



March 29, 2023

To: Nunavut Wide Distribution List

*Sent via email*

**RE: Notice of Community Consultation Sessions to Inform the Development of Standard Impact Statement Guidelines**

Dear Parties:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) has recently scheduled in-person consultation sessions in your communities between **April 19-27, 2023**. The NIRB has had to amend the dates for its upcoming community consultations due to scheduling difficulties. Please see the revised schedule below. NIRB staff will be discussing key themes and providing opportunities for feedback to support finalizing the Board's Standard Impact Statement Guidelines. The Standard Impact Statement Guidelines will provide information to guide proponents when preparing their Impact Statement documentation as required during the NIRB's assessment of project proposals.

The schedule for these meetings has been included below. Please post this letter in a public location to help inform residents.

Community	Venue	Date
Kugluktuk	Community Hall	April 19, 2023
Gjoa Haven	Community Hall	April 20, 2023
Qikiqtarjuaq	Community Hall	April 24, 2023
Clyde River	Quluaq School	April 25, 2023
Baker Lake	Nunamiut Lodge Conference Room	April 26, 2023
Arviat	Community Hall	April 27, 2023

These community meetings will be organized and facilitated by NIRB staff as follows:

- Evening discussions starting at 7:00 p.m. specifically to:

- Provide an overview of the process taken to develop Standard Impact Statement Guidelines;
- Provide information on key themes within the Guidelines; and
- Provide community members with opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback to inform the next draft of the General Impact Statement Guidelines.

Attached is a non-technical summary of next steps and key topics for discussion and input. A more detailed document has been enclosed. All information related to the NIRB's development of Standard Impact Statement Guidelines can be accessed from the NIRB's website at [www.nirb.ca/rules-of-procedure](http://www.nirb.ca/rules-of-procedure). The NIRB is taking the following into account when finalizing the Impact Statement Guidelines:

- In-person consultations
- Written comments
- Feedback heard throughout the NIRB's processes
- Recent changes to the NIRB's processes
- Processes and best-practices in other jurisdictions

The communities were selected for in-person consultation to represent a wide-range of viewpoints across Nunavut and different experiences with the NIRB's processes.

The NIRB invites community organizations and members of the public to participate in these upcoming consultation sessions. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming community information meetings or the NIRB's process for developing Standard Impact Statement Guidelines, please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4606 or [hiasmussen@nirb.ca](mailto:hiasmussen@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Heather Rasmussen  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Kimberley Young, Senior Administrative Officer, Kugluktuk  
Steve England, Senior Administrative Officer, Arviat  
Sheldon Dorey, Senior Administrative Officer, Baker Lake  
Edward Devereau, Senior Administrative Officer, Gjoa Haven  
Jerry Natanine, Senior Administrative Officer, Clyde River  
Geela S. Kooneeliusie, Senior Administrative Officer, Qikiqtarjuaq

Attachments: Non-technical Summary

Enclosed: Key Topics for Discussion and Input to Inform Revisions to the Standard IS Guidelines



## ***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.

The next steps for the development and finalization of the Standard Impact Statement Guidelines are:

Activity	Anticipated Date
Regional community consultation	April 2023
NIRB distributes updated <i>Revised Draft</i> Standard IS Guidelines for comment	Tentatively June 2023
NIRB distributes Finalized Standard IS Guidelines	Tentatively October 2023

Note: all dates are tentative and may be changed by the Board to reflect circumstances

### ***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 Qaujimagatuqangit and Public Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inuit and community members need to be involved throughout all stages of project development.</li> <li>▪ Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit needs to inform all stages of the impact assessment.</li> </ul>

Topic	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Proponent shall share how it has followed all applicable Inuit protocols for the collection, protection, and use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.</li> <li>▪ Inuit need to be involved in both the collection and interpretation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and other Knowledge shared.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent must provide reasons for conclusions differing from community views.</li> </ul>
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sufficient information and analysis must be included (for example scientific information, consideration information, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Indigenous Knowledge, and Community Knowledge).</li> <li>▪ The Proponent shall identify and/or clarify any uncertainties in methods and conclusions.</li> <li>▪ Proponents are encouraged to use plain language as much as possible and consider plain language summaries for each chapter.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent shall engage with potentially impacted communities on what visuals would be most helpful (for example 3-D models, maps with pictures on them, or photos of the area).</li> </ul>
Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An assessment of the socio-economic environment shall be done with the same level of effort and expertise as the biophysical environment.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ A holistic understanding of health must be taken.</li> </ul>
Baseline (Biophysical and Socio-Economic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Baseline includes historical background and current baseline conditions.</li> <li>▪ A description of how the existing environment is expected to change over the life of the project in response to climate change.</li> </ul>

Topic	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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).</li> </ul>
Impact Assessment (including Significance Analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The impact assessment must describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential impacts and effects on individual valued components considered;</li> <li>○ Potential impacts and changes to the valued components as they relate to or form systems (also referred to as collective impacts);</li> <li>○ Significance of the predicted impact and reasoning for that determination;</li> <li>○ Potential cumulative effects of the proposed project on the valued components and the systems identified;</li> <li>○ Potential for transboundary effects;</li> <li>○ Proposed mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, or offset predicted impacts; and</li> <li>○ Predicted residual impacts after mitigation measures are applied.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
Cumulative Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Cumulative effects on valued biophysical and socio-economic components must include culture, health, and food security.</li> <li>▪ Input should be requested from all relevant parties (including governments, Designated Inuit Organizations, and potentially affected</li> </ul>

Topic	Details
	<p>communities) and be informed by community-based monitoring programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Proponents shall address how the assessment of alternatives considered cumulative effects.</li> </ul>
Significance Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessing the significance of potential impacts is the most important aspect of an Impact Statement and must involve potentially affected communities.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent shall include how it considered different parties' views in determining the significance of potential impacts.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent shall describe how Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, well-being, and the values of potentially impacted communities are reflected in the determination of significance.</li> </ul>
Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adding social acceptability and food security as a factor in sustainability.</li> <li>▪ Considering potential alternative economic activities that may be lost or reduced because of the Project.</li> </ul>
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Impact Statement shall include a discussion on global climate change.</li> <li>▪ The Proponent must assess how potential climate change could affect valued components.</li> <li>▪ Proponents shall demonstrate how climate change has been considered in the design and planning of the Project including the post-closure period.</li> <li>▪ Assessments shall address uncertainty and indicate how areas impacted by development are expected to change over time and under different climate change conditions/models.</li> </ul>

Topic	Details
Phased Development and Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Proponent shall provide sufficient information regarding their plans for foreseeable future development related to the Project.</li> </ul>