

# Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project

## Consultation Summary

The **Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project** aims to enhance the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of Iqaluit, Nunavut, through the development and implementation of key community-driven initiatives. A primary focus of the Project is the construction of a **15-30 MW capacity waterpower facility** that will provide a reliable, renewable energy source to meet the growing needs of Iqaluit while aligning with sustainable energy practices.

The Project's primary objective is to create long-term benefits for Iqalungmiut and the broader Qikiqtani region by focusing on the following key areas:

1. **Community Engagement & Inuit Involvement:** A central focus of the Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project is to ensure active and meaningful participation of Inuit residents in all aspects of the Project. This includes leveraging the knowledge and skills of local Inuit firms, providing career development opportunities for youth, and promoting Inuit-led solutions to community challenges. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the capacity of local businesses and creating opportunities for professional growth and skills transfer.
2. **Waterpower Facility Development:** The core of the Project involves the design and construction of a **15-30 MW capacity waterpower facility**, which will harness the natural energy of local water resources to provide clean, renewable electricity to Iqaluit. This facility will replace the diesel power plant as the prime power source in Iqaluit. This will reduce the community's dependence on diesel power generation, lowering both dependence on the South and environmental impacts, and contribute to long-term energy sustainability. The Project will ensure that the facility is designed with the latest technologies, adhering to industry standards while considering the environmental and cultural needs of the region.
3. **Infrastructure Development & Improvement:** In addition to the waterpower facility, the Project will include the development and improvement of key infrastructure within Iqaluit, particularly in areas that support community well-being, such as public facilities, transportation systems, and housing. This infrastructure development will take into account the unique environmental and cultural needs of the region, ensuring that sustainable materials and methods are used throughout the Project lifecycle.
4. **Cultural Heritage and Education:** The Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project will prioritize the preservation and promotion of Inuit cultural heritage. This will include the establishment of educational programs for contractors that teach the history, language, and traditions of Inuit communities to ensure culture context is understood and respected. The Project will incorporate and abide by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit throughout each phase with a focus on consent to continue development given by the community at each decision gate. The Project will also foster collaboration with local schools and cultural institutions to ensure that Inuit youth are able to connect with their heritage and learn in a supportive environment.

5. **Environmental Sustainability:** Recognizing the critical importance of environmental conservation in the Arctic, the Project will be guided by principles of environmental stewardship. The Project has a responsibility to align with environmental stewardship principals, which subsequently have aligned to date with requirements set out by Rightsholding Organizations. The construction of the waterpower facility will be carefully managed to minimize any potential negative impact on local ecosystems and wildlife. Sustainable practices will be embedded in every stage, from planning through to execution, to ensure the protection of the environment. Efforts will focus on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and the preservation of natural habitats.
6. **Economic Development and Job Creation:** A key component of the Project is the stimulation of Iqaluit's local economy. By supporting Inuit businesses, fostering entrepreneurship, and providing training and employment opportunities, the Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project will contribute to reducing unemployment and building a resilient economy. The development of the waterpower facility will create both short-term construction jobs and long-term operational roles, ensuring ongoing economic benefits for the community and enabling the participation of Inuit in energy infrastructure ownership.
7. **Capacity Building & Workforce Development:** The Project will focus on developing the skills of Iqalungmiut particularly Inuit youth, in areas such as construction, Project management, energy generation, and environmental monitoring. Special attention will be given to mentorship programs and hands-on training that provide job-ready skills and qualifications that benefit both individuals and the community. The operation of the waterpower facility will also offer ongoing career development opportunities in energy and environmental fields.

The **Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project** is a transformative initiative that will not only provide a sustainable, reliable, renewable energy source to Iqaluit but will also contribute to the social, cultural, and economic prosperity of the Territory. Through meaningful Inuit involvement and the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, this Project will help shape the future of Iqaluit and serve as a model for community-driven, sustainable development in the Arctic.

## Project History

The Project is classified according to the Phase-Gate system (shown in Figure 1), which helps mitigate risk, and ensure the optimal solution is carried through, and ensures free, prior, and informed consent from Inuit Leadership and Beneficiaries under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This approach to Project development is broken down into phases, which are separated by decision gates. The phases constitute development work including the execution and completion of key activities and deliverables. The gates are decision checkpoints, whereby the Project does not proceed to the following phase until agreement and signed approval from all key Project decision makers.

