

Date: February 27, 2024
Exhibit No: 15

Government of Nunavut (GN)

February 27 – 29, 2024
Cambridge Bay

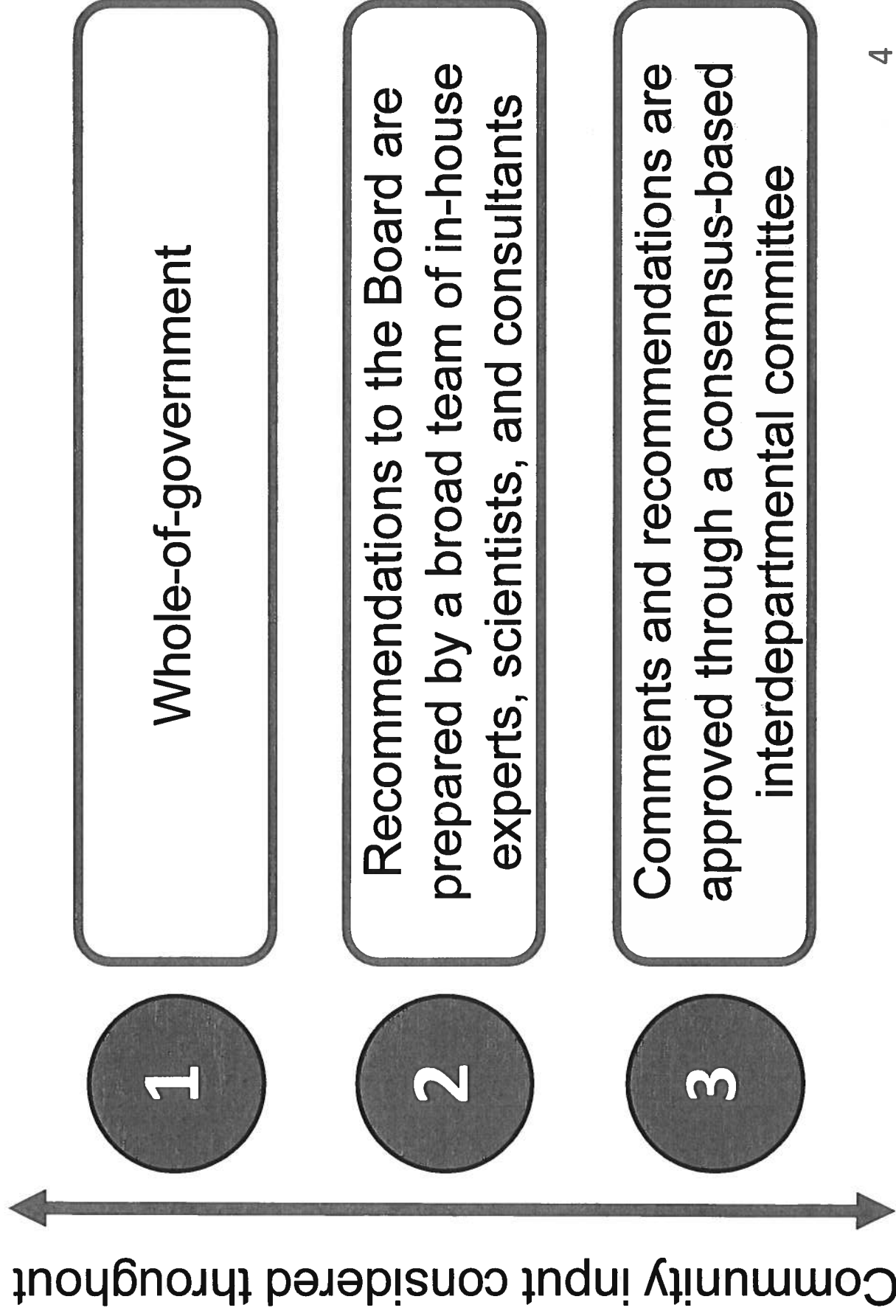
KATUJJILUTA – THE GN’S MANDATE

- Katujjiluta priorities include reinvesting in education and diversifying local economies
- To support these priorities, the GN is committed to preparing Nunavummiut for participation in economic opportunities and supporting local employment and training.
- Further, Pillar 4 of Parnautit, the GN Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy, seeks to ensure that environmental impacts resulting from exploration and mining are minimized and mitigated.
- The Government of Nunavut is mandated to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT

- In June 2023, GN staff attended NIRB community engagement sessions in Kugaaruk, Taloyoak, and Gjoa Haven.
- The GN has reviewed all written comments submitted.
- 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, Hunter and Trapper Organizations (HTOs), and other community organizations.

THE GN'S REVIEW PROCESS APPROACH



GN REVIEW OF THE BACK RIVER ENERGY CENTRE PROJECT PROPOSAL



PROPOSAL SUMMARY

- The Back River Project is owned and operated by B2Gold Nunavut.
- The project was first approved in 2017.
- The Energy Centre Proposal includes the construction and operation of the following features:
 - Expansion of the existing Project Development Area
 - Installation of 13 Wind Turbines
 - Access roads and transmissions lines to Wind Turbines
 - Electrical Station (including a solar panel array and battery storage system)

SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Communities have expressed interest in the Energy Centre as an opportunity to reduce reliance on petroleum products in the region, and for educational, training, and employment opportunities in alternative energy industries.
- The windfarm offers an opportunity to develop and demonstrate the potential of renewable energy in Nunavut and reduces on-site CO2 emissions.
- Sabina reported strong employment growth in 2022 post-pandemic, including for Inuit employment at the site.
- Opportunities for skilled labour diversification are important throughout Nunavut and we recognize the desire in the Kitikmeot region to access this benefit.

STATUS OF GN COMMENTS

- The GN originally submitted 5 Technical Review Comments (TRC) identifying a range of GN ecosystemic concerns for B2Gold to address during NIRB review.
- These Technical Review Comments relate to:
 - GN-TRC #01 - The potential for caribou to be attracted to wind turbine generators
 - GN-TRC #02 - Sample size and power analyses (statistical approaches) to assess caribou behavioural monitoring
 - GN-TRC #03 - Avian (bird) baseline surveys
 - GN-TRC #04 - Protection of avian nests through setbacks and non-routine setbacks
 - GN-TRC # 05 - Avian mortality monitoring and thresholds

STATUS OF GN COMMENTS

- All 5 GN Technical Review Comments have been resolved.
- The Proponent engaged in discussions with the GN and completed edits to the Project's *Draft Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Program Plan, Appendix A – Energy Centre Mitigation and Monitoring (Appendix A)*.
- Further, B2Gold has committed to developing and finalizing Appendix A by consensus with the Caribou Technical Advisory Group, and where applicable, Environment and Climate Change Canada, as a prerequisite for construction.

CONCLUSION

- The GN has resolved all 5 Technical Review Comments with the Proponent.
- The GN recognizes the efforts by the proponent to implement renewable energy sources at the project site.
- The GN will continue to work with the proponent and regional stakeholders to address any socio-economic or ecosystemic concerns.
- The GN will continue to support the NIRB'S impact assessment process and work collaboratively with all stakeholders.

91P-4P5

For further questions, comments, or information please contact:

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