project Title	Project Type
<b><i>Present Projects – approved or in operation</i></b>		
25YN046	<u>FISHES: Fostering Indigenous Small-scale fisheries for Health, Economy and food Security</u>	Research (seasonal)
24YN040	Inuit Qaujisarnirmut Pilirijjutit on Arctic Shipping Risks in Inuit Nunangat	Research (seasonal)
25YN001	Sikunnguaq – The Likeness or Image of Ice in Maps	Research (year round)
<b><i>Past Projects</i></b>		
23YN029	Arctic Expedition	Research
23TN028	<u>Fridtjof Nansen – 2023 Northwest Passage</u>	Tourism
23YN016	Inuit Qaujisarnirmut Pilirijjutit on Arctic Shipping Risks in Inuit Nunangat	Research
24TN051	Norwegian Tall Ship Through Northwest Passage and the Nunavut Region in 2025	Research
23YN025	OPP 2.0 Baseline Shoreline Mapping	Research
22TN017	Scenic Cruises – Unlocking the Northwest Passage	Tourism
22YN051	Getting to know little geese	Research

VIEWS OF THE BOARD

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

**Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:**

<b>Valued Component</b>	Migratory and non-migratory birds; terrestrial wildlife; and Species at Risk
<b>Potential effects:</b>	Potential localized disturbance to migratory and non-migratory birds, including effects on wildlife movement and habitat use, from increased noise, dust, and activity generated by heavy equipment, use of existing roads, and stockpiling of aggregate material.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	The potential impacts are low in magnitude and complexity and are expected to be temporary and reversible.
<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	The proponent will minimize disturbance by restricting activities to designated areas and existing trails, controlling attractants and waste, prohibiting interaction with wildlife, pausing work if animals enter, and restoring vegetation and natural conditions after closure.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Watercourses/Waterbodies (Including fresh and marine waters) – 6 through 9 Air Quality – 20 through 21

	Noise – 22 Wildlife – 23 through 27 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 28 through 29 Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance – 30 through 32
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<b>Valued Component</b>	Vegetation, Soil, Permafrost, Surface Water Quality
<b>Potential effects:</b>	Potential adverse effects to vegetation, soil, permafrost, and surface water quality may occur from the deposition of dust and accidental leaks or spillages of fuels associated with transportation of quarry material and heavy equipment operations. Localize erosion, sedimentation, and water runoff may result from excavation activities. Dust deposition, runoff, and permafrost degradation are expected to be localize and associated with intermittent quarry operations.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	The potential impacts are low in magnitude and complexity and are expected to be temporary and reversible.
<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	The Proponent will implement mitigation measures, including dust suppression, erosion and sediment controls, spill prevention, and progressive reclamation, to minimize potential impacts to vegetation, soil, permafrost, and surface water quality.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Aggregate Removal within Existing and New Quarries – 34 through 39 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 40 through 42

<b>Valued Component</b>	Air Quality
<b>Potential effects:</b>	Potential effects to air quality include dust generation during excavation, material handling, stockpiling, and transportation, resulting in short-term, localized increases in particulate matter.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	The potential for impacts to air quality are expected to be low, localized to the immediate quarry areas and associated access routes, short-term and intermittent, and reversible once operations cease or dust settles.
<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	The Proponent will implement dust suppression measures, maintain and stabilize vegetation, limit grading and clearing to necessary areas, and schedule extraction and stockpiling during summer months to minimize dust emissions along the quarries and access routes.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Air Quality – 20 through 21

<b>Valued Component</b>	Wildlife Harvesting and Traditional Land Use Activities
<b>Potential effects:</b>	Concerns regarding public safety, and access to hunting areas near quarry site GH-107.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	Potential impacts on wildlife harvesting and traditional land use activities may occur near the quarry sites.
<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	The Hamlet will continue discussions with the community regarding traditional use areas near the prospective quarry sites to minimize disturbance of traditional land use activities during quarry operations.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Wildlife – 23 through 27 Other – 46

