



What's your biggest NIRB question?

What is the NIRB?

Why am I commenting on screenings?

How can I support the Board?

I just need help and that's why I am here

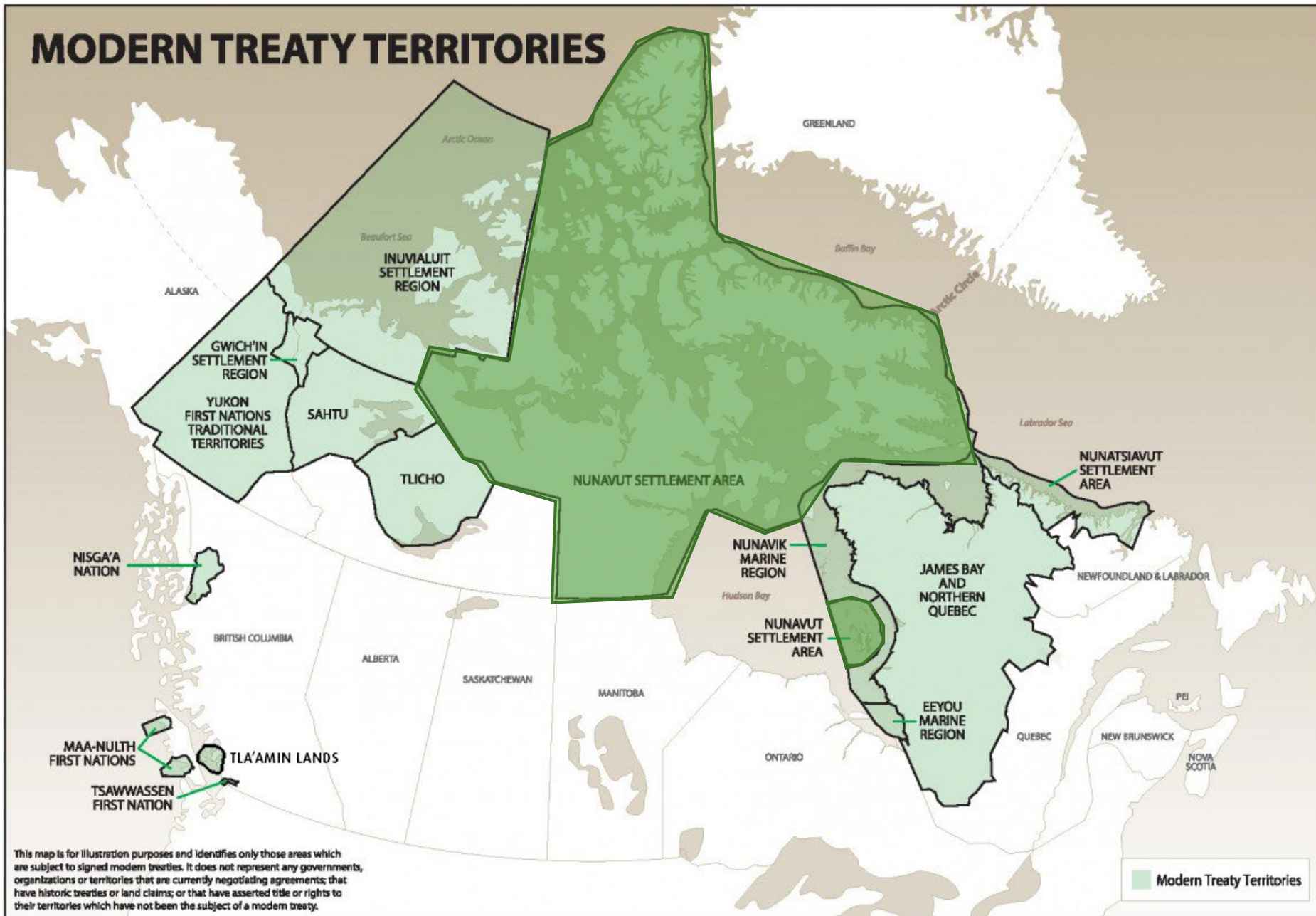
# Agenda

- Who is the NIRB?
- NIRB Screenings
  - What is a NIRB screening?
    - Timelines
    - Decisions
  - Roles & Expectations
  - NIRB Updates
- NIRB Reviews
  - What is a Review?
    - Phase 1-Guidelines
    - Phase 2-Impact Statement
    - Phase 3-NIRB Recommendation/Decision
  - Roles & Expectations
  - NIRB Updates
- Question & Answer

# Who is the NIRB?



# MODERN TREATY TERRITORIES



This map is for illustration purposes and identifies only those areas which are subject to signed modern treaties. It does not represent any governments, organizations or territories that are currently negotiating agreements; that have historic treaties or land claims; or that have asserted title or rights to their territories which have not been the subject of a modern treaty.

