
From: Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
Title: **Steensby Component Elder Visit**
Date: August 27th, 2024

On August 21st, 2024, Baffinland facilitated a gathering at Tulugalik near Ikpikitturjuaq, a site approximately 10km south the proposed Steensby Port site (Attachment 1). A group of Inuit Elders from Igloolik and Sanirajak made a request to Baffinland to return to the land where they had once lived and maintained camps. Baffinland supported this celebratory and ceremonial journey by organizing logistics, providing fuel, food, and arranging transportation for those unable to travel by boat.

Ahead of the visit on August 6th, 2024, Paul Quassa, Senior Advisor at Baffinland, held a radio show in Igloolik to provide an update on SOP2, the Steensby Component and inform the community of the upcoming gathering at Tulugalik to discuss logistics. Additionally, CBC North ran a pre-coverage story on the gathering on TV and radio on August 20th.

Over 160 Inuit, including Elders, their families and representatives from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), Government of Nunavut (GN) and Baffinland (Table 1), traveled to Tulugalik on August 20th in a flotilla of more than 25 boats (Attachment 2: Photo 1). For Elders who were unable to travel by water, Baffinland provided helicopter transport to the site (Photo 2). Upon arrival, the group paid their respects at the gravesite of Itikutuk (Photo 3), an important ancestor, and camped overnight along the shoreline in approximately 30 tents (Photos 4, 5). The ceremony also included drum dancing (Photo 6) and singing. The grandson of Itikutuk performed the drum dancing ceremony and Patricia Qulaut was the ayaayaa singer.

Elders, the QIA, the GN, Baffinland shareholders and staff engaged in a discussion around the development of the Steensby Component (Photos 9, 10). A summary of participant comments and Baffinland's responses can be found in Table 2. Participants used 3D topographical models to visualize the planned Steensby Rail alignment and Steensby Port infrastructure (Photo 11). These models have been sent to Igloolik so community members may access them.

During the ceremony there were positive comments and support made for the Steensby Component. The QIA President Olayuk Akasuk stated that as long as Baffinland has Inuit support, QIA will continue to work with Baffinland to help Inuit maximize economic opportunities in the area, whilst respecting the land.

The Elders who spoke during the ceremony were proud to see their grandchildren and families return to the land and learn about the plans for the Steensby Component. The Elders also stated that they and their families will continue to use the land even with future development.

Additionally, a radio show was held by CBC North on August 27th, where George Qulaut spoke positively about his experience with the gathering:

- *"...it was overwhelming, very touching. And looking ahead and looking into the future and seeing the vastness of the land and the richness not only in mineral but also in land mammals and sea mammals as well. And the beauty of the land. A lot of vegetation, blackberries and crowberries, blueberries as well".*
- *"I am the original grandson of the deceased who had the grave there. And for that reason I wanted to go there for part of my personal healing".*

The gathering allowed extended family members to gather and find closure to their loss by spending time together at this special site. Furthermore, this visit represents an important milestone in the development of the Steensby Component of the Mary River Project. Baffinland is committed to respecting and preserving the cultural heritage of the Inuit, who have longstanding ties to this region. Baffinland is committed to preserving the natural environment of Steensby Inlet and its surroundings.

Table 1. List of Participants

Organization / Community	Participants
Baffinland	Paul Quassa, Senior Advisor Udlu Hanson, Vice President, Community & Strategic Development Joe Tigullaraq, Head of Northern Affairs Michael Salomonie, Community Relations Manager Lizzie Philip-Qanatsiaq, Interpreter Tom Paddon, Non-Executive Chairman John Calvert, Energy and Minerals Group John Raymond, Energy and Minerals Group
Government of Nunavut	David Kunuk, Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Transportation
QIA	Olayuk Akesuk, QIA President Darlene Willie, IIBA Manager
Igloolik	George Auksaq, Mayor of Igloolik Lena Qrunnut Ijjangiaq Leonie Qrunnut Rebecca Qaunaq Deborah Qaunaq Pepilee Qaunaq Community members and their families
Sanirajak	Community members and their families

Table 2. Comments received from participants and Baffinland's response

Engagement	Comment	Baffinland's Response
Radio Show – August 6 th , 2024	Whether past Elders were part of the whole process when it [Mary River] first started and when it was discovered.	Baffinland explained that when they lived at Steensby, they knew of the activities way back in early 1970s.
Radio Show – August 6 th , 2024	Question on wildlife compensation and why it was not readily available. That with all the activities wildlife compensation funds need to be available.	Baffinland explained that through the IIBA BIM provides the funds for wildlife compensation to the QIA.
Tulugalik Gathering – August 21 st , 2024	Baffinland heard stories of what the land was used for in the past and present. Tulugalik is one camp in an area of camps, and when going towards Steensby, there are other families' camps.	Baffinland thanks participants for sharing their stories about the land.
Tulugalik Gathering – August 21 st , 2024	Community members have a better understanding of the Steensby Component and they are in support of the development because of the employment opportunities, provided that Baffinland continues to respect the land.	Baffinland thanks participants for their positive comments and support for the Steensby Component. Baffinland is committed to preserving the natural environment of Steensby Inlet and its surroundings.
CBC North Radio Show – August 27 th , 2024	The thought of going to the Ikpikitturjuaq Reunion was thought of for over a year and [we] wanted to do it this summer, to have the people go there before the land is destroyed when Baffinland builds port and the railway system in Ikpikitturjuaq.	Baffinland has been collecting and incorporating IQ and Inuit experiences into project planning, assessments and mitigations. As part of its ongoing engagement, Baffinland listened to Inuit and has supported community members to return to Ikpikitturjuaq before Steensby construction. Furthermore, Baffinland will not develop the Project in the Tulugalik area.
CBC North Radio Show – August 27 th , 2024	We see what the mining companies have done to our areas, destroying the land, not caring about the animals and the environment, and also the people who have actually lived there, without ever thinking of monies and the economy, but living on the land. And that will be gone forever once it has been built.	Baffinland is committed to preserving the natural environment of Steensby Inlet and its surroundings. Since 2012, Baffinland has developed detailed mitigation, monitoring and management plans for the Mary River Project. Baffinland has also been collecting and incorporating IQ and Inuit experiences into project planning, assessments and mitigations. As the development of Steensby Component progresses, Baffinland will continue to apply principles of Inuit knowledge and adaptive management to address any concerns that arise.

Attachment 1

Location of the Elder Visit

SAVED: C:\Users\Tim.Rast\Documents\GIS Data\Map2024 Steensby Elders Visit_L_P.mxd, 26-Aug-24



Attachment 2

Photographs



Photo 1. Flotilla of boats travelling to Tulugalik



Photo 2. Elders arriving by helicopter



Photo 3. Gravesite of Itikutuk



Photo 4. Aerial photo of the camp at Tulugalik



Photo 5. The camp at Tulugalik



Photo 6. A drum dancing ceremony performed by the grandson of Itikutuk



Photo 7. Paul Quassa (left) and George (Quviq) Qulaut holding an image of his grandfather Itikutuk, who is buried at Tulugalik



Photo 8. Group photo featuring Elders and their families, QIA President and staff, Baffinland shareholders and staff



Photo 9. Tom Paddon, Chairman of Baffinland and Baffinland shareholders John Raymond and John Calvert, discussing the Steensby Component



Photo 10. Group discussion on the Steensby Component



Photo 11. Elders gathered around the 3D topographical models of the Steensby Rail alignment and Steensby Port Infrastructure