**Socio-economic effects on northerners:**

<b>Valued Component</b>	Historical, archaeological, and heritage sites
<b>Potential effects:</b>	Potential effects to historical, archaeological, and heritage sites include accidental disturbance of known archaeological sites and the chance discovery of previously unidentified artifacts during quarry operations.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	The potential impacts on historical, archaeological, and heritage sites are expected to be low, given the use of mapped buffers, avoidance measures, and work-stoppage procedures in the event of chance finds.
<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	The Proponent will avoid known archaeological sites using mapped buffers, implement best management practices during quarry operations, and immediately stop work and notify the Nunavut Department of Culture and Heritage if any previously unidentified archaeological resources are discovered.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Heritage Sites – 43 through 44

<b>Valued Component</b>	Human Health and Safety
<b>Potential Effects:</b>	Potential effects on human health and safety include exposure to dust and noise, increased traffic hazards, and risks associated with the handling and storage of equipment and fuels near the community.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	The potential impacts on human health and safety are expected to be localized to the immediate areas around the quarries and access routes, intermittent during active operations, and manageable through the implementation of dust suppression, spill control and traffic management measures.
<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	The Proponent will implement dust suppression, spill control, traffic management, and operational procedures for equipment and fuel handling to minimize risks to human health and safety near the community.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Fuel and Chemical Storage – 11 through 19 Air Quality – 20 through 21 Noise - 22 General – 1 through 5

**Significant public concern:**

<b>Valued Component</b>	Public concern during commenting period
<b>Potential effects:</b>	No significant public concern was expressed during the public commenting period for this file.
<b>Nature of Impacts:</b>	The potential impacts are expected to be of low magnitude and low probability, localized in scope to the project area, temporary in duration, and reversible if the Proponent follows the recommended terms and conditions and adheres to its commitments.

<b>Mitigating Factors:</b>	The Board recommends mitigation measures to protect Inuit wildlife harvesting and traditional land use activities, incorporate Inuit Qaujimaningit, and support local employment and use of community services.
<b>Proposed Terms and Conditions:</b>	Other – 45 through 47

**Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:**

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

**Administrative Conditions:**

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

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

**RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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

**General**

1. Hamlet of Gjoa Haven (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150766), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, September 24, 2025). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies’ permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

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

6. The Proponent shall not extract water from any fish-bearing water body unless the water intake hose is equipped with a screen of appropriate mesh size to ensure that there is no entrapment of fish. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agency.
7. The Proponent shall ensure that no disturbance of the stream bed, lakebed or the banks of any definable watercourse be permitted, except where deemed necessary for maintaining project-specific operational commitments or approved by a responsible authority in cases of spill management.
8. The Proponent shall implement erosion and sediment suppression measures on all areas during all project activities in order to prevent sediment or fugitive dust from entering any water body or surrounding environment. Erosion prevention measures may include berms or silt fences.
9. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

#### **Waste Management**

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

#### **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

11. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
12. The Proponent shall use adequate secondary containment or a surface liner (e.g., self-supporting insta-berms and fold-a-tanks) when storing barreled fuel and chemicals at all locations.
13. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
14. Fuel and hazardous material storage areas and fuel lines should be clearly marked with signs or flagging to avoid accidental breaks and punctures, and to ensure areas remain visible during the winter months.
15. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name for ease of identification.
16. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
17. The Proponent shall follow the authorizing agencies' direction for management and removal of hazardous materials and wastes (e.g., contaminated soils, sediment and waste oil).
18. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.

19. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

#### **Air Quality**

20. The Proponent shall take appropriate dust suppression measures in conducting all activities for this Project including using approved dust suppression additives and techniques as necessary to maintain ambient air quality.

21. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

#### **Noise**

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

#### **Wildlife – General**

23. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.

24. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.

25. The Proponent shall ensure that all wildlife have the right-of-way on any roads or trails. Vehicles are required to slow down or stop and wait to permit the free and unrestricted movement of wildlife across roads or trails at any location.