- The *Nunavut Act* created the territory of Nunavut in 1993
- Nunavut is divided into three regions and 25 communities:
  - Kitikmeot
  - Kivalliq
  - Qikiqtaaluk
- Population: ~ 38,000 (84% Inuit)\*
- Area: >2,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> (1/5 Canada)
- Air access only
- The Government of Nunavut is a public government with three official languages:
  - Inuktut (including Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun)
  - English
  - French

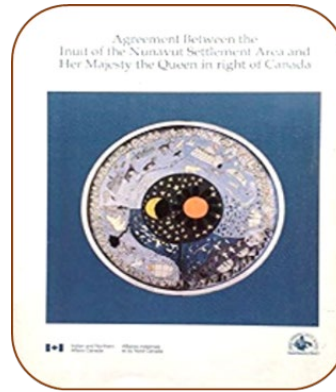


\*2014

# The Nunavut Agreement



Iqaluit, May 1993 - Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Paul Quassa, President of the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut signing the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.  
Photo credit: Hans-Ludwig Blohm, C.M.

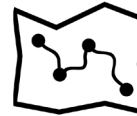


- recognized the contribution of Inuit to Canada's history, identity and sovereignty in the Arctic
- protected Inuit rights to hunt, fish and trap

## Established co-management Boards



**Article 5 - Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB)**



**Article 10-13** – Establish land and water management

Article 11 - **Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC)**



Article 12 - **Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)**



Article 13 - **Nunavut Water Board (NWB)**



**Article 21 - Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal (NSRT)**





# Nunavut Regulatory System

Development proposals must satisfy requirements of:

- Land use planning
  - Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Water and Land Use Licensing
- Timelines, information requirements and best practices are similar to and informed by other Canadian jurisdictions



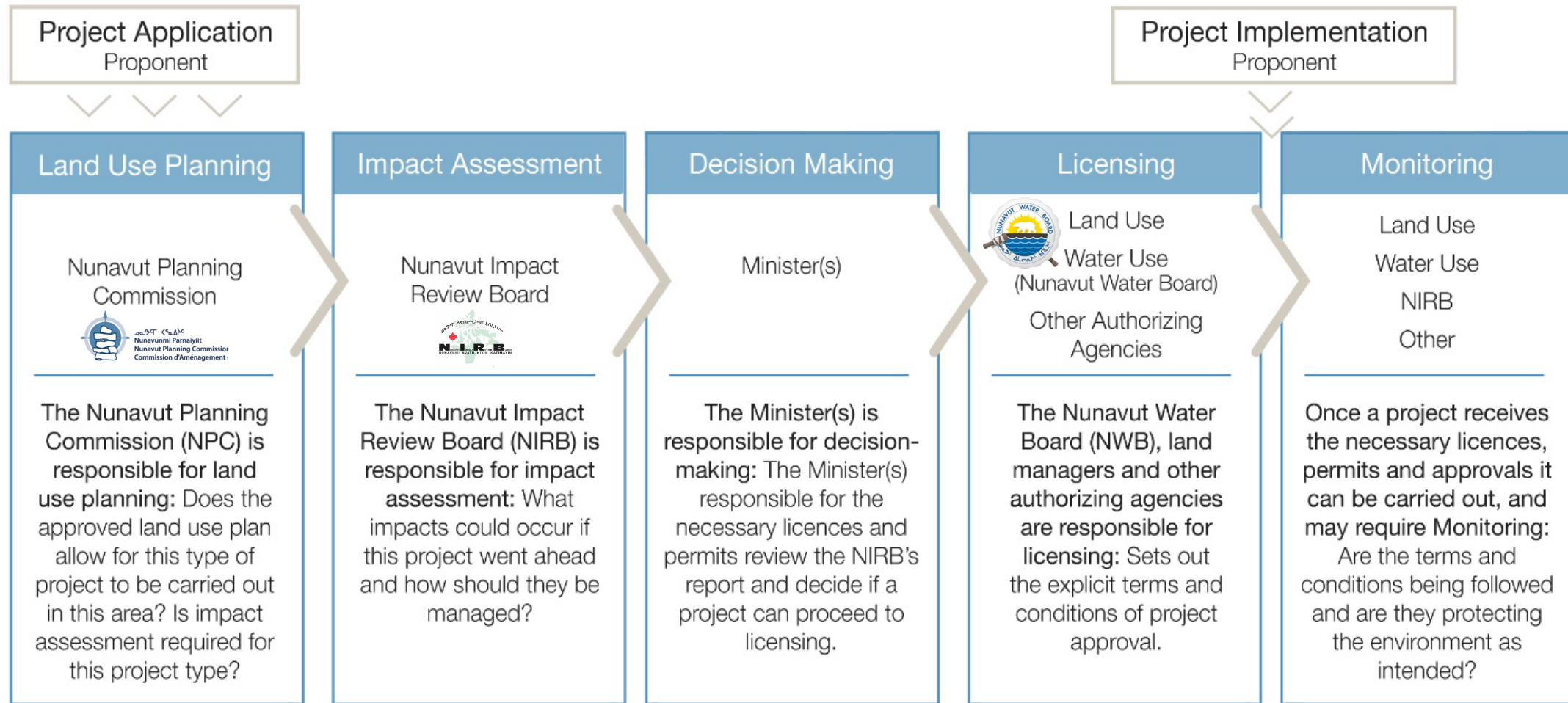
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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit  
Nunavut Planning Commission  
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut



