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Nunavut Impact Review Board
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) would like to thank all those who participated in the in-person consultation sessions and follow-up virtual discussions and who provided supplementary written comments to inform the development of the *Revised Draft* Standard Impact Statement Guidelines. The NIRB held in-person consultation sessions in Vancouver, British Columbia on January 24 and 25, 2023 with attendance by Proponents and Consultants, Designated Inuit Organizations, and Government Intervenor. These sessions were facilitated by Stratos Inc., an ERM Group Company. The NIRB further held individual follow-up discussions virtually with: the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines and members, Environment and Climate Change Canada, representatives of the Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene, and a representative of the Athabasca Denesųliné NÉNé Land Corporation. The NIRB also held targeted in-person community consultation sessions in each of the three (3) regions of Nunavut.

The objective of these meetings was to provide:

- an overview of the process to develop Standard Impact Statement Guidelines;
- information on key themes within the Guidelines; and
- provide an opportunity for parties to come together and provide feedback on key themes to inform the next draft of the Standard Impact Statement Guidelines.

The NIRB would like to thank everyone who participated in the consultation sessions and provided supplementary written feedback. The time and effort taken, and knowledge shared to inform the development of Standard Impact Statement Guidelines is much appreciated. The NIRB would especially like to thank the consultants from Stratos for their work in planning, facilitating, and following up from the Vancouver sessions.

Sincerely,

Mark Ings

Acting Executive Director

Nunavut Impact Review Board

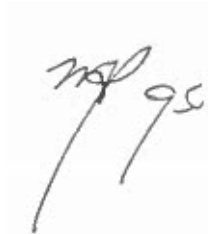
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MI 95', is located below the typed name and title.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) is developing Standard Impact Statement (IS) Guidelines as authorized under Article 12, Section 12.2.23(h) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 26(1)(e) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*. The Standard IS Guidelines will provide information to guide Proponents when preparing their impact statement documentation as required during the NIRB's assessment of project proposals under the *Nunavut Agreement* and *NuPPAA*. Once finalized, the Standard IS Guidelines will provide greater certainty for proponents wishing to develop project descriptions with sufficient information to support an assessment by the NIRB. The Standard IS Guidelines will provide the general requirements applicable to the assessment of all projects, which will be supplemented by any focused, project-specific guidelines the Board considers necessary to guide the assessment of a given project.

The NIRB is also currently developing additional guidance documents on: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Public Engagement, and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.

On December 6, 2018, the NIRB released the *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines for public comment. In reviewing the comment submissions, input during recent NIRB processes, and similar work being done in other regions, several themes emerged that warrant follow-up and revisions to the December 2018 *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines. The NIRB identified the following themes for further consultation and discussion:

- Treatment of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and public engagement
- Use of plain language and accessible documents
- Appropriate methodology
- Socio-economic impact assessment
- Baseline development
- Impact assessment of individual valued components as well as collective impacts
- Cumulative effects
- Significance determination
- Sustainable development
- Climate change
- Phased development and amendments

Four (4) consultation sessions were held in Vancouver on January 24 and 25, 2023 with proponents and consultants, Designated Inuit Organizations (DIOs), government and other intervenors, and all parties. The objectives of the consultation sessions were to bring parties together to build knowledge and awareness around the Standard IS Guidelines development process, provide an opportunity to hear

perspectives and receive feedback on key themes, and to inform the next iteration of the Draft Standard IS Guidelines.

The consultation session in Vancouver was facilitated by Stratos Inc. an ERM Group Company and included targeted sessions for Proponents and consultants, Designated Inuit Organizations, and Government and other Intervenors, as well as an all-parties session. NIRB staff and Legal Counsel were also in attendance. The NIRB further provided opportunities for follow-up discussions virtually as well as written supplementary comments. The NIRB had follow-up virtual discussions with: representatives of the Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene (Sayisi Dene First Nations and Northlands Denesuline First Nations), the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines and members, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the Athabasca Denesųliné NÉNé Land Corporation. Summaries of these discussions are provided in this document along with comments shared during the Vancouver consultation sessions. All related materials, including meeting materials, presentations, and supplementary written comments are available at: <https://www.nirb.ca/rules-of-procedure>.

