



NIRB File No.: 08MN053

April 30, 2026

To: *Mary River Distribution List*

Re: **Discussion Paper to support development of a Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework for Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's Mary River Project**

Dear Parties:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) continues to support the development of an updated Cumulative Effects Assessment Framework (CEAF) which will set an agreed-upon scope and methodology for an evaluation of current cumulative effects monitoring (both project-based and regional) and guide future impact assessments associated with Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation's (Baffinland) Mary River Project. The NIRB is pleased to issue the attached Discussion Paper to provide background information, focus areas for feedback and support the development of the CEAF going forward. As members of the CEAF Steering Committee, the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada have each committed to preparing a summary of regional research and monitoring programs relevant to the development of a CEAF. Baffinland has also prepared two backgrounder documents on the Mary River Project to support development of a CEAF: Materials to Support Cumulative Effects EA Guidelines Update for the Mary River Project; and, Materials to Support the Understanding of Baffinland Annual Monitoring Report Templates.

The discussion paper, research and monitoring summaries¹, and backgrounder documents will be available from the NIRB's website at the following location, under the Discussion Document tab: <https://www.nirb.ca/content/cumulative-effects-assessment-framework#>

Together the discussion paper and supporting materials are intended to help build awareness of how the potential for cumulative effects associated with the Mary River Project is considered within the unique legislative framework of Nunavut for resource development, project assessment, project monitoring and regional cumulative effects monitoring. As previously announced the NIRB will be hosting a CEAF Workshop in Iqaluit **June 9-10, 2026** to bring interested parties together to further development of the CEAF through a guided discussion of key issues and initial

¹ The research and monitoring summary being prepared by the Government of Nunavut is anticipated for public release in the coming days.

feedback on these materials. Interested parties are invited to review these documents and provide the NIRB with initial feedback for consideration by **June 1, 2026**.

In particular, as outlined in the Discussion Paper the NIRB would appreciate receiving feedback from interested parties on the following key issues:

- Definition of cumulative effects utilized;
- Potential gaps in monitoring of cumulative effects;
- Additional research and monitoring relevant to development of a CEAF;
- Geographic and temporal scale;
- Identification of projects, activities and processes to be considered;
- Selection of Valued Components; and,
- Other identified areas of interest.

For the workshop in Iqaluit, parties are encouraged to have key representation attend in-person to the extent possible, however, recognizing in-person attendance may be constrained by limited hotel accommodations parties may also participate remotely via MS Teams. To ensure the required logistics are prepared successfully, parties planning to attend the workshop in person and/or remotely are requested to provide the NIRB with the names, position titles and affiliations of planned participants by **May 24, 2026**. A draft agenda for the workshop will be circulated in advance of the event, with further details on online access and related logistics to support participation.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

As a reminder, the NIRB will also be facilitating information sessions in targeted communities across the Qikiqtani region from **May 9-15, 2026**, to:

- share information on the development of a CEAF for the Mary River Project;
- provide opportunities for community knowledge and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit to inform and guide the initiative;
- improve public awareness and confidence in the monitoring outcomes and oversight for the approved Mary River project; and,
- enhance the awareness of how cumulative effects are considered within the unique legislative framework of Nunavut for resource development, project assessment and project monitoring.

To the extent possible the NIRB staff will be accompanied by representatives from the CEAF Steering Committee (Baffinland, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Government of Nunavut, and Government of Canada) for the information sessions in each community. Members of the public and interested parties are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and share knowledge and feedback to support this initiative.

CONCLUSION

In closing, the NIRB respectfully requests parties provide an indication of planned attendance in the upcoming CEAF Workshop in Iqaluit by **May 24, 2026** and initial feedback on the discussion paper and supporting documentation by **June 1, 2026**. Submissions for both items can be provided directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca.

The NIRB thanks everyone who has contributed to this initiative to date and appreciates parties remaining engaged in this process going forward. Should you have any questions regarding this initiative, please be encouraged to contact Amir Pourmahabadian, Senior Impact Assessment Officer at 1-866-233-3033 ext. 545 or apourmahabadian@nirb.ca

Sincerely,



Tara Arko
Director, Operations
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attached: Discussion Paper in support of development of a CEAF (April 30, 2026)

cc: Megan Lord-Hoyle, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
Lou Kamermans, Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
Teresa Lightfoot, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Michele LeBlanc Havard, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Spencer Dewar, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Kim Pawley, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Ryan Barry, Red Clay Environmental Solutions
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