

## January 25<sup>nd</sup> – February 6<sup>th</sup>, Pond Inlet

# BASIS FOR REVIEW

- The Government of Nunavut has many different interests in resource development
- As a public government, we must balance many competing interests
- In our reviews we balance our priorities with potential impacts to the physical, socio-economic, and cultural environments
- To do this we rely on our mandates, policies, and legislation

# THE GN'S REVIEW PROCESS

- The GN takes a whole-of-government approach in its participation
- Technical and policy experts from all departments and agencies make recommendations to senior management for decisions when preparing submissions for the board
- Submissions and positions reflect a unified voice, including the approval and agreement by scientists and advisors, regarding recommendations that are ultimately put forward





# THE GN'S ROLE IN NIRB PROCESSES

- The GN participates in NIRB assessment processes as an intervenor
  - GN informs and supports the NIRB in its assessment and monitoring functions much like every other intervening party
- GN is **not** an approval authority for the “Mary River Phase 2” project proposal

## ***TURAAQTAVUT* – THE GN'S MANDATE**

- Our mandate is set by our officials elected by Nunavummiut
- Develop our infrastructure and economy in ways that support a positive future for Nunavummiut
- Provide education and training to prepare Nunavummiut for positive contributions to society and for meaningful employment
- Support responsible resource development where environmental impacts are mitigated and result in socio-economic benefits

# **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT**

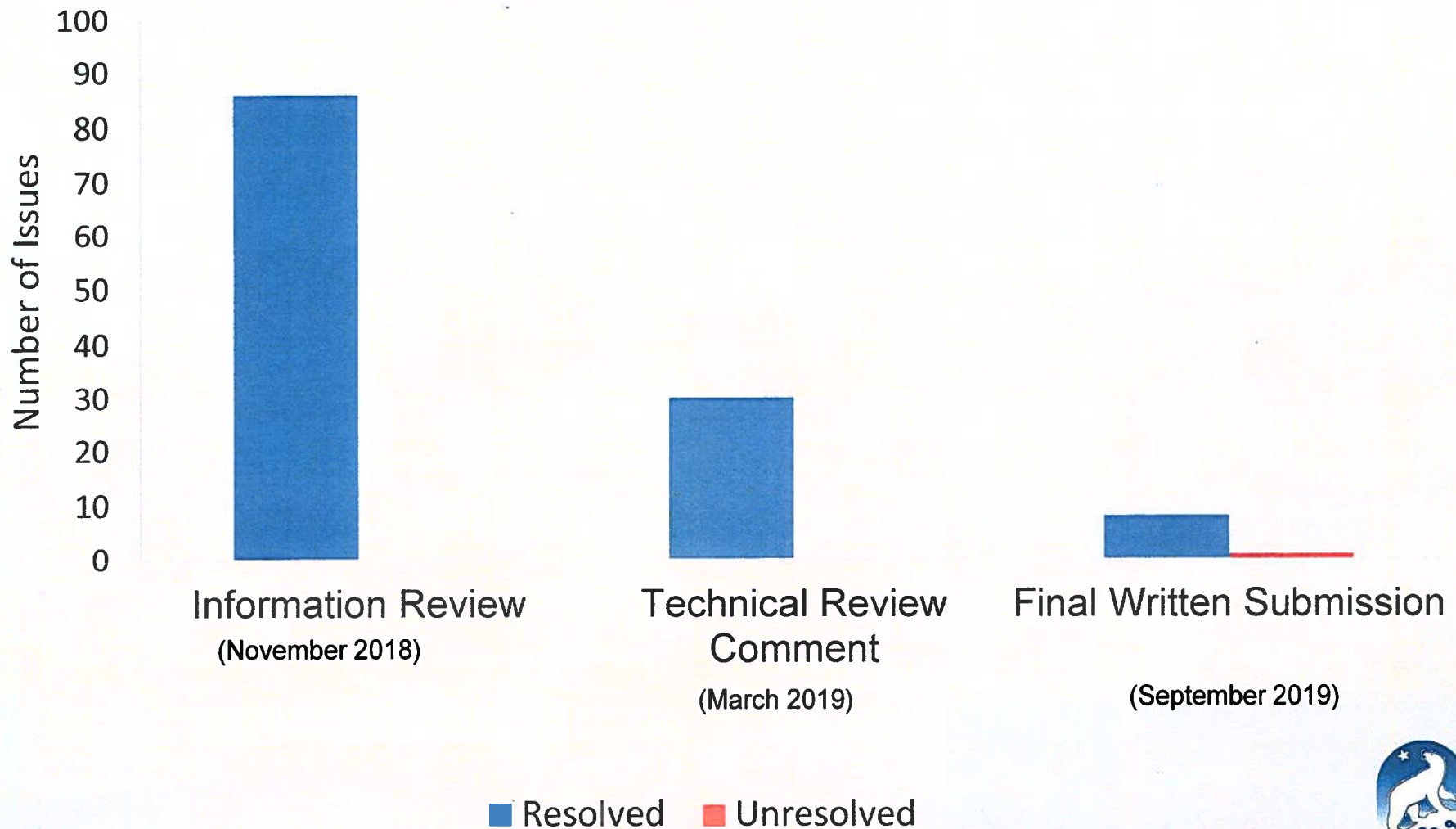
- GN staff attend NIRB and Baffinland engagement sessions
- The GN listens carefully to the position and opinions of intervenors and community participants
- The GN will continue to work with other intervenors, particularly potentially impacted hamlets, HTOs, and other community organizations

# THE GN'S REVIEW FOCUS

- Impacts to caribou
  - Precautionary railway design
  - Crossing locations to be informed by IQ and scientific knowledge holders
  - Improved ongoing project monitoring and data collection
- Human health
- Impacts to polar bears
- Socio-economic impacts and benefits



# GN PARTICIPATION IN THE 'MARY RIVER PHASE 2' ASSESSMENT





# REMAINING OUTSTANDING ISSUES

# GN-TRC-02: Regional Caribou Monitoring

## Summary:

- GN disagrees with Baffinland's determination of 'low impact on caribou'
- Additional research and monitoring needed to address present information gaps

## Recommendation:

- A caribou research agreement between the Proponent and GN is drafted to ensure this funding is provided
- In the absence of data, a precautionary approach should be taken

## **GN-TRC-02: Regional Caribou Monitoring (cont.)**

- Baffinland has an obligation to monitor project impacts on caribou as outlined in the Terrestrial Ecosystem Management Plan
- The GN has a separate obligation to monitor Baffin Island herd regionally
- The GN always pursues a collaborative approach between the GN and Baffinland to monitor caribou via a contribution agreement and commitment to sharing relevant data
- Goal is to address information gaps between regional monitoring and project-specific monitoring



## CONCLUSIONS

- Ultimately, the recommendation to approve or not approve the “Mary River Phase 2” proposal resides with the NIRB, and the final decision resides with the Government of Canada
- However, oversight of the Mary River Project does not end with a NIRB recommendation or project certificate – ongoing, adaptive management is a critical element of any assessment process





# CONCLUSIONS

- Project impacts relating to the GN's jurisdiction can be managed through mitigation and monitoring plans
- Meaningful community engagement and the incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is needed over the life of the project
- GN commits to continue working with Baffinland, all participants, and the NIRB to complete effective project assessments and to participate in all ongoing monitoring initiatives and working groups



**Thank you  
Qujanamiik**

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