



What's your question?

What is the NIRB?

Why am I commenting on screenings?

How can I support the Board?

What do I do in a NIRB Review?

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

# Agenda

- Who is the NIRB? Overview
- NIRB Screenings
  - What is a NIRB screening? Overview
    - 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

<https://www.nirb.ca/content/presentations>

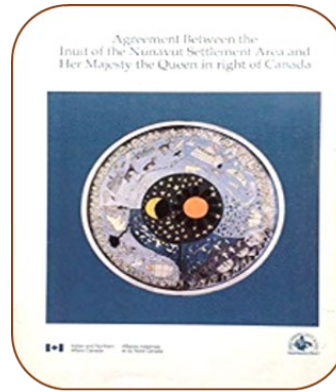
# Who is the NIRB?



# 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.

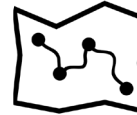


- recognized the contribution of Inuit to Canada's history, identity and sovereignty in the Arctic
- protected Inuit rights to hunt, fish and trap

## 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:

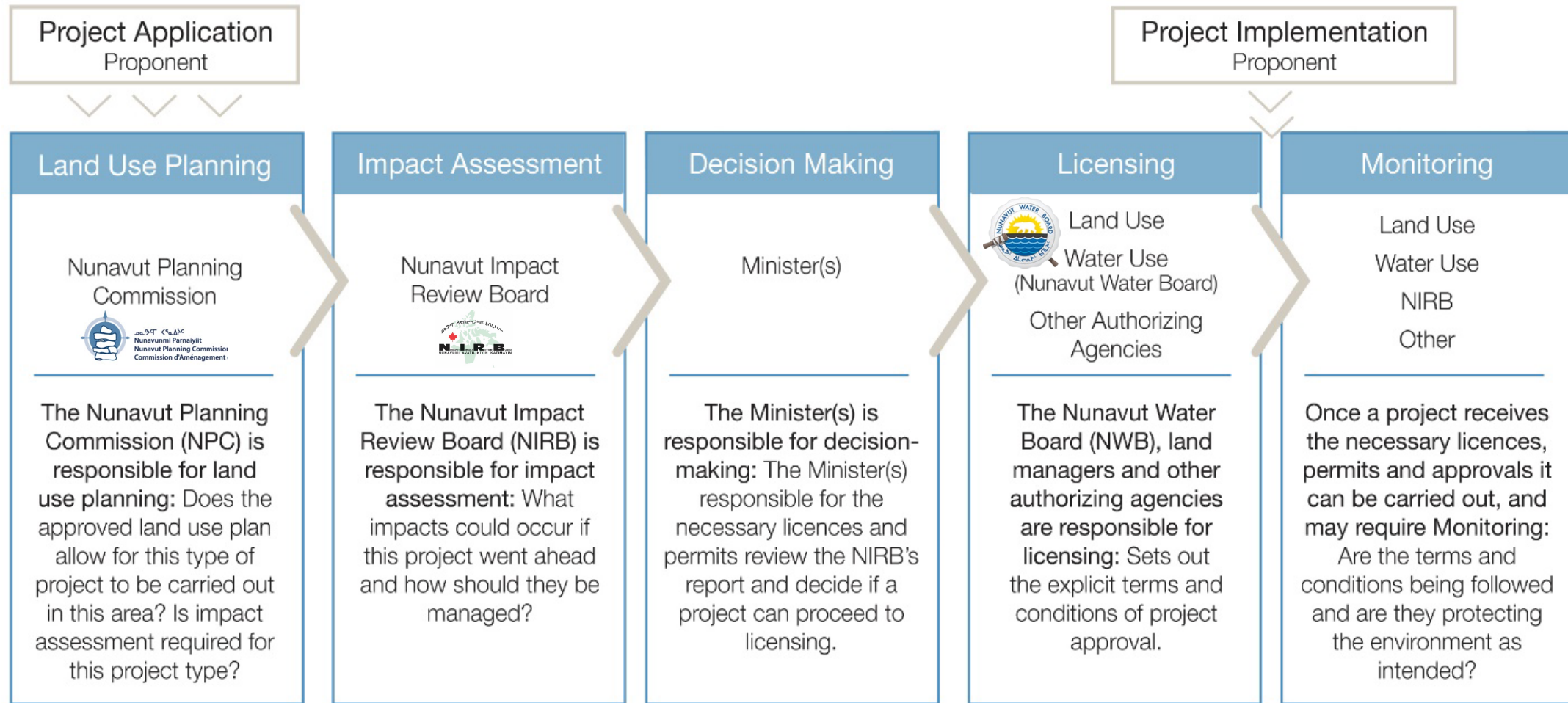
- Land use planning
  - Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Water and Land Use Licensing
- Timelines, information requirements and best practices are similar to and informed by other Canadian jurisdictions



