

Region and Nunavut generally. With the outbreak in Iqaluit now declared to be over, public health directives have eased to the point where the Board can begin the planning necessary to resume the extended Public Hearing proceedings, including making logistical arrangements. The Board has balanced many considerations during this planning process to identify how best to complete the remaining items in the extended Public Hearing Agenda in a reasonable manner, including the following:

- Current and possible future public health orders restricting travel and limiting indoor gatherings in Iqaluit, the Qikiqtaaluk Region and Nunavut more generally;
- The requirements of procedural fairness and the goal of the Board completing a thorough assessment in a timely manner;
- The necessary focus on the Community Roundtable Sessions and the recognition that the Panel has yet to hear the perspectives of community representatives about the Phase 2 Development Proposal;
- The health and safety of all participants attending the resumption of the extended Public Hearing ;
- The health, safety and comfort level of community representatives and their home communities regarding traveling out of their community to once again participate in a large in-person gathering;
- The plans of community members who want to participate, but during the late summer and early fall will be out on the land pursuing traditional seasonal land and harvesting activities and may be unable/unwilling to dedicate a week or more to travel, attend and return home from the Public Hearing sessions; and
- Logistics, including the limited availability of in-person meeting venues large enough to host a gathering of the size of the extended Public Hearing and the availability of technical supports required for stable audio and video links amongst venues.

Taking all of these factors into account, the Board identified very limited options to complete the six (6) days remaining in the Extended Public Hearing in 2021. **Accordingly, the Board has now directed that the extended Public Hearing will resume on November 1-November 6, 2021. The resumed proceedings will be conducted in the same format and with the same remaining Agenda as the April 2021 Extended Public Hearing proceedings,** but may be modified to reflect exemptions or directions of the Chief Public Health Officer and applicable restrictions under public health orders in place at the time.

FORMAT FOR RESUMPTION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

The resumption of the Extended Public Hearing will consist of in-person proceedings hosted **in the primary location of Iqaluit** from November 1-6, 2021, as well as an in-person audio/video Zoom link, connected to a hub in Pond Inlet to allow residents of Pond Inlet to pose questions and share their knowledge with the Board from a central public venue. The Board's proceedings will also be available to any resident of Pond Inlet or the public in general who wish to participate from home using a combination of audio/video participation options similar to previous meetings (Teleconference and Zoom). It should be noted that due to COVID-19 restrictions on the number of people who can attend indoor meetings, the in-person venue in Iqaluit will not be open to the

public, and is reserved for the Board, the Proponent, Intervenor, nominated Community Representatives and identified media representatives only.

The intention of the resumed session is to complete the items remaining on the extended Public Hearing Agenda when the Public Hearing was suspended, with the focus being the completion of the Community Roundtable where the Panel will hear directly from the seven (7) potentially-affected North Baffin communities. In advance of the resumption of the extended Public Hearing, the Board will be inviting five (5) community representatives from each of the 7 affected communities: Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord to express their interest in participating. Preference will be given to those community members that attended the April 2021 proceedings, but if those individuals are unavailable, others may participate in their place. The Board will be ensuring community representatives represent diverse demographics, including women, Elders, youth, Hunters and Trappers Organizations and Hamlets. As with the previous extended Public Hearing, the community representatives will be brought together by the Board in one venue to ask questions and provide comments to the Proponent, Intervenor and the Board.

SPECIFIC REQUEST TO BAFFINLAND

In the interests of ensuring the Community Roundtable sessions can commence as soon as possible in the Agenda of the resumed extended Public Hearing, the Board requests that Baffinland consider whether it is possible to reduce the three (3) hours of time on the Agenda set aside for Baffinland's questions and follow up with Registered Intervenor by providing their questions and follow up to the Registered Intervenor in written format in advance of the resumed extended Public Hearing in November. The Board would appreciate receiving a response from Baffinland regarding this modification of this Agenda item **on or before August 12, 2021**. If Baffinland is willing to submit the questions and follow up in writing, the Board also requests that Baffinland provide an indication as to when they anticipate filing their written response.

PROCEDURAL DIRECTION REGARDING NEW MATERIALS RECEIVED BY THE BOARD

Following the suspension of the extended Public Hearing, the Board received the following additional documents related to the Phase 2 Development Proposal:

- Qikiqtani Inuit Association Tusaqtavut Study Report (Doc. ID 336242, 336243, 336244, 336245, 336246, 336247, 336248) – these materials are the final portion of the study the QIA committed to providing in the November 2019 Public Hearing.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada's clarification (Doc. ID 336238) to the Hamlet of Pond Inlet regarding points made in the Hamlet's comments on the Baffinland Preliminary Summary of 2020 Narwhal Monitoring Programs.
- Parks Canada's clarification (Doc. ID 336239) to Hamlet of Pond Inlet regarding point made in the Hamlet's comments on the Baffinland Preliminary Summary of 2020 Narwhal Monitoring Programs.

By copy of this letter, Intervenor are invited to review and provide written comments on these additional submissions for the Board's consideration. Parties wishing to provide must file their

comment submissions with the NIRB by sending them to: info@nirb.ca on or before 3 pm MDT on August 30, 2021.

NEXT STEPS

Summary of Important Dates for parties

August 12, 2021	Deadline for Baffinland to advise whether they consent to waiving their remaining 3 hours of time for questions and follow up with Registered Intervenors at the resumption of the extended Public Hearing, and if so advise when the alternative written submission will be provided
August 30, 2021	Deadline for parties to provided comments on Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Parks Canada submissions.
September 1, 2021	NIRB to release Draft Hearing Agenda.
September 15, 2021	Deadline for parties to confirm attendance and lead speaker at the Hearing and requests by public media outlets to cover the proceedings.
November 1-6, 2021	Resumption of the extended Public Hearing proceedings in Iqaluit.
November 22, 2021	Parties submit Closing Written Statements.
December 6, 2021	Proponent submits Closing Written Statements.

To ensure that all materials are received by the Board and the other participants in time to consider before the resumption of the extended Public Hearing, the NIRB requires all parties to comply with the timelines and directions provided in this correspondence.

As set out above and as requested by parties in the January 2021 Public Hearing proceedings Intervenors and the Proponent will be provided with additional time following the end of the Public Hearing to file their closing written statements. For the clarity of all participants, these statements are not final written submissions, which have already been received by the Board in advance of the January 2021 proceedings, but rather should consist of the closing remarks of parties and a summary of the final positions of parties that should be considered by the Board in respect of the Phase 2 Development Proposal. Intervenors will have until November 22, 2021 to file closing statements and Baffinland will then have until December 6, 2021 to file their closing statement.

Parties are asked to direct all forthcoming submissions to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca. In the interim, if you require clarification on the NIRB's assessment of the "Phase 2 Development Proposal" contact Cory Barker at cbarker@nirb.ca or (867) 983-4607 or Guillaume Daoust, at (867) 983-4609 or via email at gdaoust@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Karen D. Costello
Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
Lou Kamermans, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation