



News Release

September 8th, 2022 – Yellowknife, Northwest Territories- Nunavut Impact Review Board/ Review Board

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to outline and expand their efforts of working together in impact assessment in Canada's North. The Boards, established through respective land claim processes, have commonalities that support the effective and efficient assessment of projects with potential transboundary impacts. The Boards are also well-equipped to work together on non-project specific initiatives including Regional Strategic Environmental Assessments.

The NIRB and the Review Board signed MOUs in 2004 and 2013. This updated MOU builds on the existing strengths of both organizations and relationship between the two and highlights the ways in which the Boards can work together through cooperation, coordination, and/or collaboration. The updated MOU focuses on:

- minimizing duplication and overlap in the Boards' respective processes,
- contributing to the timely review of projects with the potential for transboundary impacts,
- sharing resources and
- supporting capacity building between the Boards.

Both Boards look forward to working together under the framework of this new MOU.

Quotes:

"The NIRB is excited to continue our work and further develop our relationship with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Through our respective processes and directly informed by communities, the two Boards have developed valuable experiences and capacity that can be of mutual benefit in conducting high quality impact assessment. We are happy to share this Memorandum of Understanding and look forward to further working with the Review Board."

Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson, Nunavut Impact Review Board

"The Review Board is pleased to be once again signing this Memorandum of Understanding with the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Our two boards have evolved over time both individually and in our capacity to work together. We look forward to moving forward together

with our uniquely Northern approach to environmental assessment in the Mackenzie Valley and Nunavut for the benefit of northerners and all Canadians.”

JoAnne Deneron

Chairperson, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

The NIRB is an institution of public government created by the *Nunavut Agreement* to assess the potential impacts of proposed projects in the Nunavut Settlement Area prior to approval of required project authorizations. The Board may also establish monitoring programs for projects that have been approved to proceed. In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of the NIRB shall be at all times 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 also take into account the well-being of residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The Review Board is an independent co-management board responsible for the environmental impact assessment process in the Mackenzie Valley. The Review was established through the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* which resulted from land claims in the Northwest Territories. The *Act* gives Indigenous people of the Mackenzie Valley a greater say in resource management.

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