2 APPROACH TO THE NIRB'S CONSULTATION SESSIONS

During each consultation session, the NIRB's approach and process to developing Standard Impact Statement Guidelines was provided. The focus of the sessions was on the key themes developed and to review proposed substantive changes to the 2018 *Draft* Impact Statement Guidelines. A summary of each theme was provided and then parties were provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Electronic versions of the following materials, either provided in advance of the meeting or in follow-up; can be accessed on the NIRB's website at: <https://www.nirb.ca/rules-of-procedure>

- PowerPoint presentation
- *Draft* Impact Statement Guidelines (2018)
- Key Topics for Discussion and Input to Inform Revisions to the Standard IS Guidelines
- Non-Technical Summary of IS Guidelines Discussion
- NIRB Sign-in Sheets

Participants in Vancouver were also provided with the opportunity to fill out a feedback survey to provide comments on the content as well as the approach taken to consultation. The NIRB thanks those who filled out the surveys and Stratos Inc. for compiling the responses. Responses will be used in the development of the *Revised Draft* Impact Statement Guidelines as well as for future consultation and engagement undertaken by the NIRB.

3 FEEDBACK RECEIVED DURING THE NIRB'S CONSULTATION SESSIONS

The following is a summary of verbal comments discussed during each session and are sorted by key topics and party. A plain language summary of the key topics identified for discussion is available in [Appendix A](#).

3.1 Treatment of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Public Engagement

Parties provided a range of perspectives related to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Public Engagement as it relates to the *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines, particularly identifying the need for additional guidance and clarification within the Guidelines on:

- Approaches for proponents and others to work with the Designated Inuit Organizations (DIO) to collect, protect, and use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit;
- What constitutes an Inuit community and which members should be involved in community engagement; and
- Proposed approaches to verifying Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

All parties discussed the proposed changes to the Draft Standard IS Guidelines, aligning on the following:

- **Inuit protocols for collecting, protecting, using and verifying Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit:** Parties agreed that there are challenges with integrating Inuit protocols into proponent processes and NIRB requirements. DIOs reiterated that DIOs represent Inuit at a regional level and that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is context-specific across Nunavut, with each DIO collecting, protecting, and using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit differently. DIOs confirmed that proponents must adhere to regional DIO requirements and expectations for the collection, protection, use and verification of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and all parties agreed that there are overlaps between proposed NIRB requirements and Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreements. Proponents and government expressed the need for further guidance on roles and responsibilities of the DIOs in collecting, protecting, and using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and stated that there needs to be a balance in meeting requirements within a given timeline.
- **Inuit-led assessment and with both western science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit:** DIOs are supportive of the language used by NIRB in the Key Topics document and provided additional clarification on DIO processes for the collection, protection, and use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Other parties jointly expressed the need for further guidance and clarity on processes for integrating western science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, particularly when conclusions from proponents and Inuit communities differ.
- **Concerns about capacity of DIOs and Inuit communities:** There was a shared concern across parties that Inuit communities and DIOs may not have capacity to be able to engage in proposed consultation processes without additional support. Parties agreed that deeper involvement of communities in the collection and interpretation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is important, but expressed that Inuit communities may not have capacity to provide Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and

proponents therefore may have more difficulty in meeting project timelines and budgets. Proponents recognized capacity-constraints with DIOs and communities to undertake community-based monitoring programs and provide input to the impact assessment process.