ᓄᓇᓅᓴᑦ ᐸᓴᓄᓴᑦ ᐸᓴᓄᓴᑦ  
NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD  
NUNAVUMI AVATILIKIYIN KATIMAYIN



# Project Path: Project Application to Completion





## Mandate

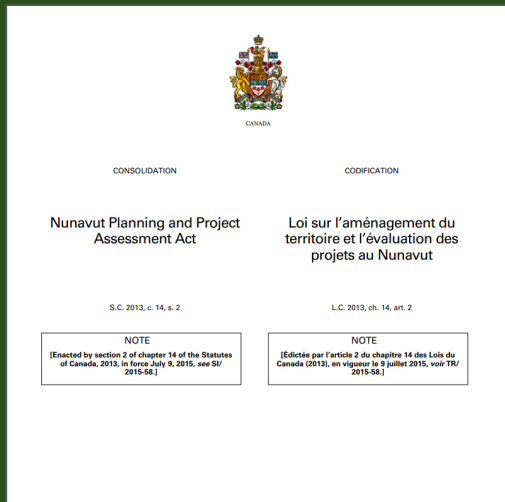
*At all times the primary objectives of the NIRB are to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area.*

- *The NIRB must take into account the well-being of residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.*
- *The NIRB reviews ecosystemic (i.e. biophysical impacts and socio-economic impacts) of proposed development projects*
  - *Limit of work: the mandate of the NIRB does not include the establishment of requirements for socio-economic benefits*

## Assess projects, not permits Not a Licence to Operate

### The NIRB makes recommendations to Government

- all departments, in an integrated way for regulation of the entire project
- Frames recommendations within the framework of what the development means for Nunavut and Canada
- Government accepts, rejects or varies the NIRB's recommendations based on the criteria under the Nunavut Agreement.
- Works with regulators to encourage coordination in starting their processes and to support carry-forward of NIRB recommendations into regulatory processes
  - Scope of Review outlines regulatory framework
  - Often changes as project design progresses during a Review
  - Sets out Scope of assessment and coordination expectations



## NIRB's Legislation – the *Nunavut Project and Planning Act*

- *Came into force July 9, 2015*
- *Expands on the ability of the Inuit to participate in the management of development in Nunavut*
- *Established in legislation:*
  - ***NPC and NIRB's powers, duties and functions, including how their commissioners / board members are appointed***
  - ***The roles and authorities of Inuit, and the federal and territorial governments***
  - ***Timelines for various decision-making points in the land use planning and impact assessment processes to create a more efficient and predictable regulatory regime***

## Plain language take-aways:

- **Priority to coordination and cannot duplicate**
  - Regulatory expertise used in the NIRB process
  - Streamlining process (working together within and in support of the Impact Assessment)
  - Engagement vs Consultation (s. 35 Rights)
- **Enforceability of terms and conditions (CIRNAC) in addition to existing enforceability given to regulatory bodies**
- **NIRB advisory board framing decisions of impacts and benefits for both Nunavut and Canada broadly**
- **Sets out expectations for pre-development impact assessment and monitoring for life of project**