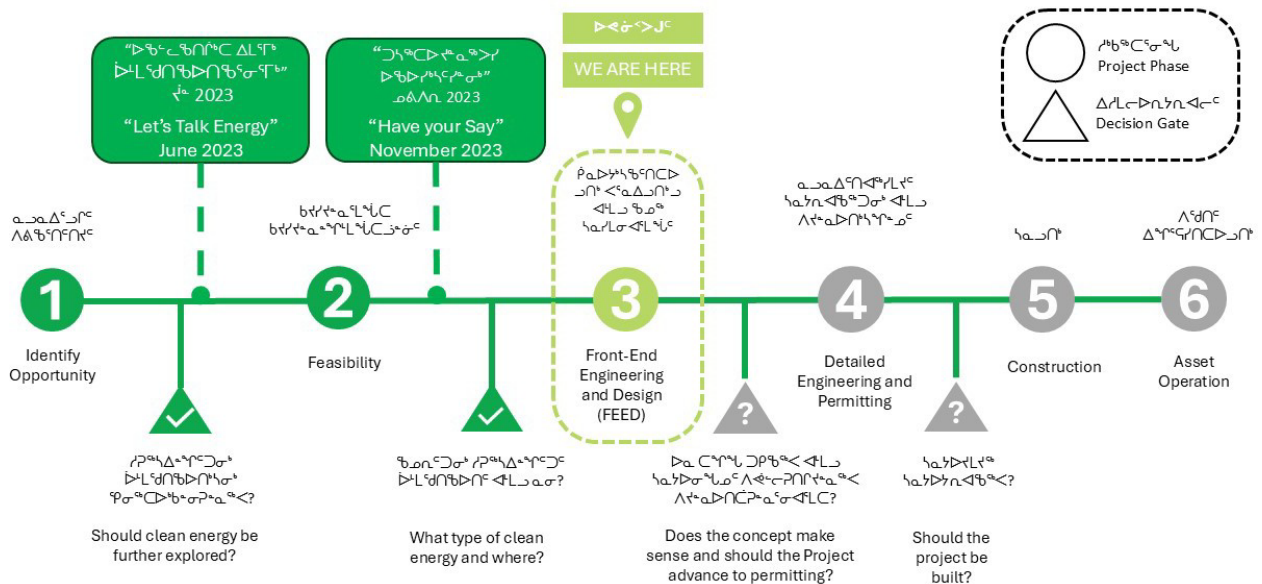


Figure 1: Phase-Gate Approach to Project Development

The Project is currently in **Phase 3 – Front-End Engineering and Design (FEED)**. A brief summary of activities completed during Phase 1 and 2 is given below.

**Phase 1 (2023)** Included a review of the Project to understand if an opportunity exists, with a specific focus placed on developing an Inuit Rightsholder approach to Project development. This stage also included a review of possible Project configurations and high-level economics. What was critical here was evaluating the market and recognizing Project strengths and weaknesses. The purpose of this phase was to confirm agreement among Project partners and Inuit Rightsholders to proceed to a deeper level of evaluation.

**Phase 2 (2024)** Focused on further developing the business case and Project plan. This includes generating and evaluating various viable development alternatives and some preliminary engineering work, including data collection and analysis. The purpose of this phase is to assess confidence in the Project feasibility while considering the initial outcomes of the Tusaqtavut Study and any data collection campaigns, market assessments, and economics before proceeding. This phase includes ongoing Inuit Rightsholder engagement and community consultations/stakeholder engagement all of which are critical to Project success. During this phase, 16 renewable energy options were identified and presented to the community. The community selected a conventional waterpower option as their top choice, with the location at the McKeand river being selected as the preferred site.

## Key Consultation Activities

### Historic Major Consultation Activities

Date	Audience	Discussion Topic	Outcome
<b>June 2023</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders	Renewable Energy 101 at Formal Consultation Meeting	10+ Attendees, General Interest in Renewable Energy
<b>June 2023</b>	Iqaluit Public	Renewable Energy 101 at Formal Consultation Meeting	40+ Attendees, General Interest in Renewable Energy
<b>November 2023</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Formal Consultation Meeting	10+ Attendees, Votes Received
<b>November 2023</b>	Iqaluit Public	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Formal Consultation Meeting	50+ Attendees, Votes Received
<b>November 2023</b>	Inuksuk High School	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Formal Class	30+ Attendees, Votes Received
<b>November 2023</b>	Nunavut Arctic College	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Through Environmental Tech Instructor	Votes Received
<b>November + December 2023</b>	Iqaluit Public	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Informal Sessions held at Iqaluit Museum 4x	20+ People Stopped by, Votes Received
<b>March 2024</b>	Iqaluit QIA Board	Presentation of Results of Vote + Request for Motion to Support Proceeding to Phase 3	Motion Approved to Support Advancing to Phase 3
<b>July 2024</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders	Lessons Learned from Inukjuak Hydro – Site Visit	Representatives from QIA, Amaruq HTA, Youth, QC, Participated in Site Visit to Inukjuak to Learn about Community-Scale Hydro from Inuit in Inukjuak
<b>January 2025</b>	Amaruq HTA	Project Update + Road Routing Workshop	Board Attended, Feedback Received on How to Improve Communication on Project Moving Forward, Board Raised Concerns on Potential Environmental Impacts if Project were to be Constructed (Phase 5)