Meeting Notes		
Party		Questions/Comments
Proponents and Consultants		Additional guidance requested on approaches to work with DIOs for the collection, protection, and use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit
		Clarification requested on aligning Inuit-led assessment and monitoring with western science.
		Clarification requested on existing Inuit Protocols for the treatment of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.
		Clarification requested on how proponents can demonstrate that Inuit-led protocols have been followed.
		Additional guidance requested on what agencies or individuals must be consulted to satisfy community engagement requirements.
		Proponents have developed internal processes to collect, use, and manage Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit with Inuit communities that should be reflected in the NIRB's approach.
		Additional support requested to ensure that DIOs and communities can effectively engage in the proposed process.
Designated Organizations (DIOs)	Inuit	Recommended that community members should be defined as anyone in the community.
		Hunting and Trapping Organizations (HTOs) have designation on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Community-based monitoring needs as well as project alternatives should be informed by HTOs. It was emphasized that individuals hold the rights to their Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, creating ethical parameters for the appropriate collection and verification of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.
		Clarification sought on the implications if conclusions differ between western science and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.
		The Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and Kivalliq Inuit Association shared protocols for the collection, protection, and use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit under their respective organizations.
		Capacity of proponents and communities identified as a potential challenge to meet proposed guidelines as identified in the Key Topics

	document for the collection, protection and use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and associated engagement.
Government and Other Intervenor	Additional guidance requested on approaches to work with the DIOs to collect, protect, and use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.
	Clarification requested on how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit should be verified through the NIRB's process.
	Additional guidance requested on collection of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Indigenous Knowledge for transboundary projects.
	The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) shared that under the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> , proponents must collaborate with Indigenous groups and support Indigenous participation in the assessment process, through funding. IAAC discussed newly released guidelines for Indigenous participation in the impact assessment process, informing proponents that Indigenous groups should own knowledge, lead studies, and may write their own sections of the assessment.
	Capacity of communities, DIOs, and proponents to meet proposed <i>Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines for the collection, protection, and use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit identified as a challenge.
Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene Discussions	Clarification requested on how proponents would identify Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene as knowledge holders for applicable project processes.
	Discussion on how Indigenous Knowledge of non-Inuit groups will be defined in the <i>Refined Draft</i> Standard Impact Statement Guidelines.
	Clarification requested on how transboundary parties and Indigenous groups asserting s. 35 rights are identified.
	Need to include guidance on Indigenous Knowledge and Community Knowledge in addition to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.
	Need to differentiate between transboundary impacts and s. 35 rights.
Athabasca Denesųłiné NÉNÉ Land Corporation	Requested clarification on whether Indigenous Knowledge of non-Inuit groups will be included in the <i>Revised Draft</i> Impact Statement Guidelines.
	Noted that the wording in the guidelines could lead to Proponents being less inclusive to potentially impacted Athabasca Denesųłiné communities.
	Noted importance of proponents to identify their methodology of how they included Indigenous Knowledge.
	Noted the importance of Indigenous communities' validating their knowledge shared.
	Noted that scientific knowledge is often considered more legitimate than Indigenous Knowledge in the impact assessment process. For example,

	when there is disagreement between Proponents and potentially impacted communities on whether there would be a negative impact or not.
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3.2 Significance Determination

All parties discussed the proposed changes to the *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines, aligning on the following:

- **Need for ongoing adaptive management to support significance determination and mitigate unanticipated impacts:** Parties recognized the need for ongoing monitoring and adaptive management, especially within the context of climate change, to support the NIRB's work and to ensure impacts are effectively mitigated as conditions change.
- **Need for additional guidance on determining community values:** Proponents, DIOs, and government agreed that there needs to be additional guidance on how community values are to be determined.
- **Recognition for the different perceptions of significance:** Parties recognized that within communities and/or between different parties, there may not always be alignment on significance. Parties highlighted the importance for the NIRB to set the core requirements when alignment of significance may not be possible.
- **Need for clearer methodology for significance determination:** Parties agreed that there needs to be a uniform methodology for significance determination and further explanation as to how the NIRB weighs proponent evidence.

Meeting Notes		
Party		Questions/Comments
Proponents and Consultants		Additional guidance requested on what constitutes a community value and how these should inform significance determinations.
		Clarification requested on consistently applying mitigation measures for significant effects throughout sections of the <i>Revised Draft</i> Impact Statement Guidelines.
Designated Inuit Organizations (DIOs)		Clarification requested on whether there is a uniform methodology required for significance determination.
		The Kitikmeot Inuit Association shared their protocols for significance determination and that any discrepancies with proponents' determinations are shared with them.
		Requested that proponents explain how community views were considered and how they may differ from proponent views.
		The Qikiqtani Inuit Association recommended that Inuit determine values and triggers of significance at the project outset and that

	differences between proponents and Inuit must be integrated into adaptive management processes.
Government and Other Intervenor	Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada recommended that indicators for community values be determined outside of project-specific engagements to avoid duplication of effort for each project.
	The Office of Senator Patterson recommended that the NIRB clarify expectations for proponents as it relates to mitigation measures that were identified by community members.
	It was recommended that the NIRB develop guidance on the process for working groups to help navigate differences of opinion between proponents and communities.
	Additional guidance requested on how the NIRB weighs evidence and how significance is determined and by whom.
	The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board proposed that significance determination be conducted later in the process.
Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene Discussions	Requested clarification on how the significance of a project overall is determined, including if the potential for negative impacts are not identified in all potentially impacted communities.

3.3 Impact Assessment and Cumulative Effects

All parties discussed the proposed changes to the *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines, aligning on the following:

- **Concerns with requirements and expectations for transboundary projects:** All parties expressed the need for more detailed guidance on the process for transboundary projects (including guidance on what constitutes a transboundary project). However, some key areas of divergence were identified. Proponents sought more clarity and certainty around the NIRB's expectations with transboundary project applications, whereas other parties noted that transboundary effects on valued components should be considered through adaptive management and monitoring plans.
- **Request for clear language for cumulative effects assessment:** Parties agreed that the proposed language for cumulative effects included in the *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines requires clarification to provide additional guidance for proponents. However, some key areas of divergence were identified. Proponents stated the *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines include contradictory language on cumulative effects, while government representatives stressed the need for additional guidance for collaboration between proponents on cumulative effects monitoring and management. DIOs support stronger language in the Key Topics Document for cumulative effects, especially for projects with phased developments.

Meeting Notes		
Party		Questions/Comments
Proponents Consultants	and	Additional guidance requested for the selection of valued components and associated methodology.
		Clarification requested on the expectations for the extent of cumulative effects considerations for potential project alternatives to be included in impact statements. The need to put boundaries on the number of alternatives to the project to consider and their associated cumulative effects was emphasized.
		Clarification sought on the process for transboundary applications and projects, particularly for projects that have international or pan-territorial impacts.
		Clarification requested on the definition of cumulative effects and further separating and defining combined effects.
		Additional guidance requested on the process for considering cumulative effects for phased developments.
Designated Organizations (DIOs)	Inuit	Clarification requested on the scope of transboundary effects, particularly for international obligations, Indigenous rights, and ecological issues.
		Recommendations provided for consideration of transboundary projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ if projects do not have transboundary effects, then proponent requirements for transboundary effects should be considered optional; and ▪ determining cumulative effects and transboundary effects should be an ongoing obligation for proponents through monitoring and adaptive management plans.
		DIOs supported stronger language for cumulative effects of phased development, including recommendations from two (2) of the Regional Inuit Associations that stronger language be added to the <i>Revised Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines to clarify requirements for identifying cumulative effects of projects with phased developments and to provide guidance for when communities and proponents rank impacts differently.
Government Intervenors	and Other	Additional guidance requested for determining thresholds (e.g. how thresholds are determined and by whom), including through regional and strategic impact assessments.
		Additional guidance requested for cumulative effects assessment.