# NIRB's Work



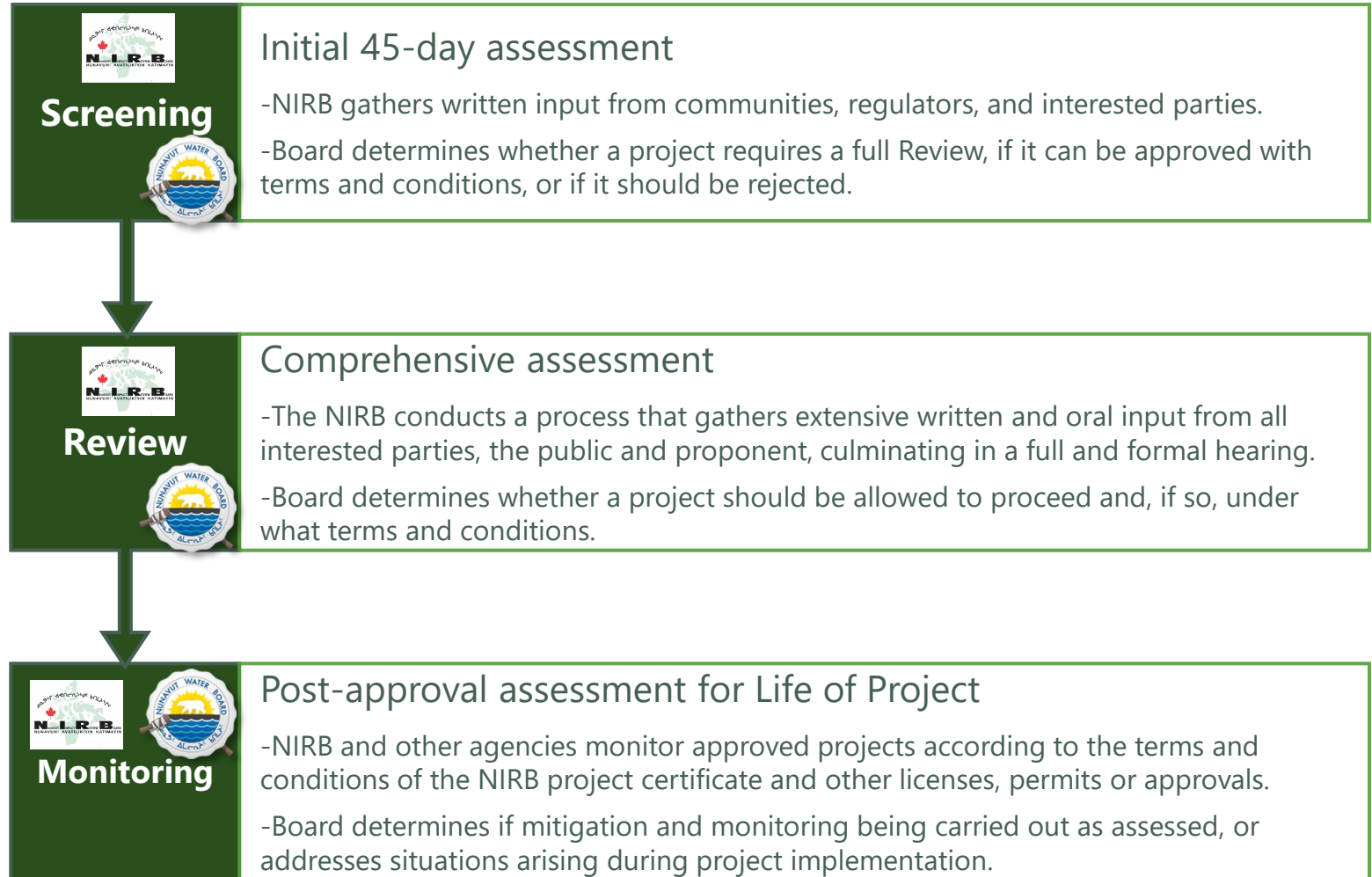
- Screen project proposals to determine whether or not a review is required
- Gauge and define the extent of regional impacts
- Review ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of project proposals
- Determine whether project proposals should proceed, and if so, under what terms and conditions
- Monitor projects that have been approved to proceed



*NIRB compliance monitoring and effects monitoring allow for feedback into ongoing impact assessments*