<b>January 2025</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders	Project Update + Question on Goals (Electrical, Electrical + Thermal, or Electrical + Industrial) at Formal Consultation Meeting	15+ Attendees, Feedback Received on Interest to Explore all Options, though Potential Environmental Impacts Must be Identified + Mitigated if the Project were to Proceed to Construction (Phase 5)
<b>January 2025</b>	Iqaluit Public	Project Update + Question on Goals (Electrical, Electrical + Thermal, or Electrical + Industrial) at Formal Consultation Meeting	65+ Attendees, Feedback Received on Interest to Explore all Options, though Potential Environmental Impacts Must be Identified + Mitigated if the Project were to Proceed (Phase 5)
<b>March 2025</b>	Rightsholders	Flyover of Project Site with Rightsholder + Federal Representatives	12+ Attendees, Visual Representation of Project Location Provided from Air in Twin Otter
<b>March 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq Community Lands and Resources Committee	Project Update at Formal Consultation Meeting	6+ Attendees, Feedback Received on How to Improve Communication on Project Moving Forward, Concerns Raised on Potential Environmental Impacts if Project were to be Constructed (Phase 5), Benefits Need to be Better Clarified
<b>March 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq Public	Project Update at Formal Consultation Meeting	30+ Attendees, Feedback Received on How to Improve Communication on Project Moving Forward, Concerns Raised on Potential Environmental Impacts if Project were to be Constructed (Phase 5), Benefits Need to be Better Clarified
<b>March 2025</b>	Amaruq HTA	Project Update at Annual General Meeting	75+ Attendees, Feedback Received on General Interest for More Frequent Project Updates, Clarity on Current Status only being Studies was Helpful



## Photos from Abovementioned Historic Major Consultation Activities

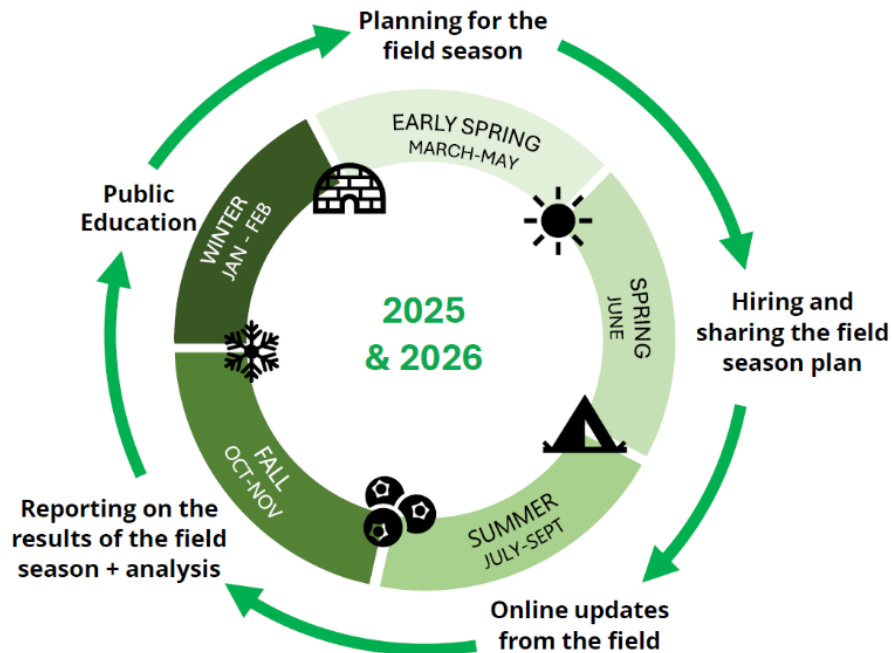


## Planned Major Consultation Activities

Date	Audience	Discussion Topic
<b>May 2023</b>	MLAs	Project Overview + Field Season Plan
<b>May 2023</b>	QIA Staff	Project Overview + Field Season Plan
<b>May 2023</b>	Amaruq HTA	Project Overview + Field Season Plan
<b>May 2023</b>	Panniqtuuq HTA	Project Overview + Field Season Plan
<b>May 2023</b>	Panniqtuuq Hamlet Council	Project Overview + Field Season Plan
<b>June, July, August 2025</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders + Public	Online Updates from Field + Employment Opportunity Advertising
<b>June, July, August 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq Rightsholders + Public	Online Updates from Field + Employment Opportunity Advertising
<b>November 2025</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders + Public	Results Sharing from Year 1 Field Season
<b>November 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq Rightsholders + Public	Results Sharing from Year 1 Field Season
<b>January 2025</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders + Public	Energy Literacy + Inuit Knowledge Sharing on Hydro from Inukjuak and Nuuk
<b>January 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Rightsholders + Public	Energy Literacy + Inuit Knowledge Sharing on Hydro from Inukjuak and Nuuk



## PHASE 3 – ENGAGEMENT PLAN



### 2025 Engagements:

- Winter:
  - Let's Talk Water Power
  - Trail systems
  - Online public education
- Spring: hiring and field season plan
- Summer: online updates from the field
- Fall: results sharing and review
- Before Christmas: Project naming