	Guidance requested on how proponents should collaborate and share data to assess cumulative effects within a regional study area.
	Additional guidance requested for proponents on the development of detailed monitoring plans.
	Clarification and certainty requested for transboundary projects, including scope.
	The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board noted that collaborative project planning is key for community acceptability and project success and recommended that the NIRB develop impact assessment frameworks and implementation plans.
	The Impact Assessment Association of Canada shared that Indigenous groups across Canada are concerned with cumulative effects and have begun considering cumulative effects with reference to current contexts, rather than contexts prior to colonization.
	Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) recommended that the NIRB direct proponents to review existing tools to support the consideration of cumulative effects. Environment and Climate Change Canada and CIRNAC noted they both maintain cumulative effects databases.
	Additional guidance requested on the assessment of project alternatives.
Ghotelnene K'odtineh Dene Discussions	Requested clarification on how benefits and positive impacts will be weighed.
Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines	How far into the future should proponents be looking when developing their alternatives assessment?
	Offered additional discussion on cumulative effects assessment.
	Recommended the NIRB analyze how other jurisdictions are undertaking cumulative effects assessments.
	Flexibility and scalability must be defined.
	Suggested more emphasis on benefits and positive impacts.

3.4 Baseline and Methods

All parties discussed the proposed changes to the Draft Standard IS Guidelines, aligning on the following:

- **Emphasis on the use of plain language while engaging communities:** Parties agreed on the importance of using plain language to support community engagement and to ensure project impacts are fully understood.
- **Determining baselines and the validity of baseline data:** Parties expressed the need for the *Revised Draft* Standard IS Guidelines to include further guidance on time limits for the validity of

baseline data and that data validity is discipline specific. Overall, parties suggested that the *Revised Draft* Standard IS Guidelines focus on providing more clarity and guidance to proponents on determining and validating baseline data.

Meeting Notes		
Party		Questions/Comments
Proponents and Consultants		Recommendation to involve communities in establishing baseline conditions and thresholds, outside of the regulatory process.
		Clarification requested on establishing historical baseline.
		Clarification requested on approach proponents should take to reflect community perspectives on baseline and assessment methods. Recommendation to ensure that the language used in the <i>Revised Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines does not set western science against Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit during the assessment process.
		Recommendation that the NIRB does not include time limits on the validity of data in the <i>Revised Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines due to the discipline and project-specific nature of data.
Designated Organizations (DIOs)	Inuit	Clarification provided on acceptable time limits associated with the validity of baseline data.
Government and Other Intervenor		Clarification requested on baseline terminology and on the timeframe, including the minimum requirements of baseline information. Suggestion to review the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's definitions for cumulative baseline and historical baseline in the 2022 Draft Guideline for Major Projects to go directly to Environmental Assessment.
		Additional guidance requested on time limits and minimum requirements for baseline data.
		Additional guidance requested on determining baseline conditions for Valued Components.
		Clarification requested on regional baselines and responsibilities for sharing regional baseline data.
Ghotelnene Dene Discussions	K'odtineh	Noted there is a lack of a central repository for baseline information.
		Requested clarification on what is considered adequate baseline.
		Recommended need for consistent definitions.

3.5 Climate Change

All parties discussed the proposed changes to the Draft Standard IS Guidelines, aligning on the following:

- **Consideration of climate change from design to post-closure:** Parties identified the need to consider climate change impacts from design to post-closure, including long-term remediation. As environmental conditions shift, project design and associated management measures may need to be revisited.
- **Discussion of climate-scenario modelling:** Parties discussed the need for additional guidance on selection of climate scenario models, including the NIRB's expectations for the consideration of long-term climate change impacts on valued components.
- **Support for a regional study on climate change impacts to inform project assessments:** Parties agreed that regional studies are helpful tools to inform climate change impacts and set targets to be met by individual project assessments. Proponents and DIOs felt that Federal and Territorial governments should lead these processes, with the NIRB supporting these processes so they are adequate to provide guidance to proponents.

