

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPERS FOR THE PROTECTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN THE NUNAVUT TERRITORY

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, palaeontological sites, historic buildings and cairns. Effective collaboration between the developer, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY), and the contract archaeologist(s) will ensure proper preservation of heritage resources in the Nunavut Territory. The roles of each are briefly described.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth (CLEY) 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: 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 palaeontologist permit authorizing field work; assess the completeness of the study and its recommendations; ensure that the developer complies with the recommendations.

The primary regulatory agencies that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth 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 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement), and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs 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 palaeontologist is hired to perform the required study and that provisions of the contract with the archaeologist or palaeontologist 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 palaeontologist 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 palaeontologist 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 palaeontologist. This individual is also bound by the legal requirements of the Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological 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 1 Permit is required for this type of study if field surveys are undertaken.

Reconnaissance: This is done to provide a judgemental 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, Language, Elders and Youth. 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.

Reporting Procedures

By law, a holder of a Nunavut Archaeologist or Palaeontologist Permit must submit a report on the work performed by March 31 of the year following that in which the permit was issued. Section 14 of the Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations provides details of reporting requirements for both Class 1 and Class 2 permits, and identifies the agencies to which copies of the report must be submitted.

This report should document the baseline archaeological or palaeontological information recovered in the course of the project, in the context of the proposed developments with which they are associated. If possible, anticipated impacts of the development on heritage resources should be addressed. This information must be forthcoming in time for mitigation studies and

programs to be implemented.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth must receive permit applications a minimum of 90 days in advance of the proposed start date for the study. In some cases, additional time may be required to complete the permit review process. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth sends copies of the application to appropriate organizations for comment. Under the provisions of Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, copies of archaeology permit applications are sent to the Inuit Heritage Trust for review.

Archaeological and palaeontological fieldwork in Nunavut can normally only take place between late June and early September, depending on weather conditions, and it is important that project planning take this fact into consideration. Field reconnaissance, inventories, and testing or excavation programs can only be undertaken under snow-free conditions.

Summary of Legislation Protecting Heritage Resources in Nunavut

The Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations, pursuant to the *Nunavut Act*, apply throughout Nunavut and state:

Archaeology:

4. No person shall search for archaeological sites or archaeological artifacts, or survey an archaeological site, without a Class 1 or Class 2 permit.

5(1). No person shall excavate, alter or otherwise disturb an archaeological site, or remove an archaeological artifact from an archaeological site, without a Class 2 permit.

Palaeontology:

6. No person shall search for palaeontological sites or fossils, or survey a palaeontological site, without a Class 1 or Class 2 permit.

7. No person shall excavate, alter or otherwise disturb a palaeontological site, or remove a fossil from a palaeontological site, without a Class 2 permit.

On federal Crown Land, the **Territorial Land Use Regulations**, pursuant to the *Territorial Lands Act*, also apply. Two sections are relevant to archaeological sites:

10(a). No permittee shall, unless expressly authorized in his permit or expressly authorized in writing by an inspector conduct a land use operation within 30 metres of a known monument or a known or suspected archaeological site or burial ground; and

16. Where, in the course of a land use operation, a suspected archaeological site or burial ground is unearthed or otherwise discovered, the permittee shall immediately:

- suspend the land use operation on the site; and
- notify the engineer or an inspector of the location of the site and the nature of any unearthed materials, structures or artifacts.

Development activities near archaeological sites are also regulated by the **Canada Oil and Gas Geophysical Operations Regulations** of the *Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act*.

27. (1) Where an archaeological site or a burial ground is discovered during an onshore geophysical operation, the operator shall so inform a conservation officer and suspend the operation in the immediate area of the discovery until permitted by the conservation officer to resume the operation in that area.

(2) A conservation officer shall permit the resumption of a geophysical operation that was suspended under subsection (1) if the conservation officer, after consultation with the Minister of Communications, is satisfied that the operation will not disturb the archaeological site or the burial ground and will not affect the archaeological or other special characteristics or the nature of the site or ground.

The *Historical Resources Act* (Territorial) pertains to Commissioner's Land. Protection of sites in these areas is afforded by:

9(1). Whenever, in the opinion of the Commissioner, any prehistoric or historic remains, whether or not designated as an historic place under this ordinance or under the Historic Sites and Monuments Act of Canada is threatened with destruction by reason of commercial, industrial, mining, mineral exploration or other activity, the Commissioner may order the persons undertaking the activity to provide for adequate investigation, recording and salvage of prehistoric or historic objects threatened with destruction.