# Impact Assessment in Nunavut



# The Impact Assessment Team





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[Read full bio](#)



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# NIRB Screenings

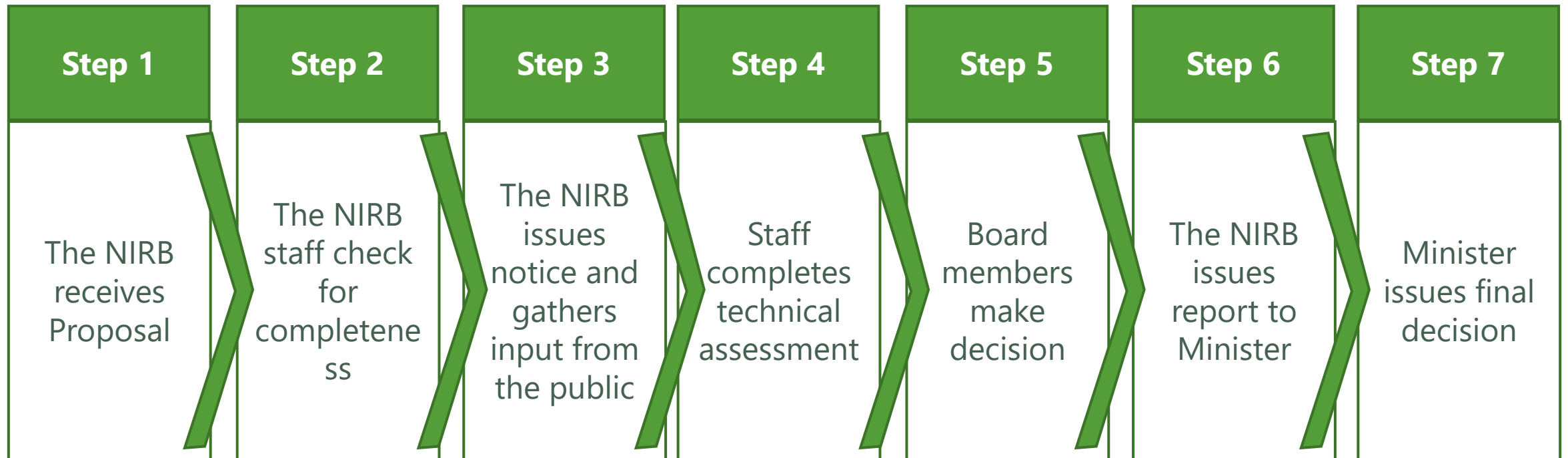






# The Screening Process

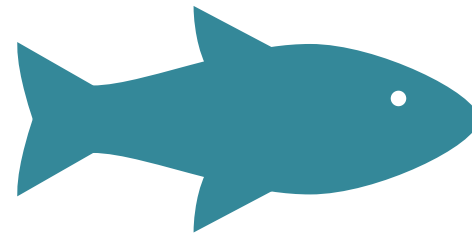
The Screening process determines if a project requires a full review, if it can be approved with terms and conditions, or if it should be rejected.



# The Screening Process

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- Could the project have significant adverse effects on the environment and Inuit harvesting?
- Could the project have significant adverse effects on the well-being of northerners?
- Does the project cause significant public concern?
- Does the proposal involve new technologies with unknown effects?



# Public Engagement

- Searchable online registries provide project information, guidance materials and digital comment forms to the public

The Nunavut Impact Review Board's mission is to protect and promote the well-being of the Environment and Nunavummit through the impact assessment process.

Date	Downloadable PDF or Word file	Project
2017-04-06	170921-16N004-04-Hanley/Lee NIRB Re-Supporter Project-020.pdf	16N004 Whale Tail Brand/Leul Road - Meadowbank Gold Project
2017-04-06	170919-17N004-Proposer/Lee NIRB Re-Termination of Licence-010.pdf	17N004 Identifying the Drivers of Polar Bear-Human Interactions
2017-04-06	170920-17N004-Termination of License/010/020.pdf	17N004 Identifying the Drivers of Polar Bear-Human Interactions
2017-04-06	170920-061004-NJC Le-Proposer/Re-Closure of Pit-1020.pdf	061004 Beck River Project
2017-04-06	170920-17N011-N/004/Le NIRB/Re Offer to Cooperate-1020.pdf	17N011 Gray's Bay Road and Port
2017-04-05	170925-10N004-SN/WT Comments on Beck River Road Final Hearing Report-010.pdf	10N004 Beck River Project
2017-04-05	170925-10N004-03/Le NIRB/Re Comments on Final Hearing Report-010.pdf	10N004 Beck River Project
2017-04-05	160325-10N014-N/00 Screening Referral-010.pdf	10N014 Students on Ice 2019 Inuits Expedition
2017-04-05	170925-02N007-Mugulruk/HTO Comments-010.pdf	02N007 Dora North Mine