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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit  
Nunavut Planning Commission  
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut



# Project Path: Project Application to Completion





## Mandate

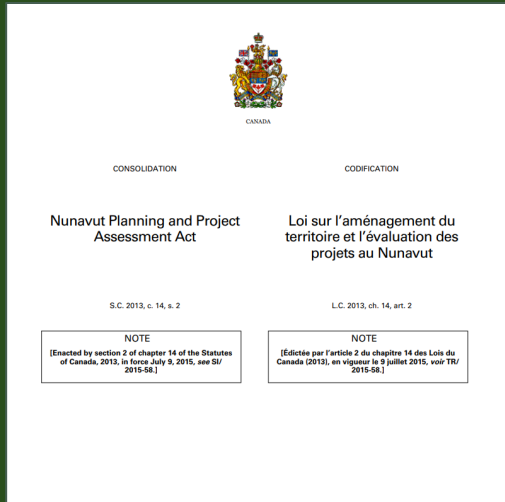
*At all times the primary objectives of the NIRB are to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area.*

- *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*

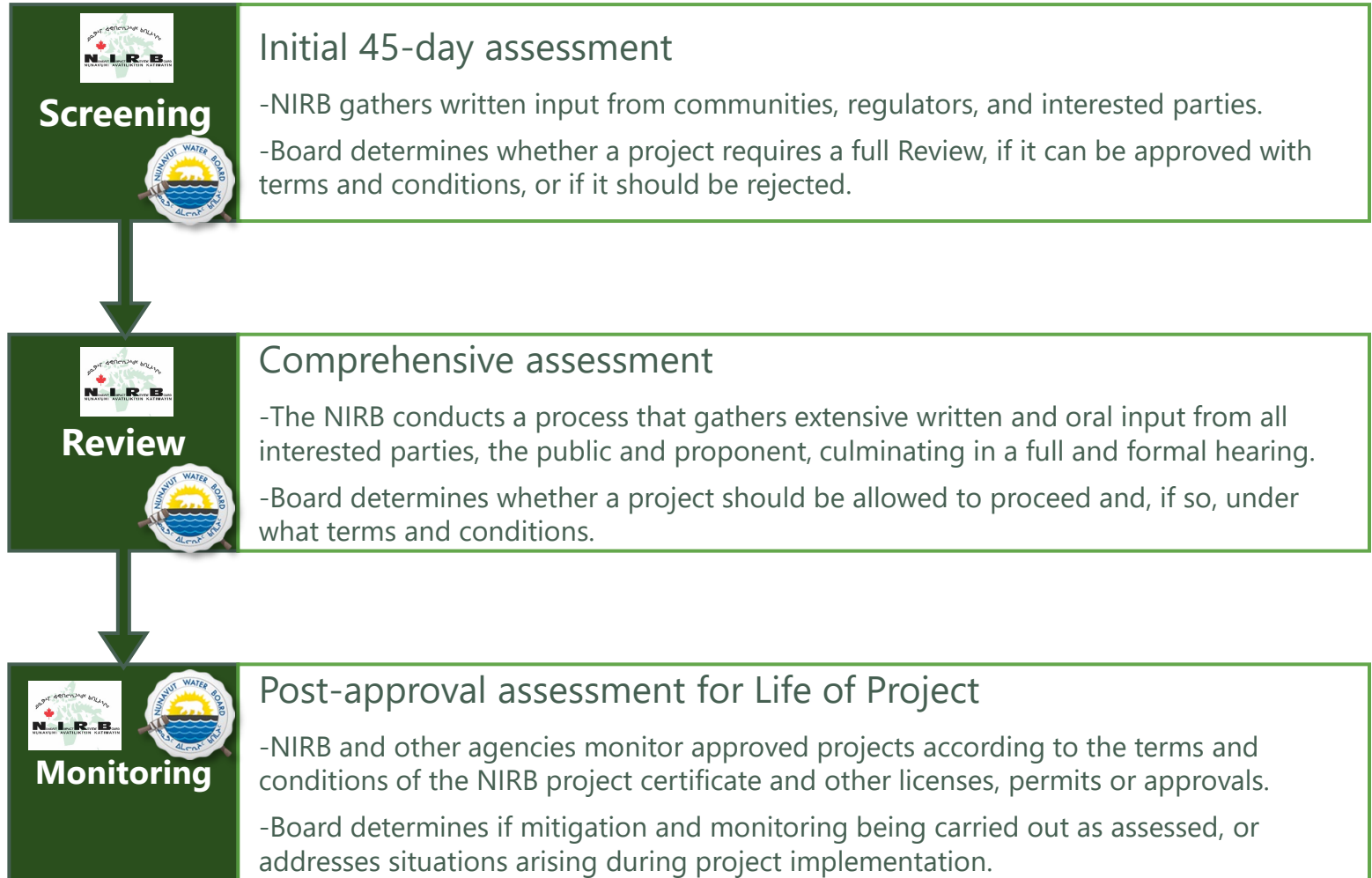
- *Came into force July 9, 2015*
- *Expands on the ability of the Inuit to participate in the management of development in Nunavut*
- *Established in legislation:*
  - ***NPC and NIRB's powers, duties and functions, including how their commissioners / board members are appointed***
  - ***The roles and 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**