Meeting Notes	
Party	Questions/Comments
Proponents and Consultants	Clarification requested on the geographic scope of climate change considerations, including clarification on the inclusion of global climate change considerations under the <i>Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines rather than regional climate change considerations, which may more accurately reflect proponents' role and contributions.
	Additional guidance requested on climate scenario modelling, including the selection of appropriate scenarios. Further guidance requested on how climate change should be factored into assessment of valued components and whether the NIRB will require changes in parameters for each valued component as a result of climate change.
Designated Inuit Organizations (DIOs)	Recommendation that the <i>Revised Draft</i> Standard Impact Statement Guidelines focus on long-term climate impacts in project design and include additional language on remediation and post-closure, in particular as it relates to providing security for future changes.
Government and Other Intervenor	DFO clarified their process for validating climate change predictions.
	Additional guidance requested on climate scenario modelling and which climate scenarios proponents should use for climate predictions and how proponents should differentiate between predictions and scenarios. Recommendations included referring to expert-level advice from Environment and Climate Change Canada as well as including requirements for a project's contribution to global climate change and acute climate effects in the North.
	Clarification requested on the NIRB's assessment processes for climate change, including post-closure climate change considerations.

	Clarification requested in the <i>Revised Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines between how proponents are designing project sites based on projected climate impacts and whether proponents are contributing to climate change and if so, their proposed mitigation strategies.
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Information provided on Environment and Climate Change's Strategic Assessment on Climate Change and recommended following the Strategic Assessment. Noted other jurisdictions also working to incorporate climate change into guidance documents.

3.6 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

All parties discussed the proposed changes to the Draft Standard IS Guidelines, aligning on the following:

- **Overlap between Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements (IIBA) and the NIRB's processes:** Parties agreed that there is an overlap between the expectations and timelines of IIBAs and Standard IS Guidelines which may duplicate effort and further add to capacity constraints of all parties.
- **Challenges identified with the implementation of proposed requirements for health impact assessments and human health risk assessments:** Parties shared concerns regarding a lack of baseline data and confidentiality in collecting health information required for health impact assessments and human health risk assessments. Proponents identified challenges with establishing community baselines for health. The changes proposed to the *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines may create capacity challenges for Health Canada to intervene in the NIRB's processes and to support the review of human health risk assessments.
- **Support for a regional study on community health baseline to support project assessments:** Parties agreed that broader tools, such as regional studies on community health baselines, would be helpful to support individual project assessments.
- **Opportunities for collaboration and coordination identified on socio-economic benefits:** Parties encouraged the NIRB to consider best practices established within Nunavut for socio-economic initiatives, including leveraging socio-economic indicators established by Socio-economic Monitoring Committees.

Meeting Notes	
Party	Questions/Comments
Proponents and Consultants	Concerns identified regarding overlap of expectations and timelines between Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements and the <i>Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines and potential duplication between the two (2) processes, which may further add to existing capacity constraints for all parties.
	Clarification requested on health terminology used in the <i>Draft</i> Standard Impact Statement Guidelines and Key Topics Document and that communities should help define health terminology. Further clarification

		and refinement requested specifically for language of: ‘determinants of health’, ‘predicted for each demographic’ and ‘factors that are most important to Inuit, as well as identify boundaries around some (e.g., ‘predicted for each demographic’).
		Additional guidance requested on Proponents’ role in determining community health baselines, especially around challenges around confidentiality of socio-economic data in small communities.
		Additional guidance requested on socio-economic impact assessment processes, particularly for socio-economic cumulative effects.
Designated Inuit Organizations (DIOs)		Clarification provided by DIOs on duplication of Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements and the NIRB’s processes. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (Kit-IA) stated that there is necessary overlap between IIBAs and impact assessment processes.
		The QIA was pleased that the NIRB had incorporated their previous written comments on socio-economic impacts into the list of key topics. The Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIV-IA) and KIT-IA were satisfied with the socio-economic factors included in the <i>Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines and list of key topics. DIOs were satisfied with the health indicators and language used by the NIRB in the key topics document, and QIA noted that they will consider potential confidentiality concerns for sensitive health data for Inuit communities.
Government and Other Intervenor		Recommendations to include guidance on additional socio-economic impacts. Further recommendations for the NIRB to consider using a Gender-Based Analysis Plus lens in the <i>Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines psycho-social impacts. Suggestions to clarify language to better define health determinants.
		Opportunity for coordination and collaboration with established Socio-Economic Monitoring Committees and aligning health and other socio-economic indicators in the <i>Revised Draft</i> Standard Impact Statement Guidelines.
		Clarification provided on Health Canada’s requirements for health impact assessments and recently drafted interim health guidance on human health risk assessments. Health Canada recommended that the NIRB make the language in the <i>Revised Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines broader to allow for project-by-project requirements and flexibility (Health Canada has since provided these <i>Draft</i> Guidelines for the NIRB’s internal use in developing the <i>Revised Draft</i> Impact Statement Guidelines).
		Health Canada expressed concerns over their capacity to review Human Health Risk Assessments for each project as intervenors in the NIRB’s process.
		The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada explained that Indigenous peoples across Canada are increasingly identifying health as a key value through Indigenous-led assessments and provided examples. The