SEARCH the PUBLIC REGISTRY

Your search included the keywords: **gold**

Search Results: 62

**Project Location**

- South Baffin (1)
- Kitlmeat (50)
- Kivalliq (50)
- North Baffin (1)

**Project Type**

- Exploration (20)
- Road/Trail (5)
- Camp (3)
- Quarry (3)
- Fuel (1)
- Mine (4)
- Research (13)
- Access (1)
- Infrastructure (1)
- Other (1)

**Assessment Status**

- Exempt from Screening (2)
- Completed Screening (34)
- Active Review (2)
- Active Monitoring (2)
- Completed Review (1)

**02N007 [04EM002] - Baffin Gold Property**

Applicant: Andrew Barry  
Project Type: Exploration  
Region: South Baffin  
Last Modified: 2017-05-25

**02N005 [LYN002] - Occurrence Tools for Supporting Environmental Risk Assessment of Metal Mining**

Applicant: Jennifer Delaney  
Project Type: Road/Trail  
Region: Kitlmeat  
Last Modified: 2017-04-28

# Local Knowledge

- The term Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit encompasses Inuit “Traditional Knowledge” (TK)
  - Encompasses local and community based knowledge, ecological knowledge (both traditional and contemporary), which is rooted in the daily life of Inuit people, and has an important contribution to make to an environmental assessment
- Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit assists greatly in making impact predictions, particularly where scientific baseline may be lacking



# Screening Roles & Expectations



- The NIRB screens 60-100 project proposals in any given year
  - A notice of screening is issued for each proposal with a 21-day comment period
- Each notice of screening issued by the NIRB should be reviewed by Parties to determine:
  - Whether the Party is a responsible authority for the project
  - Whether the project could impact on physical areas under the jurisdiction of the Party (e.g. Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, Territorial Parks, Wildlife Areas)
  - Whether the project intersects with an area of the Party's mandate and the Party possesses expert advice applicable to the proposed works or activities
- Requires provision of written comments only, no in-person meetings

# Screening Decision Options

## Option 1



### Approve with terms and conditions

The Board may recommend that a project be approved and go directly to licensing. When the impacts are well known and can be managed, the NIRB can specify the terms and conditions the proponent must follow to prevent or lessen any negative impacts to an acceptable level.

## Option 2



### Additional Review required

The Board may decide a project be sent for a full environmental and socio-economic review because of the potential for significant impacts.

- who leads the Review (NIRB or panel)
- who must be involved
- issues considered in the process
- resources: participant funding

## Option 3



### Modify or abandon the project

When the impacts of a project are considered by the NIRB to be unacceptable, the Board may recommend that the proposal be modified so that certain components are changed or abandoned completely.





NIRB File No.: ##  
 NIRB Public Registry link: ##  
 NPC File No.: ##

Date

Applicant

Applicant address

Sent via email: Applicant email address

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Applicant's "Project Title" project proposal

Dear Applicant

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening the project proposal.

By copy of this letter, NIRB invites regulators, interested parties, and community members or groups potentially affected by the proposal to view the application and comment directly to the NIRB by [date].

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal
  - if NIRB staff find that the criteria for a Review may be met if a Review is required any additional factors that should be considered as part of that process;
  - if cumulative effects concern highlighted in referral whether any cumulative ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts could result from the impacts of the proposed project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out inside the designated area, or wholly or partly outside the designated area.