# Impact Assessment in Nunavut



# The Impact Assessment Team





Mia Beattie: Impact Assessment Officer

Email: [mbeattie@nirb.ca](mailto:mbeattie@nirb.ca)

Phone: 866-233-3033 Ext.555

[Read full bio](#)



Dustin Sim: Screening Officer

Email: [dsim@nirb.ca](mailto:dsim@nirb.ca)

Phone: 866-233-3033 Ext.575

[Read full bio](#)



Francis Emingak: Screening Officer

Email: [femingak@nirb.ca](mailto:femingak@nirb.ca)

Phone: 866-233-3033 Ext.570

[Read full bio](#)



Viren Nasit: Senior Impact Assessment Officer

Email: [vnasit@nirb.ca](mailto:vnasit@nirb.ca)

Phone: 866-233-3033 Ext.550

[Read full bio](#)



Jordan Takkiruq: Impact Assessment Officer

Email: [jtakkiruq@nirb.ca](mailto:jtakkiruq@nirb.ca)

Phone: 866-233-3033 Ext.565

[Read full bio](#)



Amir Pourmahabadian: Senior Impact Assessment Officer

Email: [apourmahabadian@nirb.ca](mailto:apourmahabadian@nirb.ca)

Phone: 866-233-3033 Ext.545

[Read full bio](#)



## Guides

### Public Guides

The NIRB has a series of public guides in place which provide a general overview of the NIRB and its Screening, Review and Monitoring processes. These guides are available in English, French, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and can be viewed online or downloaded to your personal computer.

NIRB Guide 1: Introduction



Printable Version  
Online Viewing

NIRB Guide 2: Screening



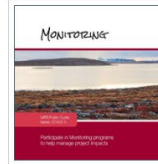
Printable Version  
Online Viewing

NIRB Guide 3: Review



Printable Version  
Online Viewing

NIRB Guide 4: Monitoring



Printable Version  
Online Viewing

### Technical Guides

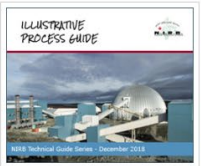
The NIRB maintains a series of technical guides targeted at specific audiences, to promote effective participation in our processes:

Guide to Terminology and Definitions



Download

Illustrative Process Guide



Download

Proponents' Guide



Download

Intervenor's Guide



Download

Authorizing Agencies' Guide



Download

### Coordinated Process Guides

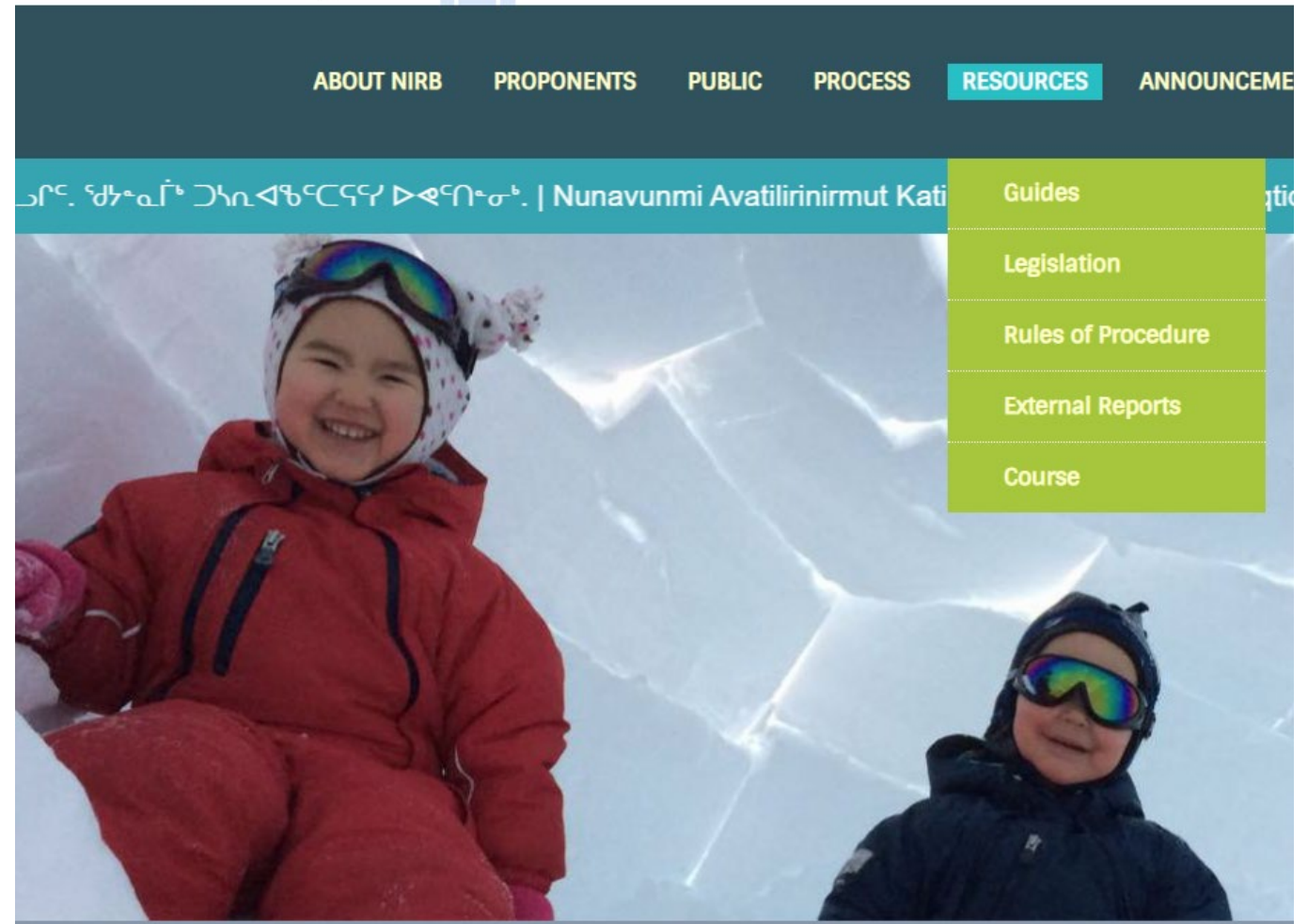
The NIRB and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) have a public guide in place which describes the coordinated process that can be requested for the consideration of NWB Type "A" Water Licence Applications associated with major development projects under Review by the NIRB. The Detailed Coordinated Process Framework allows for a shortened NWB water licensing process to follow the NIRB impact assessment process, through running both processes concurrently.

Download NIRB/NWB Coordinated Process Framework Guide

These guides reflect the updated impact assessment process under the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA) which came into force on July 9, 2015.