	Government of Nunavut explained that proponents track benefits from projects, such as increased access to country food due to improved infrastructure in the region.
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3.7 Sustainable Development and Phased Development

The following input was provided by Parties on the *Draft* Standard IS Guidelines, particularly the Key Topics Document:

- Clarity requested on the definition of sustainable development.
- Clarity requested on the metrics for social acceptability and the process for proponents to identify levels of acceptability from communities.
- Proponents identified phased development as a priority issue. They requested additional guidance in the *Revised Draft* Standard IS Guidelines, or an additional guidance document or screening application to ensure certainty. They requested specific guidance on cumulative effects considerations and analysis for phased development.
- Recommendation that the *Revised Draft* Standard IS Guidelines consider communities' awareness of reasonably foreseeable future project phases so they can better understand the full scale of future impacts from the start of a project.
- Suggestion to clarify the language for "reasonably foreseeable".

Meeting Notes	
Party	Questions/Comments
Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines Discussion	Requested clarification on how much information/detail Proponents are expected to include in their Impact Statement on potential future development, particularly when a lot of detail may not be available (e.g. number of pits).
	Requested clarification on what triggers an amendment. Noted the need for flexibility as all amendments are different.
	Questioned whether NIRB impact assessment requirements could be satisfied through the Nunavut Water Board Water License process.
	Noted that the use of future scenario forecasting for alternatives is not required in any other regulatory processes.
	Noted the opportunity to set a management and regulatory process to address amendments. Learning opportunities from monitoring were noted and that there are many cooperative management options to reduce increased and redundant analysis and use the information collected from monitoring.
Athabasca Denesųliné NÉNé Land Corporation	Recommended that proponents provide all relevant material in amendments to impact statements as it can be time-consuming to locate

	original content and deceiving to communities and organizations on the level of information required to review.
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4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Throughout the NIRB's consultation sessions, follow-up discussions, and supplementary written comments, parties provided their comments, shared knowledge, and asked questions on a variety of topics related to the development of Standard Impact Statement Guidelines as well as the NIRB's assessment processes. Parties provided general feedback on the Key Topics for review and the *Draft* Impact Statement Guidelines and on the NIRB's consultation process. Comments received included:

- The need to add clarity overall, including definitions of key terms, an interest in additional engagement ahead of the finalization of the *Revised Draft* Standard IS Guidelines, and clarity and certainty on the process for implementing the Guidelines once finalized.
- All parties requested additional clarity on definitions and terminology used (e.g., Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, significance, and community, including clarifying minimum requirements for proponents to support certainty in the NIRB's process).
- Proponents expressed an interest in participating in additional in-person consultation sessions, specifically on phased development, and on attending the NIRB's planned meetings with communities in Spring 2023.
- Proponents expressed interest in reviewing changes to the *Revised Draft* IS Standard Guidelines before the final draft version are developed and released for comment.
- Parties suggested the Standard IS Guidelines be implemented as a planning and risk assessment tool to assess risks, timelines, and investment.

The NIRB greatly appreciates the continued participation of parties in the development of Standard Impact Statement Guidelines. The comments raised during the meetings have been included in this report for broader publication. This report will be translated into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and electronic copies will be posted on the NIRB's online public registry. *Draft Standard* Impact Statement Guidelines will be released for public written comment.