The application can be viewed on NIRB's online registry [link] where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to info@nirb.ca, or by fax.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement) and s. 87 of the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

(866) 233-3033 → (867) 983-2594 → info@nirb.ca → www.nirb.ca → @NunavutImpactReviewBoard  
 P.O. Box 1360 Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0 → Page 1 of 3

Scope of proposal

Location	[Kitikmeot][Kivalliq][Qikiqtani] region, describe location 200 kilometers [identify potentially impacted community:] Northwest of XX
Objective	The Proponent intends to [insert justification and overall objective]
Timeline	[DATE] to [DATE] [seasonal, year-round, one-year, multi-year]

The scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- [describe what activities are being proposed for Nunavut: Transport methods and routes, Camp, Number of people, Fuel, waste management]
  - Transport to and from site using fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter, snow-mobile, or all-terrain vehicle
  - Establish, maintain, and decommission temporary/permanent camp for up to [#] people, for [duration days/months]
  - Transport, storage, and use of up to XX amount of fuel
  - Collect samples up to XX/Drilling up to XX metres
  - Use up to XX m<sup>3</sup> water per day from various freshwater lakes for camp operations and drilling
  - Waste managed through incineration of combustibles, filtration of water generated at site, and non-combustibles shipped back to approved waste depot

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

- The NIRB has identified (pick the one point that fits the situation and remove bullet point)
- no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal; as a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.
  - that the previously assessed activities listed above will be considered in the current assessment especially for potential of cumulative impacts where previous approvals may still be in force.
  - the following works or activities referenced in the application are sufficiently related to the project (by s. 86(1)(a) of the NuPPAA) to form part of it. Following clarification from the Proponent [and Nunavut Planning Commission], the NIRB has included the following within the scope of the project: [list activities].
  - that while referenced in the application, the following activities were found to not be sufficiently developed or related to the project to be included within the scope and following consultation with the Proponent, the following works/activities were excluded from the scope of the project: [list activities].

Other Matters to consider

if municipal undertakings or proposals for major projects For this assessment, the NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) are initiating a coordinated process as the proposal would require a water licence, and the Proponent has indicated they wish to start the Water Licence application process at this time. As a result, the Proponent must provide information during the assessment to satisfy both the impact assessment requirements as well as the water licensing process. At any time, the Proponent has the option to opt out of a coordinated process by providing the request in writing to both the NIRB and the NWB.

The NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) are required to coordinate their processes for projects that require a water licence as per Sections 13.5.2 and 13.6.1 of the Nunavut Agreement, s. 193 of NuPPAA, and s. 37 of the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act.

(866) 233-3033 → (867) 983-2594 → info@nirb.ca → www.nirb.ca → @NunavutImpactReviewBoard  
 P.O. Box 1360 Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0 → Page 2 of 3