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# NIRB Screenings





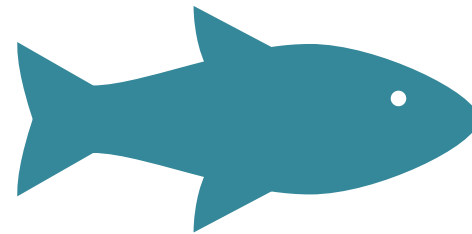




# The Screening Process

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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 Presentation Q&A.pdf	16N004 Whale Tail Brand/Leul Road - Meadowbank Gold Project
2017-04-06	170919-17N004-Proposer/Lee NIRB Re-Termination of Licence Q&A Edition	17N004 Identifying the Drivers of Polar Bear-Human Interactions
2017-04-06	170920-17N004-Termination of License/Leul/Lee NIRB Q&A-0202.pdf	17N004 Identifying the Drivers of Polar Bear-Human Interactions
2017-04-06	170920-061004-NJC Le-Proposer/Re-Closure of Pit-1 Q&A.pdf	061004 Beck River Project
2017-04-06	170920-17N011-NVRS/Le NIRB Re-Offers to Cooperate Q&A.pdf	17N011 Gray's Bay Road and Port
2017-04-05	170925-10N004-SNWT Comments on Beck River Road Final Hearing Report Q&A.pdf	10N004 Beck River Project
2017-04-05	170925-10N004-MS/Le NIRB Re-Comments on Final Hearing Report Q&A.pdf	10N004 Beck River Project
2017-04-05	160325-10N014-NPC Screening Referral Q&A.pdf	10N014 Students on Ice 2019 Inuits Expedition
2017-04-05	170925-02N007-Mugulruk/HTO Comments Q&A.pdf	02N007 Dora North Mine

SEARCH the PUBLIC REGISTRY

Your search included the keywords: **gold**

Search Results: 62

**Project Location**

- South Baffin (1)
- Kitlomet (50)
- Kivalliq (20)
- North Baffin (1)

**Project Type**

- Exploration (20)
- Road/Trail (5)
- Camp (3)
- Quarry (2)
- Fuel (1)
- Mine (4)
- Research (12)
- 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: Kitlomet  
Last Modified: 2017-04-28









# Minister's Decision Options

## Option 1



**Accept the NIRB's determination to proceed**

The Minister accepts the NIRB report as to whether or not the project should proceed, including any terms and conditions.

## Option 2



**Reject the NIRB's determination to proceed if not in national interest**

The Minister rejects the determination that a project should proceed on the basis that the proposal is not in the national or regional interest.

## Option 3



**Reject the NIRB's determination to proceed if condition inappropriate**

The Minister rejects the determination to proceed if the terms and conditions are more onerous than necessary, insufficient to mitigate environmental and socio-economic impacts, or so expensive that they would limit the viability of the project.

## Option 4



**Reject the NIRB's determination not to proceed if in national interest**

The Minister rejects the determination that a project should not proceed if the project should have been approved because of its importance to the national or regional interest.

## Option 5



**Refer the report back to the NIRB for further review**

The Minister refers the report back to the NIRB for further review or public hearings where the Minister determines that the report is deficient with respect to environmental and socio-economic issues.