26. The Proponent shall enforce safe speed limits for vehicles travelling along the road to ensure drivers have sufficient time to react in a safe manner if wildlife are encountered on or adjacent to the road or trail.

27. The Proponent shall ensure that drivers maintain spacing appropriate for driving and road conditions, and speed limits, to ensure drivers have time to safely react to any wildlife on the road.

#### **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

28. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.

29. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone<sup>1</sup> appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at [www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb](http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb).

### **Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance**

30. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration as identified by current land use plans in place and/or by Inuit Qaujimaningit.
31. The Proponent shall not locate any operation or undertake activities that could block or cause any diversion to migration of caribou or muskoxen.
32. The Proponent shall immediately cease activities likely to interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskoxen until such time as the caribou or muskox have passed.

### **Road and Ground Disturbance**

33. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.

### **Aggregate Removal within Existing and New Quarries**

34. The Proponent shall not remove any material from below the ordinary highwater mark of any lake or stream and shall maintain an undisturbed buffer zone as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies between quarry site and any high water mark of any water body to ensure erosion control.
35. The Proponent shall install silt fences/curtains down stream of any quarry activities.
36. The Proponent shall ensure there is no obstruction of natural drainage, flooding or channel diversion from quarry/pit access, stockpiles, or other structures or facilities.
37. The Proponent shall locate screening and crushing equipment on stable ground, at a location with ready access to stockpiles.
38. The Proponent shall clearly stake and flag pit and quarry boundaries, so they remain visible to other land users.
39. The Proponent shall locate quarry/pit facilities so as to avoid all recreational sites and public use areas, and to protect unique geographical features and natural aesthetics.

### **Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

40. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
41. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
42. The Proponent shall avoid disturbance on slopes prone to natural erosion, and alternative locations shall be utilized.

### **Heritage Sites**

43. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
44. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts, and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.

### **Other**

45. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.

46. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
47. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

## OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

### Change in Project Scope

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

### Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission

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

### Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

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

## CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board's screening decision with respect to the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven's "Municipal Quarry Project". The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated January 16, 2026 at Iqaluit, NU.



Albert Ehaloak, *Acting* Chairperson

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

## APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

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

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for *SARA*. *SARA* applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of *SARA* identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of *SARA*. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

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

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

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

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

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

Updated: September 2024

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

<sup>2</sup> The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

<sup>3</sup> Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.

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



**INTRODUCTION**

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

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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

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

Note that the above-mentioned functions require either a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit. CH is authorized by way of the *Nunavut and Archaeological and Palaeontological Site Regulations*<sup>4</sup> to issue such permits.

<sup>4</sup>P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

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

## Legal Framework

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

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

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

## Palaeontology and Archaeology

Under the *Nunavut Act*<sup>5</sup>, the federal government can make regulations for the protection, care and preservation of paleontological and archaeological sites and specimens in Nunavut. Under the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*<sup>6</sup>, it is illegal to alter or disturb any paleontological or archaeological site in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process.

### Definitions

As defined in the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*, the following definitions apply:

*“archaeological site” means a place where an archaeological artifact is found.*

*“archaeological artifact” means any tangible evidence of human activity that is more than 50 years old and in respect of which an unbroken chain of possession or regular pattern of usage cannot be demonstrated, and includes a Denesuline archaeological specimen referred to in section 40.4.9 of the Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement).*

*“palaeontological site” means a site where a fossil is found.*

*“fossil” includes:*

*Fossil means the hardened or preserved remains or impression of previously living organisms or vegetation and includes:*

- (a) natural casts;*
- (b) preserved tracks, coprolites and plant remains; and*
- (c) the preserved shells and exoskeletons of invertebrates and the preserved eggs, teeth and bones of vertebrates.*

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

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

### Introduction

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

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<sup>5</sup> s. 51(1)

<sup>6</sup> P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

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

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

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

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

### **Types of Development**

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

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

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

### **Types of Studies Undertaken to Preserve Heritage Resources**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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