# NIRB Updates – New Templates

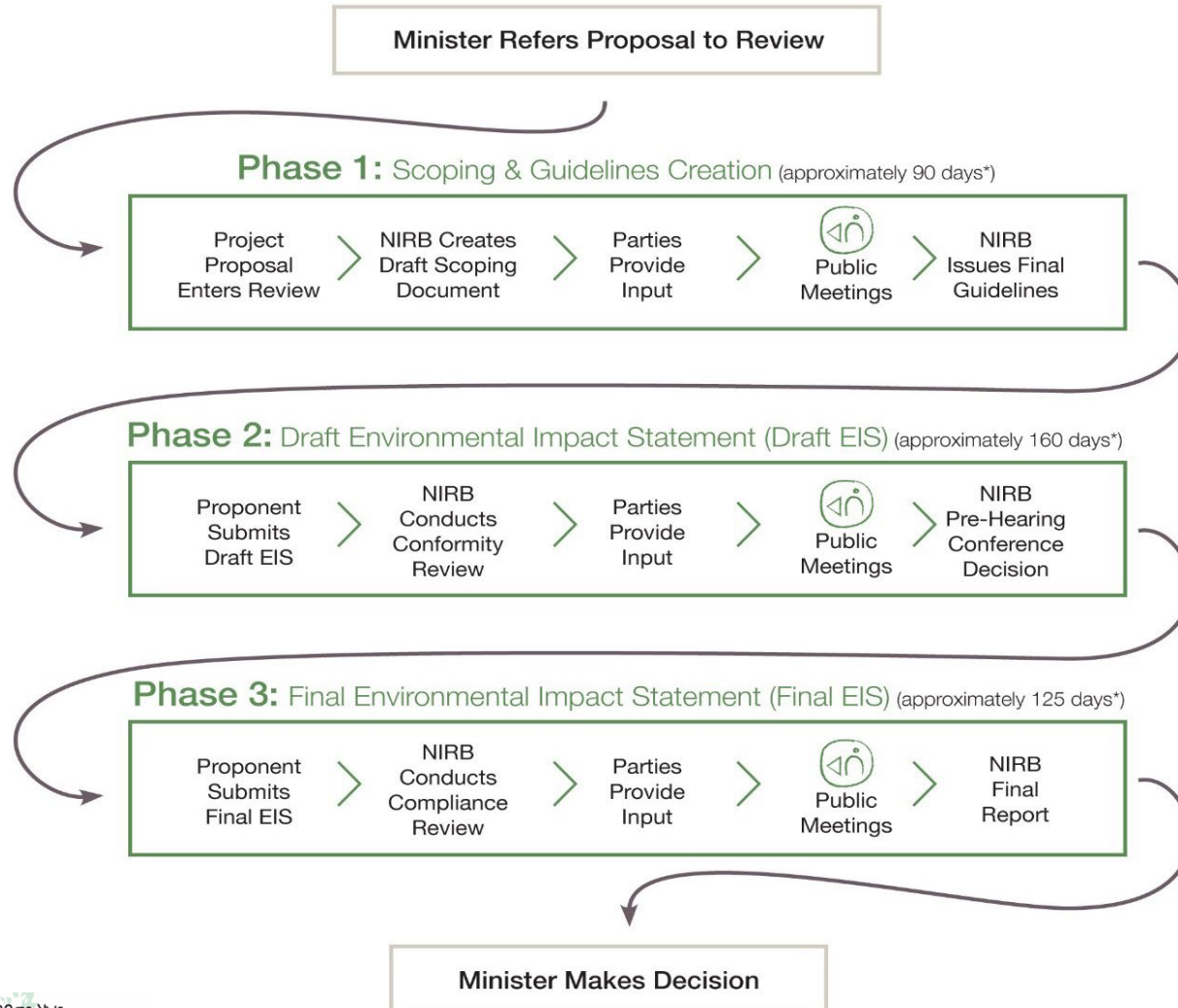


# Screening Questions?

# NIRB Review



# The Review Process – Coordination by all Parties



- ✓ Community updates, Technical Meetings, and Hearings are held in the communities most directly affected by a development
- ✓ Clear direction from Ministers on engagement of parties
- ✓ Costs and budgets prepared in advance
- ✓ Participant funding options are being encouraged
- ✓ Legal counsels are prepared for working in Nunavut framework (share the NIRB-NWB guide)

# The Review Process

## Scoping Sessions

Informal sessions in affected communities to solicit comments from the proponent, intervenors, community members and interested members of the public about the proposal

## Project Specific Impact Statement or Impact Statement Guidelines Review

Informal sessions in affected communities to review and solicit input on the draft project-specific Impact Statement Guidelines

## Impact statement Guideline Development Workshop

The conclusions reached through this workshop inform the draft Impact Statement Submission

## Community Information Sessions

Informal sessions in affected communities to provide information to communities, encourage public engagement in proceedings, and solicit comments from the public

## Technical Meeting

Meeting of technical experts to review and resolve outstanding technical issues and to identify any supplementary information required to address outstanding issues

## Pre-Hearing Conference

Pre-Hearing Conference with the proponent, intervenors, community representatives and/or members of the public to assess whether the project proposal can move forward into the public hearing stage



# Public Engagement & Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit



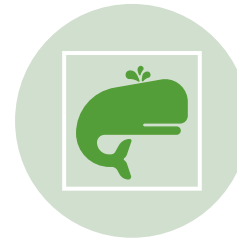
In-person meetings are scheduled in potentially-affected communities at various stages in the assessment of a proposed project



Information is shared and community members provide their questions and comments directly



Public engagement is an iterative process



Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit assists greatly in making impact predictions, particularly where scientific baseline may be lacking



## Participation in NIRB Reviews

- The NIRB typically has 1-2 active Reviews at any time, with several others in a suspended stage awaiting submission of an impact statement from the project proponent
- Participation will include provision of written submissions throughout the Review process
- In-person participation by Parties is expected for:
  - Community Scoping Meetings (*optional*)
  - Guidelines Development Workshop
  - Technical Meetings
  - Pre-hearing Conference and community roundtable
  - Public Hearing and community roundtable



# NIRB Updates

- 24XN038- Grays Bay
  - Monday March 30, 2026-next submission date
- 26UN010-Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Project
  - Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation
  - Working together on complete application



# Summary

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- The Nunavut process is very holistic in nature, designed to assess large and small projects, to monitor the effects of projects and incorporate lessons learned into ongoing assessments
- Public outreach structured to facilitate active engagement throughout processes
- Local community knowledge and Inuit Qaujimagatugangit is actively solicited and considered
- Approaches are continually evolving



Did I answer your question?

Do you have other  
questions?

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