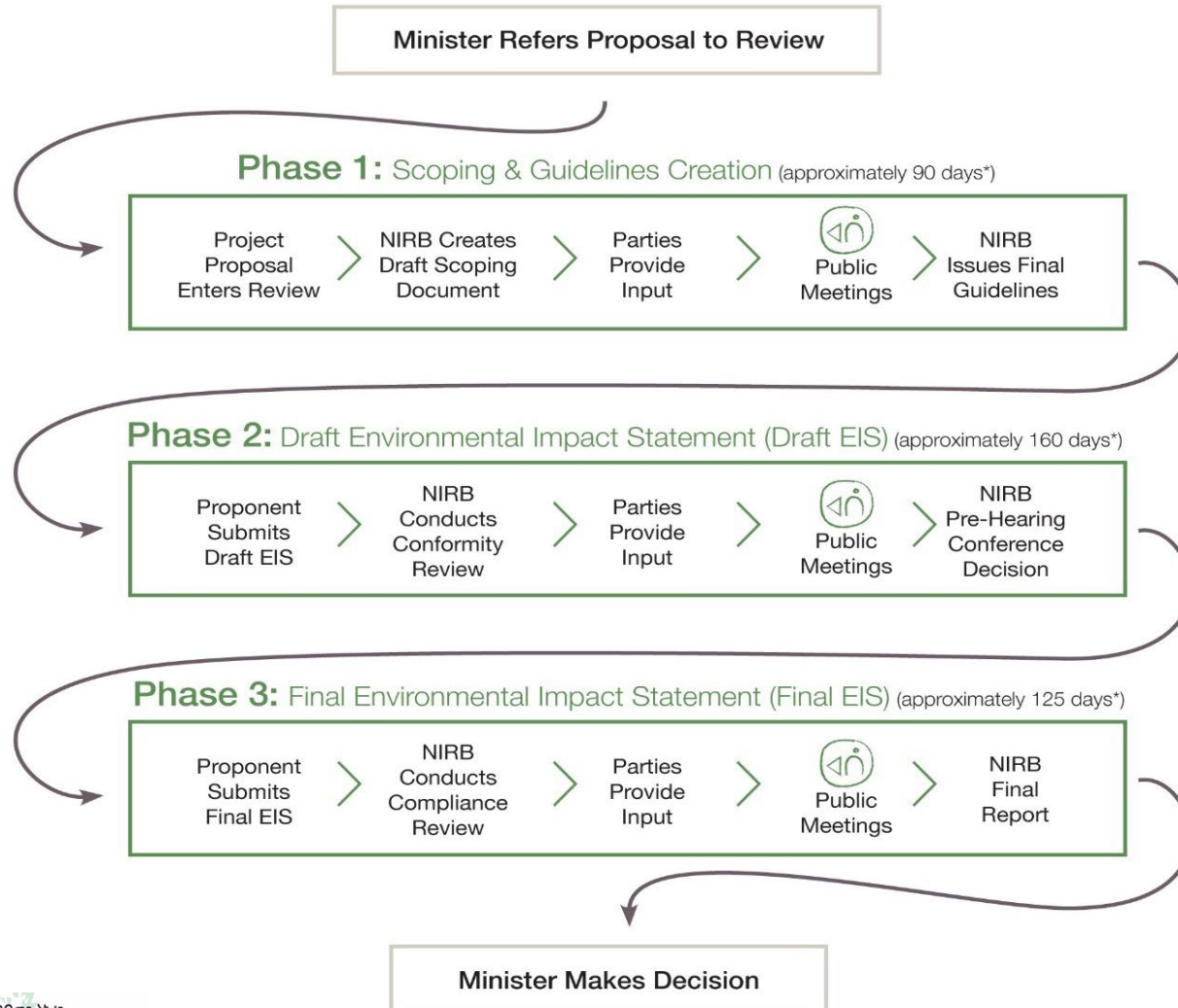


# Screening Questions?

# NIRB Reviews



# 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

# 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

# Final Hearings\*

## **Community Roundtable Session**

To further community engagement, the Board may conduct a community roundtable session during the Pre-Hearing Conference or Final Hearings stages of the Board's process

## **Final Hearings Conducted in Communities**

Final Hearings (in-person) conducted in the community consist of both a formal, technical component and a less formal community component (i.e. a community roundtable).

\* Public Hearing is term used in Reconsiderations

# Public Engagement & Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit



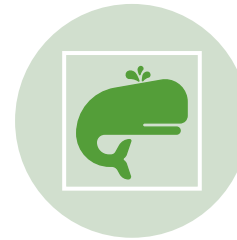
In-person meetings are scheduled in potentially-affected communities at various stages in the assessment of a proposed project



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

## What to think about during NIRB Reviews

- A Project Certificate allows Regulatory Authorities and the NIRB to revisit the impact predictions and proposed mitigation measures from the initial Impact Assessment and any Impact Statement Addenda to answer whether the assessment of impacts really “got it right” and if not, to trigger revisiting how to “get it right” as the Project is implemented. However, it should be emphasised that because the terms and conditions are issued at the assessment stage of project development, they are drafted at a different level of detail, prescription, and specificity than subsequent licences and permits.

## Socio-Economics & the NIRB

- It should also be noted that for economic benefits, the NIRB’s jurisdiction for such terms and conditions is limited by both the *Nunavut Agreement* and *NuPPAA*, which states that: “*The NIRB shall not include the establishment of requirements for socioeconomic benefits*” which means unless there is a link made between an ecosystemic effect and a resulting socio-economic effect, the NIRB’s recommended socio-economic terms and conditions are recommendations only, and do not establish requirements for socio-economic benefits.



# Minister's Decision Options-Review

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# Review Questions?

# 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?

[kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca)

# NIRB Reminders

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- Mary River - Marine Monitoring workshop
  - Deadline Online participation: April 17, 2026
- Annual Reports have started to go out for comment