5 APPENDIX A

Non-technical Summary

The Standard Impact Statement Guidelines will provide information to proponents for the preparation of their Impact Statement, a series of documents describing the planning, implementation, and eventual decommissioning of a project required for a NIRB Review. Project-specific guidelines will be provided as necessary.

Key Topics for Discussion and Input

Several themes were identified during the review of the December 6, 2018, comment submissions on the *Draft* Standard Impact Statement Guidelines, recent NIRB processes, and through similar work in other regions. The NIRB is requesting input on the following topics, as well as any additional feedback from parties:

Topic	Details
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Public Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Inuit and community members need to be involved throughout all stages of project development.▪ Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit needs to inform all stages of the impact assessment.▪ The Proponent shall share how it has followed all applicable Inuit protocols for the collection, protection, and use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.▪ Inuit need to be involved in both the collection and interpretation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and other Knowledge shared.▪ The Proponent must provide reasons for conclusions differing from community views.
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sufficient information and analysis must be included (for example scientific information, consideration information, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Indigenous Knowledge, and Community Knowledge).▪ The Proponent shall identify and/or clarify any uncertainties in methods and conclusions.▪ Proponents are encouraged to use plain language as much as possible and consider plain language summaries for each chapter.▪ The Proponent shall engage with potentially impacted communities on what visuals would be most helpful

Topic	Details
	(for example 3-D models, maps with pictures on them, or photos of the area).
Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An assessment of the socio-economic environment shall be done with the same level of effort and expertise as the biophysical environment. ▪ The Proponent shall engage with Inuit and community members from potentially affected communities so that the factors that are most important to Inuit well-being are chosen as indicators. ▪ A holistic understanding of health must be taken.
Baseline (Biophysical and Socio-Economic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline includes historical background and current baseline conditions. ▪ A description of how the existing environment is expected to change over the life of the project in response to climate change. ▪ Any time limits associated with the validity of data used must be clarified (for example, baseline data may not be valid after a certain time due to changes in sampling techniques).
Impact Assessment (including Significance Analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impact assessment must describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential impacts and effects on individual valued components considered; ○ Potential impacts and changes to the valued components as they relate to or form systems (also referred to as collective impacts); ○ Significance of the predicted impact and reasoning for that determination; ○ Potential cumulative effects of the proposed project on the valued components and the systems identified; ○ Potential for transboundary effects; ○ Proposed mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, or offset predicted impacts; and ○ Predicted residual impacts after mitigation measures are applied. ▪ Proponents are expected to focus on assessing the impacts identified by communities as issues of concern, in addition to those with greater potential to cause residual impacts.

Topic	Details
Cumulative Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A cumulative effect refers to the accumulation or addition of changes to the socio-economic or biophysical environment caused by past, existing, and proposed human activities and/or natural processes. ▪ Cumulative effects on valued biophysical and socio-economic components must include culture, health, and food security. ▪ Input should be requested from all relevant parties (including governments, Designated Inuit Organizations, and potentially affected communities) and be informed by community-based monitoring programs. ▪ Cumulative effects must consider that cumulative biophysical and socio-economic effects can also result from individually minor, but collectively significant, effects occurring over a period of time. ▪ Proponents shall address how the assessment of alternatives considered cumulative effects.
Significance Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessing the significance of potential impacts is the most important aspect of an Impact Statement and must involve potentially affected communities. ▪ The Proponent shall include how it considered different parties' views in determining the significance of potential impacts. ▪ The Proponent shall describe how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, well-being, and the values of potentially impacted communities are reflected in the determination of significance.
Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adding social acceptability and food security as a factor in sustainability. ▪ Considering potential alternative economic activities that may be lost or reduced because of the Project.
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Impact Statement shall include a discussion on global climate change. ▪ The Proponent must assess how potential climate change could affect valued components. ▪ Proponents shall demonstrate how climate change has been considered in the design and planning of the Project including the post-closure period.

Topic	Details
Phased Development and Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments shall address uncertainty and indicate how areas impacted by development are expected to change over time and under different climate change conditions/models.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Proponent shall provide sufficient information regarding their plans for foreseeable future development related to the Project.